



June 2000 No: 461

Co-ordinator

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin



St George's Day Parade and Service

For the first time in many years our St George's Day Service was held out of doors in the grounds of Highfield School. Our worst fears seemed to be coming true when the heavens opened at one o'clock and a thunderstorm passed over. However, by the start of the Parade the sun was shining and it remained so for the Service and the picnic which followed.

We were pleased to welcome the Chairman of North Herts District Council, Councillor Derrick Ashley and his wife, the Assistant County Commissioner for Guides, Deirdre Williams and local Guide Commissioners.

The school grounds provided a beautiful setting for the Service and it looked most impressive with the colours lined up behind the altar and cross. Thanks, once again to the Revd Nicholas Setterfield for conducting such a dignified service and to all who stayed behind afterwards for the Millennium picnic making it a most enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Thank you to all the Groups that helped make the day so successful. All were agreed that it should be repeated in the future.

AGM's

The AGM season is with us again. We were pleased to welcome Roger Sands, the County Commissioner, to our District AGM where he presented Bob Williams with his Silver Acorn and the Chief Scout's Commendation to Dave Hawkins, Rita Hawkins and Glenn Coiley. Sue Lovelock gained a long service award. After the formal business a large number of guests stayed to enjoy the supper and a glass of wine.

Other service awards presented at Groups AGM's went to Nick Jewell, 1st Ashwell (5 years), Monica Thomason, 12th Letchworth (10 years), Patrick Tomkins, 11th Letchworth (10 Years) and Nick Farmer, 5th Letchworth (10 years)

Gareth Howell, 11th Letchworth, received his Wood Badge.



Raffle - Camp 200 Draw - 11 May

The draw took place on Thursday 11 May at the District AGM

1st Prize	Portable TV	No: 000401	K Wood	Sold by 2nd Baldock
2nd Prize	Mountain Bike	No: 014890	M Osborne	Sold by Guides
3rd Prize	Crystal Glasses	No: 016785	West	Sold by Guides
4th Prize	Basket of fruit	No: 007169	D Walker	Sold by 5th Letchworth
5th Prize	Basket of fruit	No: 019472	G Howell	Sold by Guides
6th Prize	Wine Glasses	No: 013758	H Nelson	Sold by Bacchus

The raffle raised nearly £2000, half of this was retained by Groups/Units selling the tickets and over £600 will be used to help fund Camp 2000. Thank you to everyone who sold tickets and, in particular to Ben Robb a Beaver at 4th Letchworth (41 books) , Carol Parker a Helper at 5th Letchworth (33 Books) and Sue Lovelock CSL at 5th Letchworth (29 Books) for their individual efforts in selling so many books.

County Review

All the copy is in for County Review entitled "This is Hertfordshire Scouts". More copy than is possible to print has been received. So a decision has been taken to post all copy on the website in the fullness of time so as not to disappoint those who did not make it to the actual publication.

Remember Groups can combine together with Districts to purchase additional copies. The cost of 1,000 copies which is the minimum run on is just £204, which equates to 20p per copy. Groups might like to deliver one to every household in their area, using it to attract recruits in both the lower and upper age ranges, How many Groups need Treasurers or Secretaries ? The publication with specific requests for adult help might well help spark or rekindle a lifelong interest in the Association. When surveyed over 80% of adult volunteers said they joined because they were asked to do a specific job. Use this to ask them.

Key quote from a St Albans Beaver

" I like Beavers because it's like having a party every week, but without the food!"

All GSL/Chairman have have received a copy.

Anne Barnes
DCC

The Easter Hat Tea Party

We made an Easter Hat at home. My hat had an egg on it which when opened, you could see a little chick inside. Willow hid some little chocolate eggs around the hall and we went on an egg hunt to find them. I found six. We played some team games together, like passing a ball from neck to neck. Then we had a tea party with crackers, crisps and biscuits. I enjoyed the party very much.

Thomas Nun
8th Letchworth Beavers



Saturday 6th May County 6-A-Side Football Competition

Lucas Aerospace Sports Field, Hemel Hempstead



Team: Butler, Tom	1st 3rd Letchworth
Condron, David	2nd Baldock
Nutter, Toby	4th Letchworth
Poleszuk, Jonathan	1st Baldock
Radford, Dominic	4th Letchworth
Sharp, Guy	1st 3rd Letchworth
Smith, Louis	1st Baldock
Wharton, Chris	1st 3rd Letchworth

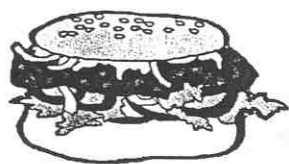
The team was chosen from the Cubs who attended the two trials in April. The first of which was held in the pouring rain. The second after Easter when the weather was a lot better.

