



Co-ordinator

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin

Welcome to

The Appointments Committee has awarded warrants to

Emma Ward	-	1st Baldock CSL
Chris Lewis	-	1st 3rd Letchworth ASL
Wayne Jefferies	-	Beech Springs - AVSL
Laura Laing	-	4th Letchworth ABSL

We welcome them to the District



Lost in the Jungle

A dramatic rescue was launched when a party of Scouts lost their bearings in the jungle.

Joel Miller of the 4th Letchworth Scouts and Richard Moys from 2nd Weston Scouts were part of a team of eight Scouts aged between 10 and 16 who embarked on a five day hike in their first week of Expedition DODO.

The group, carrying equipment in backpacks, penetrated the jungle alone and slept in tents when darkness fell. Their progress was monitored by leaders who supplied them with fresh water every morning.

The Scouts were given maps and compasses to negotiate their way through the Black River Gorge but the wild vegetation made navigation difficult. Richard explained "We crossed the river to find a path leading up into the mountains but we could not find it on the other side. We had to turn off, right up into the trees and mountains. At one stage it was very dangerous because if one of us had slipped we would have fallen halfway down the mountain and died.

"During the scramble the person in front dislodged a large rock. As it hurtled down the mountain it hit the leader - who had joined us that day - on the back of the head."

Joel continued "It was getting dark so we had to camp overnight but some of the tents were damaged by the undergrowth. We didn't have any water so we had to set up drip pans to collect water and luckily we had a downpour."

Scout leaders, who were concerned when the team of Scouts did not arrive at the rendezvous point, launched a search party by helicopter.

Richard said "A helicopter spotted us and dropped off a man by the side of the road. He asked us some questions and told us they had been looking for us. When we arrived at the town we found police cars and army jeeps waiting to take us back to base camp.

The 4th Letchworth Millennium Chase

This time last year we were planning our Group programmes to accommodate the requirements of the 'millennium chase' - completing 12 challenges relating to different areas of the country.

The Scouts began by using their Go Kart entry from the District Arts and Craft Competition as the item required for the WEST MIDLANDS area, there the criteria was to design and make a moving model.

Since then, the Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts have completed the other challenges within their programmes as follows:

SOUTH WEST	:	Ten Pin Bowling Evening Beach Party	Cubs Beavers
LONDON	-	Fish and Chip Shop Survey	Scouts
SCOTLAND	-	Highland Games Evening	Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
NORTHERN IRELAND		Design and produce a 'T Shirt'	Cubs
NORTH WEST	-	Football Crazy Evening	Beavers Scouts
SOUTH	-	Visit to a tyre company (Stapletons) Change a car tyre	Scouts
SOUTH EAST	-	Follow a route with directions given: with compass points, map references, landmarks in code and cryptic clues	Set by Cubs followed by the Scouts
EAST MIDLANDS	-	Make and fly paper aeroplanes of various designs, fold a parachute parachute games	Scouts
NORTH EAST	-	Yorkshire Pudding Competition	Scouts
WALES	-	Fire Safety Drill Competition and Quiz	Cubs
EAST ANGLIA	-	Activity using a brush - face painting	Cubs

The challenges were enjoyed by all age groups and completed one week before the millennium camp which, unfortunately, did not give us time to complete the final challenge of making a group flag to fly there. However, this could be an idea for a later date and we

A CENTURY OF SCOUTING : PART 9

Letchworth & Baldock District was becoming better known throughout the Scout County in the late fifties of this century. After two successive wins by our Scouter teams in the annual "County Marathon" hiking competition, Hertfordshire decided to close the adults' section of that contest. Taking up an idea floated by Melville Balsillie, ACC for Senior Scouts, our District Rover Crew in 1958 organised the "Tour of Hertfordshire" cycle time trial for the 15-18 age group, and it continued successfully without injury for the next five years. The County champion in this event in 1961 was John Butcher of the Third Letchworth Senior troop, completing the 100 mile circuit in just over six hours.

Maxwell

~~Max~~ Vines, Rover Scout Leader of the District crew, and Roland Millbank, leader of the resurgent Fourth Letchworth Rovers, represented the County in organising a joint camp with Bedfordshire, held near Luton in March 1962. Together with Rover Scout Michael Blaxland, Max was part of the very first working party camping, clearing scrub, and drinking water straight from the burn, at another of Mr Balsillie's enterprises - the conversion of the derelict railway station at Lochearnhead in Perthshire.

