

# 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.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARD

Congratulations to Neil Martin (AVSL, Champion Hills) who was presented with his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award by Prince Phillip at Buckingham Palace.

Activities undertaken by Neil to achieve the Award included an expedition in the Black Forest, learning to play golf and helping to write football programmes and catalogues for local societies and clubs.

## CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD

Ian Speltinckx (11th Letchworth) has gained the Chief Scout's Award - well done Ian!

## PEAK ASSAULT

District teams acquitted themselves well in this gruelling event held in the Lake District.

121 teams competed and our teams gained the following placings

9th	Beech Springs	39th	11th Letchworth
32nd	Beech Springs (an all girls team)	41st	Beech Springs
	49th	Champion Hills	

Peak Assault was, without a doubt, the most exhausting thing I've ever done in my life.

We arrived at the base camp, near Kendal in the Lake District, at 1 am, Friday 3rd March completely unaware (at least I was) of what was ahead. We rose early next morning; breakfast - a half done sausage in a bit of bread. - We checked in for 7.35 am. After a rigorous inspection-of our kit we were ready to go. We were given our list of checkpoint co-ordinates and after ten minutes of marking the checkpoints on the map, we began our walk - or rather run. The desire to run faded after a few minutes and I suddenly realised I wasn't as fit as I-thought. The regret of not getting myself into shape haunted me over the next seven and a half gruelling hours. The hills seemed impossibly steep and never ending. We completed ten checkpoints which I was really proud of until I heard that some people had done all 13 checkpoints with time to spare ! Anyway, we arrived at the overnight camp 14 minutes late thus knocking two checkpoints off our time, which really hurt. Sleeping was not hard that night. Getting up at 6 am was nearly impossible though. We checked out with seconds to spare and we'd have been disqualified if we'd been any later.

## PEAK ASSAULT continued

The second day was quite a relief. We only walked for  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hours and actually managed to run some of the way. Crossing the finishing line was an excellent feeling. Peak Assault was really tough but crossing the finish line made it all worth while.

David England  
Champion Hills

## LONDON VENTURE

32 Venture Scouts and their Leaders joined 5,500 Venture Scouts from the U.K. Sweden and Denmark in camp at the Crystal Palace:

After roaming around Crystal Palace for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour trying to find the Crystal Palace grounds we finally made it there. We looked forward to an excellent weekend and we were not to be disappointed. The first thing we noticed was the size of the whole thing and the amount of organisation involved. Whoever co-ordinated the London Venture did a brilliant job.

We set up our tents in what started off as a bog and ended up as a quagmire. We then checked in and were all given our goody box, including regulation boxer shorts as well as a sweatshirt, and shades.

That evening was spent in the Soft Eats Cafe where you could eat and drink in relative peace and then on to the Mad-Rock Cafe which was really smart. 12 Video screens and loud music.

The next day (Friday) was spent getting up, eating, rifle shooting and swimming. The night was reserved for a massive shorts 'n' shades disco. It was so crowded that some people had to be turned away. The Swedes had arrived that afternoon. We had two groups of five to look after. They were complete opposites. One group was old and very reserved whilst the other group were young and very cheeky indeed.

Saturday was spent giving the Swedes the opportunity to look around London. The highlight of their London tour - Big Ben ?, Buckingham Palace? No! the HMV shop. In The evening we all went to a Royal Gala Performance at the Albert Hall, which was a brilliant occasion. A new Unit member, Jason Byrne, was invested on stage.

During the concert Sir Edmund Hilary was presented with a cheque for £75,000 raised by the Venture Scouts of the U.K. to help him build hospitals and schools in Nepal.

On Sunday, we said 'Goodbye' to the Swedes and made the most of the activities on offer. I tried Scuba diving, motorcycling and even fencing.

At 2 o'clock we departed for home, everyone exhausted as sleep had not been a priority that weekend. Everyone had had a great time and was sad to go home.

David England  
Champion Hills

## CENSUS 1989

District figures: (1988 in brackets)

Beavers	95	(79)	Cubs	267	(251)	Scouts	165	(200)
Ventures	63	(49)	Scouters/Instructors	87	(83)			
Scout Fellowship	10	(12)	Total:	697	(687)			

It is pleasing to note a slight increase in membership but disappointing to see the fall in the Scout figures. I think it is important that all Leaders pay special attention to the movement of boys between the different sections.

## SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Our visit to St.Albans Gang Show was an excellent evening out. Well done St.Albans in their 10th year, another exceptional show. Knowing of the hard work that all put into it, both on stage and off, as well as their 'normal' Scouting activities, it was very much appreciated by our own show team.

Another show in February was the Guiding Lights at Plinston Hall. A terrific performance by Guides and Brownies (helped by some of the Fellowship even if they also belong to the Trefoil Guild). Well done again. Look out for this next year if you missed it. The Barn Dance was over attended, but by some quirk of fate (or was it rationing ?) the beans, sausages and mash managed to go round and hopefully nobody went home hungry - exhausted yes - but with apple to top that, not hungry.

Is anyone out there a radio ham or has an interest in such ? The County Fellowship Radio team are hoping to broadcast soon and are appealing to interested parties to get in contact. Please phone Maggie on Letchworth 684896 for further details.

