



Co-ordinator



NORTON BURY—THE WAY AHEAD

We have entered into discussions with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation about the future of Norton Bury. Many of us have an emotional attachment to Norton Bury in view of the hard work that we have put into its development over the last twenty years and the many exciting events that we have held there. Thousands of children have benefited from its facilities.

However, we must face the reality that the Manor House is an old property and in a poor state of repair. It is likely that in the near future repairs to the roof and sewage system will cost in excess of £50,000 and there may well be other problems with the building itself. This is a heavy burden to place on future generations of Leaders and it is a problem which is recognised by the Heritage Foundation.

The Foundation is anxious to continue its support for Scouting and Guiding and also given the responsibility it has to get best value from the properties it owns, believes that a fresh start is the best way forward. It is offering us land in a conservation area that is being developed between Willian and Wymondley. This area is a key community resource linked to the 18 km Greenway which will encircle the Garden City, providing a unique facility for walking, cycling and horse riding. There is a camping area of approximately 2.5 acres in addition to the 3 acres which have been developed for conservation. There is also access to woodland and a pond. The Heritage Foundation is willing to provide a log cabin style building to accommodate thirty children and leaders together with appropriate activity space. It will be designed to fit in with the ethos of a conservation area and have environmentally friendly features such as solar heating.

The advantage of this project is that it would provide us with a new building that will be virtually maintenance free for many years to come and there will be the challenge and freedom to develop the site in an imaginative way to meet the future needs of Scouting and Guiding. We can transfer the assault course to the new site and there is space for a climbing wall and other facilities.

Representatives of the Scout and Guide Districts and the Norton Bury Management Committee have been in consultation with the Heritage Foundation. **There will be an open evening at The Guide H.Q. Icknield Way on Wednesday 28th March - 8.30 pm - 10.00 pm when you can view and discuss the proposals.**

Beaver Challenge 2000

"The thing I liked most was when you had to throw a ball and catch it. The Colony wanted to get a 2000 Badge so we had to do some 2000 things. 2000 catches meant each Beaver and all the leaders had to catch a ball 122 times each."

Edwards Potts 1st Baldock Beavers

"I liked doing the 2000 steps walk to Radwell. It was fun walking across the field with other Beavers."

Michael Horscroft 1st Baldock Beavers

When we first heard about the challenge, we thought it would be fun. So we sent off for the details. It wasn't always easy for the Beavers or the Leaders, especially when we asked them to write about the events. It was too much like school. So we decided that they could make their diary by drawing pictures and just writing little sentences next to or under them. We actually managed to get a very interesting diary together with writing, drawings and photos.

We decided that for the caring part we would collect pennies and send them to a local charity,. We managed to collect 2348 pennies (£23.48) and we sent it to the Keech Cottage Childrens' Hospital in Luton. We also wanted to collect 2000 stamps for Charity. When we found out that Blue Peter had a stamp appeal, we decided to send ours there. We have in fact collected many more than the original aim of 2000.

We counted 2000 steps while we walked from Norton Bury to Radwell. In the Scout HQ, to keep warm as we had no heating at the time, we skipped together 2000 skips and threw the balls up 2000 times and in the same evening we had 2000 seconds peace while all the Beavers were lying still. Unbelievable they actually managed that very well ! We also did 2000 obstacles on the Assault Course at Norton Bury and went sledging at Bassingbourn on the dry ski slope.

At Easter we made rice crispy cakes and Easter cards. We also had a theme of Pirates and made hats, eye patches and we took a photo of all the Beavers and put them in a pirate ship. They also learned to write messages with different flag signs.

For the spiritual development we went to Church on Remembrance Sunday and the Christingle Service. We also joined another colony for a game called throwball at Norton Bury and have joined the District on different events. All in all, we had a fantastic 2000 minutes challenge and I am sure the Beavers will be very proud when they receive their badge and certificate from Maureen Shattock ACC (Beavers)

Sonja Hall, ABSL 1st Baldock Beavers



District Directory

Copies of the updated District Directory have been distributed to your Group contact. There are copies for each Leader, Helper and officer.

