



THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN  
OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK  
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### **NEW CHIEF SCOUT**

WILLIAM GEORGE PURDY has been appointed Chief Scout of the United Kingdom and takes on the role with effect from 6 May 1996.

George Purdy has been involved in Scouting as a Leader since 1963 holding Scout Leader and Group Scout Leader warrants in Northern Ireland until he was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Province in 1994. He has held senior staff posts at a number of International camps and was the Northern Ireland Leader to the 1983 Jamboree.

He is a Senior Civil Servant, at present Director of Policy and Legislation in the Department of Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland with wide experience in administration including an extensive knowledge of Information Technology. An important part of his tasks has been the re-organisation of departments and the management of change.

### **ADMINISTRATORS EVENING 27th June 1996 7pm - 8pm.**

#### **District B.B.Q. 27th June 8pm - late**

On the evening of Thursday 27th June 1996 Norton Bury will host the annual District BBQ, starting from 8pm. All leaders, Helpers, Group Members, family and friends of Scouting are welcome including children.

£1.50 per adult and 50p for under 12's will be charged to cover costs (drinks extra)

Please ring Barbara Thwaites on 982020 for tickets.

### **Administrator's Evening (28th March)**

The evening concentrated on three main topics.-

#### **1. Links between the sections.**

In view of the 6-20 Workshop being held by the County in May members were asked for examples of good practice in retaining Scouts from one section to another. It was felt that Scouts felt more confident if a number moved at the same time and it was also important for the Leaders of the Sections to be seen to be co-operating.

Any other views or examples of good practice would be welcomed.

#### **2. Leader Appointment and Authorisation Procedures**

The importance of following the correct appointment procedures for Leaders and Helpers was impressed upon Administrators and similarly it is important to ensure Leaders undertaking adventurous activities have the correct authorisation. Initial advice should be sought from Ron Smith (appointments) and John Chapman (adventurous activities)

#### **3. Insurance**

A discussion of insurance noted widely different rates paid by Groups and it was agreed that more information should be collected on this topic and presented to the next meeting.

In view of the interesting discussions and the importance of the topics it is a shame that only half the Groups in the District were represented. Hopefully, there will be a larger attendance at the next meeting which takes place before the District BBQ on Thursday 27th June at 7pm.

Bob Williams. DC

## PEAK ASSAULT 1996

Going on Peak Assault for the first time can be both an exciting and daunting experience. It began with the packing of all my best hiking kit and dehydrated food rations, soon followed by the unpacking - once I'd recovered from collapsing under the weight. Upon arriving at the Venture HQ there was no turning back - transport was waiting to take out team to Tesco's car park and a broken leg was counted as a feeble excuse.

My torch, hidden within the deep recess of my ruck sack, decided it needed new batteries and bulb, and was eventually used to hammer in tent pegs. The camping field, somewhere in Wales, fell silent around 3am, and awoke just under four hours later.

Breakfasts were eaten, water bottles filled and t-shirts tucked into thermal long-johns.

Once all the ruck sacks had been packed, straps tightened to perfection, it was a short walk to the start, and the all so important instructions.

Thirty minutes into the walk my bag felt heavy and I had to remove two layers of fleece clothing. Our Venture leader had promised a slap-up curry meal and ten pints if we came within the top five and the whole team saw this as a good incentive for contemplating jogging some of the way.

I knew that SAS recruits trained in the Brecon Beacons, and that they carried around fifteen stone, so it should therefore be much easier for a group of inexperienced Venture Scouts. The first peak we assaulted proved this theory wrong - it was the type of peak a Land Rover wouldn't have attempted - down.

Over the next seven hours we hiked up and down, back and forth, stamping our card, and pretending we could take the pain. Our time ran out half way up Pen-Y-something and it was another two hours before we reached the overnight stop. I, as team-leader, fell asleep while someone cooked me chicken noodles and bacon rashers. I'm surprised to hear nobody died from drinking dodgy water collected from a nearby stream.

Sunday morning was a repeat of Saturday - early and cold. The route was basically the same, back up and over the hills, then back to the start location. We made good time, overtook a number of teams - and sprinted the last twenty metres to the finish line - and action I still regret.

At the presentations, held an hour late, I wasn't surprised to hear our team hadn't come first - that privilege had gone to N Harpenden VSU, complete with especially printed winners t-shirts, who had apparently run most of the route.

