




Co-ordinator

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin

"THE WET ONE"



On Friday the 26 May some of my Cub Pack and I went to Camp 2000. When we got there I thought "wicked" but I don't think the Leaders liked it very much because it was so muddy! As the mud beneath our wellies squelched we walked to our tent. On Saturday we went to Norton School to do some activities in groups which was quite fun and then after that all the Cubs went for a swim at the Leisure Centre. Sunday had to be the best day though, because we went to Woburn Safari Park to see lots of animals and had a great time. And last of all on Monday we got split into groups with some Guides and we had to follow the instructions on the piece of paper we were given. Unfortunately we got lost but we got back safely though. Then after a fantastic weekend we went home.

Callum Abbott
1st Baldock Cubs (Knights)




I thought that the Camp 2000 was good. The best part was when we went to Woburn and we went on the Bob Cat Run. Me and Marc went to have a race and we both crashed, but I won because I went the farthest. Balloo had a go and fell off! The worst bit was falling over in a horses pat. My favourite animal was the Lions, one lion caught a bird and ate it. Norton School was fun, we played games. The food was good.

Jamie Armstrong
2nd Baldock Cubs

I liked camp because there was a disco and a trip to Woburn and swimming and lots of mud and a hike. I also liked the fireworks. At the swimming pool it was crowded, but I still liked it. I slipped over two times. There was Norton School that was good too. At Woburn a lion chewed a car's mirror. I also liked the

PAGE 1 elephants at Woburn

Ben Wild.
2nd Baldock Cubs

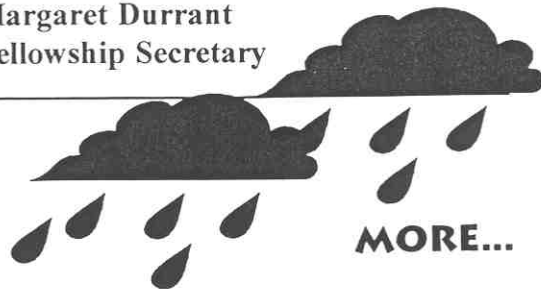


Mud glorious mud, the hippopotamus would have loved the Millennium Camp at Norton Bury. I have heard of a sea of mud, well now I have seen it. A very big THANK YOU must be given to all the Leaders, Helpers and Service Crew that made the camp a success despite the odds against them. Several members of the Fellowship, on a rota basis, provided refreshments over the weekend, both at Norton Bury and Norton School. Thank you to Deborah Hoeg, Joan Ludford, Chris and John Moys, Anne Lilley, KJ., Fred Lovelock, Eric Woodward, Laurie and Jean Cook for all their help.

I think for me the sight that summed up the whole weekend was seeing a Cub on Monday morning coming down the field splashing in all the muddy paddles, hands in pockets and whistling his head off. It just shows that you can enjoy yourself in any weather.

Well done everyone.

Margaret Durrant
Fellowship Secretary



MORE...

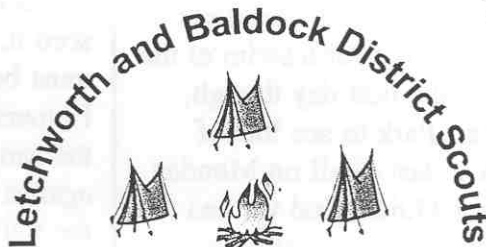
Four weeks ago we went to the District Millennium Camp with 500 other people and what a camp it was you could even bath in the mud. I fell over times.

David Gutteridge
4th Letchworth Cubs



Nicholas Howell, with Martin Payne and Philip Brown from 11th Letchworth Scouts

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Well done everyone ! Rain and thick mud couldn't take the smiles of the faces of our Scouts. They all enjoyed an action packed week-end despite the inclement weather.

Thanks, to all Leaders who devoted so much time and energy to organizing and running the camp so successfully.

D.C.