1961 was a historic year in other ways. The District gained no fewer than five new Queen's Scout - Michael Dilley, who almost at once became Scoutmaster of Second Baldock troop; John Davies, who found, when camping at Aberdeen with First Baldock Senior Scouts, a gigantic vertebra washed up on the beach - which he cleaned and converted into the "Whale-bone Trophy" for some eccentric competitions like Operation Tarzan and Kon-Tiki for years to come; John Butcher and Roger Wood, in Third Letchworth, and Robin Edmett in the Fourth. Also that year, Letchworth Council invited the Scout District to reenact the "show camp" on Norton Common which had been part of the Festival of Britain ten years earlier, and it was such a success that the event was repeated several times in the following decade, keeping the movement well in the public eye.

When Leslie Pears retired in 1962, Melville Balsillie became County Commissioner, and his dream was realised when the Chief Scout, Sir Charles Maclean, officially opened Lochearnhead Scout Station. As a regular reader of "Co-ordinator", the CC next year persuaded its voluntary typist to act as editor of the new County bulletin, "Hertfordshire Scout News". (There had been previous short-lived versions in 1936 and 1945). This compliment to Letchworth & Baldock District was repeated in 2000 when the present producer of "Co-ordinator" was also appointed to the chair of what has since become "Hertfordshire Scouts & Guides", and history happily repeats itself.

As "Co-ordinator" passed its fifth anniversary, negotiations were going on with Headquarters (no longer "Imperial") about the possibility of the District Badge Shop also acting as an agent for Scout Shop equipment, books and uniforms. Several years passed before Eric Oldham, chairman of the badge subcommittee, was able to undertake mail-order sales of such items, until in February 1968 the first District Scout Shop opened for direct business in the old Civil Defence building in Gernon Road. By that time, great changes had taken place in Scouting, both locally and nationwide.

The biggest revolution came in 1966 with the Chief Scout's Advance Party Report, which effectively abolished Wolf Cubs, Boy Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts.

These were replaced by Cub Scouts, Scouts, and the new concept for young adults, Venture Scouts. Mushroom coloured trousers finally ousted the familiar khaki shorts, to the dismay of traditionalists who prophesied Scouting's doom. But locally it had never been more popular, as the census that year reached the record figure of 698 for Letchworth & Baldock. The boundaries of course included Ashwell and Weston, each group flourishing under Group Scoutmasters Albert Bush and John Watts. Both gentlemen were transformed by the Advance Party Report into Group Scout Leaders, just as every Scoutmaster was from then on a Scout Leader, except in the columns of the popular press who have still not quite got used to the change after 34 years.

After 8^{1/2} years, we had to become accustomed to the absence of Leslie Brown as District Commissioner. Retiring to keep a fatherly eye on Ashwell from his new bungalow, he was succeeded by Harold Hodge, who was previously secretary to Plymouth Scout District and had become a popular figure locally as a backstage worker at the Gang Show and helper at all kinds of events from Cub parties to wild Senior Scout night exercises.

Regrettably, after only a year, Mr Hodge's work moved him away from the District, together with his wife Eileen who had settled in ideally as Akela of Ninth Letchworth Cubs. With Anthony Lawrence as a new troop's Scoutmaster, then Scout Leader like the rest, the Catholic group had bright prospects. When successor leaders were needed, Mrs Mary Hawley appeared for the Cub pack and John Ferguson for the Scouts, but as it has happened so often the candle of the Ninth flickered and went out at the end of 1968.

Sixth Letchworth, the Salvation Army's own troop, burst into life once more in 1966, but despite all efforts by Stewart Skinns and his Assistant Leaders, this group also closed, probably for the last time, in March 1969. This was only a month after the winding-up of another sponsored group, Third Baldock, at the Methodist Church. The ADC (Cubs), Hannah Shannon, by then Mrs Moules, inaugurated this new Cub pack in March 1965, and Mrs Olive Goddard boldly took on the job of Akela. Soon a keen new Scout troop was formed, guided by Peter Moules until the arrival of Graham Mulchinock as SL; but again the group was too small to survive for long.

Minimum sizes for groups to be viable were a major concern of that Advance Party Report. This suggested that some smaller groups would do well to merge and so provide more lively programmes for their members. Thinking ahead, two of the Letchworth groups were quick off the mark. Having for years met on separate evenings in District Headquarters, the First and the Third troops, and the First and the Third packs, all agreed to do the honourable thing, and were reborn as First-Third Letchworth. The new dark green uniform Scout shirts and Cub jerseys prompted a dramatic change of neckerchiefs from the green and yellow of Third and the dark green of First. For maximum visibility, new scarlet scarves bordered with white were just right.

In a message to the new group, the County Commissioner congratulated them on their prompt decision. "We in Hertfordshire have long been urging the amalgamation of smaller groups in which boys can be trained in much more efficient and adventurous ways. Our target would be a Cub pack of 36 and a Scout troop of 48. I am delighted that Letchworth is taking the lead, and I wish your new Group every success."

