



CO-ORDINATOR

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THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL.

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

1 QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD

Susannah Church has become the second girl in the District to be awarded the Queen's Scout Award. She is a keen and active member of the Beech Springs VSU with a great interest in outdoor activities – especially hiking and mountaineering.

Susannah is studying geography at Huddersfield Polytechnic and helps with a Cub Pack in Huddersfield.

2 CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD

Congratulations to Stephen Hall of 5th Letchworth on gaining the Chief Scout's Award. -

3 LOCHEARNHEAD 1989

Plans for our joint expedition to Lochearnhead with Hitchin District are now at an advanced stage. The cost for the fortnight will be £120 per scout and bookings are required by the end of November.

Leaflets will soon be available for distribution to all Scouts and there will be an open meeting for Scouts and their parents at Knights Templar School, Baldock, on Thursday, 3 November when May and John Bennett will give a talk about the facilities and activities available at Lochearnhead.

Please make sure your Scouts are in possession of the information and encourage them to join the expedition.

4 CUB QUIZ

This will take place on Friday, 11 November at 8th Letchworth HQ at 7.00 pm. Each team should comprise three boys – one eight year old, one nine year old and one ten year old.

5 SCOUT FELLOWSHIP AGM

The Scout Fellowship AGM will be held at St Thomas' Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth on Saturday, 15 October - 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. Afterwards there will be a buffet followed by a talk and slides on the Jamboree.

6 GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

During the Summer three groups celebrated important anniversaries:

11th Letchworth celebrated their tenth anniversary with a games evening and barbecue. This was well attended by parents and friends who had a very enjoyable time. The strength of the turn out bears testimony to the success of the Group.

7th Letchworth celebrated their fiftieth anniversary with a buffet and disco at the Grange Community Centre. They were honoured with a visit from Paul Brenham, our County Commissioner. Also present were many old scouts and leaders of the Group.

1st Baldock celebrated their eightieth anniversary with a church service at St Mary's, Baldock followed by refreshments in the church hall. It was inspiring to be part of the congregation in a packed church and share the celebration with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their Leaders together with parents and many people who had been connected with the Group in years gone by.

1st Baldock was one of the first Groups to be formed in the County and their progress was charted by a fascinating collection of photographs and press cuttings assembled by Jim Bruce.

7 BEECH SPRINGS - AUSTRIAN EXPEDITION

The destination for Beech Springs summer holiday this year was the Austrian Alps, and ultimately Austria's highest peak the Gross Glockner - 3797m. However, getting to that destination was not entirely plain sailing. Our fully loaded transit didn't quite see eye to eye with the mountain passes, which together with the hot sun meant we had to get out and push on several occasions - much to the amusement of other Europeans!

Still, we got there - there being our base camp in Heilingenbeut - a beautiful picturesque mountain village, in its day, but still very lovely with various tourist additions.

For the walking we were split into two groups. One group, weighed down with heavy full packs, did a three day hike staying at huts, on a roundabout route (via Boses Weibl - 3121m) to "Tourist Land" - the name we gave for the sprawl of tourism around the Hoffman's hut.

The second group went to this hut in the transit, spent a day messing around on the local glaciers as practice, unfortunately one person, Fraser, practised too much and stuck a crampon into the back of his leg - which put pay to his activities for the rest of the week. However, the others were raring to go, especially with the prospect of good, clear weather. So the next day, set off across the glacier and up

other assorted glaciers, rocks etc right up to the ridge leading to the summit, where they stayed the night in a somewhat primitive mountain hut. Next morning an alpine start and beautiful alpine sunrise to see them on their way. The route to the top should have taken just a couple of hours, but it seems that it was more difficult than at first imagined - constant use of crampons, ice axes and belays was needed for the eventual 7 hour trip. Still, the feelings of exhilaration of those seven people on top made it all worthwhile.

The unit met up again that evening, some went back to base camp and others stayed on to climb Jonnisburg - 3460m over the next two days.

The second week was more relaxed, spent by Lake Zell-am-zee - although the more adventurous went skiing!