1st Ashwell	Joan Huggins	4th Let	Dave Miller
2nd Weston	Wendy Tierney	5th Let	Jeff Smith
1st Baldock	Rob Hemmings	7th Let	Mandy Woolmer
2nd Baldock	Mick Dilley	8th Let	Sheila Tickner
1st 3rd Let	Dave Upson	11th Let	Roger Harrison
Gang Show	Andrea Soulsby	12th Let	Monica Thomason
Bacchus	Chris Lunnon	Fellowship	Rod Tiplady
Beech Springs	Brian Rosendale		

Simon's bravery is recognised at awards ceremony

The dramatic events during a volatile domestic incident in November were told when PC Simon Tierney, who also helps run the 2nd Weston Cub Pack was presented with his police award for bravery.

Simon was part of a team called to a house where a man had barricaded himself inside. He had ripped out the gas cooker and was threatening to blow up the house in Bishop's Stortford. A short while later he came out into the street wielding knives, threatening the officers and threatening to kill himself.

Simon was commended for his calm and professional approach during the incident. With fellow officers he maintained a constant dialogue with the offender who eventually gave himself up.

Well done Simon.

The Nationwide Awards for Voluntary Endeavour

In association with NCVO, (voice of the voluntary sector) NICVA, promoting the voluntary sector, SCVO, building Scotland's third force, Wales Council for Voluntary Action and The Newspaper Society, the Nationwide Building Society wants us to tell them about people we think deserve recognition for their voluntary work in our community.

For more information, pick up a leaflet at your nearest branch of Nationwide Building Society, your library, or contact the local newspapers.



Welcome to

Vicki Luker	12th Letchworth	BSL
Timothy Hodge	1st 3rd Letchworth	ASL
Carolyn Nunnington	7th Letchworth	ACSL

St George's Day Parade and Service 22nd April 2001



This years St George's Day Parade and Service will be held at the Ashwell Parish Church, Ashwell on Sunday 22nd April 2001 starting at 3.00 pm. The parade will assemble at the Recreation Ground. Please assemble at 2.15 pm so that the parade can move off at 2.30 pm.

There will be a rehearsal for FULL COLOUR PARTIES WITH NECKER-CHIEFS ON Saturday 21st April at 10.00am.

As last year there will be refreshments for Guests and Leaders after the event. It is hoped that Groups will bring picnics for their Scouts.

Be a Bounty Scout for Job Week Saturday 24 – Saturday 31 March 2001



Scout Job Week continues to be a successful fundraising activity and this year there are some exciting changes. The Week is sponsored by Bounty, the leading multi-purpose paper towel, under the banner Bounty Scout Job Week 2001.

Bounty Scout Job Week is taking place during school term so that Scouts will be around to take part in the week without holiday commitments. The week also incorporates two Saturdays. This means lots more time for the Groups .

As well as Bounty sponsorship, leading retailers are championing the Bounty Scout Job Week and working with Bounty to create the Bounty Scout Pack and make this the best Job Week ever! Each Pack contains a guide to tasks that the whole Group can undertake to raise even more money as well as free Bounty for each Scout to use. Groups are encouraged to head down to their local retailer during the week and use the Bounty Scout Pack for a whole host of exciting moneymaking activities. Bounty will be letting everyone in your neighbourhood know about Bounty Scout Job Week, via the local media, so you can be guaranteed a good turnout. Of course, the more people who know about the Bounty Scout Job Week, the more tasks and that means more money for your Group!

£200 CASH PRIZE UP FOR GRABS

As an extra incentive to become a Bounty Scout for Bounty Scout Job Week 2001,... there is a £200 cash prize on offer to the Scout Group that conducts the highest total number of tasks undertaken using Bounty paper towels at their local retailer.

Due to its incredible absorbency and strength, even when wet, Bounty is much more than a paper towel and is ideal for a whole multitude of Scout Job Week tasks. Scouts can use Bounty for shining shoes, cleaning cars, household surfaces, furniture, cars, floors and even garden equipment as part of their fund raising efforts.

