



November 2000 No: 465

# Co-ordinator

## The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin

---

### FRED COGAR



1924 - 2000

Ever since I first got involved in Scouting, there has always been Fred Cogar as a point of reference. If you wanted to know how something should be done, and done properly, Fred would tell you. If you thought you knew better, he would still tell you, and he was right.

Fred's devotion to the way of Scouting was deeper than some of us realized. One of his proudest things he ever spoke about was that as a boy he had actually shaken hands with the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell.

In the mid 1950s, Fred was Scoutmaster of First Baldock, and after Leslie Brown asked him to be ADC, he served this District in many ways, always making sure that Baldock didn't get overwhelmed by Letchworth. With Jim Bruce and Ernie Cardwell, he was one of the triumvirate that made the early years of our Gang Show such a success. I remember his hospitality on visiting the Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield, where he led the Hertfordshire contingent in Civil Defence training and after that we saw some of the untiring voluntary work Fred did for the British Red Cross. *later on, he was prominent*

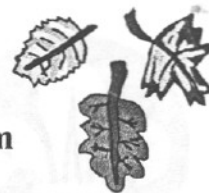
Though the position of District Commissioner was thrust on him at very short notice, Fred was just the man to ease the District through the crisis of 1986. He made sure that the "B-P Spirit", kept us going, and even when he moved off to another County, we knew he was still there to help, and to criticize when we deserved it. We last saw each other at the grand opening of First Baldock's extended headquarters, and he told me off, kindly as always, for being "improperly dressed"

Thank you, Fred

K.J.



## HEDGEROW PLANTING AT NORTON BURY



**SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

Preparation to include tree felling, coppicing and a good bonfire.

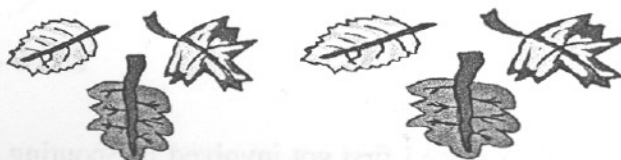
**SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

Planting 50 mixed native hedgerow shrubs.

No experience necessary as full instruction given and no age limit, there are jobs for everyone. Particular welcome are the Operation Ferret planters from last year.

Come and see how well your section of hedge has grown and plant a fresh length

Contact Peter Deary on 01462 627330



---

## LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### MINIBUS FOR HIRE

(17 seater LDV Convoy Minibus with roof rack)

Costs: Evening / Half day	£ 25
Day	£ 40
Week-end (Friday to Sunday)	£100
Week	£200

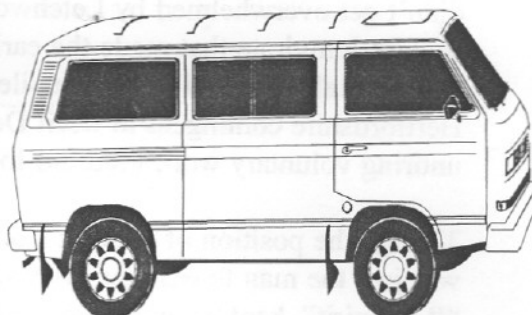
Plus fuel (Diesel)

Main conditions of hire:

- Drivers must be
- over 25 years of age
  - have a clean driving licence
  - have passed the Herts County Council minibus assessment

Passengers

- must be members of the Scout or Guide Association



Enquires welcome from outside District

For more information and bookings contact

Bob Williams, 53 Hawthorn Hill, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4HQ

Tele: 01462 686727

4th Letchworth (St Pauls) celebrates 70 years



If you were involved with 4th in the past and would like to attend our celebration on the 18th November please contact David Miller for further details on 01462 632163

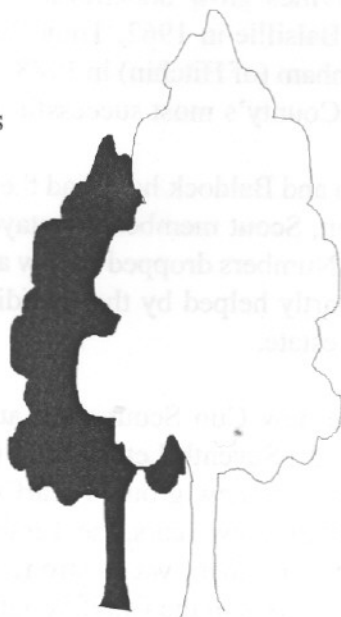
### KEN HART

We will be commemorating Ken Hart's involvement with Norton Bury on Saturday, November 4th at 11.00 am when Doris and her family will be planting a commemorative oak in Ken's name.

