

Editor. Anne Lilley.
31 Lordship Lane.
Letchworth.
676397.



JULY/AUGUST 1993 No. 385

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN
OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

JOHN SHANLEY. 1981 - 1993.

It is with sadness that we tell you of the death of John.

The District was asked if we could find a place in a Cub Pack for a lad in a wheel chair suffering from spina bifida. The first Pack approached was 1st.3rd. Letchworth who immediately accepted him.

At first he was very unsure of the noise but soon joined in all the activities. On joining the Scouts nothing daunted him or his fellow scouts, he did everything they did with their help, canoeing, abseiling, hiking, shooting, camping, badge work etc.

All those who knew him will miss his greeting and friendly smile.

We send our condolences to his family and 1st.3rd. Scout Group.

WOOD BADGES.

Congratulations to Julie Speltinckx and Glen Coiley who have been awarded their Wood Badges.

CAMPING AT NORTON BURY.

From 1st. August 1993 we will have the use of the Orchard site instead of the top field.

SCOUT CAMPING COMPETITION.

This years competition will take place from Friday 17th. September to Sunday 19th. September at Harmergreen Wood Campsite near Welwyn.

The competition is open to THREE patrols per District.

Patrol members may come from any patrol within the Troop. Patrols will be composed of ONE PL. ONE APL. and not more than FOUR - not less than TWO other scouts who are not PL's or APL's.

If you are interested please contact me for more details and application forms.

Bob Williams.

PATROL LEADER TRAINING 1993.

Following the successful format of previous years, it is proposed to run a course of Patrol Leader Training open primarily to Scouts from Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock, and Hatfield.

The details are :-

Dates : 5th. to 7th. November 1993.

Location : Nortonbury Scout Camp.

Times : Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

The cost is not expected to exceed £15, to include all food and incidental course expenses.

An important part of the format of previous courses has been that it is run by Scout Section Leaders, this enables the course to most accurately reflect the needs of the Scouts and their own Patrols and Troops. To this end I would welcome a discussion with you in respect of any speciality, practical skills, or knowledge that you may have and are prepared to pass on to other Patrol Leaders (present or future) in the District.

PATROL LEADER TRAINING - cont.

Full details and application forms will be sent out early in September. As usual there are no pre-qualifications for the attending Scouts, boys or girls, we leave that totally to each Scout Leader.

DISTRICT BARBEQUE. 15th. JULY. NORTON BURY.

Have you booked your tickets yet ?. If not - Why not ?.

Please bring you garden chairs, everything else is provided.

For those who did not see June's Co-ordinator :-

Venue - Norton Bury.

Time - 7.30pm. onwards.

Cost - £1.00 per head.

Please contact Barbara Thwaites 892020 or Anne Lilley 676397. by 8th. July.

7 CENTRES DRAW.

This was a very successful draw for the District with three winners :-

Sanyo Camcorder - Mrs. J. Saunders Letchworth.

Mountain Bike - N. Brown Baldock.

£50 Tesco voucher - A. Worthington Letchworth.

Provisional figures place the total amount raised by the Draw at £45,000 of which £21,000 has been retained by Groups.

The District figure is £664 being retained. Many thanks to all those who sold and bought tickets. Thanks also to Maggie and Laurie for co-ordinating it.

GANG SHOW NEWS.

Calling all budding dancers, singers, actors/actresses and musicians ! This years GANG SHOW will be at Plinston Hall, Letchworth on 10th./11th. December, and will be open to anyone who has been invested as a Cub, Scout, Guide, Ranger, Venture, Leader or Fellowship by 1st. October 1993.

Full rehearsals will commence in September - but we will be having three informal get togethers before the summer holidays. These sessions will give everyone a flavour of this years show, as we will be going through all the songs.

So please come along whether you wish to tread the boards or help out behind the scenes.

Dates : Saturday 3rd. 10th. and 17th. July.

Time : 5.30pm. until 7.30pm.

Venue : 8th. Letchworth HQ. Sparhawke.

Any queries please contact the producer - Andrea Soulsby on 491401.

HERTFORDSHIRE SCOUT AND GUIDE ORCHESTRA.

Did you read about it in June HSG? Have you any talented musicians in your Group ? Have they registered their interest ? If not, then please write to Hertfordshire Scouts, 29 High Street, Ware. SG12 98A. telling them what instrument is played and to what standard - and by whom !

1st. BALDOCK SCOUTS.