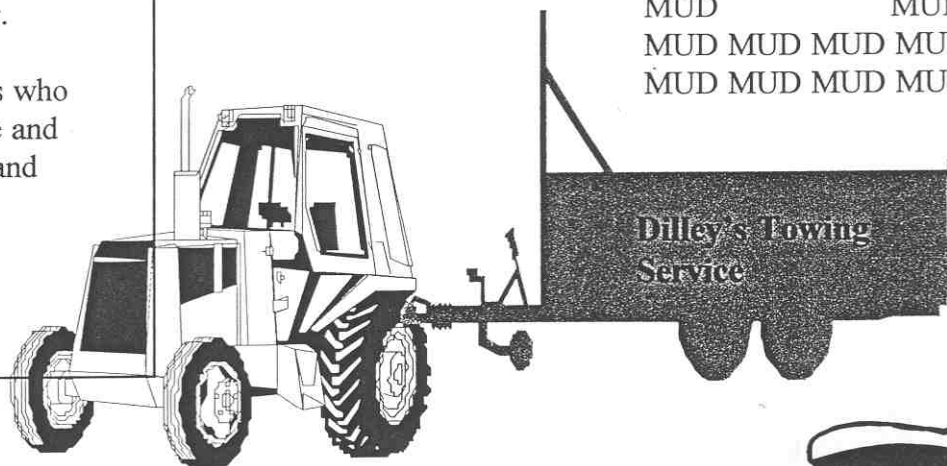
On the Beaver day I won some Jelly Babies because I won my questions on 2 pieces of paper.

One was last and it said what is Big Beavers name and I wrote Deb Dilley and I liked the best the rain and all the mud and I skidded in the mud and when I got home my Beaver uniform was brown not grey and I had a great day.

Megan Soulsby age 6
1st Baldock Beavers (Tuesday)



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Very many thanks for inviting me and Don Wood to visit your Millennium Camp. In spite of the challenges of the weather, there were many youngsters enjoying their Scouting.

Best Wishes
Derek Twine

Chief Executive, Scout Association



MORE...

Beaver Day at Camp 2000

In spite of the weather and ground conditions the day was a great success.

Seventy Beaver Scouts were divided into ten teams to take part in the Crystal Maze. The Maze was twenty bases of various types of puzzles and activities to be performed by one Beaver Scout chosen by the team each team member therefore had the chance to do 3 bases.

A crystal was awarded if the task was carried out in the allotted time. The team were made up of one Beaver Scout from each colony so that they mixed together throughout the day.

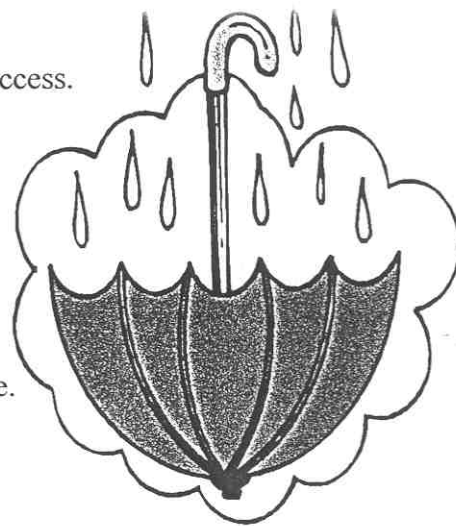
The winning team 'A' were awarded a Beaver mug each.

The Maze was followed by a Scavenger Hunt which was won by 1st Baldock (Tuesday) and 7th Letchworth all receiving a bag of sweets.

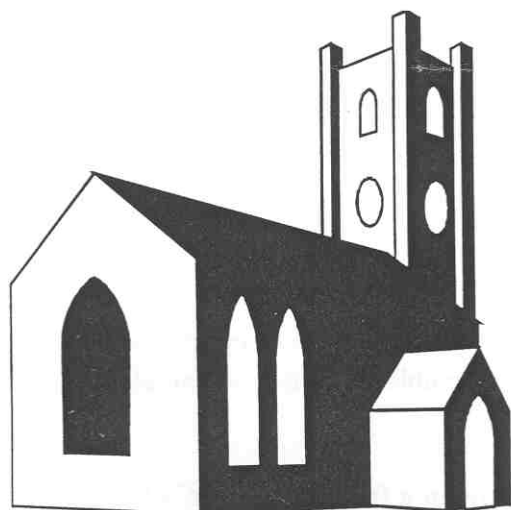
The day was rounded off by camp fire songs provided by Big Bertha and his compatriots.

Thanks to all Leaders and Parents who gave their time to make the day such fun for the Beavers.

Deb Dilley ADC (BS)



Being invested on the top of the church tower.



We lined up in front of the door and Mr Flack told us about St Mary's Church in Baldock. Then in single file we went up the stairs twisting around and around like mad. We had to climb some very steep ladders. Eventually we got to the top. It was quite scary at first because it was too high up, but we gradually got used to it and started to look for things we could recognize

At the top I was invested, and Joe and Tom were presented with the highest award that Cub Scouts can get.

