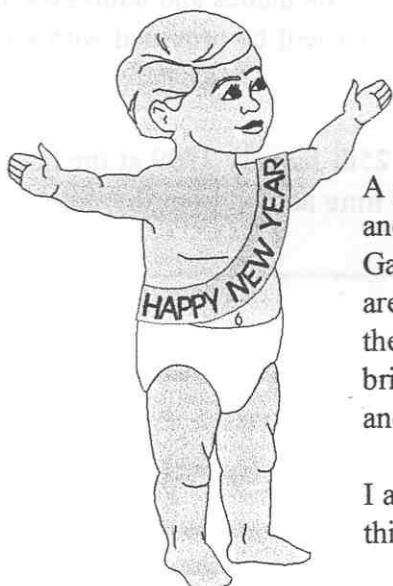




January 1999 No: 445

Co-ordinator

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin



WELCOME TO 1999

A glance at the calendar attached to this edition of Co-ordinator shows another busy year ahead for us. Rehearsals are well under way for the Gang Show, our Ventures are in training for Peak Assault, weekends are planned for Sixers and Seconders and Patrol Leaders and there is the Scout Cooking Competition - all this before the better weather brings a full programme of camping, canoeing, climbing, orienteering and pioneering.

I am very grateful to all Leaders and their helpers who plan and deliver this programme with such commitment and enthusiasm.

We must be very mindful of the need to bring this adventure to as many youngsters as possible so we must not relax our endeavours to recruit as many Scouts and Leaders as possible.

I wish you all good luck in your Scouting for 1999.

Bob Williams (DC)



7 Centres Draw

This year the fourth 7 Centres Draw will take place to raise funds for the County's Activity Centres. The facilities available at these Centres for our Scouts are amongst the best in the Country. The funds are required to develop the Centres and maintain safety standards.



The Draw provides Groups with a great opportunity to raise funds as 50% of the sale revenue can be retained by the Group. All tickets and publicity material are provided by County.

Each Group should appoint a Co-ordinator to organise the Draw in the Group and liaise with Phil Taylor who is our District Co-ordinator.

Phil will distribute draw tickets and further instructions towards the end of February.

The Draw is being organised by a committee from our District under the Chairmanship of Peter Dixon-Payne so please give them your full support and set an example to the rest of the County.

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ANNUAL CENSUS

Census forms have been distributed to Groups. It would be helpful if section leaders could have the necessary information to hand and pass it on as quickly as possible.

Additional information is required this year. There are the usual questions on age and gender but extra information is required on ethnic origin and a register is provided for the names and addresses of all members of the section. On the basis of this information each member will be provided with a membership card.

The Census form is required by our District Secretary by Monday 25th January 1999 at the latest. Please make Rita's job easier by sending the Census form in good time and without the necessity of a reminder.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

This year the membership subscription will be £15.50 per head.

It is made up as follows

National	£9.75
County	£2.70
Training Levy	£1.20
Special Levy	£1.00
District	£0.85
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£15.50</u>



County has introduced a special levy to cover the loss of revenue caused by the withdrawal of a County Council grant which has been received in past years. Negotiations are taking place with the County Council and if any of the grant can be recouped the special levy will be returned to Groups.

The Group Membership Subscription must be paid to Mike Thomason by 12th March 1999.

Climbing at Kempston

2nd Baldock spent an evening at the indoor climbing centre at Kempston. This venue is well worth a visit. There are nine climbing walls of varying degrees of difficulty, all equipment is provided and there is expert tuition. A two hour session costs £50. If you want more information give Mick Dilley a call on 01462 730300.



"GIVE AND TAKE" TRAINING DAY

Twenty one leaders attended the "Give and Take" training day at Cottered and all agreed that it was a worthwhile experience.

The Cub Section set the tone for the day with bases in knotting, kite making and code-breaking. The Scout Section continued with a demonstration of modern tents and tent pitching and instruction in lashings. The day ended with sessions of mask making and spoon doll making and a sing song led by Beaver Leaders. The occasion also enabled a number of leaders to complete their Phase 1 and 2 training.

Most important of all Leaders from the different sections met one another, exchanged ideas and arranged visits to each others meetings. Co-operation between Leaders is vital to building bridges between sections for Scouts as they progress through our training programme.

Thanks to Anne Lilley and Gwen Pack for feeding us so well at lunch time.

CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD

Congratulations to the following Scouts from 2nd Baldock who have achieved the Chief Scout's Award.