First Baldock Scouts were recently honoured by a visit from Vladimir Vasilyev, Executive Secretary of the Federation of Russian Scouts. The visit to the Troop meeting was in connection with the planned expedition to Russia this summer, in which 10 boys and 1 Leader from 1st. Baldock will participate, together with boys and adults from Hitchin, Ickleford and Radlett. The purpose of the expedition is to assist in the renewal of Scouting in Russia after an absence of about 70 years - activities such as fundraising and learning Russian are currently in progress to support this venture.

BEAVER NEWS.

District Beaver Scout Challenge. Sunday 6th, June. Norton Bury.

The eldest 8 boys from 7 colonies took part in this years challenge. They started with a general knowledge quiz - the questions were set by Jackie (4th. Letchworth) Next was a wide game, devised by Chris (1st. Baldock) They finished with a scavenger hunt, run by Julie (8th. Letchworth.) Points were awarded for each section and the shield was presented to 4th. Letchworth (Friday) - Well done to our newest colony. The runners up were 2nd. Baldock - I do apologise to them an oversight on Sunday meant that I left them out of the placings - sorry boys !

1st. Baldock.

A new colony opened on 9th. June, with 13 boys. Heather Good and Sue King to lead, with new helpers, Deanna Rickwood and Shirley West. We wish them well.

DISTRICT DAY OUT - LEE VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - SATURDAY 22nd. MAY.

Two coaches (30 Beavers and approx. 25 Leaders and helpers) arrived at the Lee Valley Countryside Centre. We were divided into 4 groups for the activities.

1) POND DIPPING. In the cornmill stream - one beaver caught a baby pike.

2) MINI ORIENTEERING. Teams from 4th. Letchworth (Tuesday) and 8th. Letchworth were the fastest round the course and each boy received a pencil as a prize.

ARTISTS. Insect masks made from paper plates and various scraps of material.

4) SCIENTIST. Armed with insect nets, magnifying glass, beating sheet and collecting tray, the beavers learned about various insects and the habitats in which they can be found.

12th. LETCHWORTH GO CHINESE,

On Saturday 19th. June, 12th. Letchworth HQ. took on a Chinese air.

Heather Jones a Scout mum, lived in Hong Kong for 14 years, Michael was born there and joined the cubs. Heather organised a Chinese Dragon Boat race (made out of cardboard boxes), souvenirs decorated the hall, China tea was on offer and a barbeque included spare ribs, chicken, noodles and Chinese vegetables, There were competitions for the best coolie hat, lantern and how many beans could be lifted with chopsticks in two minutes.

DISTRICT ARTS AND CRAFT COMPETITION.

The Arts and Craft competition will be held on Saturday 2nd, October at Norton Bury. Entries in on Friday 1st. Details will be sent to each Group.

DISTRICT SCOUT FELLOWSHIP.

A good time was had by all at the Gilwell Weekend 4/5/6th. June, the theme was 'The Forties' The war and gas masks were in evidence. Michael Miles the newest recruit was invested by County Assistant John Davies.

Well done Laurie, another successful Plant Stall £710.

DISTRICT DIARY.

JULY

5th. Scout Leaders Meeting.

7th. Warrants Committee.

8th. District Executive.

9/11th. County Cub Scout Camp - Gilwell.

12th. CUB LEADERS MEETING CANCELLED.

13th. Beavers Bangers and Bash. Norton Bury.

15th. District Barbeque - Norton Bury.

24th. 1st. Baldock Camp - North Yorks.

AUGUST

7th. 7th. Letchworth Camp - Gradbach,

STOP PRESS.

The Scout and Guide Shop
will close for the summer
holidays.

22nd. JULY - 7th. SEPTEMBER.

Heliopolis - the district of Cairo where Ellen and I are living - was started about the same time in development as Letchworth, but there are major differences in it. In its early days, Heliopolis was developed by a Belgian baron who owned all the land, and certainly in the older part you can see the influence of the Garden City movement.

The main problem is that building regulations are totally disregarded. They do exist, but if a builder wants to do something he should not, he does not let the building inspector in. When he has finished the block of flats (for there are hardly any houses) he is taken to court and pays the fine, and that's that. He sells the flats and everybody is happy - except the owner of the flat when he comes across the faults. but then, that's how the Third World works:

We have a flat which is the top floor of a two storey villa owned by a former ambassador of Egypt who lives on the bottom floor. This type of house is most unusual. The street outside is lined with trees which are flowering at the moment - a red flower and most beautiful. And in the street are all types of people, from the extremely rich with their Mercedes and armed guard on the door, to the extremely poor who live in the basement of the blocks of flats and generally look after the buildings. They also clean the cars in the street for ten Egyptian pounds a month (the exchange rate is 5.25 to the pound sterling) and that's every day before I go to work, and there's an awful lot of dust in Egypt.