Questions of size had been troubling our Senior troops for some years before the Report. District events for that age group could attract dozens of participants, making planning freer and activities more exciting on a big scale. Such were the peculiar Whalebone Trophy events, such as living 24 hours up a tree, or a raft - or in the case of Operation Pheidippides. In October 1965, this was a

mad marathon race across the District from Ashwell to Willian using bikes, roller skates, prams and wheelbarrows, by seven teams, First Baldock's Chris Anderson and Robert Wilsher being the popular winners. All competitors, from whichever troop, knew each other as belonging to the same organisations - the same District - and this was part of the thinking behind the various Senior Scout Leaders' plan to form a Senior Scout Federation, rather than a District Troop. They had not enough time to see if it would work, for a few months later the large Unit of Venture Scouts was national and County policy.

With thirteen Senior Scouts metamorphosed into Venture Scouts, Fifth Letchworth won a dispensation to try working independently, but were proved wrong. The few who stayed on were accepted in the large and successful unit led by Brian Watkins, taking its name from an old local guide book: Champion Hills.

KJ

(to be continued)

Gang Show

The next Gang Show will be held at Plinston Hall on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 March 2001.

Preparations are now well underway and I am looking forward to meeting old and new faces at the rehearsals which start on Saturday 4 November at 1st 3rd Letchworth H.Q.

This year the rehearsals will be split by age as follows:-

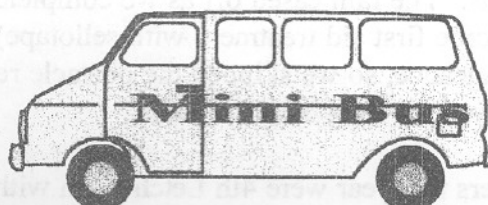
- 4.30 pm till 6.00 pm Beavers and Cubs
(Brownies as well)
- 6.00 pm till 7.30 pm Scouts, Ventures and
Leaders (Guides and
Rangers as well)

Also this year if you wish to be included in the cast you must have attended rehearsals regularly by Christmas. I can only include people after this date by prior arrangement.

If you would like the Gang Show roadshow team to come along to one of your meetings, then please contact me as soon as possible to arrange a date.
Tele: 01462 643992

Andrea Soulsby - Producer District Gang Show.

NB please could all leaders ensure that the Gang Show dates are put in your colony/pack/troop programmes - it would be great to see more of the District coming along to support the shows.



The District is now the proud owner of a new 17 Seater Mini bus. It is a P registration, LDV diesel vehicle with a low mileage and fitted with seat belts. It is a great asset to the District but it must be used regularly by Groups if it is to be economic. The charges are:

Half day	£ 25.00
Day	£ 40.00
Weekend	£100.00
Week	£200.00

plus cost of fuel.

Drivers must be over the age of 25 and have a clean driving licence. They must also have passed a County Assessment Test.

Please contact Bob Williams for bookings and further information.

Tele: 01462 686727

Nick Farmer will be holding an assessment session on Sunday 22 October 2000 for anyone wishing to drive the mini bus. Please contact Nick for further details. 01462 627673

District Cub Sports Day

"WE'RE WET BUT WE'RE READY TO GO"



Sunday 24th September 2000 - Lannock School



I am sure that someone somewhere was determined to make sure that we felt as if we were at the Olympics during this year's Cub Sports Day, as it was not only raining in Sydney but in Letchworth as well ! But as everyone knows we do not give in just because of a little bit of rain (remember Camp 2000 ?).

Six Cub Packs braved the weather (well it was fine when we all turned up !) and took part in very good spirits. The rain eased off as we completed the 50m sprint, the egg & spoon (some eggs required some first aid treatment with sellotape), sack, skipping and relay. Then the rain returned with a vengeance, so we skipped the obstacle relay and while the points were being added up the Cubs enjoyed the long distance races.

The winners this year were 4th Letchworth with 66 points: runners up were 5th Letchworth with 60 points; they were closely followed by 7th Letchworth; 1st Baldock (Knights) 2nd Weston and 1st 3rd Letchworth.

Well done to everybody who took part and hope that you all enjoyed yourselves, despite the rain. Finally many thanks to all the Leaders and our friends from Beech Springs who helped to run the event so smoothly.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the Cub Sports Shield - last won in September 1996 - please let Dave Hawkins know so that he can present it to 4th Letchworth Cubs.



Andrea Soulsby

District Training Day - 26 November 2000
Cottered - County Guides H.Q.
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Social
Entertaining
Xperience
and a free meal

Watch out for further details in this edition.

Programme and Uniform Review
Knightsfield H.Q. - Welwyn G.C.

Tuesday 10th October 2000

The District will be running the District Mini Bus to the above event.

