



JULY 2001 No: 473



Co-ordinator

The end of an era

Issue number 329 of Co-ordinator (January 1988) announced my appointment as District Commissioner and now 144 issues later I am due to retire. It has been an honour to lead the District and I have derived great personal satisfaction from working with all of you.

Issue number 329 also mentioned Scouts at the World Jamboree in Australia. In between times Scouts have attended World Jamborees in South Korea, Holland and Chile and we are now preparing for Thailand. A Jamboree is an inspirational experience and marks the pinnacle of success. Only a few privileged Scouts are able to attend a Jamboree but the whole Scouting programme provides opportunities for excitement and adventure from the smallest Beaver to the toughest Venture Scout. I have seen the enjoyment and achievement in the faces of young people as Beavers enjoy our District Challenge, Cubs get to the top of the climbing wall at our annual camp, Scouts hike through the night on Nightjar or Venture Scouts tackle the rigours of Peak Assault. Scouting succeeds when it is adventurous and out of doors whether it be camping, hiking, canoeing or mountaineering and our progressive training programme equips young people for ever more challenging activities which enhance their self-discipline and self-esteem.

Scouting is based on a set of values. The underlying themes of Scouting teach our young people to work with others towards the creation of a more tolerant and caring society and to take a more responsible attitude to the natural World.

As Leaders you have these young people at a very formative period of their lives and you have enormous influence in helping them to achieve their personal ambitions. I have always been impressed by the manner in which you accept this challenge and the devotion which you show to Scouting and its ideals—not only do you plan and run your own Groups but you participate in District and County events and, most importantly, you undertake the training to develop yourselves. This ensures Scouting is run in an effective and safe manner. My life has been richer for knowing you and working with you.

My heart and spirit will be with you as you face the challenges of the coming years and as Scouting approaches its centenary I am sure the new programme will ensure the success of this wonderful movement for another hundred years.

Bob Williams
District Commissioner

District Skills Day

What skills would you like covered at this year's skills day in November?

Do you want to learn/go over some practical skills?

Is there any particular area of the sectional training programme you would like to discuss/share ideas about?

Please pass any ideas/comments to Andrea Soulsby as soon as possible so that we can tailor the day for your needs.

Gilwell Reunion



Calling all Wood Badge Holders – Would you like to attend the Gilwell Reunion on Saturday 8 September and pick up some new ideas etc. ?

If you would like to go along then please contact Andrea Soulsby asap and we can arrange transport down to Gilwell Park – if there are enough of us then maybe we could use the District minibus.

Congratulations to the following leaders who have completed their training recently:-

Phase 3 – Christine Hart	–	12 th Letchworth Beavers
Vicki Luker	–	12 th Letchworth Beavers
Peter Frankland	–	4 th Letchworth Scouts
Paula Dilley	–	Beech Springs VSU

GCA Units 2, 6 & 7 – Andrea Soulsby – Assistant to ADC(AT)

Keeping Children Safe

The Scout Association, in conjunction with The Guide Association and the NSPCC, has developed a Child Protection Awareness Programme. This programme is designed to make child protection training easily accessible to everyone. There are three short modules which you do at home. Each module contains a questionnaire which you return for marking. Everyone who completes the programme successfully is awarded a certificate to demonstrate that they have gained an understanding of child protection.

If you would be interested in participating then either contact Andrea Soulsby (01462-643992 or e:mail : a.soulsby@ntlworld.com) or the Scout Information Centre (0845-300-1818 or e:mail : info.centre@scout.org.uk)

As the summer holiday approaches I wish you all an enjoyable time and I would like to hear of your Scouting activities for when Co-ordinator goes to press again in September.

Please encourage your Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Venture Scouts and Adult supporters to write articles for your District newsletter.

Recent issues have not reflected the wealth of Scouting taking place in the District. When others read your news it encourages them to share ideas with you.

Reeta Orkins

The English School of Falconry



2nd Baldock and 11th Letchworth Cub Packs visited one of the largest Bird of Prey centres in the country, set in the magnificent grounds of the Shuttleworth Estate. It is the home to various Birds of Prey from all over the world, including different species of Hawks, Falcons, Buzzards, Kites, Owls, Eagles and Vultures.