Today is Friday, the day off in the week. The rest of the days, including Saturday and Sunday, everybody works. This morning I walked to get a paper (there are Egyptian newspapers in English) and saw an unusual sight which made me wish I had a camera. There were four ladies all in black, and all riding donkeys following one another, which really gives the feeling of one side of this country.

We have had a major national holiday this last week. It was to celebrate the sacrifice which Abraham was going to make of his son, when the angel came down and said the sacrifice should be a lamb. So all of Egypt before the holiday is full of live sheep and cattle which are then slaughtered in the street or a back garden. One third is given to relatives, another third to the poor, and the rest is kept by the owners themselves. On the second day of the holiday, butchers walk up and down the street offering their services. Needless to say we kept off the street and did not walk at all that day.

The factory, which I am helping to equip and run to print books, is about two months late, but we hope to be producing books about mid August. Watch out after that for books printed in Egypt by International Printing House, for we are in a duty free zone and all the books we produce will be for export, mainly to the United Kingdom with some also going to America and Europe. It is going to be a very big project producing about nine or ten million books a year. (Where do they all go?)

Ellen, by the way, is running a bookshop, one of a chain owned by the same chap who is building the factory, Mr Helal. It is an English bookshop, for all Egyptians want to learn English, and the market is so large that Mr Helal is the largest customer in the world of the Oxford University Press.

Because of the population growth, the school system works on a shift basis. One lot of children starts at seven in the morning, and another lot from two to seven p.m., so the teachers work twelve hours a day. I wonder what teachers in the UK would say to that:

Education is guaranteed to the age of twelve, yet about fifty per cent of the population cannot read or write. The rest of my impressions of Cairo will have to wait till a later date, but I have two other things to finish with. One is that it's hot - very hot - about 100° F. today. And secondly, to all our old Scouting friends in and around the District, our very best regards.

PETER NORTON

28 Ab el Monem Ismaeil Street, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt

SCOUT COUNTY DATES KNOWN TO HSG EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

JULY 1993

- 2-4 Camp cook badge course, Tolmers*
- 4 Cub canoeing day, Cheshunt*
- 5 Three star canoe training, Cheshunt*
- 17 Closing date for Hertfordshire Euro Navigation 1993*
- 22 Three star canoe training, Cheshunt*
- 26 Last items for August Broadsheet must reach the Editor*
- 26-1 August : SCOUGUI 3, Ardingly, West Sussex*
- 31-14 August : "Come to Tolmers" activity fortnight*

AUGUST 1993

- 13 Last items for September HSG must reach the editors*

SEPTEMBER 1993

- 3-5 Initial Mountaineering Course participants reunion, Coetmor Mill*
- 12, and 6-7 November: Leadership 2 course 14, Well End*
- 17 Last items for October HSG must reach the editors*
- 18 Introductory training course 21 begins, Well End*
- 18-19 GSL and Commissioners training, Well End*
- 18-19 Leaders canoe training weekend, Symonds Yat*
- 19 Introductory training course 22 begins, Well End*
- 19 County Scout Fellowship fun and games, Welwyn Garden City*
- 19 Scout canoe slalom day, Cardington, Bedfordshire*
- 24 Sir Ranulph Fiennes' talk, Hertford*
- 24-26 Coonty Chief Scout's Award weekend, Gilwell Park*
- 24-26 Sedan Chair Rally, Chalfont Heights, Buckinghamshire*

OCTOBER 1993

- 1 Communicator badge Course begins, Tolmers*
- 1-3 Basic hill walking for adults, Coetmor Mill*
- 8-10 Introduction to white water canoeing, Orchard Farm*
- 9, and 27-28 November Leadership 2 course 5, Well End*
- 9-10 Training techniques course, Well End*
- 10 Leadership 2 course 16 begins, Well End*
- 10 Forester bafge course begins, Tolmers*
- 10 Bungo Hockey Tournament, Welwyn Garden City*
- 15 Last items for November HSG must reach the editors*
- 15-17 Jamboree on the Air*
- 16-17 Canoe instuctor training, Stevenage*
- 17 Canoeing training, Stevenage*
- 23-24 GSL and Commissioner training, Well End*
- 27-30 Hertfordshire Euro Navigation 1993*
- 30-31 GSL and Commissioner training*
- 30-31 Training techniques course, Well End*