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DECEMBER 1993 No. 389

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN
OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

SYDNEY LEONARD SMITH.

It is with regret that we announce the passing of 'Sid' on Friday 12th. November at the age of 78.

He was a devoted family man and very talented and skilful in inventing devices, cabinet making, engineering and jig and tool design.

Although never a Scout he gave his time willingly to judge our Arts and Craft Competition since 1969. Only in October he was at our 1993 Competition at Nortonbury.

His judgement, skill and pleasant personality will be greatly missed.

Colin Phillips.

COLIN PHILLIPS.

Colin will feel no different at 65 than he does at 64, but unfortunately that magic number means that he has to retire from his Scouting positions.

He has had a full and varied career, Colin was invested as a scout in January 1942 in the 3rd. Letchworth troop (light blue neckerchief) part of the wartime combined troop of 1st., 3rd. and 6th. Letchworth, meeting at the British Legion Hall, then moved to St. George's Hall until the military had finished with the the use of DHQ.

He became PL of the Owl Patrol before joining the 1st. Letchworth Senior Scouts and was District Quartermaster. He gained his Kings Scout Award in April 1946 and attended the Windsor Parade before King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and their daughters Elizabeth and Margaret.

His first warrant was ASM 3rd. Letchworth on 4th. July 1946 but had to have a break of just over 2 years to serve in the army.

On his demob he was persuaded to become SM at 7th. Letchworth and became senior Scout Leader in 1951.

He was asked to judge an Arts and Craft Competition in Biggleswade and was so impressed he introduced it to the District and ran it for over 20 years for Scouts and Guides.

In 1967 all Senior Scouts became Venture Scouts and the District brought everyone into one unit under the old ADC Peter Blott, this did not work and numbers went down from 57 to 6 and leaders left. This is where Colin took over as VSL and gradually built the numbers up to 50. With suggestions from KJ the name chosen was Champion Hills. The publication was 'CHAMFERS' and all the canoes made by the unit were called after local hills, ie. Lannock, Jacks etc. During these years he led numerous expeditions abroad.

From 1969 he acted as ADC(V) on the District Team until appointed as ADC(LT) in 1978 which he holds today with a short break as ADC(V) for a couple of years in 1982. In 1975 he was invited to tutor on a Venture Scout course and was appointed ALT in 1978 and LT in 1983 to the County Training Team and had the privilege of tutoring at Gilwell Park.

Awards received are Long Service Award, Medal of Merit, and Silver Acorn, he is a member of the District Fellowship and Nortonbury Management Committee.

Colin is probably better known for running or supplying equipment for "It's a Knock Out" both in and out of Scouting, the last County Event was Scougi 3. We thank Colin for all he has done in the District and wish him and Eileen a very happy retirement.

1st.ASHWELL SCOUTS REACH THE TOP.

Five boys took on the best that Scouting has to offer in personal achievement and adventure, and succeeded in gaining the Chief Scouts Award.

Mark Collins and Terry Eaglen went to Lochernhead and revelled in the activities on offer, from canoeing to rockclimbing, from hill walking to abseiling, and much more. Mark also went to Coetmoor Mill,

Ian and Graham Stark took on projects for self improvement, both gained Gold Awards with merits for swimming. Graham has learned to sail and Ian to ski. Personal project for Ian was to produce a News Letter for Scouts. Both Ian and Graham have been helping with the Cub Scouts as have Mark and Terry.

Duncan Mills started with Ashwell Scouts but after a couple of years went away to boarding school. He linked with a local Scout Troop to continue work on his badge and when on home visits would come and see us. During a school holiday he, Mark and Terry did a two day hike, sleeping in a bivouac overnight as part of the adventure requirement.

These are just a few of the 14 projects from the 7 elements that make up the Chief Scouts Award.

Well done Mark, Terry, Duncan, Ian and Graham.

Chris Taylor Scout Leader.

We send our congratulations to the boys and to Chris for this achievement.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS.

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN.

I am pleased to announce that Allan Patterson has agreed to become our new Chairman. Allan is Secretary to the Letchworth Garden City Corporation and has previous Scouting experience in Manchester. Allan's understanding of Scouting and his knowledge of the District will be invaluable to us and we welcome him to the District. Allan's address is 38 Parker Close, Letchworth. Tel. 674533.

ADC LEADER TRAINING.

John Chapman will succeed Colin as ADC Leader Training. John was GSL at 11th.

Letchworth for ten years so he brings a lot of Scouting experience to this post. John's address is 47 Baldock Road. Letchworth. Tel. 686772.

ADC SCOUTS.

An ADC Scouts at long last! Thanks to Shaun Howard who is returning to active Scouting after a short break. Shaun is another experienced GSL from 7th.Letchworth and we welcome him to the District Team. Please help Shaun as much as possible to strengthen our Scout Section and bring a new lease of life to District Events. Shaun's address is 58 Wilbury Hills Caravan Park. Letchworth. Tel. 679209.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY.

Mike Johnson has circulated all Groups with a copy of their Directory entry, asking for it to be updated and returned to him. Only three Groups have responded.

The quality of the information that we publish can only be as good as that which we receive from you.

DISTRICT CUB SCOUT QUIZ.

