



October 1998 No: 442

# Co-ordinator

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin

## Colin Phillips

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Colin. We send out deepest sympathy to Eileen and her family.

Colin devoted a lifetime of service to the Scout Movement and was awarded the Silver Acorn in recognition of his outstanding contribution. He will be missed by generations of Scouts and Leaders.

## RING THE CHANGES

Up date for the District Directory

Rita Hawkins District Secretary  
Tele No: 01462 643432

Dave Hawkins ADC (Cubs)  
Tele No: 01462 643432

Venetia Crowther  
CSL 1st 3rd Letchworth  
17 Edwin Nott House  
Birds Hill, Letchworth  
Tele: 01462 621321

Andrea Soulsby CSL 1st Baldock  
32 The Rowans Baldock SG7 6HL  
Tele: 01462 892001

Eric Woodward Skip 1st Baldock  
Tele: 01462 642622

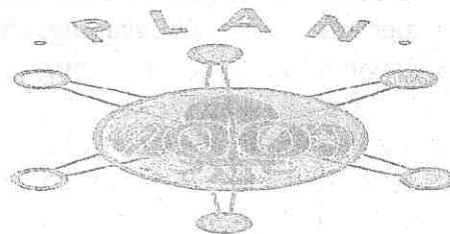
Deborah Hoeg CSL 1st Baldock  
Tele: 01462 629454

Peter Frankland  
SL 4th Letchworth  
41 Clothall Road Baldock  
Tele: 01462 490597

Nick Farmer GSL 5th Letchworth  
56 Westmill Road Hitchin SG5 2SD  
Tele: 01462 627673

Vanessa Ness CSL 11th Letchworth  
Tele: 01462 635628

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## IMAGE

For many years Scouts have been complaining about their image. Plan 2001 will be looking at this in depth. There are two main objectives when looking at the image of the Section:-

- to identify and promote the publications that we already have and any new material that can assist with the positive image that we wish to portray for the Section.

- to assist Leaders in identifying the issues that influence and improve the feel good factor for everyone in the Section.

Within the next year you should see the following items:-

- a package to aid recruitment and image specifically aimed at the adolescent age range.
- a link between the work that Scouts do within their programme training and the National Record of Achievement.
- a new set of up-to-date posters advertising Scouts.
- clear, easy advice on how to improve our image locally.

at the end of the day it's up to us. So lets have plenty of discussion in Troops, PL's Council and Leaders meetings to see what we can do.

How about sending your ideas co-ordinator ?

## Ken Johnson (K.J.)

We were sorry to hear that Ken has had a short spell in hospital. He is now home and we wish him a speedy recovery.





## 2nd Baldock - Austrian Trail '98

2nd Baldock Scouts went to Austria during the summer for an adventure holiday. We used the specialist firm of JEKA and found they were excellent - providing coach - accommodation - food and activities for 10 days - the back up in Austria from their company was first class. The Scouts, Leaders and helpers took part in many activities including white water rafting, dry tobogganing, chair lifts, mountain walking, swimming, target shooting, bowling, mountain biking etc. We all had an excellent time although we were all exhausted by the time we got home. The scenery was fantastic, our chalet accommodation extremely comfortable and food was enough to feed an army (we never went hungry!). The organisation was very good (the only moan was that we shared the coach with Guides!!)

Deb Dilley (ASL)

## WHY DO I DO THIS THING CALLED "SCOUTING"?

As I stood helpless at the bottom of Thorpe Cloud in Dovedale whilst Grant Chapman was lying injured on the mountainside awaiting the help of the Mountain Rescue Team and RAF Helicopter. I began to ask: - "Why do I do this thing called "Scouting" ?

My concentration was with Grant but this question stayed with me and kept coming back. A few days later I was on my own for an hour and the question returned. I looked back at my childhood. I had memories of Cub football matches at Foxholes, nr Hitchin, a trip on a coach to Phasels Wood and, as a Scout, camping and other activities. Good times !

I also remembered taking a group of Scouts to North Wales. One lad of 14 years, who was not the most likeable youth, emerged from the building that we had entered the night before in low cloud and a moonless sky. He walked outside into the bright fresh day, his face looking down at the ground, but then his head lifted, his eyes widened and his jaw dropped. Lost for words he viewed the world around him seeing the mountains

and brown hillsides. When he found his voice he said to me "I never knew we had places like this in this country".