The family would like to extend an invitation to anyone who knew Ken to come along.

Could anyone who intends to come please give me a ring on 01462 671062 so that we can have some idea of numbers

Thanks  
Barbara Crombie



### Remembrance Sunday

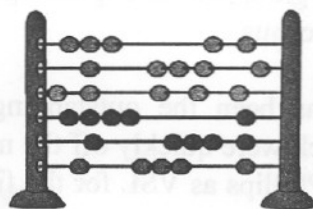
There are many things in life we cannot understand,  
But we must trust God's judgement and be guided by His hand.....

And all who have God's blessing can rest safely in His care,  
For He promises safe passage on the wings of faith and prayer.

### CENSUS 31st JANUARY 2001

CENSUS

The next census will soon be on us so now is the time to start collecting the necessary information. Some time in December the Census forms will be distributed to all Groups. As per our motto "Be Prepared" so the completed forms can be returned as soon as possible.



CENSUS

## A CENTURY OF SCOUTING : PART 10

Our century is almost over, and in another seven years the Scout Movement will celebrate its own centenary with a World Jamboree in Hylands Park near Chelmsford. Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts will surely be a part of that. We can also hope to have a book (with lots of pictures) containing everything you may have been reading in these "Co-ordinator" articles since January - and a great deal more besides.

Oddly enough it was easier to tell the story of the early years of Scouting, just because there was so little information. For the last few decades, there is almost too much! There are files of local newspapers, County magazines and of course 41 years of "Co-ordinator", as well as Group and District annual reports, minute books, quite a few log books and untold numbers of personal photographs, films, and videos that those Letchworth lads could not have imagined when they went camping at Shephall in 1909.

Could any dream have come to Percy Everett assisting B.-P. at Brownsea in 1907, that he would be County Commissioner for Hertfordshire for almost half of this century? All his successors have seen the County's numbers and activities grow unbelievably in recent years: Graham Wallis in 1944, Leslie Pears in 1956, Melville Balsillie in 1962, Tony Burgess in 1971, Freddie De Butts in 1976, John Bennett in 1981, Paul Brenham (of Hitchin) in 1988, and Roger Sands since 1995, have all been well aware of us as one of the County's most successful Districts.

Like anywhere else, Letchworth and Baldock have had their disappointments as well. As both towns expanded in size and population, Scout membership stayed fairly static with annual census figures hovering around the 600 level. Numbers dropped as low as 495 in the 1970 count but began a steady rise from the following year, partly helped by the founding of a new group, Tenth Letchworth, to serve the expanding Jackmans estate.

Mrs Judy Collins launched the new Cub Scout pack at the community centre in October 1971. Marking her previous service with Seventh Letchworth, (and that of their chairman Alan Marshall who now became GSL of Tenth) the new group's scarf was the same royal blue, but with a white border to avoid confusion. Within a few years, the Tenth Cubs were regularly winning the District football and swimming contests, and there was a strong troop of five patrols. In May 1978, Peter Dartford was the first in the group to gain the Chief Scout's Award, but sadly also the last. Shortage of leaders, and later vandalism of the group's equipment stores, meant that Tenth Letchworth was disbanded in the autumn in 1988.

At the same time, Eleventh Letchworth was able to celebrate its first decade of growing success. Beginning in June 1978 with the specific hope of welcoming numbers of the so-called "ethnic minority" youngsters into the worldwide family of Scouting, the new group succeeded in almost every other way. The first pack meetings in Pixmore School, guided by Anne Lilley, evolved into a new troop with its own headquarters building, the gift of Gavin Jones Nurseries, in Rubery Mead; and in April 1987 the group was strong enough to establish its own Venture Scout unit, adopting the significant title of Bacchus.

Venture Scouting has been the outstanding achievement of the last quarter of this century, Letchworth & Baldock were quickly off the mark with the Champion Hills unit, carefully moulded into shape by Colin Phillips as VSL for the first eight years before handing over to

continued.....



