

Editor : Andrea Soulsby
 5 South Close
 Baldock
 Herts
 SG7 6DS
 01462-491401

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**THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN
 OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
 DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Sheila Staines ADC Beavers

Sheila has resigned after 10 years outstanding service as ADC. Under her inspirational Leadership, Beavers have become a major feature of Scouting in the District and an important entry into Scouting. The quality of our Beaver Colonies and the fun and excitement of District events reflect Sheila's enjoyment and enthusiasm for Beavers.

Sheila is a first class leader of adults and creates a good team spirit amongst leaders - the Wood badges they have gained are a credit to them all.

Sheila remains a Beaver Leader and highly committed to Scouting at 1st Baldock.

Bob Williams D.C.

"Grass Roots Scouting - Local Support Services"

All Groups have received a copy of the consultative document "Grass Roots Scouting". A number of questions are posed at the end and you may wish to send your replies direct to the Scout Association or you may let me know your feelings as the subject will be discussed at the December DC's meeting
 Bob Williams D.C.

DISTRICT GANG SHOW

Rehearsals for the 1998 Gang Show have started. They are being held every Saturday, at 1st/3rd Letchworth Scout HQ, Icknield Way from 5pm until 7pm. Everyone will be most welcome to come along and join in - you do not have to be a marvelous singer/actor - enthusiasm is a great asset. Please encourage your Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders to support the 1998 Gang Show.

The show will be at Plinston Hall on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st March 1998.
 Any further information can be obtained from Andrea Soulsby on Baldock 491401.

District Mini-Bus

This year the District had to subsidise the mini-bus once again. We cannot go on like this. If we are to keep the mini-bus it must be used more. Please consider using it when you are planning your transport requirements.

The current charges are :-

<i>Evening</i>	<i>£ 6.00</i>
<i>Half Day</i>	<i>£ 12.50</i>
<i>Day</i>	<i>£ 25.00</i>
<i>Week</i>	<i>£140.00</i>
<i>Plus petrol (unleaded)</i>	

Enquiries to Chris King - 55 Westell Close, Baldock. Tel: 490218

Progression from Cubs to Scouts

Thoughts from the District Patrol Leader's Council

A discussion was held as to the reasons why a significant numbers of Cubs do not progress into Scouts or leave shortly afterwards. There are twice as many Cubs as Scouts in most Districts.

The Patrol Leaders felt that:-

- i) Cubs are not prepared to do things outside Troop Meetings*
- ii) The Scout Meetings are often longer*
- iii) Most Scouts have nicknames and Cubs sometimes find this upsetting*
- iv) Cubs expect Scout Meetings to be more activity based, Cubs expectations are perhaps too high*

To ensure a smooth passage from Cubs to Scouts it was suggested that:-

- i) Scouts help with Cub Meetings to get to know the Cubs*
- ii) Cub Leaders take Cubs to their first Scout Meeting*
- iii) That Groups have mixed sections activities - joint events - camps- rounders etc*
- iv) Cubs go up in Groups*
- v) Ceremonies should be encouraged within the Group.*

Congratulations to the PL's for some very constructive thoughts - perhaps other Leaders would like to contribute their thoughts to Co-Ordinator.

Cubs 80th Birthday Banner

On Wednesday 1st October Ashwell Cubs and some Cubs from Royston walked to Ashwell Springs to handover the Birthday Banner to Royston. The Banner was coming to the end of its journey around Hertfordshire visiting 20 Districts on its way. The evening was warm and darkness had fallen as we stood at the waters edge and handed over the Banner. Earlier on in the evening 8 Cubs were invested into 1st Ashwell Pack. I would like to welcome all these new Cubs and look forward to seeing them at future District events.
Raksha - ADC Cubs

DISTRICT BEAVER AKLOWA DAY TRIP

On a sunny Saturday, 17th May, as part of our Africa theme and because Hertfordshire Scouts were planning their expedition to South Africa this year, the District Beavers went to Aklowa, the African Heritage Village near Bishops Stortford. After about an hours journey we arrived in Aklowa and had lunch. After lunch we were involved in some traditional African activities such as cooking, costumes, (a fashion show of African clothes), drumming, canoeing, singing, dancing and crafts. We all enjoyed ourselves very much and got back tired but happy at about 5:15pm. I would like to thank 11th Letchworth Beavers (with a little bit of a delay, I am sorry) for all of their drawings of the activities they did at Aklowa. By looking at the pictures, I came to the conclusion, that the canoeing was their favourite activity, followed by the drumming.