This one event makes Scouting a worthwhile activity. But it does not stop there. Other times and events came to mind. A Cub Camp when we heard one of the Cubs say "Shut up and go to sleep, it's getting light." A Beaver who during a discussion on the life of planet Earth was told "It all started with the "Big Bang." He sighed and said "I know; it woke me up." It is for these reasons and many like them that I participate in this thing called Scouting. So if any of you who have just emerged from a meeting with five people and six opposing views, been left with little or no help to clear away and when things look at their blackest as did my wait at the bottom of Thorpe Cloud, remember, what we give the young people to day is no virtual reality it is reality. It will give them something to look back on; a time when they were seeing the world for the first time. If you ask the next person you meet what was the meal you ate in the first restaurant they went into, I doubt if they could tell you, but ask them what they had at their first camp "Burnt sausages on a stick."

We are told that the kids of today have so much, yes they have alot - seven out of nine Beavers went on holiday with their family, four went overseas, but there are others who did not. They did very little, I am sure that there are many who need the challenge that Scouting can give. The results show in their faces and the things they say.

I do this thing called "Scouting" for the fulfilment I get out of it.

The jump for joy as a Scout reaches the top of a rock climb when 10 minutes before he was in tears of frustration at not being able to climb four feet of the ground.

The yell of triumph at the Beaver who has just learnt to hula hoop.

The crunch of the cinder on burnt sausages that a Cub has just cooked.

The Venture Scout who has been entrusted by his fellow members to lead the Unit Executive. The meeting with old friends not seen for years.

**This thing called "Scouting" is fun!**

Nick Farmer GSL 5th Letchworth

# **The Scout Fellowship**

At a recent meeting, the Committee were advised that some Scouters felt the Scout Fellowship was not very evident in its support for District Scouting, just socialising and only giving support through the cheque book. So I have decided to put the records straight.

The object of all Scout Fellowships is to support District and County Scouting, having fun through a social side whilst providing this support. This year we have been asked by 6/7 groups and the District for financial help and we have been pleased to donate £400. We have also been asked to help 2 groups and the Gang Show which again we have been pleased to do.

So what is the difference between the two types of support? NOTHING except that we are asked for financial help and we are not asked for physical help. So whose fault is it if you do not ask us. We hear complaints about the lack of Leaders and Helpers but we are hardly used. We have several experienced ex-leaders, admittedly getting on in years and who cannot make the weekly commitment you all give but they would be very pleased to be asked to help even if only a small way with badge testing or marshalling events.

So you know what to do. Contact me on 627575 and I will try to sort out your help.

John Davies. Fellowship Chairman

## **Letchworth & Baldock Scout Fellowship AGM**

Guide Headquarters, Icknield Way, Letchworth

**17th October 1998**

7.00 pm for 7.30pm

Followed by buffet, raffle and talk on Raptor Rescue (Owls and other wild birds)

Owls will be present

**ALL WELCOME**

R.S.V.P. John Davies 627575 or  
Margaret Durrant 624731

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## **Letchworth & Baldock Scout Fellowship**

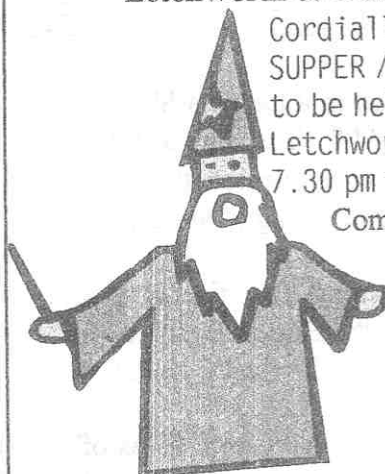
Cordially invite you to a  
SUPPER / MAGIC EVENING

to be held at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road  
Letchworth Saturday 21st November 1998  
7.30 pm for 8.00 pm.

Come along and have a Fun Evening  
Please bring your own drinks

R.S.V.P. to Mrs Margaret Durrant  
58 Monklands, Letchworth  
01462 624731

**£5.00 Each**



## **Celebration of 90 years of Scouting in Baldock**

Baldock Scouts are celebrating 90 years  
(1908 - 1998) of Scouting in the Town.  
All ex-members of 1st and 2nd Baldock  
are invited to attend a celebration service  
at St Mary's Church, Baldock on Friday  
16th October 1998 at 7.00 pm and  
afterwards at the Church Hall.

RSVP Bob Hemmings GSL  
1st Baldock  
Tele No: 01462 895366

## **NORTON BURY WARDENS**

Commencing:

6th October	Anne & John Chapman	686772
13th October	Carl Speltinckx	834772
20th October	Mick Balls	893855
27th October	Sheila May	673427

3rd November	Ruth & Peter Baker	682752
10th November	Anne & John Chapman	686772
17th November	Michael Wright	679789
24th November	Dave Hawkins	643432

**MORE...**

## "GIVE AND TAKE" LEADERS SKILLS DAY

ALL Leaders are invited to take part in a Leaders Skills Day on Saturday 28th November 1998. The idea of the day is for everyone to participate in both demonstrating (**Giving**) to other leaders as well as learning (**Taking**) from others.