Another appeal for your time. Referees for football are needed on 22nd April at Stevenage, please phone Stan Stokes on Stevenage 357612 to confirm you are available.

9-11th June	National Scout Fellowship Camp, Gilwell
17th June	Fellowship Day, Weston Park. Note change of date.
1st October	Regional Fellowship Day, Youlbury, Oxford.

## THE GARDEN CITY 15 CHARITY WALK - Sunday 21st May 1989

Join the 7th Garden City 15 Charity Walk organised by the Rotary Club of Letchworth Garden City. This is an ideal way to boost your Group funds.

The registration fee is 50p per walker to cover part of the administration and refreshment costs.

Persons taking part under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times, either individually or as a group.

75% of the money raised will be retained by the participants and 25% will be payable to the Rotary Club Who will be supporting the North Herts Hospice and other Worthy Charities.

Details are available from:

Rotarian Jim Morley  
17 Wilbury Road  
Letchworth Tel: 683276

Applications will not be accepted after 12th May.

## NEW LEADER TRAINING PROGRAMME

The final Seminar organised by the County Training Team will be held at Welwyn Garden City on Thursday 20th April.

Group Scout Leaders who have not attended one of these meetings should make every effort to attend.

(With this in mind, I have changed the date of the April GSL's meeting to Monday 17th April).

## DISTRICT AGM

The District AGM will be held on Wednesday 17th May at the Council Chambers in Gernon Road.

Our guest will be Mark Thatcher, Development Officer at the Scout Association Headquarters.

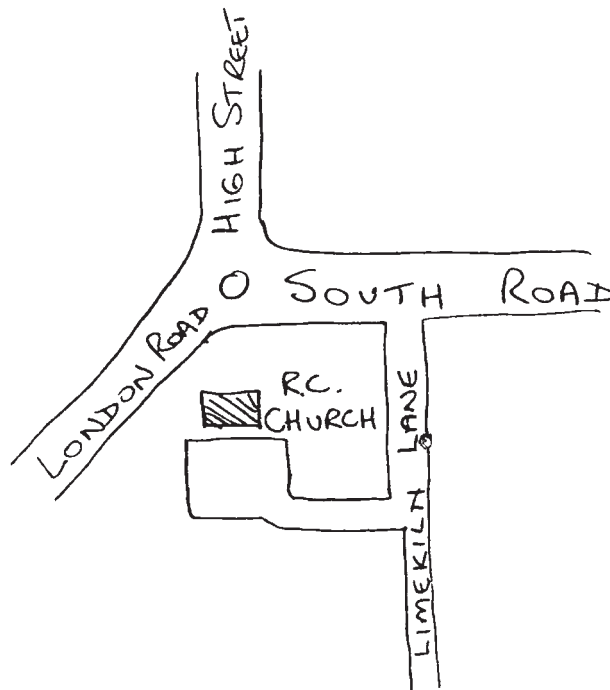
### ST GEORGES DAY SERVICE

This years St Georges Day Service will be held on Sunday 23 April 1989 at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Baldock. The Parade will assemble at 2.00 pm and move off around 2.30 pm. If it is particularly wet on the day, go direct to the Church in Limekiln Lane (map below) for the Service, which will start at 3.00 pm.

Rehearsal for Colour Parties and others taking part in the Service will be held at 11.00 am Saturday 22 April 1989 at the Church. Please practice your intended Colour Party to walk as a unit and to turn the same way, usually right turn. Please advise John Chapman Tel. Letchworth 686772 before the Saturday of any difficulties in attending rehearsal, otherwise those Colour Parties not at the Saturday rehearsal will not be allowed to parade on the Sunday.

It is strongly recommended that a shoulder holster is provided for each flag bearer as the Parade is some distance from School to Church.

The general theme this year will be "Caring for Others". Along these lines the collection will be for MENCAP. Group collections made at meetings beforehand would be appreciated.



### FERRET TROPHY

Groups once again demonstrated their initiative as they arrived at the 8th Letchworth HQ with fire engines, hot meals, live ducks, together with hundreds of other items which they had collected during the course of the weekend. Congratulations to the winners - 7th Letchworth and to the other groups who provided keen competition and finished in the following order:

I/3rd Letchworth                      8th Letchworth                      and                      5th Letchworth

Thanks to Steve Lusty and the judges for organising the event.  
7th Letchworth have undertaken to organise next year's event.

DISTRICT DIARY

April	5	Warrants Committee
	7/8	Arts & Crafts, Norton Bury
	9	Gold Arrow Norton Bury
	12	1/3rd Letchworth AGM
	12	Scout Leaders, Norton Bury
	13	District Executive
	15	Cub Six-a-Side Football
	17	GSL's meeting
	19	7th Letchworth AGM
	20	Leader Training Seminar, Welwyn Garden City
	26	5th Letchworth AGM
May	3	Warrants Committee
	3	12th Letchworth AGM
	3	11th Letchworth AGM
	6	Beaver Fun Day
	8	1st Baldock AGM
	9	2nd Baldock AGM
	10	1st Ashwell AGM
	12	8th Letchworth AGM
	14	Cub Sports
	17	District AGM
	20	Cub First Aid
	25	Initial Training Course