I would like to thank all the Cubs and their parents for coming along and making it very difficult to choose only eight Cubs from the large number that turned up.

On the Saturday we met at Letchworth Football ground and made our way to Hemel Hempstead. The competition was split into two leagues with the winners and runners up from each league playing in the semi-finals. In our first game we started brightly going two nil up, but unfortunately ending up losing three, two. Out of the four games that the Cubs played they drew two and lost two. This was not good enough to progress through to the semi-finals.

I would like to thank all the parents for coming along and supporting the team. Doug Neath for choosing and managing the team and of course the Cubs for taking part and showing good sportmanship throughout the competition.

Dave Hawkins ADC (Cubs)



Barbecue

Norton Bury Wednesday 5 July



After a busy time Scouting come and join us to relax with family and friends at the annual District Barbecue.

The price will be £4.00 per adult and £2.00 for children under 12, under 5's are free.

Price includes all food and your first drink.

Contact your Group Committee or Rita Hawkins

Tele: 01462 643432 for your tickets.



District Fishing Competition

Remember the one that got away last year ? Now is your chance to catch it. The District Fishing Competition will be held at Manor Farm Lakes on Saturday 17 June. Please contact Peter Frankland for details (Tele: 01462 490597)

St George's Day Parade and Service - Windsor

One of the privileges of being awarded the Silver Acorn is an invitation to join the Chief Scout, George Purdy and the other Award holders for the morning service in St George's Chapel and the annual Parade of Queen's Scouts. This was a particularly nostalgic occasion for me as I last attended forty six years ago to receive my own Queen's Scout Award.

It was an inspiring service in St George's Chapel with the Chief Scout and so many Award holders from all over the United Kingdom.

The Queen's Scout Parade in the afternoon was a wonderful occasion. The nerves tingled as they marched smartly into the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle led by the band of the Grenadier Guards, a Scout Band from Halesowen and a very smart and efficient Colour Party from Scotland resplendent in their kilts. They looked very smart as they lined the Quadrangle to be inspected by the Honourable Mrs Betty Clay, daughter of Baden Powell, and the Chief Scout.

It was awe-inspiring to think of all the work and service these youngster had put into gaining their Queen's Scout Award and the whole event was a magnificent showpiece for Scouting.

It was with anticipation that I opened my newspapers the next day - but guess what - the front pages had been reserved for anti capitalists whose "peaceful" demonstration had brought injury, damage and havoc to the centre of London.

Hopefully Scouting gets its message across in more subtle ways. We have a Movement to be proud of and we must not miss an opportunity to publicize it.

Bob Williams (DC)

A CENTURY OF SCOUTING : PART 6

Although still part of Hitchin District, Letchworth Local Association was able to hold its own AGM in November 1938, attended by the District Commissioner, the Garden City's very own "Uncle" Ralph West. The Chairman, Howard Hurst, was unable to be there himself, but there was great applause for him when it was announced that he had generously given £100 to clear the debt on the Headquarters Building Fund. This still left £46 in hand towards future repairs and renewals - although the general account now only had a balance of 4s 9d compared with £4, a year before. Numbers of Scouts and Cubs however, had risen from 147 to 203 and continued to expand. Seventh Letchworth had just started, and the Fourth ^{had} a new Rover crew and Scout troop at St Paul's. First Letchworth and Third Letchworth Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs were separately using the fine new headquarters on different nights of the week, as they would continue to do, more or less, for the next 28 years !

Leader problems naturally became more acute as men and women were called to national service, full or part-time. Hertfordshire being a reception area for London evacuees, there was even more need for Scouting and Guiding programme to help them. At the start of the war, the Guide County Commissioner and Scout ACC (the Hon. Mrs Geoffrey Gibbs and Commander P.W. Kent, RN) wrote to all the local newspapers, promising all the help that the movements could give. "Weekly meetings ^{may} ~~must~~ have to be held either in the morning, afternoon or evening, according to local conditions. We shall accept any offers of help with the greatest gratitude believing, as we do, that the ~~lode~~ ^{life} of the children must go on as normally as possible during this period of upheaval and strain."

One of the first major upheavals was the cancellation of the annual County parade for St George's Day at St Albans Cathedral. In April 1940 (and ever since!) it was up to districts to make their own arrangements. For the first time, Scouts and Cubs from Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell paraded together from the Howard Hall and marched behind the Letchworth Town Band through Leys Avenue and over the bridge to Bedford Road, for their service at St Thomas à Becket, conducted by the Vicar of Norton. The DC, Ralph West, took the salute and the parade dismissed at the Icknield Way headquarters.