The day will be split into three sessions. The first 2 hours, starting at 10.00am, will be run by the Beaver Leaders, the next 2 hours by the Cubs Leaders and the final 2 hours by the Scout and Venture Scout Leaders.

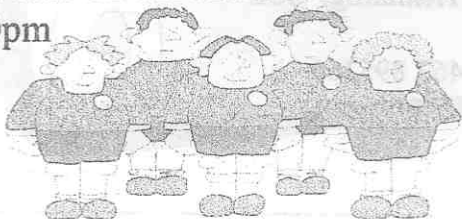
If you have not already done so, please give your ideas of skills appropriate to your Section that you can demonstrate or would like to be shown, to your Section ADC. We are hoping to set up several bases in each session and man them in such a way that everyone gets to run or assist but also sufficient time to experience skills they have not tackled before, **FROM ALL SECTIONS**, including their own, as appropriate.

A further aim of the session is to compile a list of Basic skills for each Section that we should be teaching to new leaders in local sessions, rather than having to wait for County Phase 4 sessions.



### MEET THE DISTRICT TEAM

at 1st 3rd Letchworth HQ, Icknield Way,  
Letchworth on **THURSDAY 22nd October**  
at 8.00pm



Scouting publications and materials will be on display.

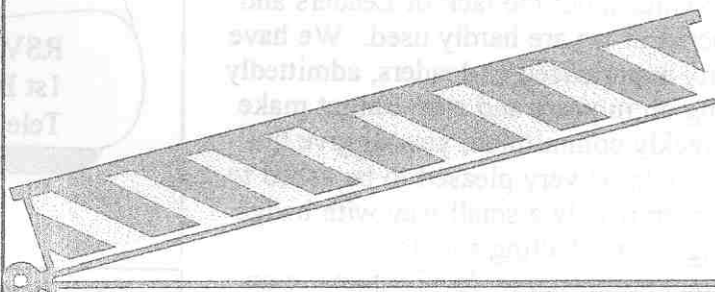
There will be a short presentation on financial matters:

- \* the compilation of annual accounts
- \* insurance

Come along and share your ideas with other Groups.

Refreshments will be served.

### GANG SHOW

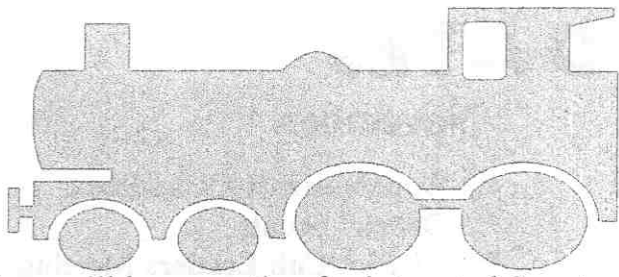


**Rehearsals for the 1999 Gang Show  
start on Saturday 7th November.**

**Meet at 1st 3rd HQ, Icknield Way  
Letchworth**

**5.00 pm until 7.00 pm**





There will be a meeting for interested Scout Leaders at the 5th Letchworth HQ, Spring Road on **TUESDAY, October 13th at 8.00 pm.**

It is essential that we start planning for this expedition a long way ahead so that our Scouts can gain the mountaineering and water skills to fully benefit from the marvellous facilities at Lochearnhead.

ALL Letchworth and Baldock SCOUTS are invited to BACCHUS V.S.U.'s

**GIANT, GIANT, GIANT 40/40**

**WIDE GAME**

NORTON COMMON (Swimming Pool Car Park) on the 25th November at 7.00 pm

**Please reply to Bacchus on 01462 896289**

by 10th November with rough numbers of attendees from your troop.

Nightjar '98

**Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th October**

The competition is in two sections: all Scouts under 12 on Saturday 24th October must compete for the Junior Trophy. Senior teams will consist of between 3 and 5 Scouts who must be over 12 and under 16 on the 25th October.

All teams wishing to enter must complete an entry form - available from Mervyn Templeton  
Tele: 01462 635620 and returned to him no later than 11th October 1998.

Entry £3.00 per Scout plus £5.00 per team for the map.

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## DISTRICT COMMISSONER'S MESSAGE

As the new season of Scouting gets under way I would like to thank everyone who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to organise so many summer camps. The PC forms I have received from visiting DC's make very good reading.

Already each section has held a Leaders' meeting and a full diary of exciting events has emerged. In the last couple of weeks I have visited a Cub Camp, the opening of a new Beaver Colony and a quick round of Scout Troops revealed a full programme of canoeing, hiking, bivouac building in a local woods and a summer expedition reunion. The Ventures had a good time at Gilwell. The District Skills Day at Cottered promises to be a good event and I hope as many of you as possible will note the date (28 November) in your diary.