DISTRICT BEAVER SPORTS DAY

This year's competition took place on Saturday 27th September, at 3-5pm in Nortonbury with about 60 Beavers present. We had a lot of help from leaders, parents and some Scouts and enjoyed this event very much. We also made sure, that every Bewaver had a lot of stickers to take home on his jumper or T-shirt. All the boys enjoyed eating a biscuit and a cup of orange juice after all their running. After adding up all the points, we found out that 2nd Baldock Beaver Scouts won the trophy, in second place was 1st Baldock Tuesday Beavers and 3rd place went to 12th Letchworth. Well done to everyone and many thanks for all the help and the very good sporting behaviour. I enjoyed it just as much as the Beavers!

Although, Sheila is giving up as ADC, and I think that Bob Williams is still looking for somebody to take on this job, I am sure, that the Sports Day will still be going ahead in the years to come, as Julie and I have got it down to a fine art now (especially with all your help).

I would like to apologise for the delay in the AKLOWA report, I kept putting it off and always found more urgent things to do.

Sonja Hall - AB SL, 1st Baldock

I helped to Make the CD!

On Saturday 27th September, 250 people from 34 Gang Shows met at The Spa Centre, in Leamington Spa, for a long, tiring but exciting day. This was to be the first recording of Ralph Reader's Gang Show music for over 20 years and the first time that his music had been recorded by amateurs.

The day started at the crack of dawn (well 6.45am) with a drive up to Leamington Spa. Registration started 9.00am and then the mornings singing rehearsal got underway at 9.30am. The Producer (Phil Highley) and the MD (Neil Roberts) explained that they did not expect everyone to know every song! (Which was a relief as at this point in time I only knew 2 or 3!) We sang through all the songs (about 40 of them) and any solo parts were allocated. The chorus were then given a lunch break from 1pm until 2pm; The soloists were not so lucky as they now had to rehearse their parts. 2pm signalled the band call (8 musicians in all) and the start of the studio recording session. Each track to be put on the CD was rehearsed and then recorded. A deep, sexy voice from the props room under the stage signalled that the recording was OK. (This was where the recording engineers lived for the day) By 7pm we had recorded almost all the tracks. Phil and Neil were now happy to leave the remaining tracks and record them live later. Thus everyone was dismissed, only to return an hour later in full uniform for a concert performance, in front of an invited audience, which was also to be recorded! Again every track was recorded separately and the audience were given their instructions as to when they had to keep quiet and when they could applaud! The climax of the concert was everyone singing "Crest of A Wave" and 34 different sets of actions being done at the same time! (It will be interesting to see the effect of this when the video comes out) The concert recording finished at 10.30pm.

I am so glad, and proud, that I was able to represent Letchworth & Baldock District Gang Show at such an historic event. I will certainly never forget the day that I helped to make the CD!

The CD is due for release in November, and will be available for purchase through Gang Shows. Andrea Soulsby - Producer, Letchworth & Baldock District Gang Show

THESE ARE THE TIMES

This seems to be one of those composite dreams where people appear from a crowd and disappear as I turn my head. Naturally Fred and Val are here, and John and Chris. In fact, several Johns and several different Chrisses and various Mikes, and more people who would normally be in Baldock or Ashwell or other places I remember like Walesby Forest or wherever. Some of them are in Scout uniform, and I find that so am I, although those are foreign Guide badges hanging from the rafters. And out of the crowd Akela appears, handing me a bag full of pictures of our First Letchworth Wolf Cubs and years of minutes to help with the District History, so I can't remember what year this is.

However, we are sitting down and Laurie is talking to us but not telling us off as he normally would in real life. He seems to be conducting an AGM, and the first eight items are done in eight seconds, and now it is the Election of Officers.

One of the Johns and one of the Mikes are politely banished to somewhere which I remember is called the Cook Room, and gosh, this is posh, all the actual Members are given proper ballot papers, but we must put ticks instead of crosses because this is only a dream. It is really hard to decide which of the two to tick because we like them both and they both sent us very good election addresses. Quick, tick that one, because another Mike is taking the papers away for the official count in the Kitchen which is not the Cook Room as we might expect.