That was the last time. During that summer of the Battle of Britain, Letchworth's headquarters building was requisitioned for use by the Army. The separate First and Third Letchworth Wolf Cub Packs then met together on Saturday afternoons in Pixmore School, while their two Boy Scout troops were asked to report on Tuesday evenings at St Paul's Church Rooms - (where the Fourth met on Saturdays) - until "an adult person can be found to replace Scoutmasters who have been called up for military service", and they too could transfer to Pixmore School.

Reporting to the Local Association AGM in November 1940, the secretary, A.M. Raven, referred to the good work being done - especially by Cubs in collecting waste paper, which often entailed long distances with a loaded trek cart. Some Scouts repeated the service given by their fathers in the first war, assisting the Home Guard by acting as messengers.

Large numbers of evacuees had come from Bexhill in East Sussex, and some of these now formed the new Second Letchworth Wolf Cubs who met in the Free Church Hall on Wednesday afternoons at 4.30 in order to finish before the evening blackout. Two Bexhill teachers, Miss I. Cummings and Miss I. Cheater, both with Guiding experience, met the challenge of running the pack through that winter, until in 1941 the new Second Letchworth Group was registered at Imperial Headquarters as number 22352, and there arrived from Houghton in Huntingdonshire one of our most remarkable Scoutmasters. Miss Beatrix Gore-Harvey was disabled and in a wheelchair, but very capable of running an active troop programme - and before long, the new Cub pack as well !

continued.....

From her old Scout group at Houghton, Miss Harvey brought the distinctive scarf, halved scarlet and royal blue, which became the Second Letchworth's colours for over thirty years. Though meeting in St George's hall, the group's registered title was "(St Nicholas)" as this was then the parish church of Norton, sponsoring group.

on But it was at St Paul's Church, Willian, that 350 Scouts and Guides of Letchworth and Baldock paraded in the snow in Sunday 19 January 1941, for their memorial service for the Founder, Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, who had died at his home in Kenya, aged 83. The service was jointly conducted by the Rector of Baldock and the priest in charge of St Paul's, the Rev. R.W. Martin, who said in his address: "Never give up. Make your troop loved and respected by everybody. Don't let it stop growing. Don't rest on your laurels; never be satisfied. Bring more and more into your troop and by your own example make them into good Scouts and Guides."

17½ Despite all the difficulties of wartime, Scouting had its successes locally. In March 1941, Jack Collins, Fourth Letchworth Troop Leader, at 17½ looking forward to joining the Royal Air Force, had qualified with enough proficiency badges (including Ambulanceman and Civil Defence) to earn the King's Scout badge. The 1941 St George's Day parade and service was held (probably for the first time in Britain) at a Salvation Army Citadel - in Norton Way North, and this included the presentation of colours to the Second Letchworth (or Bexhill) Wolf Cubs.

At St Mary's church, First Baldock made an archway of patrol flags for the wedding on 7 June of Miss Florence Head and their Scoutmaster, Harold Pitcher. Later in June, older boys from First, Third and Sixth Letchworth, (then meeting jointly at St George's) had a weekend camp at Codicote, experimenting in camouflaging tents and cooking under food rationing restrictions, enabling Scouters in charge to gain ideas for the possibility of running larger camps again.

GSM Gordon Taylor, Group Scoutmaster at Fourth Letchworth, died in July 1942, aged only 30, but the life of the group went on under the guidance of Jim Northover as Scoutmaster who himself became ~~GSL~~, Rover Scout Leader, and District Scoutmaster, when the war was over.

New plans from IHQ included the introduction of Air Scouts, and in January 1943 the Fourth formed one Air Scout Patrol which continued for a few years, with no equal throughout the District.

t Then in May 1944 came two important changes. Sir Percy Everett, Deputy Chief Scout, and from the very beginning County Commissioner of Herefordshire and Middlesex, resigned from his County posts, owing to increasing work during the serious illness of the new Chief Scout, Lord Somers. And at our own local level, Letchworth and Baldock were at last united as one District in their own right. The newly appointed County Commissioner, Graham Wallis, came to meet a large assembly of Boy Scouts in the great meadow at Norton on 17 June 1944, and while pleased that numbers in the movement were increasing, said something very familiar - that there was a shortage of leaders, many of whom had inadequate time, and were trying to do three or four jobs at once. The CC inspected the troops present (First Ashwell, First Baldock, Second, Fourth and Seventh Letchworth and the still combined First-Third-Sixth) and congratulated the District Chairman, Mr Alfred Thomas Hodgson, who had introduced him to the boys. Before the year was out, Ralph West had resigned after many years of outstanding service, and Mr Hodgson was the first District Commissioner for Letchworth & Baldock District Scouts.