My special thanks and praise go to 5th and 8th Letchworth Leaders who used their training and experience very effectively to handle a situation we all fear - a serious accident in the hills. Wood Badges, first aid qualifications and mountain activity authorisation gave them the skills they needed to handle this difficult situation - **Well Done to all of you** - and to everyone else, please give serious consideration to your training.

## 7th Letchworth Beavers



Parents and friends gathered at the Wilbury Hall to wish success to the new 7th Letchworth Beaver Colony. The new Colony was welcomed by the Revd Donald Dowling and Bob Williams DC.

The Beavers showed their prowess by entertaining with songs before each one was invested by Deb Dilley (ADC Beavers)

We are very grateful to Vicky Walters (Willow) and Jo-Anne Wilding (Bramble) for leading the Colony. Deb Dilley presented their warrants.

After the ceremony the Beavers served tea and cakes. We look forward to seeing them in action and know they will wear the blue neckerchief of 7th Letchworth with pride.

**MORE...**

# DIARY DATES

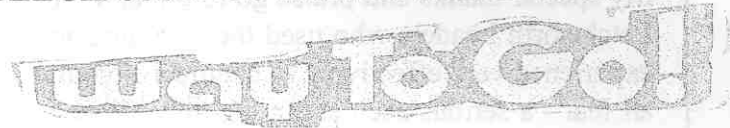
## October

2nd-4th Scouts County Patrol Camping Competition  
 5th District Summer Fayre Meeting  
 7th Appointments Committee  
 8th District Executive Meeting  
 8th District PL's Council Meeting 7.00pm-8.00pm  
 13th 2001 Lochearnhead Meeting  
 16th Celebration of 90 years of Scouting in Baldock  
 17th District Fellowship AGM  
 18th District Cubs - Sea World Trip  
 22nd Meet the District Team  
 25th Nightjar - Scouts

## November

4th Appointments Committee  
 5th District Scouts  
 9th District Cub Leaders Meeting  
 12th District Executive Meeting  
 13th - 15th County Green Beret  
 19th District Scout Leaders Meeting  
 20th District Cub Quiz  
 21st Magic evening/supper - Fellowship  
 25th Bacchus VSU Wide Game - Scouts  
 27th District Scout Quiz  
 28th District Skills Day

### BEECH SPRINGS BARMY ARMY UPDATE



We had our 21st birthday party on the 5th September. Not as big as the last party but it still went with a swing. Unfortunately, the event had its ups and downs during organising and was cancelled at one point because there was so little contact with ex-members. Still highlights of the evening, Mikey cuddling his bottle of scotch which he won, really great disco (I don't think we will ever live down that hot chocolate number wink wink) and even though in the end it only cost £2 per head and bring your own drink, the unit still made £45 Thanks to everyone who organised it and for everyone who came, especially those ex Springers bless'em. Gilwell happened last weekend, it was biannual Hertfordshire Venture Scouts Gathering known this year as 'Summer Holiday At Gilwell' (1 will leave you to work it out) Basically it was like this..... Arrive Friday night, pitch in the dark, put up flag, rave up 'til four in the morning, up at 7am on Saturday, play a live game of Monopoly around the real London by tube and bus, collecting clues and stuff (Baz whatever happened to that light bulb from Harrods), then back to Gilwell for a light snack and several soft drinks (hon

est), came second in local drag queen competition (what happened Waynetta!!!!) another rave up 'til 4am. Stumble dazed, tired hurry and hung over back to site, trip over flag, dig Tom out of Mess Tent (Tom what were you doing in there and does your mother know?) Try to fall asleep despite a Unit disco which carried on until 6am. Up at 7am Sunday morning everyone bleary stumbling from the bucking steer to the bungee run, assault course and Gladiators "lolly sticks" (well I don't know what its called do I) while the 5 a side team battled to 3rd place.... out of 4 (drains up later lads!) then into uniform and into the LID for the "Gathering" an excuse to hurl abuse at each other and find out who won what. Mexican waves, loud singing (for anyone who still had a voice left) Strike camp clear up and go.

The highlights? Our flag, (with and without a certain undergarment attached) investing Wayne while in drag, investing Lou and Mole while actively doing bungee running, our flag, coming second in the Monopoly game (our prize a video of Summer Holiday) the fantastic atmosphere that only hundreds of Ventures can make, our flag, all the friends we made and old friends we met and lastly the fact that when we had left you would never even know we had been there ..... but we all know and will be back in 2 years time maybe in Paris who knows.

VSL Beech Springs

Distributed by:

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council

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