After an amazing time on the top of the church tower we went back to the Scout HQ and by then I was a proper Cub !

by Tommy Hunt
1st Baldock (Knights)

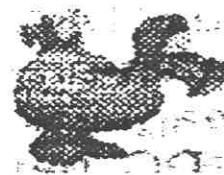
The editor would like to wish all groups a relaxing and happy summer break. The Co-ordinator will also be taking a break and will be published in September.

Remember any Groups, and that includes the Venture Units, who are going on expeditions or summer camps I would love to hear from you so your experiences can be shared by all via the Co-ordinator.



Expedition 'DODO 2000'

Richard Moys (2nd Weston) and Joel Millers (4th Letchworth) will be setting off for the Indian Ocean in July when they join other Scouts and Venture Scouts from Hertfordshire on Expedition Dodo 2000.



Their base camp will be set up close to the Mauritian Scout's B-P House amongst the sugar cane fields. Groups will be visiting smaller islands in the area including Reunion, The Seychelles, Madagascar and Rodrigues.

Whilst in Mauritius the Expedition is collaborating with the Mauritian Scout Association on two projects - one to improve the Scout HQ in Rodrigues, an island some 350 miles east of Mauritius, but an integral part of Mauritius forming a Scout District in its own right, Scout in Rodrigues is very strong as almost all young people belong to the Scouts or Guides but they are mostly desperately poor as the island has little to export and suffers from prolonged drought. The Expedition will help Scouts become more self-sufficient by developing their HQ to become an Eco-centre for visitors to the island that has a number of unique animals, rare birds and plants.

They will also support a community project for young people living in the very poor fishing villages on the south coast of Mauritius.

The District wishes Richard and Joel well in their expedition and we are pleased to donate £200 in support of the projects.

Calling all Groups

Please can you check your stores to see if you have a white marquee that does not belong to you. A marquee has gone on walkabout and is being missed by the owners. Please contact the editor if you know of it's whereabouts.

Programme Review

The Programme Group has made the following recommendations

that Scouting for young people should in future be provided in five age ranges, or Sections, with core ages 6 - 8; 8 - 10.5; 10.5 - 14; 14 - 18; and 18 - 25 with considerable flexibility in transfer ages especially between the third and fourth sections;

an outline programme plan for all five Sections, culminating, as now in a (revised) Queen's Scout Award;

the centrality of Scoutcraft and camping throughout the revised programme, with strong cross linking with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in the relevant age ranges;

reaffirmation of the importance of peer leadership, as given, for example by Sixers and Patrol Leaders;

the retention of the Group structure as the local basis for providing Scouting for young people, particularly in the first three Sections; and

a widening of leadership opportunities for both young people and adults.

CALLING ALL WOOD BADGE HOLDERS

Would you be interested in attending the 74th Gilwell Reunion ?

Venue: Gilwell Park
Date: 1 - 3 September 2000
Cost: £20.00 all weekend
£15.00 - Saturday + Sunday
£10.00 - Saturday only
£ 5.00 - Saturday pm only
£ 5.00 - Sunday am only

+ transport costs

If interested in a leader' social whilst gathering information about any aspects of Scouting that particularly interests you then please contact Andrea Soulsby on 643992 asap.

The full programme of events scheduled over that weekend should be available shortly.

County Training Dates

Phase 3
All Sections

Monday 18 September + 3 evenings TBA
evening only

Saturday 21 October + 25 November

Phase 5
All Sections

Wednesday 11 October + 18/19 November

First Response

Sunday 19 November

All courses will take place at Well End . Please speak to John Chapman ADC (AT) on 01462 686772 or Andrea Soulsby on 01462 643992 for further information.

KEECH COTTAGE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

This year's St George's Day collection of £94 together with the money raised from the sale of the Millennium Badge - £286 - has been donated to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice.

The Hospice opened in March of this year to serve families living in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

It's aim is to provide support in a loving environment for families with a life-limited child. Keech Cottage is a "home from home" enabling both the child and their family to live life to the full. Although levels of support are different in every case, Keech Cottage will always provide professional and loving care for the children and their families before the child dies and for as long as necessary afterwards - both at the Hospice and in their home.

Keech Cottage provides the children with the maximum amount of fun, happiness, friendship and quality of life in the short time they have.

