



# CO-ORDINATOR

No.335

July 1988.

## THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL.

Free to Leaders and Group Officers: £1.20 annually to others.

### COUNTY COMMISSIONER

At the AGM on 4 July John Bennett will hand over the reins to Paul Brenham. We send our thanks to John for a job well done. His enthusiasm for Scouting has maintained Hertfordshire in the forefront of UK Scouting and he has always shown a keen interest in our District.

We extend our support to Paul as our new County Commissioner. We are fortunate that Paul has already visited our District on two occasions with his wife Rosemary. We entertained them at the Gang Show and again at the Cub Camp. We hope these will be the first of many visits in the coming years and assure them of a warm welcome whenever they are with us.

### CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD

Congratulations to the following members of the 11 Letchworth Troop who have all been awarded the Chief Scout's Award:

James Grainger  
David Kemp  
Paul Light  
Richard Nicholl  
Philip Scoot

I had the pleasure of interviewing these Scouts and I was most impressed by their enthusiasm for Scouting and the breadth of activities which they had undertaken.

### THE NORTH DOWNS WAY

Chief Scout's Challenge and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Camp Hike

This hike was undertaken by Lee Crossman, Ian Murton, Richard Silver and David Staddon of the 12th Letchworth Scouts.

They gave a very interesting presentation to the other members of their Troop describing how they planned the hike, the equipment they used and their menus. During their adventure they soon realised that signposts were geared to motorists rather than hikers and they had to contend with ploughed fields, high winds and clamber over tree trunks brought down in the October gales. Among the interesting sights were military equipment from the wars and the excavations for the Channel Tunnel.

They have produced a log book with maps describing their adventure.

All are to be congratulated on an excellent effort.

#### LOCHEARNHEAD 1989

The dates for Lochearnhead have been confirmed as 5-19 August 1989. This is a District venture which will be shared with our neighbours from Hitchin.

Initial planning meetings have taken place. Dave Ellis (Hitchin) has agreed to be Station Master and Steve Lusty will be Assistant Station Master. Mike Drewry (Hitchin) is secretary and Rosemary Charsley is treasurer.

More details will be available towards the end of September, but in the meantime we would be particularly interested in hearing from Leaders who would like to help with the event.

Please make this expedition an important part of your plans for 1989. The bigger the turnout the greater the variety of activities we can provide and the better the camp.

R Williams  
District Commissioner

#### DISTRICT CUB CAMP 1988 : JUNE 10/11/12 : NORTONBURY : THEME 'THE CIRCUS'

150 Cubs, their Leaders, helpers, etc arrived at Nortonbury on Friday evening June 10. The majority in a double decker bus. The weather had been very wet during the week, but the rain finished and by Sunday the sun shone.

Saturday started with Grand Howl and Flag Break, then bases - Clown make up, noses and bow ties, posters and badges, hats, cooking and Camp Fire Stunts. The afternoon brought our 'Big Top'. Leaders entered into the spirit of the Circus and the acts were - Two Clown Troupes - 'The Magnifico's' and 'The Ravioli's'. Wilhem the Strong Man, Natalia and her balancing act. Janette and Phillipe - Jugglers. Mustaffa Sand Dune and his amazing camel. The ferocious Lion. Madame Sadie and her horse - Rex and the Bearded Lady. All introduced by the Ring Master. (We are open to offers).

The evening ended with a very lively Camp Fire, lead by Joe, Sally and Tony.

Sunday morning after Cubs Own, led by Bob, who was with us most of the weekend, Champion Hills Venture Unit organised an 'It's A Knock Out' thoroughly enjoyed by the Cubs. A Wide game in the afternoon finished off the activities, and after a litter patrol, Grand Howl and Flag Break, the bus took very tired Cubs and Leaders home.

Our visitors during the the weekend were - Bridget & Peter Hunter, Fred Cogar, John Moyes, Paul Brenham (new County Commissioner), his wife and daughter, Keith Davies - New Assistant County Commissioner for Cubs and Deidre Williams, District Commissioner, Guides. All seemed very impressed.

