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April 1998 No:437



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

FAREWELL TO CHRIS PARR

Chris and Clive are about to move home to Northumberland and it is time to thank Chris for her leadership of the Cub Section for the past five years. Her cheerful and friendly personality has been welcome throughout the District. Her commitment and enthusiasm have ensured the continued success and development of Cub Scouts in the District.

Chris guided us through the introduction of a new Cub Scout training programme and she was the inspiration behind a number of Leader Training activity days. She has organized the regular annual events such as the Sixers and Seconders Weekend and the Cub Camp. and led us at many County events. Recently she organized the Cub Scouts 80th Birthday Celebrations

Our thanks also go to Clive for his support behind the scenes, his cooking at Cub Camp and his cake decorations - not to mention his role as treasurer at 1st Baldock. We wish them well up North - and hope they will soon be back in Scouting!

WOOD BADGE

Congratulations to our District Secretary, Rita Hawkins, who has completed her Wood Badge training (Scout Section)

CO-ORDINATOR

This is the last edition of Co-Ordinator to be edited by Andrea Soulsby. Our thanks go to Andrea for all the hard work she has put into producing Co-Ordinator and ensuring its regular distribution.

Until a new editor is appointed, please send items and information to either Rita Hawkins or myself.

Bob Williams DC

SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

The District would like to thank the Scout Fellowship for its contributions towards the Jamboree and the new. District Flag.

The Committee of the Gang Show would also like to extend their thanks to the Scout Fellowship for their help with the Front of House duties at 'Gang Show 98' recently at Plinston Hall.

St. George's Day Parade and Service

This years St. George's Day Parade and Service will be held at St. George's Church, Letchworth on Sunday 26th April starting at 3pm. The parade will assemble at the Paddling Pool, Norton Way South. Please assemble at 2.15pm so that the parade can move off at 2 40pm. On returning from the Church the Parade will dismiss at the Paddling Pool at about 4pm. Please inform parents that this will be the pick-up point.

In response to requests from many Leaders through their Section ADCs. it has been agreed that the wearing of full uniform by colour parties at the rehearsal on Saturday 25 April will be optional.

However, it was also agreed and reinforced that full uniform on Sunday is mandatory for colour parties, also that substitution by perspsns not at the rehearsal will not be accepted. unless agreed before or at the rehearsal.

Similarly no Group Section not properly represented at the rehearsal will be allowed to parade their Group Section Flag on Sunday, unless it has been agreed with John Chapman. 47 Baldock Road. Letchworth. Tel 01462 66772 before the rehearsal.

DISTRICT AGM

The District AGM will be held at St Mary's Church Hall, Baldock on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

All reports for the Annual Report would be welcome as soon as possible - and NO LATER THAN Friday 24th April

SCOUTS RE-OPEN AT ASHWELL

It is good to report that the Scout Troop is now back in action at Ashwell. Many people have worked hard to achieve this and I would like to thank Barbara White for her work behind the scenes in finding new leaders and Gill Burrough from Steeple Morden Air Scouts for being the catalyst for the new troop. Gill be leading the Scout meetings once a month with leaders from our District helping on a fortnightly basis. In the meantime Mark White and Ian Merton will be training to take over the troop in September. We welcome them and wish them success.

County Cooking Competition

Congratulations to the cooks from 1st Baldock and 7th Letchworth who represented us so well at the County Cooking Competition. They gained 5th and 7th places respectively.

<u>1st Baldock</u>	<u>7th Letchworth</u>
Adam Hemmings	Sam Burborough
Paul Hoeg	Matthew Hindley
Chris King	Leigh Johnson
Adrian Lai	Ashley Lawrence

2nd Baldock Beavers - Colony Good Turn

'2nd Baldock Beavers spent an enjoyable day during half-term at Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester. We were given a guided tour round the centre's kennels, cattery, rabbits, stables etc. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the day and we recommend all groups to visit this centre - it costs £25 for the charity donation. We combined this Colony outing with our Colony Good Turn, as we collected newspapers and blankets for the animals' bedding.

Deb Dilley - ABSL & ADC(Beavers)

LETCWORTH BALDOCK DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF CENSUS RETURNS 1998