A CENTURY OF SCOUTING PART: 7

County Commissioner Graham Wallis came to Letchworth on Saturday 26 January 1946, to attend the reopening of the District Headquarters after its requisitioning by the Army during the war. The chairmen of both the Urban District Councils were there: Dr Trenton Riddle for Baldock, and Mrs Margaret Harvey for Letchworth who did the official unlocking. She said "The whole town is glad that you have got your hall back. The Scouts are people who go out and do things for themselves, and not people who wait for someone else to do things for them. I always find the Scouts are a good solid, reasonable type of person on whom we can depend in the future to fend for themselves. Scouts are not spectators. They would rather play in a game by themselves than watch others."

Graham Wallis added that the Scout Movement would have to work in smaller units in the future, and gave the too familiar warning that the greatest difficulty we had to contend with was the shortage of leaders.

Before refreshments were served and the District Scoutmaster Jim Northover led the camp fire singing, a Thanks Badge was presented to the Reverend C.H. Sutton for his services as District Secretary. Three months later at the District AGM, Mr Sutton's report for the year welcomed Mr Hodgson who had graduated from Chairman to DC, and also Charlie Wassell as the new District Cubmaster following Eva Slaughter's resignation.

Charlie also took over the running of the Fourth Letchworth pack. Because of the lack of leaders, only two other Cub packs continued activities throughout 1946 - Second Letchworth meeting at St George's and Seventh at St Thomas's. So there was not much competition at the District Cub sports in October, but Seventh Letchworth were the winners.

Things were a bit livelier in the Boy Scout section, when the Icknield Shield camping competition was held in July on Mr John Pryor's land at Dane End, Weston. The judge for this event was no less than the Field Commissioner for Hertfordshire and Essex, John Sweet, who was famous for his regular articles in "The Scout" and many books which have become the definitive works in pioneering and campcraft. He complimented the patrols on their weekend's work and awarded the shield to the combined First-Third-Sixth Letchworth team.

A year later, in July 1947, the Icknield Shield moved out of Letchworth for the first time, being won on their home ground by a First Ashwell patrol, with Second and Seventh Letchworth as runners up.

Wider horizons were opening. As the war ended in 1945, an experimental new training section for boys over 15 was begun as Senior Scouts. Their motto was "Look Wide", and their uniform included a maroon beret copied from that of the Parachute Regiment. One of the first District Senior troops in the country met at St Paul's in Letchworth under the indefatigable Charlie Wassell. By 1947, Letchworth & Baldock were able to nominate three Scouts as delegates to the Sixth World Jamboree. Called the "Jamboree of Peace", this was held at Moisson on the banks of the river Seine, and among the 25,000 Scouts from 70 countries were Terry Casburn of Ashwell, Basil Seymour of Second Letchworth, and Tony Young from St Paul's. They came home with memories of heat and dust, and new friendships made, as well as their day in Paris when all bus travel was free to Scouts in uniform.

First Baldock invested its first Senior Scouts that year, and their anniversary in the autumn of 1948 coincided nicely with the Group's thirty third celebrations, as well as the inauguration of the

newly reformed Wolf Cub pack by Ivy Peto, now the District Cubmaster. Games were organized by the former Scoutmaster Harold Pitcher, helped by a newcomer to the district who was prepared to act as what was officially termed "SM(S)", for "Scoutmaster (Seniors)". Having worn a green beret as a wartime Commando, James McLeod Bruce took to the maroon headgear and became an inspiration to the Senior Scouts in Baldock and Letchworth, and farther afield, for many years to come.

Green berets were a suggestion considered at the National Scout Conference in September 1948, as a possible replacement for the traditional wide brimmed Scout hat which was now very expensive. Alfred Hodgson, the DC, interviewed by "The Citizen", didn't favour the change but thought it might be allowed for Commissioners on certain occasions, particularly when travelling.

Changes were coming in other ways. For the first time, Letchworth & Baldock had an Assistant District Commissioner, in the person of Robert ("Sandy") Richardson. Both he and Ralph West (who was still DC for Hitchin) spent a wet weekend in camp at Wilbury Hill Farm in July 1948, when the Icknield Shield slipped from the hands of First Ashwell by a mere four points at the final inspection, in favour of Second Letchworth.

Meanwhile, a pre-war competition was revived for the inelegantly named "Pot-Hunters' Trophy", as an all-night exercise for older boys. This now became a contest for the Senior Scout section; it was renamed "Operation Nightjar" in 1962, and later again reverted to an annual game for the bigger fellows in Scout troops, as it remains to ^{this} the day or rather, night.