Our team, Bacchus VSU had finished in 39th position, with a highly impressive and respectable score of 2, and an overall time of twelve hours-ish. Despite all the pain and blisters - which I still have, I feel I have achieved something I will be able to look back on with fond memories. I would like to thank all who were involved in the organisation and running of Peak Assault 1996 and hope you'll all be prepared to do it again next year. And you can expect Bacchus to be there again - mountain bashing with pride

Colin Haigh - Bacchus VSU

## NIGHTJAR '96 - 13/14 April

In relatively good conditions Senior and Junior teams of scouts took part in a fifteen mile, six base night hike. 22 teams entered the competition, run by Mervyn Templeton, ADC(Scouts) Hitchin. Colour certificates were awarded to all teams that took part and the winning teams in each section were awarded trophies. There was a large number of scouters staying up through the night to cover the route and bases and all aspects of the competition made it a very smoothly run event. Leanne Emery becomes the first female scout to win the event. The results are below:-

### SENIOR

1.	7th Letchworth	305.5
2.	11th Letchworth	274
3.	7th Letchworth	268
5.	1st Baldock	266.5
5.	1st Baldock	256.5
6.	7th Letchworth	177
7.	2nd Baidock	140.5
8.	5th Letchworth	140
9.	1st/3rd Letchworth	112
10.	7th Letchworth	88
11.	2nd Baldock	72

### JUNIOR

1.	7th letchworth	322.5
2.	11th Letchworth	272.5
3.	7th Letchworth	260
4.	1st Baldock	246
5.	7th Letchworth	235.5
6.	1st Baldock	206.5
7.	7th Letchworth	203
8.	5th Letchworth	30.5
9.	5th Letchworth	0

# Diary Dates

## MAY

- 1 - Warrants Committee
- 3-6th - District Jamboree - Nortonbury
- 8 - 1st Ashwell AG M
- 9 - District AGM - St George's Church - Clulow Room 8.00pm
- 9 - Bacchus VSU AGM
- 12 - 7th Letchworth AGM
- 13 - St Paul's Leaders Evening
- 14 - District Cub Leaders Meeting - 1st Baldock Scout HQ
- 14 - 11th Letchworth AGM
- 15 - 1st/3rd Letchworth AGM
- 17 - 8th Letchworth AGM
- 17 - 12th Letchworth AGM
- 19 - 15 mile Letchworth Rotary Walk
- 20 - DEADLINE FOR JUNE CO-ORDINATOR
- 20 - 1st Baldock AGM
- 21 - 2nd Baldock AGM
- 23 - Scout Leaders Meeting - Nortonbury

## JUNE

- 5 - Warrants Committee
- 7 - 4th Letchworth AGM
- 8 - County Beaver Birthday - Knebworth
- 9 - District Scout 5-a-side Football Competition
- 13 - District Executive Meeting
- 14-16 - Fellowship Annual Camp - Weston
- 20 - District Team Meeting
- 20 - DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST CO-ORDINATOR
- 23 - Cub Fun Day - Gilweil Park
- 27 - District BBQ and Administrators Evening - Nortonbury

## DISTRICT JAMBOREE 1996

Well the Jamboree is almost upon us, and I am pleased to report that there will be 300 people from the District camping for the weekend and another 130 Beavers and Leaders visting during the day. We just all need to pray for lovely weather for the weekend and then it should be a resounding success.

Below are just a few reminders to everyone for the Jamboree :-

1. NO kit is allowed to be taken on the bus to Nortonbury - only people.
2. Tents can be erected at Nortonbury from Wednesday 1st May.
3. We have until Wednesday 8th May to clear the site at Nortonbury
4. There will be a tuck-shop both on Saturday night and during the day on Sunday so please advise all your Beavers/Cubs and Scouts to bring a small amount of pocket money with them.
5. Every Group is to provide their own supper for Friday/Saturday and Sunday nights.
- 6 Every Group is to supply enough balloons (no bigger than 30cm when inflated) for each person that is attending
7. Every Group is to ensure that everyone attending is wearing a badge that indicates their name and Group
- 8.1f you have not been notified of a time for the bus pick-up on Friday 3rd May then please contact Andrea Soulsby on Baldock 491401 asap.

Lets just have a smashing time at Nortonbury to make our first District Jamboree a roaring success.

# *Invitation*

**DISTRICT A.G.M.**

**THURSDAY 9th MAY 1996**

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH HALL**

**LETCHWORTH**

**7.30pm for 8.00pm**