During the week and all over the weekend we had the pleasure of having Graham Adams and the District Service Team with us. They erected the marquee, gave us lighting, a loud speaker system and were always on hand when needed. They were part of our camp and entered into all the activities. Many thanks to you all.

My thanks also to the Venture Unit, Graham Smith - First Aid, and especially to all the Leaders, helpers and parents who made this Camp so successful.

It is a shame that all Packs did not participate as this is the one time that all the District can be together for a weekend.

Lost Property - I have a navy blue sleeping bag which was left on the bus.

Swimming Gala - 11 July - I am sorry that I forgot to put the time on my letter, it is 6.30 pm - please be prompt.

Next Cub Leaders Meeting - Monday 18 July, Nortonbury - Please send at least ONE leader.

Anne Lilley  
ADC Cubs

#### GOLD ARROW AWARDS

The following boys have gained their Gold Arrows:

Nicholas Spencer	:	11th Letchworth
Daniel Preston	:	" "
Bharat Sharma	:	" "
Jon Hannah	:	2nd Baldock

Congratulations to the boys and their Leaders on these achievements.

#### G O S H

So far this year Gang Show members have raised over £230 for the Wishing Well Appeal and are well on the way to their target of £1,000. Additional funds have been raised through the Rotary sponsored walk and we are undertaking a walk from Letchworth to Great Ormond Street to both raise money and (hopefully) to perform a few numbers to patients and staff. The walk will take place on the weekend of 3/4 September. All who walk must be over 15 and fit!

For those under 14 and those who cannot face the full distance, there will be a short walk which will join up with the main walk just before we reach G O S H. This will be approximately five miles.

We will also be looking for a number of people to assist with the behind the scenes work, so if you want to help, but not walk, we can use you.

#### VENTURE SCOUTS : 21st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS Baldock & Letchworth Tent Push

"Letchworth Scout Hut 22 april 1988, 2 girls volunteered to sleep in a rather rickety tent perched on wheels".....

This was the beginning of a venture to raise money for a local GP's (Dr Pike) emergency car, enabling him to reach patients in local villages faster than the ambulances.

To raise money Letchworth & Baldock Venture Scouts decided to have "volunteers" sleep in a tent for 21 hours as well as the tent being pushed for 21 miles.

23 April at 8.15 am the 'tent' arrived at Ashwell Station along with the few people responsible for beginning the tent push. We set off fast along the road to Ashwell, where there was not too much response from the sleepy village, apart from a few locals outside the village store and a policeman coming to check we were actually pushing.

At approximately 9.00 am a few buckets and banners arrived - better late than never - and so a few more people joined in the pushing rable.

There were a couple of noticeable incidents along route: the group pushing the tent decided to give their arms a rest and take it easy, so going down a hill they let go of the tent, which ran into the curb and the occupant was propelled on to the verge, much to his dismay, but he was not seriously hurt.

A little while later one of the leaders was out looking for the 'rable' so as to escort them over their last few miles. She eventually drove over 20 miles in a 5 mile radius before she found them - needless to say they had not quite stuck to the original route!

The event finally came to an end in Tesco's Car Park in Baldock, along with Dr Pike, his emergency car, the local press and Tesco's Manager. The day was rounded off with a disco in the evening.

Karen Woodman

#### 7th FOLLOW AMSTERDAM TRAIL

Question : Where could you eat a main course invented by a Russian, a sweet invented by an Englishman, cooked by chefs and served by waiters disguised as Scouts at a table that looked like it should be in the Savoy Grill, in a field on a Saturday lunchtime?

Answer : Phasels Wood camp site on June 18 the venue for the British Meat Scout Camp Cookery Contest - County final.

7th Letchworths Merlin Patrol represented our District in this competition and gained first place.