All in all, a happy and enjoyable two weeks were had. On behalf of the Unit, I would like to thank everybody who made it possible for us to go, and have a happy and enjoyable time.

8 BRITISH MEAT - CAMP COOKING COMPETITION 1988

On Saturday 10 September 1988 the Merlin Patrol of 7th Letchworth set off to the Hampshire County Scout Camp Site at Ferny Crofts near Lyndhurst to represent Hertfordshire in the No.3 regional final of this competition.

We left our Bedford Road HQ at 8.15 am and arrived at Ferny Crofts at 12.20. We had 2.5 hours in which to pitch tents, dining shelters and organise our camp kitchen before the competition began at 3.00 pm. The competition was of a very high standard and Hampshire (the Home County) were the winners, we came 9th out of 11 teams.

On Saturday evening we were entertained by Bill Brown with card tricks, - rope tricks, slides and a talk on climbing.

On Sunday morning we took part in various activities including, abseiling, climbing, archery and air rifle target shooting. After lunch we had Scouts Own, flag down then said goodbye and set off for home arriving back at our HQ at 7.45.

The weekend was like a mini jamboree with teams from Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Wight, Dorset, Hants, Bucks, Gloucs, Wilts, Berks, Oxon as well as ourselves competing.

We would like to thank everybody who has supported and encouraged us during the competition without whose help we would not have got to the regional final. It would have been good to have reached the national final but we didn't and our best wishes go with Hampshire in this final. Anyway our disappointment didn't last and we are glad that our District and our Troop won the County Championship.

Ian Wright
Patrol Leader, Merlins, 7th Letchworth

9 GOSH

Congratulations to all the "Gang" who took part in the sponsored walk to Great Ormond Street - they raised a magnificent £1,600. On the first day they walked to Potters Bar and spent the night at Tollmers where a team of helpers had pitched camp and prepared a meal and on the second day they completed the walk to London.

Throughout their spirits were high and they were a great credit to the District. They were very smart in their GOSH T-Shirts and gang show neckerchiefs and received considerable goodwill from the general public both towards GOSH and Scouting.

10 10th LETCHWORTH SCOUTS

It is with regret that it has been necessary to close 10th Letchworth Scouts for a time due to lack of Leaders. We are desperate to find leaders to avoid the final closure of the Group. If anyone knows of potential leaders please contact Bob Williams as soon as possible.

Places are available for the Cubs at 11th Letchworth and for the Scouts at 4th Letchworth.

11 MENCAP

Howard Cottage Housing Association has initiated a project in the Letchworth area with Mencap to provide purpose built accommodation for mentally handicapped people.

Groups interested in a community project might wish to organise a fund raising event to help by purchasing an item of furniture or equipment.

Further information is available from Bob Williams.

12 LETTER FROM THE COMET

Sir, I would like to say thank you to all those who helped us raise £888 for Action Research for the Crippled Child, particularly to the girls and boys of Champion Hills Venture scouts who worked very hard all day.

Gill Crooks,
Letchworth

13 AUTUMN FAIR - 12th LETCHWORTH

12th Letchworth are holding an Autumn Fair at their HQ on Saturday 15 October between 1.30 and 4.00 pm. Stalls to include Crafts & Pottery, Xmas Cards and Paper, Homemade Cakes etc. There will also be a Bran Tub, a Raffle and refreshments.

DISTRICT DIARY

October

- 3 : GSLs Meeting - 12th Letchworth HQ
- 4 : Lochearnhead Committee and VSL's - Nortonbury
- 8 : Beaver Sports Day - Grange School
- 15 : Autumn Fair, 12th Letchworth HQ - 1.30-4.00 pm
- 15 : Scout Fellowship AGM - St Thomas' Church Hall
- 20 : District Executive - Nortonbury
- 22/23 : Nightjar

November

- 3 : Lochearnhead Meeting - Knights Templar School
- 10 : Beech Springs VSO, AGM
- 11 : Cub Quiz, 8th Letchworth HQ
- 14 : Cub Leaders Meeting, Nortonbury
- 17 : Group Administrators Meeting, Nortonbury
- 24 : District Executive, Nortonbury