During the evening wardens talked about the habits of the birds and where they came from and the efforts being made to conserve the species

The Cubs were able to handle the birds and the highlight of the evening was a spectacular flying display where the birds swooped low over the heads of the Cubs ,making them duck and fall off their benches.

There was also an exciting relay race between two kestrels who flew from arm to arm along a line of Cubs.

Why not hire the District mini bus and take your Cubs to experience the fun. They will arrange an evening especially for your Cub Pack.

The cost for Cubs is £2.00 per head and one leader goes free for every five Cubs.

For more details phone 01767 627527 or visit the website at www.english-falconry.com

Thailand 2003: Everybody's Jamboree



Congratulations to Joel Miller and Stephen Woolmer who will be joining the County contingent as our District representatives. They are both members of the Beech Springs VSU. Prior to joining Ventures Joel did his Scouting with the 4th Letchworth and Stephen with the 7th Letchworth.

They have already started fund raising and they are seeking sponsorship for different events including the County 25/40 mile walk. They would appreciate your personal donations and I hope Groups will show their usual generosity by making a donation to the Jamboree fund.

Information Page

POR Rule 40.1 Activity Authorisations

The Scout Association has carried out a wide-ranging and comprehensive review of the rules, training and procedures that must be followed by everyone undertaking adventurous activities in moors, hills and mountains with young people. The new Authorisation Scheme came into effect in February 2001.

It is vital that everyone in the Movement is aware of the revised rules and procedures.

The information Fact Sheets are freely available from the Information Centre (0845 300 1818). They are also downloadable from www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/index.htm

FS 120000	Activities	-	Risk Assessment
FS 120002	Authorisations	-	A District Commissioner's and GSLs Guide
FS 120078	Home Contact		
FS 120415	Mountaineering with Scouts	-	The Vital Culture
FS 120416	Application for Authorisation for Hill Walking		
FS 120417	Mountain Advisers and Assessors		

SCOUTING Magazine

You can now subscribe to SCOUTING Magazine online through ScoutbaseUK. Go to [Http://www.sbuk.org.uk/info.centre/catalog.php](http://www.sbuk.org.uk/info.centre/catalog.php) to order the national magazine for the Scout Movement the easy way.

District Directory

A new Directory will be published in September to take account of the changes announced at AGM's.

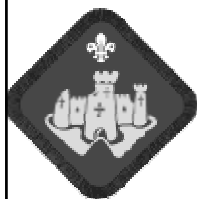
Please ensure your Group entry is correct. Contact Alan Wright (685768) with an update for your Group and even if there have been no changes confirm this with Alan .

District Scout Fellowship

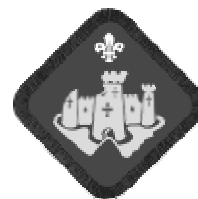
Make a note in your diary.

The District Scout Fellowship AGM will be held on Saturday 13th October 2001 at the Guide Headquarters, Icknield Way, Letchworth.

English Heritage - New Sponsors



English Heritage is sponsoring the Scout Heritage Badge. English Heritage not only manages a number of historic sites, but actively promotes heritage all over the UK. All of their sites offer free entry to Scout Groups. Resource material designed to help Leaders deliver the badge will be available to all Troops soon.



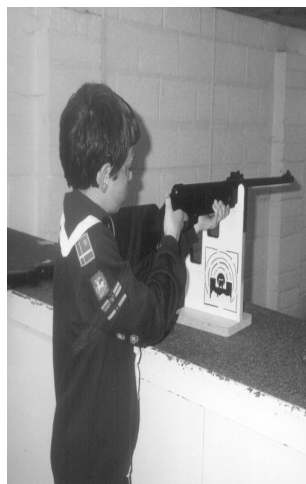
Cub Camp 8 - 10 June 2001



**Deputy Dog and Big Chief
ready for a powwow**



**What do you think is at
the end of this rope ?**



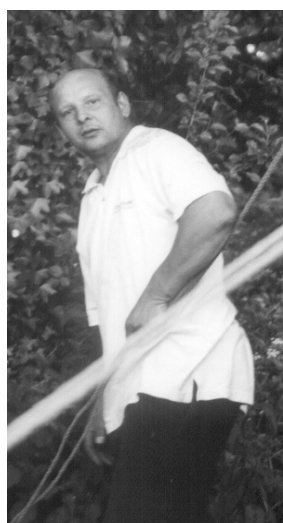
Over hundred and twenty Cubs and Leaders enjoyed a week end camping at Boyd Field, Henlow. The theme for the camp was The Wild West and the Cubs enjoyed bases making Indian Head Dresses, having their faces made up as Indian Braves