The team was : Ian Wright  
David Blacker  
Sukhdip Sandhu  
Terry Coleman  
Brett Gascoine  
Rom Rotherham  
Darren Edmett

Their menu was : Beef Stroganoff  
Rice, Peas and Carrots  
  
Fresh Fruit Salad Delight  
  
After Lunch Mints

They will now represent Hertfordshire at the Regional Final in Hampshire on September 10/11.

These boys are to be congratulated for their achievement and everybody at the 7th is justly proud of them.

## NORTONBURY AGM : CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Management Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. We are, however, handicapped by the lack of a secretary to replace Lesley Lowe. If there is anyone who would be prepared to undertake this not too onerous job, we would be very grateful.

We are extremely pleased to report that we now have an active Service Crew led by Graham Adams and that they have extensively tidied up the site, refurbished the flagpole and installed a water tap on the top field. They plan to tackle the spring in due course. Their youthful energy and enthusiasm is very welcome.

The Committee would like to express their appreciation for the continued support of the 100 Club members whose regular donations to the Centre's funds have proved so valuable over the years.

During the year we have completed the modifications to the building requested in the Fire Officer's report and we are in the process of replacing the sheets and pillow cases. A soak-away has been put in at the camp site tap on the ablution block wall and a water tap has been laid into the top field. We plan to have the more inaccessible parts of the exterior of the building professionally painted during the course of the year.

We have the necessary funds set aside to pay for the construction of a climbing wall but we have a need for someone to 'mastermind' the venture. Is there anyone out there who feels that this is a sufficiently worthwhile venture to give of their time and to lead a small committee with the necessary expertise to tackle the project?

My thanks again go to the wardens for the generous way they give of their time to effect the smooth running of the Centre - which is once again fully booked for the coming season.

Barbara Crombie  
Chairperson

## LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUTS - CANOEING

Following training courses at Letchworth Outdoor Pool, a weekend of training on the River Ouse was held (24-26 June). Testing for the British Canoe Union Star Awards was done the same weekend. 22 Scouts from different troops camped all weekend along with 9 leaders and instructors. Others visited daily and took part.

Awards were gained as follows:

### BCU One Star

Sam Potter	11th	Letchworth Scouts
Robin Moore	11th	" "
Edmund O'Leary	11th	" "
James Lee	11th	" "
Michael O'Rourke	10th	" "
Alexis Reed	12th	" "
Graham Swift	12th	" "

#### BCU One Star (cont'd)

Thomas Imber	12th	"	"
Steven Thomas	12th	"	"
David Ball	7th	"	"
Richard Young	7th	"	"
Robert Liley	8th	"	"
Rowland Hogg	4th	"	"
Jonathan Eele	4th	"	"
Sam King	1st	Baldock Scouts	
Richard Fitzsimmons	1st	Ashwell Scouts	
Malcolm Spittle	1st	"	"
Chris Light	11th	(parent)	
Sara Maxwell	11th		
Helen Marchant	Ickleford		

#### BCU Two Star

Michael Geaney	4th	Letchworth Scouts	
Stephen Langstaff	8th	"	"
Daniel Glew	8th	"	"
Malcolm Spittle	1st	Ashwell Scouts	
Martin Smith	8th	Hitchin Sea Scouts	

Many thanks to those who helped at this event i.e. Dean Parr, Noel Geaney, Niall McCallion, John & Ian Speltinckx plus John, Patrick & Colin Tomkins.

Dave Liddle

District Canoe Adviser

#### DISTRICT DIARY

##### July

2/3	Icknield Shield
4	County AGM
11	Swimming Gala
16	Ventures Barn Dance
18	Cub Leaders Meeting, Nortonbury
23	11th Letchworth Scout Camp - Marlow, Bucks
	1st Baldock Scout Camp - Thorpe, Derbyshire

##### August

13	7th Letchworth Scout Camp - Bournemouth
20	1/3 Letchworth Scout Camp - Ambleside

NB: There will not be an August edition of Coordinator. Material for the September edition should reach Bob Williams by 20 August.