British Meat Celebrates Sponsorship of The Scout Association Cook Badges

A new survey by British Meat has revealed that it is no longer just mum who cooks for the family — almost one in four children in the UK regularly make meals for their brothers and sisters. The survey, which was conducted to celebrate the launch of British Meat's Sponsorship of the Cub Scout and Scout Cook Badges, also showed that our children overwhelmingly enjoy cooking.

Around 20,000 Cub Scout Cook Badges and 5,000 Scout Cook Badges are awarded each year. The Scout Association anticipates that up to 20% more badges will be awarded due to the sponsorship, which will run for at least two years. Both badges cover the basic rules of safety and hygiene in the kitchen and planning, cooking, serving and clearing up a meal. The Scout Cook Badge also requires knowledge of shopping for food, transportation and storage.

This year, a charity link has been added to the Badge. Cub Scouts and Scouts are being invited to raise money for a nominated charity by holding fundraising meals as part of their activities to gain the Cook Badge

A lesson from K.J. Lechwerth Scout District

Noticing that some members of the District still have difficulties with the name of Hertfordshire's Scouts' activity centres outside the County, I offer the following notes which may be some help to anyone interested.

1. "The Station"



The river collecting several streams from the Braes of Balquhiddier and flowing east to the Firth of Tay is named **EARN** (like the word meaning to acquire money honestly). Where it widens into a large lake (**or loch**), it gives its name to **LOCH EARN**. At the top end, or **head** of the lake, the village is therefore, known as Loch Earn Head, but these four-letter words are written as one, LOCHEARN-HEAD, and pronounced with equal stress on each syllable. We should avoid saying the first two syllables as "**Lochan**", because **lochan** is a very small lake, quite unlike the large Loch Earn.

2. "The Mill"



Here again we have some trouble with a four-letter word! The first part of the name of **Coetmor** Mill is related to the Welsh word **Coed**, meaning a wood. "**Mor**" in Celtic languages means "large", usually spelt "**Mawr**" in Welsh. The odd thing is that an m following a d in Welsh usually gets mutated to an f (and pronounced v!). So that if the Mill's name originally meant the Large Wood, you would expect it to be **Coedfawr**. Probably Anglo-Saxon influence seems to have changed the name to **Coetmor**. The first syllable, however, is pronounced like "quoit" in the game of quoits, and not like overcoats or dovescotes.

If these notes are any help, I shall be very pleased, as I can imagine how we would feel if ignorant folk from other parts of the kingdom always got the name of our town wrong.

K.J.

New Scout Uniform

New Uniforms for the UK's half a million Scouts were revealed on 22/02/2001 on Founder's day, the 144th anniversary of Baden-Powell's birth.

The uniform will be introduced gradually over the next two years to become fully effective from January 2003. This is the first major change in almost 34 years.

The aim has been to produce simple, stylish, and yet affordable garments across all the age groups. Within the range there are also various options for polo shirts, activity shorts, outer jackets, fleeces and a baseball cap.

Items will be branded using the new Scout logo discreetly incorporated into the various garments and accessories.

The decision to reassess Scout uniforms after 34 years came as part of a wide-ranging review covering everything from activities that young people enjoy at their weekly meetings to age ranges and the image of Scouting. A new logo was introduced in January 2001 and delivery of the complete package of changes, including a new youth programme covering the age range 6 to 25 years, will be complete by 2003.

Extract from ScoutBaseUK—Chris Wanley- Secretary
22.02.2001

Free Criminal record Checks

The Scout Association welcomes the Government announcement that checks from the Criminal Records Bureau will be free for voluntary youth organisations. The checks will identify if adults volunteering to work closely with young people have a criminal conviction.

Chief Executive Derek Twine said " Not only has a potentially damaging financial burden been lifted from the voluntary sector but this will also encourage organisations who do not currently check applications to do so. This is a significant step forward for any organisation committed to keeping the young people in its care safe from harm".