For the lads in the youngest section, the District Wolf Cub Sports on 25 June 1948 were the most successful so far, despite the continuing desperate shortage of leaders. A solution was provided by a committee of parents who organized the entire event on the sports field ^{at} Norton Road School. Seventh Letchworth pack had a clear victory ahead of the First, Second and Sixth Cubs, though the previous holders of the trophy, Fourth Letchworth sadly failed to be placed in any of the races and scored no points !

As always, success and failure seemed to swing at random from one group to another. Despite the efforts of Ernest Noble to keep things going, both the Third and Sixth Letchworth troops gave up, and both groups' registrations were cancelled in 1947. Next year, fortune smiled on the Second Letchworth pack as Mrs Gertrude Hoyer became its Assistant Cubmaster, changing in December 1949 to warranted Cubmaster, as she remained happily for 20 years. For a while, the troop was still run by the amazing Miss Harvey, who was leading the 1950 summer camp at Houghton from her wheelchair when the news came of her award of the Medal of Merit "for exceptional service as an invalid". A course at a rehabilitation centre in Watford in 1952 enabled her to walk again with difficulty, and next year Miss Harvey was appointed as District ~~Commissioner~~ ^{Cubmaster}. Taking the ailing Fourth Letchworth Cub pack under her wing and training its leaders, she was on holiday in Suffolk in May 1954 when she was taken ill and died at the age of 36.

First Letchworth Wolf Cub pack, re-started in April 1947 by Arthur Scott and Colin Chalkley, continued to flourish for decades, with most of its founder members making their mark through the Boy Scout section and on into Senior Scouting.

In 1950, Seventh Letchworth troop was on a crest of a wave with a summer camp at Gilwell Park shared by 23 Scouts with a leader team under Don Greenshields, who was now also District Scoutmaster; and in December, the group was visited by the new Assistant County Commissioner for Senior Scouts, a certain Mr Melville Balsillie, to present Peter Robinson with the King's Scout badge.

It was the only such badge in the District at that time, although in May 1950 the King's Silver Badge (then the highest award obtainable in the Boy Scout section) had been gained by a First Baldock patrol leader, Peter Stevenson.

Good news for Ashwell came in November that year when a parents' committee was at last formed, greatly relieving the pressure of work on Stan Raven who had been in charge of Cubs and Scouts single-handed for several years.

So the second half of the twentieth century began with optimistic mood for local Scouting. The 1951 AGM told "a tale of growing membership, increased activities and improving finances", as "The Citizen" reported. The visiting ACC, Commander P.W. Kent, spoke of the work that the parents' committees were doing in the District: "I am sure that is the strength of the groups, and that is why they are going so strongly and their numbers increasing".

~~1951~~
The 1952 Festival of Britain was an excellent excuse for a show camp, displaying Scouting to the public on Norton Common, with the blessing of Letchworth's town council. Around 50 Scouts from various troops took part in fine weather, showing the flag (quite literally, as all the troops' colours were displayed on a large wooden platform, guarded by a rota of three Scouts at a time). It was the first of several such show camps over the years, the next one being in 1957, the Golden Jubilee year of the movement.

(to be continued)



Open the box
to a wealth of
knowledge and
skills.

Training Day - 26 November 2000

Cottered

*Calling all Leaders and helpers, come along the
District Training Day:*

Date: SUNDAY 26 November
Venue: Cottered - Guide H.Q.
Time: 10:00 - 16:00

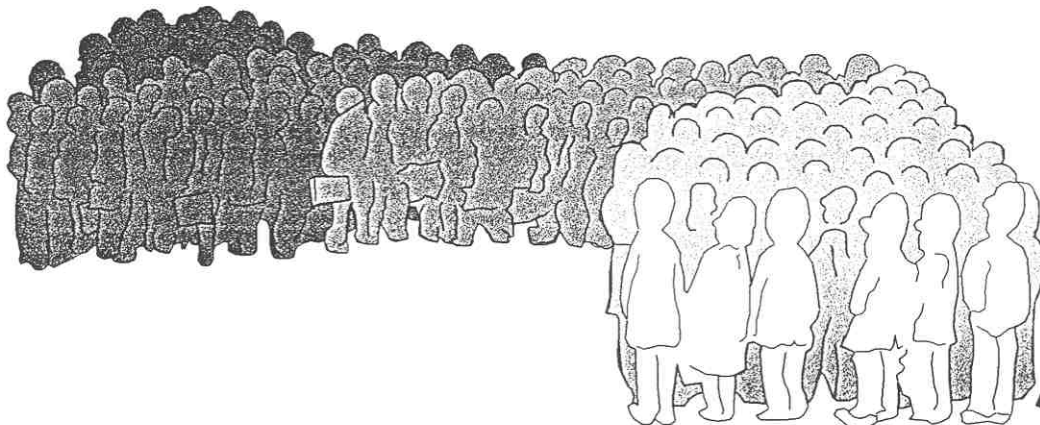
Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

If you have a question someone has the answer.