Suddenly the existing Secretary and Treasurer are reappointed by popular acclaim, and someone remembers to release the two Candidates to hear the result announced by the Returning Officer for this Constituency. By a tiny majority, John is the new Chairman. Loyal in defeat, Mike pats him on the back, and the retiring Chairman carries on. He remembers that we have the DC with us to say a couple of words. After three I lose count, but as always he says exactly the right things, which tonight are a tribute to the retiring Chairman. And there's the ADC doing it, and the retiring ACC no less, and each tribute is warmly agreed with and applauded so that the retiring Chairman is oddly quiet and almost blushing, so it can't be the real Laurie. But there is a present for him, and one for Mollie, and by popular acclaim he is transformed into the first President of Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Fellowship, and we know that this was a moment that will be printed in the District History.

Am I getting this in the wrong order? Probably, because everything changes suddenly as it always does in dreams and we are chatting to more of these remembered people with our mouths full of salad or sausage rolls, till we find we are sitting in our patrol corners and our new Scoutmaster is handing out quiz sheets. We are the Hawks, so of course we win the first round, but the second bit of the quiz is a bit of a swizz because another lot gets easier questions by mistake and so they get the chocolates but they don't mind and neither do we because this is really a grown up gathering of friends in Fellowship and it really feels like it.

And as we are asked to tick the things we'd like on the lists of future activities, one of the young new people appears out of the crowd of old friends and it's Rita asking me to write something about all this, for "Co-Ordinator", by tomorrow, which I can't possibly, but I say yes, and gradually we go home thinking of the fellowship of Scouting as it was and still is, and still more to come.

Like, Watch This Space.

KJ.

District Arts & Crafts Competition

On Saturday 18th October our Arts & Crafts Competition was held at Lannock School. As in previous years, there were plenty of entries and all were of a high standard. Parents and Cubs enjoyed viewing the exhibits and the presentation of trophies.

Winners of The Fellowship Trophy (Beavers) were 1st Baldock (Thursday) Colony.

The Blaxland Trophy (Cubs) were 1st Baldock (Knights).

The Watson Trophy (Scouts) were 4th Letchworth.

The Eaves Trophy (Adults) was Andrea Soulsby - 1st Baldock.

The Plinston Trophy (overall winners) were 1st Baldock.

Well done to everyone and thankyou to all the Leaders who helped display the items during the morning.

Table of points:-

Beavers - 1st Baldock (Thursday) - 65 pts	Cubs - 1st Baldock (Knights) - 72 pts
1st Baldock (Tuesday) - 44 pts	1st Baldock (Templars) - 38 pts
2nd Baldock - 29 pts	4th Letchworth - 22 pts
8th Letchworth - 2 pts	2nd Baldock - 21 pts
	1st Baldock (Crusaders) - 18pts
	7th Letchworth - 11 pts
Scouts - 4th Letchworth - 75 pts	5th Letchworth - 9 pts
2nd Baldock - 31 pts	1st/3rd Letchworth - 5 pts
8th Letchworth - 26 pts	2nd Weston - 2 pts
7th Letchworth - 25 pts	
1st/3rd Letchworth - 21 pts	
5th Letchworth - 2 pts	Adults Andrea Soulsby (1st B) - 20 pts
	Deb Hoeg (1st B) - 12 pts
Group - 1st Baldock - 35.5 pts	Christopher Bryan (1/3L) - 4 pts
4th Letchworth - 32 pts	Carl Speltinckx (8th L) - 4 pts
2nd Baldock - 27 pts	Dave Strong (7th L) - 4 pts
7th Letchworth - 18 pts	Deb Dilley (2nd B) - 3 pts
1st/3rd Letchworth - 13 pts	Rita Hawkins (Dist Sec) - 3 pts
8th Letchworth - 9 pts	Doris Ward (1st B) - 3 pts
5th Letchworth - 3.5 pts	Anne Gutteridge (4th L) - 2 pts
2nd Weston - 1pts	

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

3rd	District Cub Leaders Meeting - 32 The Rowans
5th	Warrants Committee Meeting - Norton Bury
6th	District Scout Troop Meeting - Norton Bury
9th	Remembrance Sunday
13th	District Executive Meeting - Norton Bury
14th-16th	County Green Beret Competition - Tolmers
20th	DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER CO-ORDINATOR
20th	District Scout Leaders Meeting - Norton Bury
21st	District Cub Quiz - 5th Letchworth Scout HQ
28th	District Scout Quiz - 7th Letchworth Scout HQ

DECEMBER

3rd	Warrants Committee Meeting - Norton Bury
11th	District Executive Meeting - Norton Bury
12th	DEADLINE FOR JANUARY CO-ORDINATOR