



CO-ORDINATOR

November 1988.

No.338

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL.

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

1. SCOUT FELLOWSHIP AGM

Secretary's Report

Although this and my only other job in Scouting are both concerned with communication of information around the District and the County, I have again conspicuously failed to communicate with people in the past year. From our incredibly tireless chairman, I have heard of the Fellowship's endless activities: the profitable barn dance in February, the good look behind the Sainsbury scenes in Buntingford in March, the help behind the Gang Show scenes in April, the good turn done to the Brownies who were taken to the Spalding Tulip Festival in May, the hundreds of pounds raised for other organisations on plant stalls, the joining in the National Fellowship Camp at Gilwell in June, the car treasure hunt and the stand at Well End's Open Day and the help at Scout camps all in July, the trip to our opposite numbers in Stevenage in September, and the cash donations made to Seventh Letchworth for a new flag, to Neil Thwaites to help him join Operation Raleigh, and to the home at Moggerhanger, not to mention the fitting out of the extension to Guide District HQ. All these triumphs are due to him and to you who helped; I have only typed out this paragraph in tribute to Laurie and his Fellowship team.

Communications being mutually weak if not non-existent, I cannot give any details of the activities of the younger half of the District Scout Fellowship. We were delighted to hear how they showed the flag for Letchworth & Baldock in the County competition called Hertfordshire Euro Navigation, but since that hilarious evening we have heard very little. Perhaps it would be a better idea for us now to elect one of the District Scout Fellowship under 30 as our new secretary for 1988-1989, and I put this suggestion to the meeting for your serious consideration.

The Officers elected for 1988/89 were:

Chairman: Laurie Cook, 22 Hillshott, Letchworth. 674046
Secretary: Margaret Strong, 50 Romany Close, Letchworth 684896
Treasurer: John Foster, 13 Paddock Close, Letchworth

We welcome our new secretary, Margaret Strong. She has recently moved to Letchworth with her family to run the Station bookstall. Her interest and involvement in Scouting is keeping up a family tradition as her father, Stan Pellow, is Assistant County Commissioner - Public Relations. It was good to see Stan at our meeting and also Margaret Morley, Assistant County Commissioner - Scout Fellowship, together with friends from other local Fellowships.

1. continued

Report - Margaret Strong

The Fellowship AGM was enjoyed by all those attending (35). The buffet was more than adequate and as always the raffle profitable. Thanks were given to all those who, again, volunteered to take up their positions and for their past and future efforts on our behalf. K.J. stepped down as secretary and was given thanks for his past services. The slide show and talk on the Jamboree rounded the evening off.

We shall be circularising present members soon with details of our proposed programme of events and if anyone out there wants to join in we will be pleased to hear from them. Contact: The secretary.

2. CHAMPION HILLS 1988 NORWAY EXPEDITION

After the usual 'team photos' were taken we set off at 7 pm on Friday 22nd July. After a few unplanned detours and 7 hours drive we found our first night's accommodation - a Scout hut in Newcastle.

The boat journey did not seem 27 hours long - probably because most people stayed in the Disco until past 2. The entertainment of the night being the drunken Newcastle United football team trying to dance - is it any wonder they play so badly ?

The journey through Sweden and Norway seemed to last forever, even though the scenery was beautiful. Surprisingly, the minibuses did not 'conk' out - for the time being. We arrived at Gritten Camp at 7 am and in true Champion Hills style, woke everyone up by putting our tents up as noisily as possible.

After visiting Lom, the first Duke of Edinburgh expedition teams got ready to leave the following day. We all felt a bit nervous but were looking forward to four days in the wilds with no help from anyone else. The going was pretty tough, for our team at least, camping beneath the glaciers in snow and walking in torrential rain. Some people chose the easy way out - staying in mountain lodges. Everyone was glad to stagger and stumble back to the luxury of base camp on the 4th day.

During the rest of the week we went glacier walking as well as a lot of hiking, including walking up Gelderpiggen - the highest mountain in Northern Europe. The way down was much easier going - sledding down the snow fields on our emergency bags.