They tried their hands at the skills of the Wild West in the rifle range and on the climbing wall and enjoyed a wide game in the Indian Reservation.

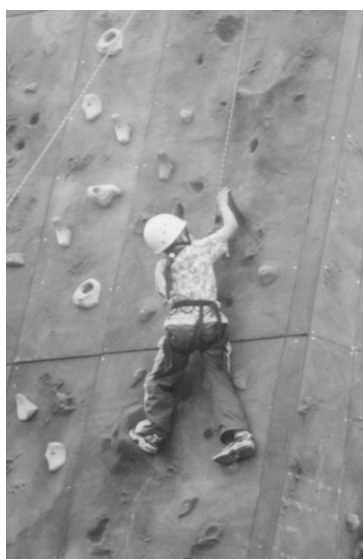
A rousing sing song took place around the camp fire ably led by the Braves of the Beech Springs Venture Scout Unit and Cub Packs took turns to perform individual stunts.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to organise the camp and make it such an enjoyable, fun packed and challenging camp.

Bull's eye



**Chris Gee
You're looking tired ?**





Nearly there !



Ready, Willing and Able

First Response Course

Date: Wednesday 18 July
Time: 19:00 hrs to 21:30 hrs
and
Date: Friday 27th July
Time: 19:0 hrs to 21:30 hrs

Venue: Wednesday
 Norton Bury
 Friday
 1st Baldock HQ,

Attendees MUST attend both dates.
 Also if any leader wishing to attend the First Response Course but have a regular meeting as well, then they CAN let the District Team know so that they can try to arrange other leaders to run the pack/troop meeting.

It is recommended that Leaders going to Lochearnhead should attend.

**Please contact Andrea Soulsby
 Tel: 01462 643992**

Activites around the District

1st Ashwell Scout Troop 30 June - 1 July

1st Ashwell Scouts hiked from Ashwell to Abbingdon Piggots (Map 153 Ref: 305450) which is a ploughed field where they set up camp and stayed overnight before returning to Ashwell on the Sunday.

4th Letchworth Scout Group 23-24 June

4th Letchworth Scout Group held their annual family camp at Norton Bury over the weekend 22-23 June. Whilst at the camp the Cubs completed their Athlete Badge and the whole camp took turns in cycling to Lochearnhead on two exercise bikes. They also walked to the Letchworth Leisure Centre for an afternoon of swimming.

5th Letchworth Cub Pack 1 July 2001

5th Letchworth Cub Pack represented the District at the annual It's A Knock Out Competition organised by Stevenage District Cubs. 5th Letchworth took on teams from Stevenage and Ware.

5th Letchworth Scout Group 23-24 June

5th Letchworth Scout Troop held a sleepover at the H.Q. in Spring Road. It's always been a good way to finish a mysterious Night Hike—but as someone said, "Nobody sleeps and there's nothing left over...." extract from 5th Letchworth Newsletter



Beaver County Fun Day Tolmers - 16 June 2001



Two coaches full of Beaver Scouts, Leaders and helpers went to the County Beaver Fun Day at Tolmers. The theme was "Full of Eastern Promise".

There were lots of activities to keep them amused including making a variety of crafts with an Eastern theme, playing games, having their faces painted, learning how to juggle, having great fun on the bouncy castles, dancing to the Roadshow's music and watching the fire eaters perform some hair raising antics.



Each District organised a base and our District helped the Beavers to make oriental fans.

It seems that no Beaver Fun Day is complete without rain and the day's activities were punctuated by thunder showers. However, Beavers love water and ours are no exception so everyone returned home having had a fantastic day.