The Chief Executive also expressed this thanks to Members of the Scout Movement throughout the UK who had joined with other concerned local voluntary organisations to brief their MPs about the damaging impact the charges would have had. This would have been particularly the case in areas of social deprivation and economic hardship.

Press release—Gilwell Park 7 February 2001

Operation Ferret

When I was asked to judge the 'Ferret' I thought "Great" remembering the fun we had when I was with a group.

Checking down the list of items we asked

"who can we get to make and toss pancakes"

"who has a Rolls Royce"

"how on earth can we get a bucket of steam" and

" did any fish monger have fresh sardines? NO"

We sent the boys to neighbours and friends with lists and by the end of the day we had nearly everything.

On Sunday 18th February I arrived at 1st 3rd H.Q to find only 3 teams participating. Their enthusiasm was infectious. What happened to the spirit of fun of all the absent groups.

I hope I was an unbiased judge. Well done to them all and to 1st 3rd for organising it

Anne Lilley
(Scout Fellowship)



Results		
1st place	4th Letchworth	1240
2nd place	Beech Springs VSU	1220
3rd place	2nd Baldock	1165

The Winning Team with Dave Upson (GSL)
1st 3rd Letchworth and Anne Lilley—Judge

2nd Baldock Scout Group has volunteered to organise next year's Operation Ferret. Please make a note of the date - 22nd / 23rd June 2002.

LOCHEARNHEAD 2001



Preparations are well in hand for the summer expedition. There are still some places available, especially in the second week (11 –18 August). It has been decided to open up places to Cubs who have reached their tenth birthday by Easter 2001. They will be welcome in the second week when a special programme of activities will be provided for them.

Any Scouts wishing to stay for two weeks are welcome to do so. There will be an additional charge of £75.00.

All applications must be received no later than 28 May 2001. This is absolutely necessary to ensure the smooth planning of the expedition.

We need to know as soon as possible which Leaders will be going to ensure that we have adequate numbers and skills to run the programme.

Please contact Nick Farmer, 56 Westmill Road, Hitchin SG5 2SD Tele: 01462 627673 immediately

Census

Summary of Census Returns 2001

Group	Beavers		Cubs		Scouts		V Scouts		Leaders		Helpers		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1st Ashwell			14	3	6	4			2	2	2		33
1st Baldock	17	2	29	1	18	1			6	4			78
1st 3rd Let			8		20	3			5	1			37
2nd Baldock	22		17		16	1			2	4	1	1	64
2nd Weston			9		9				2	1			21
4th Let	16		24		23				4	4	1		72
5th Let	20		26		25	1			4	4	1	2	83
7th Let	16		21		10	1			3	3	2	2	58
8th Let	15		14		8				3	3	1	1	45
11th Let	14		6				7	1	3	1			32
12th Let	23		15		8				2	3	1	3	55
Beech Springs							15	3	3	2			23
Total	143	2	183	4	143	11	22	4	39	32	9	9	601

District Fellowship 20

District Team 9

This year's census figures make pleasing reading as they record an increase in Scouts which offsets the disappointing figures of last year. I would like to thank all Leaders who have worked so hard build to up numbers during the year. It is important that our movement reaches as many youngsters as possible and we must always keep recruitment at the forefront of our thoughts.

Pleasing as the figures are we must not lose sight of the downward long term trend in the District. During my period as District Commissioner the highest total was 669. This means that there has been an annual average decline of one percent in our numbers. Although this is better than the national average we should not be complacent and I feel there is sufficient demand in our District for Scouting for us to easily reverse the trend. If each training section in each Group aims to increase its membership by just two Scouts we would be back on course.

Next year's review will be written by a new District Commissioner and what a start it would be if this target was achieved.