This years quiz followed a slightly different format with the first round being a team round - Hazards at a Cub Camp, and all other rounds having NO alternative answers. This did not seem to hold eny fears for the boys.

One Cub must have a special mention, he was the 8 year old from 8th. Letchworth (the only one to turn up) He sat at the table all evening and answered everyones questions. - Well done.

The winners this year were 1st. 7th. Letchworth. 2nd. 5th. Letchworth.

3rd. 1st. Baldock Knights.

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP NEWS.

Letchworth and Baldock Gang Show - Tickets still available, phone Maggie Strong Tel. 675197.

I have heard some strange murmurings concerning this show. I have heard some say it is rubbish. How these people can tell is beyond me. In one particular case one person has not actually seen it for three years ! (I know 'cos I sell the tickets) I have been to the latest rehearsals and I can honestly say it's the best for a long time- see it and then see me - Maggie.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY. St. Thomas' Church Hall. Bedford Rd. December 31st. from e.00pm til late (or early). Bring food (American supper), drink -(fruit punch and fizz available,) and any music youwish to hear or dance to (vinyl or tapes as I haven't a CD player). There will be entertainment. Fun for all ages.

Tickets - £1.00 per adult. 50p. per child (to cover cost of hall).

Maggie 675197 or Laurie 684046.

COACH TRIP TO ST. ALBANS GANG SHOW. SATURDAY 6th. FEBRUARY 1994.

The coach will leave Letchworth Arena Car Park approx. 1.30pm. arrive home 6.00ish. Cost will include theatre tickets and coach approx. £7.50 adult. £6.00 child.

Prices and times to be confirmed. Information and booking to Maggie or Laurie. (£2.00 non returnable deposit.)

Everyone is welcome to our meetings. 4th. Monday of each month. (Next one 24th, Jan.) In the Cook Room at Guide HQ, Ickniel Way. (There will not be one in December). If you would like to know more or want to ask us a favour why not come along. Got something to get of your chest - come and have a cuppa with us - we will see if we can help.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped us in 1993, wish you a very special Christmas and Good Scouting for 1994.

Maggie Strong.

REVISED SCOUT SECTION PROGRAMME.

Changes have been introduced to the Scout programme. They do not affect the structure, badges or age ranges for the Awards but a number of requirements have been changed and the Explorer Award extensively revised. Four new proficiency badges have been introduced - Hill Walker, Caver, Local Heritage and Rock Climber. The County has organised launches for the programme. The nearest ones are :-

Thursday 2nd. December. 2nd. Welwyn Garden City HQ.

19.30 - 21.00. Hillybush Lane. W.G.C.

Contact Tony 0707 335046.

Friday 10th. December Look Wide (District HQ)

19.30 - 21.00 Fry Road. Stevenage.

Contact Tony Stephenson 0438 742504

New publications for the programme are available from the District Scout Shop.

GREETINGS FROM EGYPT.

With Christmas coming up extremely quickly I thought it may be of interest to the Scouting family in the District to let you know how Ellen and I are coping and to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas. Well about Egypt, it's still hot, with the temperatures in the high eighties during the day and much cooler during the night. With all the sun and high temperature it does not seem like Christmas, but I am sure that we will celebrate it in a truly British way. The Church we go to is an International Church made up of all English speaking nations and a few Egyptians. The majority of the population in Egypt are Muslim who do not celebrate Christmas but a small percentage are Coptic Christians who I am sure will.

We had the privilege of being invited to a Coptic wedding the other week, it was nothing like a British wedding, the noise was something which was difficult to describe. The women warbled, a high pitched warble (all through the ceremony) the assistant priests banged cymbals and triangles and the male choir sung in a monotone. Truly a night to remember.

There is a small British community in Cairo with typical English pasttimes and sports. Last weekend (Friday - we work on Saturday and Sunday) the Cairo Rugby Club organised a raft race on the Nile which was great fun. WE also have the British Community Association who have a club house in Heliopolis and they organised a firework display on Friday November 5th.

I have heard that you have a new lease on Nortonbury, I hope all of you Cubs and Scouts do make full use of it especially the new camping area, it's what one or two of us dreamed of, make full use of it.

Peter and Ellen Norton.

5th. LETCHWORTH CUB SCOUTS.

I was invited to 5th. Letchworths Pack meeting, just to watch so I thought. But once there was quickly put to work. I was privileged to Invest four new Cubs and present Activity Badges and Sixer and Secondar Stripes. This Pack is going from strength to strength with over twenty boys and some coming up from the Beavers. They have had a very successful camp at Weston Park and have just come second in the District quiz. Well done boys and Sue and Anne.

Anne Lilley.

There must be other Packs and Troops who are worth a mention, why not let me know.

DISTRICT DIARY.

DECEMBER.

1st. Warrants Committee.
2nd. Russian Evening - Baldock Scouts.
9th. District Executive.
10/11th. District Gang Show - Plinston Hall.
17th. LAST DATE FOR CO-ORDINATOR.

JANUARY.1994

5th. Warrants Committee.
10th. Scout Leaders Meeting.
Cub Leaders Meeting.
13th. District Executive.
24th. District Fellowship Evening - Guide HQ.
LAST DATE FOR CO-ORDINATOR.