GROUP	BEAVERS	CUBS		SCOUTS		VENTURE SCOUT		LEADERS		HELPER/INSTS		GROUP TOTAL
	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
1st Ashwell	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	19
1st Baldock	41	38	0	30	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	121
2nd Baldock	17	13	0	7	8	0	0	1	2	0	0	48
1st 3rd Letchworth	0	14	0	11	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	29
4th Letchworth	18	22	0	26	0	0	0	5	3	1	1	78
5th Letchworth	10	30	0	12	4	0	0	3	4	2	1	62
7th Letchworth	0	15	0	15	5	0	0	3	0	3	4	45
8th Letchworth	17	24	0	15	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	63
11th Letchworth	6	15	0	11	0	5	2	6	3	0	0	50
12th Letchworth	19	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	30
2nd Weston	0	13	0	12	3	0	0	4	2	1	0	35
Beech Springs VSU						8	4	1	1	1	1	16
F'Ship <65										2	4	8
F'Ship >65										8	7	15
TOTALS	128	206	0	139	16	13	6	40	27	6	11	594
1992	115	236	0	170	3	29	22	39	35	10	3	662
1993	135	220	0	170	4	22	12	39	38	13	6	656
1994	143	237	0	154	7	12	8	37	37	10	5	650
1995	128	232	1	154	7	14	6	38	27	4	6	617
1996	145	253	2	155	15	5	2	41	29	11	11	889
1997	132	212	1	163	15	16	3	38	30	20	13	643
1998	126	206		139	16	13	6	41	26	8	11	594

Whilst Scouting is active in the District, it is disappointing to note the fall in numbers. There is spare capacity in most Groups and most sections within the District. Please make the recruitment of new Scouts one of your major objectives for next year. Let us hear of your ideas and successes so that we can share best practice with one another.

MEET THE DISTRICT TEAM

It was good to meet so many people at the 12th Letchworth HQ. Nearly forty people attended the meeting to share their experiences and learn of the support that the District can provide. It was particularly gratifying to note that every Group was represented. I hope everyone left with new ideas and thoughts.

My thanks go to all who worked so hard to make the evening so successful - especially Rita Hawkins and Mike & Monica Thomason.

GRASS ROOTS SCOUTING - Local Support Services

As a result of the consultations the Scout Association has decided to modify its original proposals. The main decisions are :-

- * to affirm the principles of providing a centralised rather than a decentralised base for support services.
- * to develop an information centre as early as possible
- * to explore ways and means of ensuring that every District can benefit from fast IT based communications.

Thanks to all who contributed to our discussions.

Further details can be found in Talking Points and the March issue of Scouting.

'THE GARDEN CITY 15' Charity Walk - Sunday 17th May 1998

Details about the 16th Annual sponsored Charity Walk around the borders of Letchworth organised by The Rotary Club of Letchworth Garden City, can be obtained from Rotarian Tim Jeeves on 01462-679274. This walk is fully marshalled with check-points, route map and refreshments. Have fun and raise funds for your local club, charity or organisation.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Gang Show '98 for such a wonderful show; and heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped and supported us this year. Please continue to support us in the years to come - watch this space for details of Gang Show '99!!!

Andrea Soulsby - Producer Gang Show '98

G A N G S H O W - 2 0th / 2 1st M a r c h 1 9 9 8

It really was a very good show!

Seeing 'faces rather than spaces' as the curtain rose meant it was worth all the extra effort. I would like to express my sincerest thanks, on behalf of all the cast, to those of you who provided such sterling support. You know who you are, so I won't attempt to mention you all by name. However, I would like to extend those wishes to the Leaders within the District who brought their charges along to watch. Such support is essential if we are to continue to produce a regular show in an ideal environment for building young people's confidence and self-control. Will you continue your support by encouraging your youngsters to join the next show. And what about you?

Something else we welcome is your constructive criticism. Unsupported statements such as "The Gang Show is a load of rubbish!" and "Ralph Reader would be turning in his grave!" are destructive, disheartening and wholly uncalled for, especially from individuals who have not even seen the show. For those of you who did come along, I hope you enjoyed yourselves and plan on coming again. It was fun to put together, fun to make, and is always fun to perform.

As the opening night approached, quite a few people began to make direct comparisons with last year's show. I've always insisted - to members of the cast and public - that this would be unrealistic, given the wide number of variables. Number of cast, their relative ages, the number of items, how popular particular themes might be at the time, even the ratio of adults to children. I maintained each show should be judged on its own.

The final, final curtain has fallen now and I have to confess: It was a better show than last year!

Mike Miles

DIARY - DATES - DIARY**APRIL**

1st Warrants Committee Meeting -Norton Bury
 2nd District Scout Troop Meeting
 9th District Executive Meeting - Norton Bury
 19th DEADLINE FOR MAY CO-ORDINATOR
 22nd Gang Show AGM
 23rd District Scout Leaders Meeting
 26th St George's Day Parade
 29th 1st/3rd Letchworth AGM

MAY

6th Warrants Committee Meeting - Norton Bury
 7th District Scout Troop Meeting
 10th District Scout Football Competition
 11th District Cub Leaders Meeting - 1 South Close
 13th District AGM - St Marys Church Hall, Baldock
 15th DEADLINE FOR JUNE CO-ORDINATOR
 19th ADC Meeting