Stephen Eaves. Uniting young men from all the local Scout troops Champion Hills won fame in the County by regularly organizing hockey tournaments for the Bungo Trophy, and wildly assorted sports for the Streaker Trophy. Specializing in summer expeditions to mountains such as the Atlas in Morocco (1973), Austrian Alps (1975) and the Tatra in Poland (1977), the unit produced its own newsletter named "Champers", gained a fair quota of Queen's Scout Awards, and maintained polite diplomatic relations with a second District unit. Beech Springs opened in Baldock in September 1977, partly to balance the strong Letchworth influence, and continues to do everything that Venture Scouts should do, having already outlived Champion Hills by several years.

One other Venture Scout unit deserves its footnote in our history. A former Seventh Letchworth SL, Melvyn Baker, assisted some of the Scouts retiring at 16 to form their own unit at St Thomas's church in February 1980. With the splendid name of Ysbryd Antur (Welsh for "Spirit of Adventure") this attracted some older blokes from other groups, but there were never enough to make a viable unit and (like the old saying) it was "all over by Christmas". That phrase was used when war broke out in August 1914, and it may well have been some people's view of the Boy Scout movement, seven years before that ! But Scouting continues to thrive all round the world, as our District's young ambassadors have seen the themselves, at Jamborees in Greece, Canada, Korea, Australia, Chile and elsewhere, or on Hertfordshire County Scout expeditions as far as Arctic Norway and Southern Africa, Moscow and Mauritius. As First Letchworth Scouts went to Belgium in 1913, so Second Baldock are regular visitors to France, just as Fifth Letchworth were in the 1970s when les Eclaireurs came here in exchange and had the experiences of Coetmor Mill and Lochearnhead.

So many more historic tales have still to be fitted in to this brief account before it is ready to be made into a book. What about First Weston, who were shifted into Stevenage District and eventually disappeared, until Second Weston rose like a phoenix and came home to its proper District once again ? What about the wonderful success of the old farmhouse at Norton Bury after dear Ken Hart negotiated its use for the Scout and Guide movements? What about the dreadful beer-can scandal of 1986? What about the extraordinary idea from Northern Ireland allowing us to start Beavers at Eighth Letchworth ? We mentioned the Fourth Letchworth Air Scouts but what about Fifth Letchworth Sea Scouts? The Saxons and the Vikings, or the Spartans and the Trojans? And the Grenadiers Cub pack which became the Twelfth Scout group? What about the B.-P. Scout Guild enrolling our local Member of Parliament ? Whatever happened to them ?

Well, as you may have guessed, the Guild was replaced by the Scout Fellowship, which we told you at the beginning of the first of these articles has formed a subcommittee to sort out all this history. If you have any photographs, or certificates, or recollections of the people mentioned so far (and still more important, the many more who have not been mentioned) do please get in touch with the Chairman, Rod Tiplady, or the President, Laurie Cook, or the Secretary, Margaret Durrant, or the ADC, Roger Comley - or even, if all else fails .....

K.J.

NOT THE END

# The Scout Fellowship

The AGM went very well, Fred Lovelock has agreed to join us on the committee, welcome Fred. Our Treasurer, Eric Woodward stood down and the Fellowship presented him with an engraved glass plate to show our appreciation for all the time and effort he has put into the job over the last five years. Arthur Scott has kindly agreed to take over this position and Eric will be helping him for a few months until he is sure he knows the system.

Shaun Howard gave a very humorous and interesting talk on his train journey to spend New Year in Hong Kong including travelling through Siberia at - 40 degrees.

Eighteen members will be visiting the Gordon Craig Theatre to see the Arcadians perform The Boy-friend in November. It should be a very good evening, The Harpenden Gang Show is on Wednesday 10th January 2001, there are still a few seats available on the mini-bus. If you would like to go please contact Margaret on 01462 624731

We are hoping to arrange an after Christmas dinner in February probably Friday the 17th at the Broadway Hotel.

Membership forms are available from Margaret Durrant, 58 Monklands, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4XG

## Beavers Washed Out



Unfortunately inclement weather defeated us again when it rained "cats and dogs" to force the cancellation of the Beaver Sports Day - the waterlogged ground made it impossible to go ahead - memories of May 2000 came flooding back on a sea of mud !!!!

## District Scout and Cub Scout Quiz

**Friday**  
**IS QUIZ NIGHT**

This year's District Scout Quiz will be held on Friday 10th November at 1st 3rd Letchworth H.Q. starting at 7.30 pm.

For further details and entries contact Chris King on 01462 637901

This year's District Cub Scout Quiz will be held on Friday 10th November at 5th Letchworth H.Q.