to be continued

Thanks to all whose indomitable spirit made the Millennium Camp
such a success despite the rain, sleet, hail, thunder and lightening
..... and the mud, mud, mud, mud!

thank you to Beech Springs Venture Scout Unit

thank you to the St John Ambulance Brigade

thank you Guide Leaders

thank you Scout Leaders

thank you Cub Leaders

thank you to Chambers Coaches
and their drivers

thank you Beaver Leaders

thank you Planning Committee

thank you Leisure Centre

thank you tractor

thank you Woburn Safari Park

thank you Tuck Shop

thank you Norton School

thank you Disco

thank you Parent Helpers

thank you Wyboston
Watersports

thank you Young Leaders

thank you Scout Fellowship

thank you Photographers

thank you Tesco Car Parks

thank you Electricians

thank you Camp Fire Entertainers

thank you Visitors

thank you for the Warden

thank you Pyrotechnics

thank you for wellington boots

thank you Loo Hire

thank you Trefoil Guild

thank you Circus Entertainer

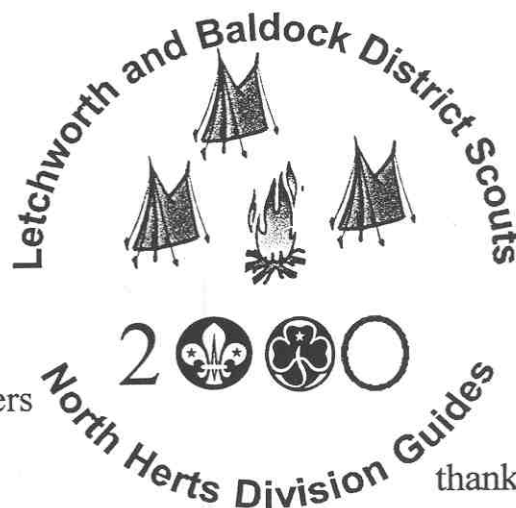
thank you Sponsors

thank you to the Farm Manager

thank you Outdoor Swimming Pool

Above all thank you Scouts and Guides for your youth-
ful enthusiasm and exuberance and your cheerfulness
and determination to enjoy the activities despite the
inclement weather.

Scout and Guides are truly wonderful youngsters.



Diary Dates 2000

June 200

3rd	1st Baldock AGM - 5.00 pm
5th	Beaver Leaders Meeting
9th	2nd Baldock AGM 6.45pm
9th	4th Letchworth AGM
11th	County Scouts 5-a-Side-Football
11th	Meet the Chief Scout - Tomers
13th	ADC's Meeting
15th	Camp 2000 Meeting
17th	District Scout Fishing Competition
22nd	District PL's Council
25th	Challenge 2000 - Quiz - Norton Bury
28th	Meet the District Team
29th	Scout Leaders Meeting
30th June - 2nd July	County 25/40 Mile Walk

July 2000

3rd	County AGM
5th	District Barbecue - Norton Bury
10th	Cub Leaders Meeting
13th	District Executive Meeting
14th	Beavers Bangers & Bash
16th	Challenge 2000 - Hike

September 2000

11th	Beaver Leader's Meeting
11th	Cub Leader's Meeting
21st	Scout Leader's Meeting
23rd	County Cub Nigh Exercise
24th	District Cub Sports Day
30th	District Beaver Sports Day

October 2000

1st	County Scout Patrol Camping Competition
12th	District Executive Meeting
14th	Fellowship AGM
21st	Night Jar

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NORTON BURY WARDENS

30 May - 6 June	Bob Williams 686727
6 June - 13 June	Maureen Kell 684665
13 June - 20 June	Shelley Wisher 892163
20 June - 27 June	Carol Emsall 674543
27 June - 4 July	Sheila May 673427
4 July - 11 July	Barbara Crombie 671062
11 July - 18 July	Anne Chapman 68772
18 Jul - 25 July	Dave Hawkins 686727
25 July - 1 August	Kay Skingsley 672594
1 August - 8 August	Michael Wright 679789

Never be ashamed of not knowing a thing,
but always be ashamed of not wanting to
know.

If you can't be a sun, don't be a cloud.

When you feel too old to do a thing -
do it !

Live is made of getting and giving,
forgetting and forgiving.