



# Co-ordinator

## The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin

### CENSUS

This year's Census figures are most disappointing. The substantial gains of last year have been wiped out and we have the lowest number of members for many years. The immediate cause of the loss was the failure of three Scout Troops to reopen after Christmas. It is not that the youngsters do not want Scouting but we have not got the leaders. It is here that we have the most serious problem. A glance at last year's figures shows that we have fewer uniformed leaders but more helpers. (1999 Leaders 77 Helpers 18) This seems to represent a trend towards people being unwilling to accept the full responsibilities of leadership.

THIS IS A SITUATION THAT WE MUST REDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The District Executive has set up a working party, Allan Patterson, Ron Smith, Peter Dixon-Payne and Joan Huggins, to which it will invite uniformed members. The aim of the working party is to provide advice and help to Groups with the recruitment of leaders.

There is plenty of information available through the Scout Association to help with recruitment so the aim of the working party will be to ensure that Groups know about it and how to use it effectively in the recruitment process.

PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY FOR THE COMING YEAR.

This applies to all Groups. We must work as a District and help one another to find new Leaders.

#### Summary of Census Returns 2000

Group	Beavers	Cubs		Scouts		V.Scouts		Leaders		Helpers		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1st Ashwell		6	7					1	2			16
1st Baldock	25	32		20				6	5		1	89
2nd Baldock	15	19		12	5			2	3		1	57
2nd Weston		19						3	1	1		24
1st 3rd Letchworth		10		14				2	1			27
4th Letchworth	18	23		22				5	3	1		69
5th Letchworth	7	24		22				3	3	2	3	64
7th Letchworth	13	20		8	2			3	3	2	3	54
8th Letchworth	16	17						3	2	3	3	44
11th Letchworth		6		12		12	3	5		3		41
12th Letchworth	21	18						1	4		2	46
Beech Springs						21	6	2	3			32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>566</b>



## *the review*



One of the main issues arising out of the Programme Review at our meetings was that of uniform.

The Scout Association assures us that a review is taking place through Focus Groups working in 24 Districts throughout the UK.

The principles that underlie the uniform consultation are:

- \* That the uniform should represent value for money but the range should be versatile enough to ensure that it is within the financial means of all.
- \* That there should be flexibility, to allow Groups in very different areas of the UK to select a uniform that meets the requirements of their situation
- \* The uniform should give the movement a 'fresh new feel and look' - a uniform for the new century.
- \* It should be suitable for the range of climates experienced in the UK
- \* A uniform appropriate to the activities we provide in Scouting - it should be suitable to be worn at Scout meetings and a range of outdoor activities
- \* That whilst it should provide a corporate identity across all sections it should distinguish each section by a different colour.

### CAMP 2000 RAFFLE TICKETS



By now all Groups will have received their allocation of Camp 2000 raffle tickets.

Please make every effort to sell as many of your allocated raffle tickets as possible.

Do not forget that your Group keeps 50% of the proceeds.

There will be a prize for the individual who sells the most tickets. So please let Rita or Laurie know of anyone selling more than 10 books of raffle tickets.

KEEP SELLING



### District Swimming Trials

The District held two swimming trials at Hitchin Swimming Pool to form a team to represent the District at the County Swimming Gala on Saturday 4th March at St Albans.

In all over twenty four Cubs took part in the trials. I would like to thank Wendy Tierney CSL 2nd Weston for organizing the trials and Anne Gutteridge CSL 4th Letchworth for helping.

Thanks also to all Leaders and parents who came along to lend support to the Cubs.