Many thanks to Maureen Shattock (ACC Beavers) and her team of helpers for organising the event.



Thames Path - County 25/40 Mile Walk

Graham Joins the '40 Mile Club'

Graham Hopkins (ASL 8th Letchworth) set out at first light from the Millennium Dome seen off by a fox angry at having his early morning peace distributed by a hundred Scouts from Hertfordshire. His walk was finally completed as dusk fell 40 miles upstream at the little village of Lileham near Staines.

In the meantime he passed interesting sights such as the Cutty Sark at Greenwich and then onto the Tower of London, HMS Belfast and the Tate Modern. Continuing along the south bank he saw the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament before arriving in Battersea Park where the support crew was waiting with breakfast. Then on to Kew Garden for lunch before proceeding along the more peaceful banks of the Thames past Richmond, Kingston and Hampton Court and onwards into the countryside.

Others in the party completed the 25 miles to the Thames Young Mariners' Base where an overnight camp was set up.

This was an enormous feat for Geoff Smith (ASL 5th Letchworth) and his young Scouts Tom Byrne, Stuart Duncan, Daryl Hawkins, Dominic Simon and Jamie Trott. They are all members of the 25 Mile Club - look for their special badge.

Our Jamboree representatives Joel Miller and Stephen Woolmer also completed the 25 miles and so did Fiona Potts (CSL 1st Baldock). Stephen and Fiona actually continued to the 32 mile base.

Veteran walkers Gareth and Nick Howell completed the 25 miles for the third year running.

Thanks to the organisers Clive Oakley (ACC Fellowship) and Tony Freeman (County Scout Fellowship Adviser) and all the volunteers who manned the checkpoints - a great weekend and we will be back next year.



Adventures with Bacchus VSU in Weston Woods

Scout Troops from the District were invited to a Crazy Barrel Of Fun Wide Game in Weston Woods where they had to locate large 'fuel cells' left after alien landings in the area.

However all was not straight forward and teams had to capture their fuel cells from one another and get them to a decontamination chamber before they gave off life threatening fumes.

Over eighty Scouts enjoyed the adventure and after the game the Scouts enjoyed a hot dog and drink.

Thanks to the Venture Scouts for organising a superb evening.

Thoughts of a Scout Leader

Can't really say I was up for this evening's Scouts but then for me that is not unusual. Had a challenge evening organised against 4th, doing an assault course race at Norton Bury and playing rounders. Organised? I booked Norton Bury and not a lot else. Delivered the newsletters this morning so even my Scouts had late notice of the details. In the end I had 9 out of a possible 13 turn up. 4th had 18. But as is the nature of these events, the kids enthusiasm won over and we had a great time. Joined in myself and surprised at my own fitness. Even managed to fiddle a victory out of the challenge. Shame there was no trophy up for grabs. We then had a mixed team game of rounders even cajoling parents in and the ADC Scouts. I scored a brilliant rounder.(ish) My Mikey managed to let go of the bat in full swing and hit someone with it. Then he hit a super shot but just failed to pass fourth base.

Gave Chris the opportunity to sell Kon-Tiki and reckon we have between us seven teams going for it. Alex Grover's dad has volunteered to find some suitable raft building materials. He works at a saw-mill. And has offered to give the Scouts a tour round his works. Result! Then we gave birthday boy Jamie Frost the bumps (we were asked to by his parents) and managed to do it without hurting him what's more.

Dave Strong
7th Letchworth

First Baldock Scout Group Barn Dance with caller Charles Day

Saturday 14 July
7.30 (for 8.00 pm) until 11.30 pm

1st Baldock Scout H.Q., Park Drive, Baldock

Tickets £6.00 including chicken supper
(vegetarian alternative available if booked in advance)

Bar available



Contact Jill Palfreyman 01462 893952

Or

Rob Hemmings 01462 895366

For tickets



Norton Bury - Wardens



JULY

3	Dave Hawkins	01462 643432
10	Mick Balls	01462 893855
17	Gwen Keech	01462 894512
24	Lee Crossman	01462 634676
31	Carol Emsall	01462 674543

AUGUST

7	Shelley Wilsher	01462 642026
12	Julia Pollard	01462 686190
21	Michael Wright	01462 790359
28	Barbara Crombie	01462 671062