For further details contact Anne Gutteridge on 01462 676966

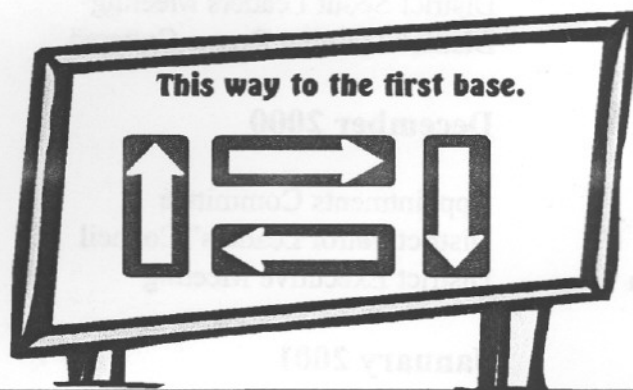
## Night Jar 2000 21st - 22nd October 2000

After a day of torrential rain the skies cleared to allow Night Jar to take place during a warm and dry night.

Thirteen competing teams left Norton Bury at regular intervals on a circuit around the countryside to the north of Letchworth. Countryside and landmarks which appear so familiar during the day time take on a different aspect in the darkness and tested map reading skills to the full - and beyond in many cases as teams reached bases way behind schedule. At these bases they had to use a variety of their Scouting skills such as compass work, knotting, first aid and pioneering.

After a tiring but exhilarating competition 2nd Baldock (Jason Domagala, Michael Cambourne-Paynter, Robert Corr and Christopher Betts) emerged triumphant in the Junior Section and 1st Baldock (Daniel Staines, Andrew Spencer and Robert Brough) won the Senior Section.

Thanks to Chris and Sue King for organizing the event, the members of Raynet for keeping us in touch with bases and teams and Leaders and Venture Scouts who helped during the night to ensure another successful Night Jar.



## DISTRICT TRAINING DAY

26th November 2000

Guide Centre - Cottered

Come along and have S.E.X (Social, Entertaining, Xperience) a fun-packed day not to be missed. A day not only to learn but to share your knowledge.

We will be running sessions about Administration in a colony/pack/troop  
Communications  
Home Contacts  
as well as time for Sectional Training

There will be a chance for discussion relating to the introduction of the new programme.

Please let Andrea Soulsby know asap if you wish to attend (01462 643992) so that we can have an idea of numbers for lunch.

## Diary Dates 2000

### November 2000

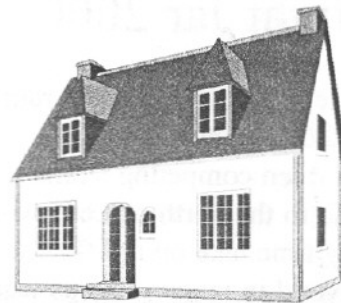
4th	Gang Show Rehearsals - 1st 3rd HQ
9th	District Executive Meeting
10th	District Cub Quiz - 5th Letchworth
10th	District Scout Quiz - 1st 3rd Letchworth
12th	Remembrance Sunday
13th	Cub Leaders Meeting
18th	4th Letchworth 70th Anniversary
18th - 19th	County Scouts - Green Beret
23rd	District Scout Leaders Meeting
26th	District Training Day - Cottered

### December 2000

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

### January 2001

8th	Cub Leaders Meeting
11th	District Executive Meeting
20th	District Scouts Cooking Competition
22nd	Beaver Leaders Meeting
24th	Team Meeting (ADC's)



### NORTON BURY WARDENS

31 Oct - 7 Nov	TBA
7 - 14 Nov	Kay Skingsley 672594
14 - 21 Nov	Dave Hawkins 643432

### Welcome to

The Appointments Committee has awarded warrants to

Lelsey Gwilt	- 2nd Baldock ASL
Michael Wootton	- Beech Springs AVSL
James Standen	- 12th Letchworth CSL

We welcome them to the District

### COUNTY TRAINING FIRST RESPONSE

FR02 -	19 November 2000
FR04 -	25 March 2001
FR005 -	23 June 2001
FR06 -	17 November 2001

Contact: Andrea Soulsby / John Chapman

*Distributed by:*

*The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council*

*Editor: Mrs Rita Hawkins  
1 South Close  
Baldock  
Hertfordshire  
SG7 6DS*

*Tele: 01462 643432*

*E-Mail: rita.hawkins@ntlworld.com*