Jennifer Martin David Jenkins
Stephen Hawkins James Toal



CHIEF SCOUT'S CHALLENGE

Congratulations



Neil Broughton (ACC Scouts) and Bob Williams (DC) were pleased to attend two Chief Scouts' Challenge presentations.

Claire Dinmore, Robert Eaves, Matt Hindley and Leigh Johnson of the 7th Letchworth Scout Group undertook their hike in the Chelmsford/Southend area one wet and windy half term break and studied churches on route.

Matthew Hall, David Kenyon, James Lacey, Jamie Pateman and Robert Willoughby of the 1st Baldock Scout Group undertook their expedition from their summer camp site at Hay-on-Wye and studied the nature of river erosion on their journey.

Both Groups gave well prepared talks on their Challenge hike which gave an amusing and interesting insight into their activities.

James Lacey sums up for both Groups by saying "We were told it would be hard, and it was, but when we reached base camp it felt good to know that we did it".

LOOK OUT FOR XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

* Phase 1/2 Training Dates 28th January, 10th February and 16th March.

* the Gang Show - 26th/27th March at the Plinston Hall
The Gang is busy rehearsing and has another good show in store for you. Please support them. Tickets are available from John Wright (01462 673779) and there are concessions for parties of ten or more.

* the Scout Cooking Competition at Wrayfield Farm, Stotfold on Saturday 23rd January.

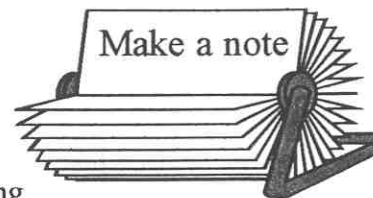
* the Patrol Leaders Training at Norton Bury on 26th-28th March. This is a joint event with Hitchin District and will be led by Neil Broughton ACC Scouts.

* the Summer Fayre - a new fund raising event to be held at the Paddling Pool, Norton Way North on Saturday 26th June. All Groups are expected to run a stall so start planning now.

MORE...

DIARY DATES

Make a note



JANUARY

6th	Appointments Committee
7th	District Scout Troop
11th	Cub Leaders Meeting
12th	Scout Shop Open
14th	District Executive Meeting
15th	Deadline for HSG
16th	Entries for Cooking Competition deadline
23rd	Scout Cooking Competition
25th	District Summer Fayre Meeting
28th	Scout Leaders Meeting
28th	Phase 1 and 2 Training
30th	County Cub Swimming Gala

FEBRUARY

1st	Beaver Leaders Meeting
3rd	Appointments Committee
4th	District Scout Troop
4th	PL's Committee Meeting
10th	Phase 1 and 2 Training
11th	District Executive Meeting
12th	Deadline for HSG
14th	District Cubs Cross Country
14th	Scout Fellowship - Xmas Dinner
15th	Half Term
18th	ADC Meeting
28th	County Cubs Chess Competition

HERTFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL PLEDGES

The Hertfordshire County Council has been consulting with voluntary groups to develop a set of Environment Pledges.

After three meetings the voluntary sector has developed the following pledges:-

1. To provide opportunities and support for all members to learn about and or be practically involved in taking action for the environment.
2. To share enthusiasm, good ideas and resources to encourage environmental action.
3. To develop suitable partnerships with other public, private or voluntary organisations to ensure local action can be harmonised.
4. To manage the resources and materials that we use in an environmentally aware manner and support local initiative and help preserve the environment.

Voluntary organisations are asked to say which of these pledges they can support or to submit their own pledges.

I hope Leaders will discuss this topic at their section meetings so that we can reply to the County Council by 19th February.

A final meeting of voluntary organisations will be held at County Hall on 11th March. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS ROUND UP

- * Beech Springs VSU helped put up the Christmas Lights in Baldock
 - * 4th Letchworth invited parents to a Carol Camp fire at Norton Bury and provided Christmas cheer with hot dogs and mulled wine.
 - * 4th Letchworth also sang carols and entertained old folks at local Homes.
 - * The Gang Show took an evening off rehearsals to entertain at Freeman House and the White House.
 - * Bacchus VSU held a Christmas dinner which they cooked themselves. They entertained the DC to turkey with all the trimmings - and very tasty it was.
 - * 2nd Baldock held a bingo evening attended by Scouts from all sections and their parents.
 - * 5th Letchworth organised a Christmas bazaar
- If your activities aren't reported here make sure you tell us about them in future - when was your Group last reported in the Co-ordinator ?**
- If you can't remember it's about time you made contact with us.**

Distributed by:
The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council

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