To book a place contact Andrea Soulsby on 01462 643992, further details will be available after the summer break.

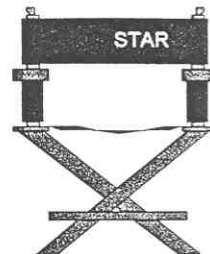
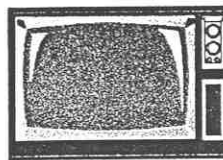
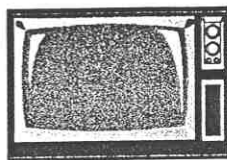
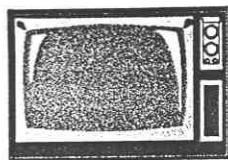


Make a note
in your diary



MORE...

Face Lift for Your Scout HQ



The BBC television programme DIY SOS is on the look out for interesting community projects for the next series and for a 50 minute special to be filmed in July. The programme is all about helping out individuals or organisations that have come unstuck with their attempts to renovate or decorate rooms themselves. Projects may have been started but then abandoned due to lack of funds or expertise.

Do you know of any projects that are in need of the DIY SOS team? It would be really useful if you could send photos of the whole building (inside and out) showing us the DIY disasters and job that have been "botched". A photo of the characters involved and the people that would benefit would be great as well !!! Please send this to: DIY SOS, Room B3.1, BBC Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol. BS8 2LR

We are gathering information at the moment so the earlier we hear from you the better, so please call straight away if you think we might be interested. We look forward to speaking to you soon.

Festival Stewards

For the First Time, and hopefully not the last, Oxfam is providing 320 volunteer stewards for the Leeds Music Festival (part of the Carling Weekend). Stewards spend 24 hours (three, eight hour shifts) over the course of the the event checking tickets and directing the traffic: in return Oxfam received almost £50,000 from the festival organisers.

In exchange for the three shifts stewards receive:-

- * 3 free meals
- * Free travel from Leeds City centre to the site and back
- * Separate camping area with showers
- * The rest of the time free to listen to the bands including: Oasis, Primal Scream, Beck Pulp, Embrace, Ian Brown and Baby Bird

To get involved you need to be:

Available to be on site at the Festival between the evening of Thursday August 24 and breakfast time on Tuesday August 29 (depending on shift allocation some stewards will not need to arrive until the Friday evening. If this applies you will be notified but cannot choose the times you work).

* Over 18

* Reasonably fit - there's lots of standing involved !

For further information contact Rachel Jones at the Leeds Stewards office NOW on 020 7931 9926 ext. 236 or by e-mail on lmsteward@oxfam.org.uk for more information and an application form.

Visit the web site at <http://www.oxfam.org.uk>

Diary Dates 2000

July 2000

3rd	County AGM
3rd	Beaver Leaders Meeting
5th	District Barbecue - Norton Bury
8th	1st 3rd Letchworth AGM
10th	Cub Leaders Meeting
12th	ADC's Meeting
13th	District Executive Meeting
14th	Beavers Bangers & Bash
16th	Challenge 2000 - Hike
18th	2nd Weston AGM

September 2000

11th	Beaver Leader's Meeting
11th	Cub Leader's Meeting
21st	Scout Leader's Meeting
23rd	County Cub Night 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

November 2000

12th	Remembrance Sunday
13th	Cub Leaders Meeting
17th	District Cub Quiz
26th	District Training Day



NORTON BURY WARDENS

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 643432
25 July - 1 Aug	Kay Skingsley 672594
1 Aug - 8 Aug	Michael Wright 679789
8 Aug - 15 Aug	Jeff Robson 684954
15 Aug - 22 Aug	Shelley Wilsher 892163
22 Aug - 28 Aug	Carol Emsall 674543
28 Aug - 5 Sept	Lee & Emma Crossman 634676

Update:

Fiona and Michael Eve new telephone number: 01462 624659

Rita & Dave Hawkins new E-Mail
david.hawkins3@ntlworld.com

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