



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1992

No. 370

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

LEADER WARRANTS.

Warrants have been awarded to :-

Fiona Naylor - AVSL Beech Springs.
Mike Kenyon - ACSL 1st. Baldock.
Frances Stanton - ASL 4th. Letchworth.
Graham Stanton - ASL 4th. Letchworth.

We welcome them to the District and wish them success with their Scouting.

PROMISE APPEAL.

Promise Appeal starts on 21st. February. This marks the begining of a major fund raising appeal by the Scout Association to raise £10 million. The money is required to help fund the Association's work especially in spreading Scouting to inner cities and in developing training.

The Appeal also gives Groups a chance to raise funds for themselves. All Groups should have received an Organiser with details of events and I hope everyone will do their best to support the Scout Association. Why not start by wearing the Promise Appeal badge ?.

YVONNE PORTER.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Yvonne. She began her Scouting with 4th. Letchworth and then went on to 11th. Letchworth when it started. We are sure that all those who remember Yvonne would like us to extend our sympathy to her husband Peter and their family.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.

Just before Christmas there was a conference at Fearnhill School for Scout and Guide Commissioners to give us the opportunity of exploring ways of working more closely together in the Future through a better understanding of each others Movements.

As a result our local Commissioner decided to hold an annual meeting, to attend each others functions and to try some joint ventures - it has been suggested that the Guides might join in the next Nightjar.

A great deal of co-operation already takes place in the District and I hope we will be able to build on this.

My thanks to the Scout Fellowship and 1st.3rd. Letchworth Scouts whose services helped the event run so smoothly.

ADULT LEADER TRAINING SURVEY.

The County Training team is reviewing the manner in which it delivers Leader Training. You will receive a questionnaire from Colin Phillips (ADC Leader Training) which will give you the opportunity to express your opinions and influence the future course of training. Please co-operate by completing the questionnaire and returning it to Colin as soon as possible. It is interesting to note that the Scout Association's GSL/Commissioner Training Programme has received a National Training Award in recognition of its excellence.

WHAT! ANOTHER GANG SHOW ALREADY!

Re-reading my notes on the spring Gang Show (in CO-ORDINATOR last May), it was most encouraging to find that this Christmas show had countered some of my criticisms. That age gap in the cast had begun to be filled, and the whole show was better for it. The opening was lively and original - and everyone looked happy. If it was Irving Berlin instead of Ralph Reader, so much the better, for the audience was instantly happy, too, with the feeling that this was real show business.

Then came cool Carl with his condensed cameo, which deserves an Oscar, or a Medal of Merit, for sheer bravery. Neatly following came the condensed "Pantomime", where the mistakes were all deliberate and added to the fun. The Gang was now nearing the crest of that wave, and nothing could go wrong.

Oh, yes, it could. It wasn't only Nellie who should have been advised "Don't do it". At least one part of this tableau would have been better left out. It was refreshing to get back to conventional cannibals and derived Disney in "Jungle Book", which was good and lively, if a little muffled. The missionary in the pot seemed to be enjoying it most of all!

Lord Fanshawe and the mismanager of his "Stately Home" were really funny (though the new District Secretary and I are both considering libel writs for the use of our name).

It was an interesting idea to have a "Christmas Quiz" next, but I am still not certain if it worked as a Gang Show sketch. It was more like a sort of lark in a Scout group party - so it did lead in well to the "Family Party" spectacular. This appeared to be delightfully disorganized, with everyone allowed to improvise actions. Perhaps it was all carefully planned... but those four really were playing cards and almost forgot to sing! This was great, and kept us happy through the long interval. Just a thought: with a bit of production, perhaps a spotlight, even a glittery costume, perhaps even drawing a raffle could be more entertaining?

There was nothing wrong at all with "Frosty the Snowman", except that it almost seemed too short! There was about everything wrong with "Pin Up Girls", because we couldn't hear what the ladies were saying, and we could see the "joke" coming from the first moment.

Some of the jokes were missed in the good old spoof of "Peter Pan", for the good reason that we were still laughing at the previous one - old and familiar though they all were. And talking of good old corny capers, "The Girls" were precisely What All This Is About. The lads were superb, and proved the point I made in May, that "boys used to be much funnier dressed in frillies". Thank Heaven, they still are!