	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Ventures	Leaders	Helpers	Total
1992	115	236	173	51	74	13	662
1993	135	220	174	34	75	21	659
1994	143	237	161	20	74	15	650
1995	128	233	161	20	65	10	617
1996	145	255	170	7	70	22	669
1997	132	213	178	19	68	33	643
1998	128	206	155	19	67	19	594
1999	130	218	153	32	77	28	628
2000	115	201	117	42	66	25	566
2001	145	187	154	26	71	18	601

Norton Bury - Wardens



March

6	Bob Williams	01462 686727
13	Jeff Robson	01462 684954
20	Dave Hawkins	01462 643432
27	Hannah & Peter Moules	01462 435103

April

3	Lee Crossman	01462 634676
10	Nora Hitcham	01462 627905
17	John Moys	01462 487847
24	Elaine Wigglesworth	01462 626218

MAY

1	Carol Emsall	01462 674543
8	Ann Martin	01462 627439

Mini Bus Assessment

Nick Farmer will be holding an assessment session on Sunday 18th March for anyone wishing to drive the mini bus.

Please contact Nick Farmer for further details on 01462 627673



VAT on County Badges
County now has to pay VAT on it's purchases and this will have a knock on effect in respect of County badges which will increase in price accordingly.

Spare Weekend at Norton Bury

Due to a cancellation, Norton Bury is available for hire Friday 30 March — Sunday 1 April.

Please contact Barbara Crombie if interested on 01462 671062

**See you at the
Gang Show**



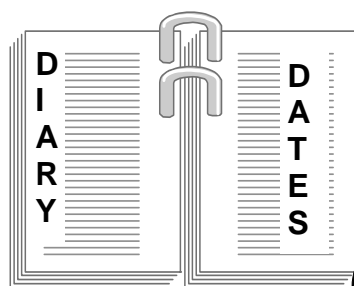
AGM's

It will soon be the AGM season. Please let us know the date of your AGM as soon as possible.

AGM's are a good chance for you to publicise the Group and make contact with parents.

Please use the opportunity with imagination to attract as many as possible to the meeting.

You may be interested in the articles on the conduct of AGM's in the January and February Issues of The Scouting Magazine.



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MARCH

1	St David's Day		
8	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
11	County Scout Cooking Competition		
16	1st 3rd Letchworth Quiz Night	1st 3rd HQ	
16	DEADLINE FOR SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENT TO MIKE THOMASON		
19	GSL Meeting	TBA	8.00 pm
21	District Team Meeting	TBA	8.00 pm
24	District Beavers Challenge	12th Letchworth HQ	
24	County Cubs Swimming Competition	St Albans	
24/25	Sixers & Seconders Weekend	Norton Bury	CANCELLED
25	Mothering Sunday		
28	Open evening	Guide H.Q. Icknield Way	8.30 pm
30/31	Letchworth & Baldock Gang Show	Plinston Hall	Various

APRIL

1	District Cub Football Competition	Lannock School	
2	Beaver Leaders Meeting	2nd Baldock HQ	8.15 pm
5	Scout Leaders Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
12	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
13	Good Friday		
15	Easter Sunday		
21	St George's Day Colour Party Rehearsal	Ashwell	10.00 am
22	St George's Day Parade & Service	Ashwell	2.30 pm
27	1st 3rd AGM	1st 3rd HQ	

MAY

10	District AGM	1st Baldock HQ	8.00 pm
12	County Cub Football Competition	Letchworth	
14	Cub Leaders Meeting	2nd Baldock HQ	8.15 pm
15	5th Letchworth AGM	5th H.Q.	8.00 pm
16	12th Letchworth AGM	12th H.Q.	8.00 pm
18/19	District Scout Camping Competition	Norton Bury	
23	District Team Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm

JUNE

2	Scout Fishing Competition		
4	Beaver Leader Meeting	2nd Baldock	8.00 pm
8/10	District Cub Camp	Boyd Field—Henlow	Weekend
9/10	PL & APL's Weekend	Hitchwood	Weekend
10	County Scout Football Competition	TBA	
14	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
16	County Beaver Day	Tolmers	All day
18	GSL Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00pm
20	2nd Baldock AGM	Catholic Church Hall	6.30 pm
28	Scout Leaders Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
29/1 July	25/40 Mile Walk	TBA	Weekend

Some events may have to be cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak controls. Please check with your ADC.