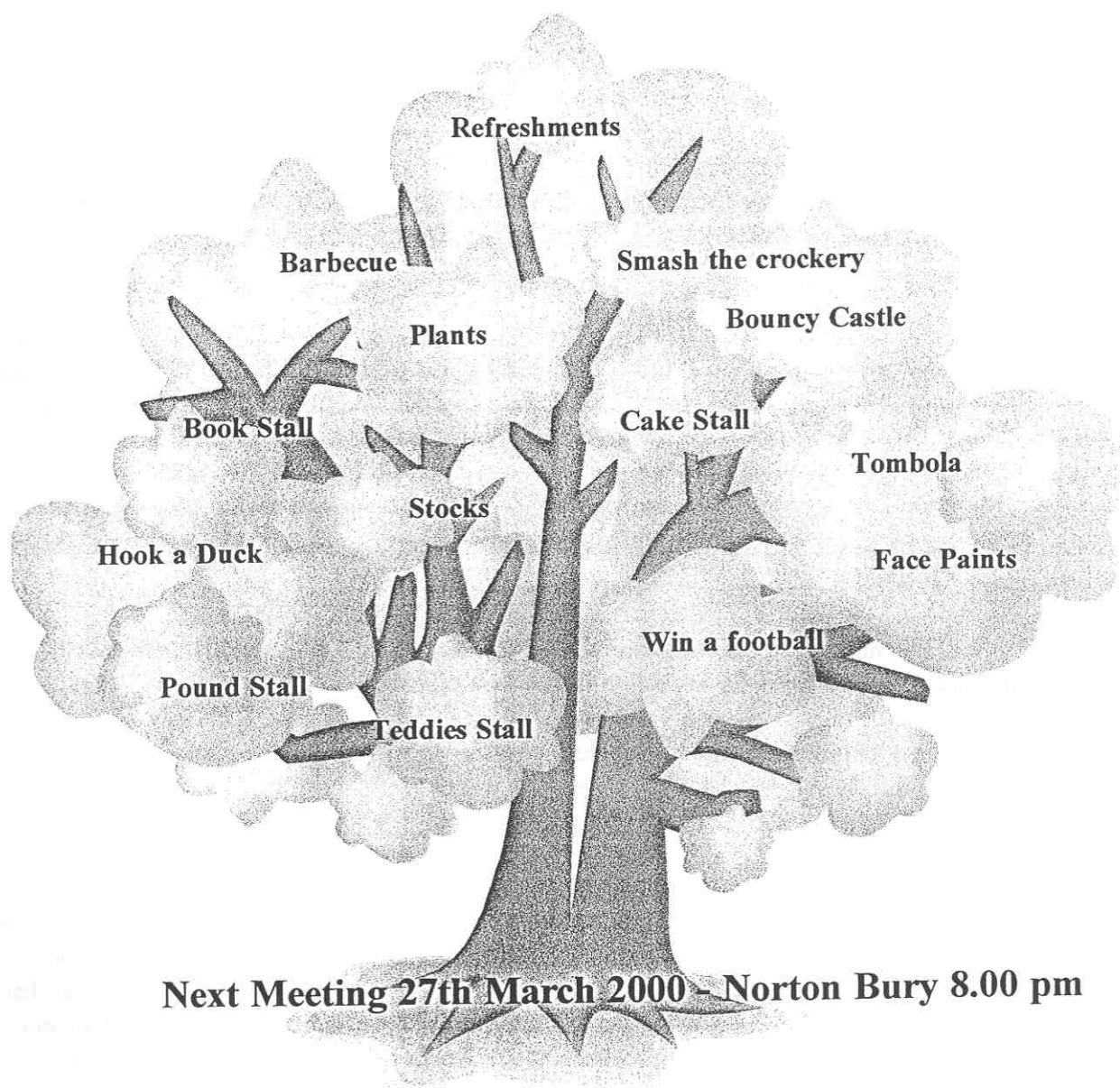
But most of all thank you to all the Cubs that took part.

Dave Hawkins ADC (Cubs)



# SUMMER FAYRE

**SATURDAY 15th JULY - HOWARD PARK**



**Next Meeting 27th March 2000 - Norton Bury 8.00 pm**

This year it has been decided to run the stalls on a District basis so that we can all work together. The profits will be divided equally for the benefit of all Groups taking part.

For the event we will need items such as bric-a-brac, plants, crockery (smash the crockery), books etc. so please start saving now.

Nearer the time we will want cakes and sweets etc.

ABOVE ALL WE NEED YOUR HELP - please use this as an opportunity to get parents involved in our fund raising activities - "many hands make light work".

## A CENTURY OF SCOUTING: PART 3

John Travers Cornwell, a former Boy Scout, was serving on HMS Chester during the naval battle of Jutland in May 1916, in which more than nine thousand British sailors were killed. Himself mortally wounded, 16-year-old Jack Cornwell remained alone at a most exposed post, awaiting orders until the end of the action. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, and the Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, announced that members of the movement showing exceptional bravery should qualify for the Cornwell Badge, which is still awarded today for Scouts who have undergone great suffering.

On the same page in "The Scout", B-P praised one troop which had been steadily doing good public service during the war years, including Special Police and Fire Brigade duty, Red Cross working parties, and such dull jobs as weekly collection of waste paper and jam jars, and the growing of vegetables for the Fleet. This had been done, the Chief added, by the First Baldock Troop in Hertfordshire !

Much of the Baldock Scouts' enthusiasm was obviously due to their having an inspired Scoutmaster in Cyril Bishop. It may have been his idea, in the year after the war, to raise money for charities (and good publicity for the troop) in a novel way which the local papers called "a rather curious feature" and "most unique". It was a "Penny Trail", first laid along the pavement of White Horse Street on 10 May 1919, carefully guarded by about thirty Boy Scouts who kept the coins "in military alignment" and were afterwards able to send £11/14s. to the YMCA. The stunt was repeated during the next few years, raising funds for St Dunstan's home for blinded soldiers, and for the Baldock Memorial Bed in the new Letchworth Hospital.

