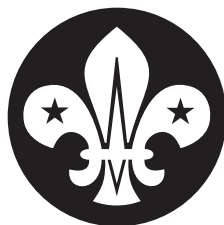


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THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN
OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

A plea for help from the Editor - I am due to have a baby about the third week in July and because of this I will be unable to drive until at least the beginning of September. Thus help is required with the printing and delivery of the September Co-Ordinator. If no help is forthcoming then I am afraid you won't receive your Co-Ordinator/HSG until about the middle of September. Many thanks in advance for any help received.

Administrators Briefing and Training

Two National weekend events are being run for District and Group Administrators -
"SP30" - 16/17 November - Gilwell Park, Chingford, London
"SP31" - 23/24 November - The Crown Hotel, Wetheral, Carlisle
If you would like to take part then write to Francis Wright at Gilwell Park.

Beaver's 10th Birthday - Knebworth

On Saturday 6th June 96 Beavers went to Knebworth to join in with the County 10th Birthday celebrations. They had the use of the Fort, a magic show, a circus show and a wonderful sing-song. Everyone had a REALLY GOOD TIME!

Beaver's Rounders match

On the 18th June 4th Letchworth Beavers and 1st Baldock Beavers challenged each other to a ROunders match. It was a very closely contested match with 1st Baldock just winning. Congratulations to both teams for taking part and enjoying yourselves so much.



Gilwell Fun day

On Sunday 23rd June over 150 Cubs and their Leaders went to Gilwell to take part in their annual fun day. The theme this year was "Hollywood" - At the Spielberg Centre you could do handicrafts, badge making, origami and face painting. At Rawhide you could do baked bean eating, gold panning, lassoing and horse shoe throwing. At Grease you could do Duck racing, crazy golf, air rifles, archery, welly throwing and pushball. and at the Broadway you could be entertained by The Gilwell Park Service Team Roadshow, For the very brave the Swimming pool was open and there were aerial runways, water slides and grass sledging at Cliffhanger. A great day was had by all.

Cubs 80th Birthday Celebrations

All Cub Packs should have received their 80th Birthday Pack. When you have made your plans and arranged the dates for the five or more challenges that your pack intend to complete, then don't forget to fill in the form in the pack giving details of the challenges, dates and venues and send the completed form to either Chris Parr ADC(Cubs) or Bridget Hunter ACC(Cubs) before September 1st.



GANG SHOW 1997

Advance notification of the dates for the next Gang Show are March 14-15th 1997 (Dress Rehearsal on Thursday 13th March). The show will be at Plinston Hall and the Producer will be Andrea Soulsby. Rehearsals will start mid-September - further details to follow.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA THWAITES

It is with a heavy heart we report the death of Barbara Thwaites on 12 June 1996. We knew she had a serious long term condition but the suddenness of her demise shocked us all.

Barbara was a great contributor to Scouting both in 1st Baldock and the District and will be greatly missed by both. Her association with 1st Baldock fasted over 15 years beginning as a Cub helper she continued as a member of the Executive Committee where she was the secretary for many years. She was a "doer" of the first magnitude. She didn't just talk about things - she did them, not rashly but after careful thought! She was a good team member, helping organise jumble sales, barn dances, crazy capers and only a few weeks ago she did the 10 mile charity walk to help raise funds for the Group Hut Fund. Although never a uniformed member of the movement she championed its aims and embodied its beliefs and values and could be most indignant if she felt others weren't

She will be missed on so many fronts it is impossible to name them all - but what will we do without her knowledge of the classics and Greek/Roman gods at quiz nights - her ability to organise the Tombola at the jumble sale without us even noticing - who will sell the raffle tickets at the barn dance? The thing we will miss most, however, is her as a personality and all her friends will have an affectionate anecdote to tell. Barbara always had a highly developed sense of humour, a keen eye for the irony of a situation and working with her was always fun.

Scouting was by no means her whole life. She had recently gained a degree, was on the local committee of Action Research for the Crippled Child, helped at the senior citizens Christmas lunch, Chairman of Baldock Women's Fellowship and always ran the book stall at the Church fete.

One of her great passions, of course, was travelling! Her adventurous holidays could always be brought to life on her return because she was also an accomplished photographer (although she always denied it).

She will be sadly missed by all and our heartfelt sympathies go to her sons Nick and Chris.