SEPTEMBER

4	Ann Martin	01462 627439
11	Pauline Gimson	01462 677993
18	Elaine Wigglesworth	01462 626218
25	Shelley Wilsher	01462 642026

OCTOBER

2	Nora Hitcham	01462 627905
9	Bob Williams	01462 686727
16	Ruth Baker	01462 682752
23	Jeff Robson	01462 684954
30	Peter & Hannah Moules	01462 435103

10 November 2001 All Sections

The categories

1. Painting /Drawing A4 maximum
2. Collage A4 maximum
3. Photographs
4. Metal /Wood / Plastics
5. Knitting / Sewing
6. Model from household junk
7. Small Cakes (6 of same)
8. Sweets (6 of same)
9. Victoria Sponge
10. Cake with recipe attached
11. Individual Beaver Entry
12. Beaver Colony Entry
13. Individual Cub Entry
14. Cub Pack Entry
15. Individual Scout Entry
16. Scout Troop Entry

A full list of the categories and rules will be sent to all Sections / Groups shortly. Do not forget that there is an Adult section for Venture Scouts, Scouters, members of the Group Executive, District Executive and District Fellowship.

District Arts & Crafts Competition

District Scout Fishing Competition



The May family landed the trophies in the District Scout Fishing Competition at Broom Lakes. After a peaceful day fishing in the tranquil setting of Broom Lake top honours amongst the twenty four fishermen competing went to David May who came first and his brother Nathan who was runner-up. In the Senior Section, grandfather, Phil Oakes was the winner.

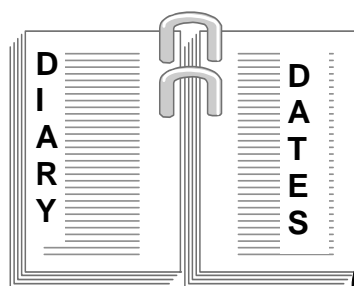
During the day competitors caught roach and perch and the odd fish with tomato sauce !! David Miller sportingly sacrificed first prize when he returned his 20 lb Salmon to the lake.



The photograph shows Peter Frankland, organiser of the event weighing the catch. Fortunately he had sensitive scales which were able to record in ounces/grams.

Well done to 4th Letchworth who retained the overall Group Trophy.

This event becomes more popular each year and it was good to be joined by visitors from Ickleford.



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JULY

2	County AGM	County Hall	
4	Lochearnhead Kit Check	Norton Bury	7 pm - 9 pm
5	Lochearnhead Kit Check	Norton Bury	7 pm - 9 pm
7	District Barbecue	Norton Bury	3.00 pm
7/8	Kon Tiki Competition	Henlow	
9	Cub Leaders Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
10	Lochearnhead Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
12	District Executive	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
17	Beaver Scouts Bangers & Bash	Norton Bury	6.00 pm
19	District Team Meeting	Orange Tree, Baldock	8.00 pm
Note change of date and venue.			

AUGUST

4 - 18	District Expedition	Lochearnhead
6 - 10	Region 3 Space Cub Camp 2001	Phasels

SEPTEMBER

10	Cub Leaders Meeting	TBA	
13	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
15-16	District PL's Weekend	TBA	
17	Beaver Leaders Meeting		
17	GSLs Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
20	Scout Leaders Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
22	County Venture Scout Wet 'n' Wild	Lea Park	
22	County Venture Scout Chambers Pot	Lea Park	
22	County Cub Night Hike	Lees Wood / Phasels	

OCTOBER

6	Beavers Sports Day	Norton Bury	3 - 5 pm
7	District Cub Outing	Woburn	
11	District Executive	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
13	District Beaver Outing	Gullivers Land	
13	District Scout Fellowship	Guide HQ Icknield Way	TBA
14	County Cub Cycle Cross	Well End	

NOVEMBER

3 - 4	Scout Night Hike	TBA
5	Bonfire Night	
8	District Executive	Norton Bury
10	District Arts & Crafts	TBA
12	Cub Leaders Meeting	TBA
16	District Cub Quiz	5th Let HQ
16-18	Green Beret	Tolmers

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