If you would like to reserve a seat, please contact Bob Williams (01462 686727) who will be your courier for the evening.

Meet at Norton Bury 7.00pm

Cost £3.00

TRAINING

• PHASE 1 & 2 TRAINING

If you haven't undertaken your Phase 1&2 Training yet then please take advantage of one of the sessions that has been arranged as follows:

Monday	9 October	-	8.00 pm	-	Norton Bury
Wednesday	18 October	-	8.00 pm	-	Norton Bury

Please contact Andrea Soulsby (01462 643992) if you would like to book a place.

• DISTRICT TRAINING DAY

The Guide Centre, Cottered - Sunday 26 November.

A fun-packed day to not only learn but share your knowledge. We will be running sessions about Administration in a pack/troop; Communications; Home Contacts as well as time for Sectional Training. There will be a chance for discussions relating to the proposed new uniform as well as any other topics that you may wish to raise (please let me know about anything that would particularly interest you prior to the training day, so that we can prepare some info if required). A hot lunch will be provided for you.

Please let Andrea Soulsby know ASAP if you wish to attend (01462 643992)

• COUNTY TRAINING DATES - all courses run at Well End

Phase 3		PH3/37	-	21 October & 25 November
		PH3/38	-	3 February & 17 March 2001
		PH3/39	-	20 May & 24 June 2001
		PH3/40	-	29 September & 10 November 2001
Phase 4	Beavers	PH4(BS)/10	-	19 May & 14-15 July 2001
	Cubs	PH4(CS)/11	-	2-4 March & 11-13 May 2001
	Scouts	PH4(S)/08	-	16-17 June & 15 Sept & 12-14 October
	Ventures	PH4(VS)/08	-	10 - 11 Nov 2001 and two dates in 2002
Phase 5		PH5/26	-	11 October (eve) & 18-19 November 2000
		PH5/27	-	13 February (eve) & 24-25 March 2001
		PH5/28	-	23 April (eve) & other evenings TBA
		PH5/29	-	29 October (eve) & 17-18 November 2001

If you require GSL, Commissioner and Administrator training then please contact John Chapman or Andrea Soulsby for units/subjects and dates.

If you wish to undertake any of the County Training then please contact the above for an application form. Please do not forget that when you took out your warrant you agreed to undertake a certain amount of training that will help you in running your Colony, Pack, Troop or Unit. If you are unable to undertake the County Training for whatever reason then please let John or Andrea know so that we can arrange alternative training for you.

Diary Dates 2000

October 2000

1st	County Scout Patrol Camping Competition
1st	District Scouts - Phasels Wood
7th	District Beaver Sports Day
9th	Phase 1&2 Training - Norton Bury
11th	Appointments Committee
12th	District Executive Meeting
14th	Fellowship AGM
18th	Phase 1&2 Training - Norton Bury
21st - 22nd	District Scouts Nightjar Competition
22nd	Mini Bus Assessment Course
29th	District Cubs Day out - Thorpe Park

November 2000

4th	Gang Show Rehearsals - 1st 3rd HQ
9th	District Executive Meeting
10th	District Cub Quiz - 5th Letchworth
12th	Remembrance Sunday
13th	Cub Leaders Meeting
17th	District Scout Quiz - 1st 3rd Letchworth
18th - 19th	County Scouts - Green Beret
23rd	District Scout Leaders Meeting
26th	District Training Day

December 2000

6th	Appointments Committee
7th	District Patrol Leaders' Council
14th	District Executive Meeting

Distributed by:

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council

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1 South Close

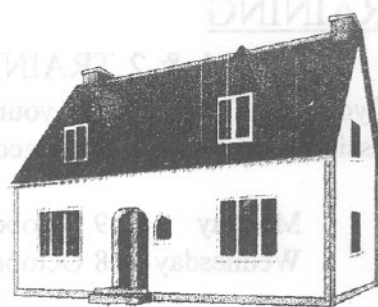
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NORTON BURY WARDENS

26 Sept - 3 Oct	Sheila and David Daws 621699
3 - 10 Oct	Mick Balls 893855
10 - 17 Oct	Gwen Keech 894512
17 - 24 Oct	Pauline Gimson 677993
24 - 31 Oct	Michael Wright 679789
31 Oct - 7 Nov	-----
7 - 14 Nov	Kay Skingsley 672594
14 - 21 Nov	Dave Hawkins 643432

GIVE AWAY

Norton Bury inherited - many years ago - some very large camp dixies. They are never used and before we arrange for them to go to a charity, is there anyone who would like to have them for their camps etc. If so please give me a ring on 01462 671062 Barbara Crombie.

Week end available at Norton Bury

Due to a cancellation, Norton Bury is available for the week end November 24 - 2. If anyone is interested would they contact Barbara Crombie.