LONDON MARATHON '96 - SUNDAY 21ST APRIL

This year, I thought, at least it won't be as hot as last year. I didn't know how wrong I was going to be. When my alarm woke me at 5.45 am it was still fairly dark outside but as the sun rose there was a brilliant blue sky with not a cloud in sight - it was going to be hot!

I arrived at the Blue Start on Blackheath with time to spare and saw the cannon fired signifying the start of the Women's Elite Race. This also meant I had half an hour left before the start of what I had been training for for 6 nights a week over the last four and a half months, this year's London Marathon.

After joining the queue of people at the start, the butterflies in my stomach disappeared as the cannon fired, though it took 8 minutes before I began to start running and a further 2 before I crossed the start line due to the sheer number of runners (not only was it going to be the hottest London Marathon on record but also the highest number of runners starting).

Water drinking stations were present from the third mile and every mile thereafter. We had been advised to take on as much water as possible but even with extra water being delivered three of the first five stations still ran out.

I saw the now famous Rhinos (how they manage to run in those outfits I will never know) and various people being interviewed, although I was a bit disappointed I didn't get to give Sue Barker a kiss as one runner did!

Past the Cutty Sark at 6 miles, over Tower Bridge at 12 miles, through Docklands and around Canary Wharf at 16 miles before going back under Tower Bridge at 22 miles. By this stage your mind and body is on auto pilot and all you can think about is the finish. Over the dreaded cobblestones outside the Tower of London and through Parliament Square past Big Ben. With the cheers of the crowd ringing in your ears you make your way along Birdcage Walk and past a sign saying 800 metres to go (about a half mile - an unbelievably long half mile) before turning past Buckingham Palace into The Mall to see the finish.

26 miles 385 yards and two blisters after the start I crossed the finish line. I beat my previous time by nearly quarter of an hour, finishing in 4 hours 15 minutes. Thankyou to all the people who sponsored me, in excess of £200.00 was raised which will be split evenly between The British Heart Foundation, The Stroke Association and 8th Letchworth Scout Group.

As to whether I do it again.....?

Graham Hopkins
8th Letchworth Scouts

District Scout 5-A-Side Football

This years competition took place at Lannock School Letchworth on June 9th. Once again the sun shone and we were treated to a feast of football. Thirteen teams entered and played in three sections Juniors, Seniors and Girls. This year we had new shields, donated by the District, to play for.

The Junior section was won by 1st Baldock, beating 4th Letchworth 1-0, this after drawing their three previous meetings.

The Senior Section was played on a league 2nd Baldock (A) winning their Group with 4th Letchworth (A) in second place, the other Group was won by 7th Letchworth with 1st Baldock (B) in second place.

In the Semi Finals 2nd Baldock (A) beat 1st Baldock(B) 3-0 and 7th Letchworth beat 4th Letchworth(A) 2-1.

The Senior section was won by 7th Letchworth beating 2ndBaldock(A) 3-1 in a very exciting final.

The Girls section match between 7th Letchworth and 2nd Baldock once again went to extra time but still neither team could get the all important goal, so into the penalty shot out they went, 2nd Baldock finally winning 2-0.

I would like to thank Lorraine (4th Letchworth), Mike & Deb Dilley (2 Baldock) for all their help in organising the event, Lannock School for hosting the event, the Referees, Lannock PA for providing. a tuck shop, all the leaders and managers for giving up their Sunday and last of all the boys and girls for taking part.

I hope to see more teams enter next year with all Groups taking part.

Dave Hawkins(Scout Football Committee)

Diary Dates

JULY

- 1 - County AGM - Hertford
- 3 - Warrants Committee
- 11 - District Exec Meeting
- 14 - County Cub Canoe Day - Cheshunt
- 14 - Royal Naval parade - Letchworth
- 15 - District Cub Leaders Meeting - 32 The Rowans
- 17 - Beavers Bangers & Bash - Nortonbury
- 24 - 2nd Weston to join District

AUGUST

Summer Camps

- 15 - DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER CO-ORDINATOR

SEPTEMBER

- 4 - Warrants Committee
- 9 - District Cub Leaders Meeting - 32 The Rowans
- 12 - District Exec Meeting
- 14/15- Icknield Shield - Scouts
- 22 - District Cub Sports Day - Nortonbury and deadline for Oct CO-ORD
- 26 - District Scout Leaders Meeting - Nortonbury
- 28 - County Cubs 80th Birthday Party at Phase's Wood
- 29 - District Beavers Sports Day