



SEPTEMBER 1994 No.397

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN
OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

LESLIE R. BROWN.

He came from Yorkshire just before the war, to be Baldock Urban District Council's Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. With the job came responsibility for Baldock Fire Brigade, and as its Chief Officer Leslie received the British Empire Medal in 1943 for the work he did with his team in London during the blitz.

He went from being Local Fuel Overseer to Chairman of Baldock National Savings Committee. He and his wife Lilly ran the First Baldock Wolf Cub Pack, which included their two sons Martin and Christopher. In the early 1950's Les became Assistant District Commissioner for the combined scout District of Letchworth & Baldock with its first DC Mr. A.T. Hodgson.

Les became DC from 1955 until May 1963. His term began with eight Groups in the District and ended with thirteen. Numbers of boys and adult members broke records at almost every annual census. He saw the start of CO-ORDINATOR, and by 1961 the presentation of Queen Scout badges reached the rate of five per year, including one to his son Martin.

It was Les who persuaded Mrs. Ann Nally, First Ashwell's Cubmaster, to go to Gilwell Park and earn her Wood Badge, and so he was almost directly responsible the introduction of Wood Badge training for Cub Scout Leaders in the United States when Ann went home to America.

Les was one of our longest serving and most universally liked District Commissioners. Moving to "Over Springs" in Ashwell in 1964, Les continued to carry out many duties as ADC with his successors as DC, Harold Hodge, Ted Smith and Fred Eaves.

Les died at Wymondley Nursing Home on 27th. July 1994, at the age of 82. The last photograph shows him with Chloe, his first great-grandchild, and the broadest smile which those who knew him so well remembered.

CONRAD ASCHER ACC (International)

Conrad died on 19th. August 1994, aged 64. Most people in Scouting will know of Conrad's unique contribution to the County's international activities over almost 40 years. His inimitable humour will not be forgotten.

MEDAL OF MERIT.

Congratulations to Anne Lilley who has been awarded the Medal of Merit for her services to Scouting in the District and to Bob Williams who has been awarded the Bar to the Medal of Merit.

WOOD BADGES.

Congratulations to Venetia Crowther and Dave Upson from 1st.3rd. Letchworth and Graham Hopkins from 8th. Letchworth who have gained their Wood Badges.

WARRANTS.

Warrants have been awarded to Tracey Jellis BL. 4th. Letchworth and Derek Hart ABL 4th. Letchworth.

ADC VENTURE SCOUTS.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Sally Young to the post of ADC Venture Scouts. We wish her success in the post and look forward to growth in this section in the District.

4th. LETCHWORTH CAVALIERS NORTONBURY CUB CAMP 1994.

On Friday 1st. July everybody arrived at Nortonbury around 7.00pm. We were all looking forward to an exciting weekend.

After putting up our tents we set out on a hike with a quiz. We then played games by torchlight and after supper we went to bed but did not get to sleep until about 2.00am. In the morning we played football before breakfast. After breakfast we tidied our tents for inspection. We then went round bases doing various pirate activities following our theme for the weekend. After lunch we had water sports in which everyone got soaked, this was followed by a water fight which soaked us even more. We played rounders and took it in turns on the rope across the river. After our meal of shepherd's pie we played football again. We all gathered round the camp fire for our sing-song. Half way through it was interrupted by Bagheera who gave the cue for some Scouts to come and give Akela a present for her service to scouting. We finished with a barbeque and went to bed at 11.00.

Sunday 3rd. and most of us were up early. After breakfast we had a small church service called a Cubs Own with singing and stories before tidying our tents for inspection. We then did our Scientist badge going round bases which included pond dipping and contours. Then there was a chance to go on the raft.

After lunch we packed up the tents, went to the tack shop which went down very successfully. Finally we gathered round the flag pole to sort out lost property and prizes. We all went home after a very exciting weekend.

Matthew Robson and Mark Johnson.

GWEN PACK. FIRST ASHWELL CUB SCOUTS.

The pirate ship that appeared overnight, my first aerial runway trip, camp fires, arts and crafts competitions. These will be some of my many memories of 'Cubs'. Retiring was a very hard decision to make and for a time Wednesday evenings will be a void in my life.

I would like to thank everyone in the District for their friendship and enthusiasm during my years in Scouting.

My best wishes to you all,
Gwen

SUMMER CAMPS.

1st. Baldock, 1st.3rd. Letchworth, 7th. Letchworth and 8th. Letchworth all held successful summer camps and I have received very good reports from the DC's who visited their camps. All the reports note the good organisation, high quality of the scouting and the enjoyment of all those taking part. Congratulations and thanks to the leaders who devoted much time and skill to achieving this success.

USE OF PRIVATE CARS FOR SCOUTING. IS YOUR INSURANCE UP TO IT ?

Many leaders and helpers use their private cars for Scouting purposes and many Groups rely on parents to transport Scouts on activities.

The Scout Association's general liability insurance policy DOES NOT provide any cover in the respect of "mechanically propelled vehicles". There is a legal obligation on the users of motor cars to have a specific motor liability insurance cover and, clearly there is little point in us duplicating that cover.

It has recently been brought to our attention that some insurers are classifying Scouting as use of the vehicle for business rather than social, domestic and pleasure use. Whilst we do not believe that their definition is sustainable, we do recommend that individuals should check with their insurers and resolve any

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argument BEFORE any claim arises ! Some Counties reimburse Leaders, on a cost per mile basis, for the use of their cars and this could well breach the 'hire and reward' condition of most motor policies so check that out as well.

If you have any problems, remember that there is a special Scout private car scheme which does not suffer from any of these restrictions AND which pays commission to the Group. Send an SAE to Scout Insurance Services (CARS) at Lancing for details, quoting your Group name.

SCOUT SHOP.

Ruth and Peter have finally left the shop. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for the work which they have put into the shop over the years and the excellent service they have given us.

They have stocked the shop for the new season but its continued success depends upon finding someone to run it and a number of volunteers to join a rota to serve at the shop.

Please consider if you could spare an evening once a month to help or ask among your parents for volunteers.

The position is serious. We will be able to keep going for a short time but unless we can find some volunteers the long term situation remains uncertain.

DISTRICT CUB SCOUTS SPORTS AND FUN DAY.

18th. September at Nortonbury. It will begin with a barbeque at 12 noon.

DISTRICT DIARY.

SEPTEMBER.

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| 7th. | Warrants Committee. |
| 8th. | District Executive. |
| 12th. | Cub Scout Leaders Meeting. |

OCTOBER.

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| 5th. | Warrants Committee. |
| 13th. | District Executive. |
| 20th. | District Administrators Evening. |
| 22nd. | Scout Fellowship AGM. |