Later still, the "Mile of Pennies" idea became popular with many other fund-raising organizations: but it does seem to have been a Baldock invention in the first place!

For their own funds, First Baldock formed a so-called "jazz band" which gave several "electrifying" public performances on the stage of the original Baldock Cinema (next door to the Post Office). Not to be outdone the Second Letchworth (St Michael's) troop included both jazz band and kazoo band items in their entertainment on 16 June 1919, at the Church Rooms in Commerce Avenue (Now the site of the New Look shop). Recitations, songs and sketches were given by Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs, whose leader, Miss E. Gertrude Allen, pleaded for liberal contributions towards the expenses of the forthcoming camp. Miss Allen had been acting Scoutmaster and Cub master since 1916, when Wolf Cubs were officially recognised by the Boy Scouts Association - though experimental packs had been meeting long before that. Second Letchworth Cubs (under 8 years old) gave a demonstration as part of another concert in November 1919, this time at the Howard Hall, with Mr R. A. Beall, the popular Scoutmaster, in charge of the older lads.

First Letchworth troop had been having less success during the latter part of the war, but they had gained strength under a new Scoutmaster, Ralph West, and took part along with Second Letchworth in the Peace Day parade in July 1919, displaying their speciality of bicycles adapted for stretcher bearing. The first outing of the newly reconstructed troop was a week's camp at Swangleys Farm, Knebworth, in August, made more exciting by an invasion of cows who damaged two of the tents.

Meanwhile the older Scouts of Baldock cycled to Saxmundham in Suffolk for a week's camping, rowing and sailing near Thorpeness. Biking home on the Saturday, they were held up by a breakage and a puncture, so they unfolded their blankets and slept peacefully by the roadside till dawn, when

temporary repairs were made. After breakfast between Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket, they cycled in heat and a head wind to reach Baldock by teatime on Sunday.

An excellent tea was laid on for the Baldock troop at the beginning of September, before another of their famous jazz band concerts in the Town Hall. A framed photograph of the Scouts in camp was presented to Mr G. E. Page, in thanks for his generous help with equipment and the use of a camping ground at his farm in Willian. Other local people were pleased to help the Boy Scouts in various ways, and the Baldock troop was delighted with the gift of a large hen house complete with seven live fowls, from Major Donnelly. There seems to be no record of whether this new patrol joined the boys in camp, or if so, in what condition.

(to be continued.....)

An apology- sorry to have misled you in the "Century of Scouting" last month. Those of you who sought Norman Sanders out at Upward should, of course, have been looking for Norman Saunders at Upwell.

### **The Millennium Chase 1st 3rd Letchworth celebrate Burns Night**



Scouts, Leaders and their families turned out in traditional Scottish dress to celebrate Burns Night.

After an evening of songs led by Chris Gee the Haggis was piped in and everyone tucked in to an enjoyable meal.

This was one of the Group's activities towards the Millennium Chase. Well done to everyone for an entertaining evening.

Now let's hear from other Groups

## **Norton Bury**

### **Information**

Norton Bury has currently four weekends available between now and the end of the year. We are keen to encourage local units to use Norton Bury and to this end the fees for local youngsters are currently £2.30 per night compared with £3.80 for those outside the District. It is an observable fact however, that local units often leave their booking until very late in the day. In order to avoid disappointment, we would respectfully encourage local units to think well ahead and make their bookings well in advance..... especially since we are already receiving bookings for summer 2001!

### **Help Wanted**

Norton Bury has a need for help from somebody with "brickie" skills. The camp site ablution block requires remedial brickwork and repointing. Is there anyone out there who could volunteer their time and skill or who knows a man who can ?

Barbara Crombie





# Adventurous Activities

Following two serious accidents the Scout Association has been reviewing its policy on adventurous activities. The following extract from a letter which I have received from John Bevan (Chairman, Committee of the Council) outlines the main concerns in relation to mountain activities.

- A cavalier attitude to rules by leaders and others within the Movement.
- Poor management of parties, particularly larger parties.
- Lack of educational purposes for an expedition.
- Routes geared to leader 'wants' rather than young persons' 'needs'.
- A culture of always having to climb the highest peak, regardless of party ability.
- A poor attitude to risk and risk assessment
- Authority overridden by unauthorized leaders
- Lack of knowledge of expeditions by DCs.
- No uniformity in investigating causes of accidents.
- Lack of support and assistance in obtaining authorizations.
- Too few nationally qualified assessors and advisers
- A 1960s/70s attitude to adventure and risk that is not acceptable to society in 2000

The view of the Committee of the Council is that the risk of accidents can be considerably reduced if our rules and good practice are properly complied with.