Picking ourselves up from rolling in the aisles, we were unsure for a minute whether "The First Christmas" was serious. Yes, it was. Most of the singing voices were too low-powered, and the small peasant boy on the far left obviously wished to go somewhere else; but the visual effect of this short carol concert was stunning. How is it that costumes like these can make our ordinary scruffy everyday kids (girls and boys, too) look so beautiful?

And then, how did they get that great stereophonic effect with "Mistletoe and Wine"? I suppose it was because I was one of the few people in the audience who didn't know the song.

Finally, the Finale was fine, ending a happy and successful first night. It's a shame it had to be the last night as well. I'm glad I managed to grab this one chance, and I feel pretty sure that Jim would join me in saying "Well done, Gang!"

KJ

NIGHTJAR 30th. NOVEMBER 1991

At a time when most ohaps are retiring for the night, forty Scouts were gathering at Weston Park. Their aim, to complete the annual Scout Night Hike competition, Nightjar 1991. Our intrepid competitors seemed undaunted by the rapidly thickening fog and set out cheerfully to complete the 13½ mile route. All teams got off to a rapid start and arrived at the first checkpoint on schedule, here they faced the challenge of a first aid quiz. The fog and wet conditions underfoot slowed the pace considerably after checkpoint one but the scouts persevered and completed the route in the early hours of Sunday morning. Some teams even managed to grab a few hours sleep before a communal breakfast, although not everyone was hungry after the cream cracker challenge at checkpoint three.

Many thanks to all members of Bacchus VSU for organising the night hike and manning the checkpoints. Also thanks to all the leaders of the scout groups who came along to assist on the night. Finally thanks to the District Commissioner for getting up early to present the trophy.(and of course for cleaning the floor so well.)

All scouts please note : it has been suggested that the girl guides would like to enter teams in next years Nightjar. Can you accept this challenge? Congratulations to Richard Shakeshaft, Daniel Theakstone, Andrew Bithray and Jonathon Marshall of 1st.3rd. Letchworth who won the trophy. They were closely followed by a team from 7th. Letchworth who were second.

LETCHWORTH, BALDOCK AND ASHWELL CUB SCOUTS 7th. BIRTHDAY CAROL SERVICE.

On Sunday 15th. December, St. George's church was full of Cub Scouts, parents and invited guests to celebrate the 75th. Birthday of Cub Scouting. Each pack performed an item on what they enjoyed about Cub Scouting, on the altar burned 75 candles (of course some bright spark noticed two had gone out). Keith Davies renewed the Promise and Paul Brenham congratulated everyone on such a good event. We finished with a Scout Prayer when everyone joined hands. I don't think that there was anyone there who was prouder than I was, seeing all those Cubs and watching them do their items. Congratulations to all the boys and leaders.

Anne Lilley. ADC Cub Scouts.

8th. LETCHWORTH CUB SCOUTS CELEBRATE 'BURNS NIGHT'.

The Scottish Clan of 8th. Letchworth invaded Nortonbury for their Pack Holiday. On Saturday evening Ken and I were invited to a meal which included scotch eggs and Haggis. This was followed by entertainment in which we were expected to participate, we are now expert in dances never seen before and the sword dance. The bagpipe competition was unique with one of the biggest Cub Scouts I have ever seen. They even had their own ghost, Percy, he was captured on video. The dining room was filled with pictures of the Loch Ness monster. The leaders and boys enjoyed a very full weekend.

Anne Lilley.

PC FORMS.

Please note a new PC form has been introduced and should be used on all future occasions. There is also a new and seperate visit form for the DC's to complete.

I have a supply of the new forms.

ANNUAL CENSUS AND MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION.

All Census forms should have been returned to the District Secretary by the end of January and your Membership Subscription should be paid to Mike Mansfield by 20th. March.

The final amount is £11.25 per head made up as follows :-

National	£7.35
County	
(including Train. Levy.)	3.00
District.	.90
	<hr/>
	£11.25

Don't forget there will be a rebate of 35p. per head if we get our District Subscriptions to the County Treasurer by 9th. April.

DISTRICT DIARY.

FEBRUARY

5th. Warrants Committee.
13th. District Executive.
20th. Scout Leader Meeting.

MARCH

4th. Warrants Committee.
5th. Initial Training.
* 7th. District Cub Scout Six a Side.
12th. District Executive.
14/15th, Cub Scout Sixers and Seconders Training Weekend.
19th. District Administrators Evening.
26th. District Team
* 9th. Cub Leaders Meeting