After a week, we had to say 'goodbye' to the Jotenheim mountains as we headed down south to Kristiansand. It seemed that we would not be going anywhere as we broke down in the mountains.

Fortunately a bright spark fixed the clutch with a coke can and a clip which somehow managed to hold together. Champion Hills spared no expense on our accommodation for that night = the tarmac of a petrol station car park!

Kristiansand was a lot more relaxing than the Jotenheim mountains. The beach was 'pretty hot even though the water seemed sub-zero. The beach games were good, especially 'scour the beach for half an hour for the lost van keys'. We all felt compelled to join the rest of the kids going down the water tubes. A night out on the Town seemed in order. It was very expensive and certain members of the troop felt they needed to sell off the female Ventures to some of the natives. Surprisingly, not too many were sold - in fact, none at all.

2. continued

Other highlights of Kristiansand were being sung to by a Norwegian choir, sailing with some local Scouts and a very interesting slide show by a local Scout Leader about a glacier climb he made and the thermal underwear which he and his friends wore.

Our next stop was Oslo, where we visited the Kontiki museum and the Resistance museum. This was also our last chance to buy tacky souvenirs - hideous trolls being a favourite. After a couple of days in Oslo, we were off and heading for home. We were all sad to go but decided to make the ferry trip the finale of our expedition. The excitement was not over once we were back in England. Our minibus broke down just outside Newcastle. The RAC men did not seem to know about what they were talking so some of us got a pick-up truck to give us a lift home which was all right except for the driver's boring jokes.

And so the 1988 Champion Hills Summer Expedition to Norway was over. Everyone had had a great time. Thank you Norway (especially Kristiansand) for putting up with us.

3. FOUR LEAVED CLOVER AT NORTON BURY

Dear Norton Bury, During an excellent camp at the beginning of August for which we thank you, we discovered you have a little gold mine growing on your Orchard site which you are not exploiting.

A Guide was lying flat during rest hour watching the ants struggling through a forest of grass stems and clover when she suddenly realised she was staring at a 'lucky' four-leaved clover. Soon everyone was searching and most found themselves a four-leaved and several found five-leaved clovers. When I searched I found that the small leaved clover whilst mostly three leaved had the occasional one-leaf, two leaf, four-leaf, five-leaf and a frilly leaf with many small lobes.

Come on Norton Bury, get searching, you own a recessive gene which other sites have not got. Press them and mount them in lockets, pendants, key fobs etc., and MAKE LOADSAMONEY.

Best Wishes, Holly Bean, 1st Stevenage Guides.

4. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING

The next meeting for Group Administrators will be held at Norton Bury on Thursday 17th November at 8 o'clock.

Important topics for discussion will include fire regulations, insurance and the new requirements for the collection of census information and membership subscriptions..

The Administrator's role is crucial to the smooth running of Scout groups and it is hoped that all groups will be represented at the meeting.

5. LOCHEARNHEAD '89

Don't forget that applications for places have to be in by the end of November. Early signs are that demand is going to be high so book early to avoid disappointment.

6. WAITING LISTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Bill Ferriday, our Field Commissioner, wants details of waiting lists for each group for all sections. I have to take this to a District Commissioners' meeting on 21st November so would you please let me have the information in time for this meeting.

Bob Williams

7. INSURANCE

In previous years it has been the practice for the District to take out supplementary personal accident insurance for all Leaders and lay helpers. However, this year the terms of the insurance have changed. Although the benefits are more generous, the cost has increased significantly and it is beyond the finances of the District.

Groups might still wish to provide this cover for their own leaders. If so, details are available from the District Secretary.

8. DISTRICT DIARY

NOVEMBER

- 3 Lochearnhead meeting - Knights Templar School
- 7 Champion Hills VSU A.G.M.
- 10 Beech Springs VSU A.G.M.
- 11 Cub Quiz - 8th Letchworth HQ
- 14 Cub Leaders - Norton Bury
- 17 District Administrators - Norton Bury
- 18 Silver Acorn Presentation (Hannah Moules) St.Paul's
Church Hall
- 24 District Executive - Norton Bury

DECEMBER

- 5 District Team - Norton Bury
- 8 Lochearnhead Committee