All these matters are being addressed. In particular the following Rule changes identified in the Chief Scout's letter come into full effect immediately-

**POR rule 28.9(a) is amended by the additions of the sentence "Any person appointed by a County/Area Executive as an Assessor may act as an Assessor in any other County/Area unless that County/Area has specifically objected to that individual".**

**POR rule 40(1)(f) is amended by the deletion of the sentence "No more than two parties should move together in the hills", and the insertion instead of the sentences "Every party must include at least one named and designated party leader, and no party may exceed a maximum of seven in all. If a Troop, Unit etc. has more than seven in the area parties must move either on different routes or, if on the same route, with a clear time and geographical separation between them in order that they do not become mixed."**

In this connection it should be noted that a properly authorized person (i.e. one authorized to supervise - see POR Rules 37.1(c) and 40.1(b) may still, as at present, delegate the responsibility for leading an individual party to a suitable person, who may (e.g. on a Queen's Scouts expedition) be a young person.

The Scout Association - Letter dated 14 February 2000





# Operation Ferret

19th - 20th February

For the first time we were pleased to welcome Hitchin District to Operation Ferret.

Three teams from Hitchin took part and

competed for their own trophy. It was disappointing to have only four Groups from Letchworth and Baldock. However, all those who took part had great fun running gathering items, clues, photos and stunts from as far a field as Hemel Hempstead, St Albans and Hatfield

Two Groups even managed to have their Group Flag flown in a helicopter for only 50 points. Most Groups had fun with the guards at RAF Henlow, trying to persuade them to turn their backs while photographs of the "Hunter" aeroplane were taken.

All the teams met at 8th Letchworth, Sparhawke on Sunday 20th February at 10.30am with all the items numbered and ready for judging. The Rose de Roeck team won the Hitchin Trophy with the Scout Fellowship and Hitchin Beavers close behind. Hitchin have taken note and learnt a number of lesson ready for next years competition.

The Letchworth & Baldock Shield was again won by 4th Letchworth with 1st Baldock only 25 points behind, with 2nd Baldock and 1st 3rd Letchworth making up the four Groups.

Well done to Anne Gutteridge who did an excellent job in organizing the event with help only from work colleagues, friends and neighbours. Anne was available all over the weekend to witness the helicopter rides and various other stunts.

1st 3rd Letchworth have asked if they can organize next year's Operation Ferret. Good Luck !

## ACC Cub Scouts

Roger Sands (CC) has appointed Bob Cooper as ACC Cub Scouts with immediate effect. Bob lives in Stevenage and was GSL at 8th Stevenage.

The District would like to welcome Bob to the County Team and wish him all the best in his new appointment.

To give a flavour of the competition here are a few of the items you had to collect.

Worth 5 points	A pig piggy bank	A 3 inch nail
	A trampette	A Disney lollipop
	A Cubs Garter tab	Musical worry balls
Worth 10 points	Three different Hotel shampoo bottles	
	A 1996 rail ticket	
	A Marathon Runner	
Worth 20 points	A magazine published at least 2000 days before today (19.2.00)	
	An object whose best before date exactly is 2000 hours after 6.1.2000	
Worth 50 points	A Horse and Rider	
	Three fraternal or identical triplets	
	A Segugio Italiano and walker	
	A Guide to the SS Jeremiah O'Brien	

**MORE...**

# Diary Dates 2000

## MARCH 2000

1st	Camp 2000 Meeting
1st	Appointments Committee
3rd/5th	Peak Assault
4th	County Swimming Gala - Cubs
4th/5th	Sixer & Seconders Weekend
10th	Subscriptions to Michael Thomason DEADLINE
11th	First Response Course - Well End
12th	County Scout Cooking Competition
13th	Cub Leaders Meeting
14th	Millennium Meeting
24th/25th	District Gang Show
27th	Summer Fayre Meeting
28th	ADC's Team Meeting

## APRIL 2000

5th	Appointment Committee
13th	District Executive
13th	District Scout Leaders Meeting
15th	District Beaver Challenge
21st	Good Friday
23rd	Easter Sunday

## MAY 2000

1st	Appointments Committee
6th	County Cub Football
6th	St George's Day Rehearsal
7th	St George's Day Parade and Service
8th	District Cub Leaders Meeting
11th	District A.G.M.
11th	Camp 2000 Raffle Draw
16th	5th Letchworth A.G.M.
20th	District Triathlon
25th	Beech Springs A.G.M.
26th - 29th	Camp 2000 - Norton Bury

*Distributed by:*

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## NORTON BURY WARDENS

29 Feb - 7 March	Shiela May 673427
7 March - 14 March	Mick Balls 893855
14 March - 21 March	Gwen Keech 894512
21 March - 28 March	Carol Emsall 674543
28 March - 4 April	Lee & Emma Crossman 634676
4 April - 11 April	Elaine Wigglesworth 626218
11 April - 18 April	Barbara Crombie 671062

## Change of e-mail address

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