



Co-ordinator

NEW PROGRAMME LAUNCH

The Future Starts With You

Wow! Gee! Whoopee! Big round of applause! Well how else can I describe the programme launch at Slough on 16 February. A fantastic day, excellent presentations, loads of information.

This is what we have all been waiting for, for so long and you will get your chance to hear all about it at our local cluster launch in Stevenage on Sunday 7 April.

The venue is The Barclay School – please park at Alleyne School and walk across.

The day will start at 10 am and finish by 4 pm. There will be different types of presentations and workshops through the day – and YES you will find out the detail of your section's programme. You won't go away frustrated and feel that it was a wasted day – cos it won't be!

You should all have received your invitations to the local launch by now. Please remember to let me know if you are intending to come along – we need to know numbers so that we have enough tea/coffee ready and that we get enough seats out – unless of course you want to stand all day!

It would also be helpful if everyone could wear a name label of some kind, as there won't just be people from our District attending, and it is so much nicer when talking to someone else that you know their name (and what appointment they hold or section they work with).

Don't forget that there is no rush to implement this new programme – there are no prizes for the first colony/pack/troop to get started. Start at your own time (as long as it is before the end of 2003) and make sure you understand the whole package first.

Any questions/queries that you may have about any aspect of PRI then please contact me either by

Telephone (01462-643992),
snail mail (32 The Rowans, Baldock)
e-mail (a.soulsby@ntlworld.com)

Andrea Soulsby - PRI Change Agent for Letchworth & Baldock District



for the future



for a challenge

Commonwealth Day

11 March

Her majesty the Queen has requested that her Golden Jubilee focuses on the Commonwealth of Nations. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association made up of 54 countries and a further 24 states from around the world. It includes over a quarter of the world's population and land surface. Half the population of the Commonwealth is under 25 years old. All member countries of the Commonwealth recognise HM Queen Elizabeth II as the Head of the Commonwealth. The Head of the Commonwealth acts as a focus but has no constitutional or executive function. It is purely symbolic.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings take place every two years in different Commonwealth countries. They involve the Head of Government (Presidents and Prime Ministers) and their advisors in discussions of international affairs with particular reference to the Commonwealth.

Principles and Declarations.

Membership of the Commonwealth has no legal or constitutional obligations. It is based on voluntary affinity rather than a formal charter.

The declaration of Commonwealth Principles adopted by Heads of Government at their Singapore meeting in 1971, commits governments to:

- the pursuit of world peace and support of the United Nations
- the liberty of the individual and equal rights for all
- combat racial discrimination
- oppose all forms of colonial domination and racial oppression
- work against poverty, ignorance and disease by reducing inequalities of wealth in the world
- international co-operation

At the 1991 Commonwealth Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, members affirmed their full and continued commitment to the Singapore Declarations and pledged to work with renewed vigour, concentrating on the following areas:

- good governance, including democracy and the rule of law
- human rights, including equal rights
- protection of the environment through sustainable development.

Since 1977, Commonwealth Day has been simultaneously celebrated in every member country on the second Monday in March. Some countries celebrate the day as a Public Holiday.

In the United Kingdom, Commonwealth Day is officially marked by a multi-faith service in Westminster Abbey, London, followed by a reception at the Commonwealth Society. HM The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, issues an annual Commonwealth Day Message, which is read out by the Secretary-General at the Westminster Abbey service and is broadcast live by the BBC World Service.

A copy of the text is available from the Royal Commonwealth Society, 18 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BJ at the beginning of March.

Extract taken from the Queen's Jubilee Pack

Cub Scouts and the Children's Act

With the new ages within the Scout Association now, it has been highlighted that no-one should attend a Cub Scout meeting before their 8th birthday.

I know that a lot of Beaver Scouts start attending Cub Scouts during the few weeks prior to their 8th birthday so that they are ready to swim-up on/near their birthday.

However, it should be noted that unless the Beaver is accompanied by their parent/guardian during these few weeks then they should not attend till their 8th birthday.

Andrea Soulsby—ADC (Adult Training)

Medieval Night at 7th Letchworth

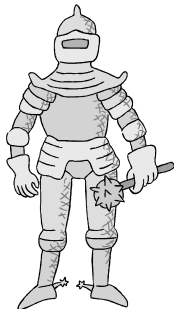
I did not really know what to expect. I had organised it through Sir Chris King whose wife is a member of a medieval re-enactment group. They were to come down and put on a display for us. I had vague notions of perhaps needing to do some medieval cooking or building a trebuchet in the car park too. But vague notions often do not happen. Earlier in the week I phoned our ADC to check all was OK, and asked him if he wanted any help or preparations done. No, run a game while they get set up. It was going to be such an easy Friday evening. Or was it?



We played a game of giant Jenga that the vicar had brought along to Cubs on Wednesday. Went down well... six times... with a lovely crash each time. The Cubs took it seriously and tried so hard to build a really high stack, my Scouts just wanted to make it fall as quickly as possible; but they had fun.

I then introduced Stephen and Mrs King and their friend and left them to it. Did not know what to expect. Chris joined us in the audience. And we got a bit of a history lesson; about the War of the Roses and medieval clothes and food and customs. Us adults asked questions, my Scouts seemed quite interested, did not fidget; well, too much anyway. I clock-watched, wondering how long their attention spans would last, hoping my lot would behave. When they got on to showing the armour and swords, axes, crossbow and bows and different kinds of arrows the Scouts were really interested.

When they put on a sword fight in front of us they were positively engrossed. When asked if they wanted to try on some of the armour and hold the weapons they were fascinated. And I needn't have worried about the clock. We were entertained for an hour and a half, it flew by. An excellent evening.



As I walked back from the pub with my older son later on I said to him. 'There are twelve Scouts out there who have gone home to their parents and have said 'and we held these really big swords and axes and tried the armour on... and they put on a mock fight on for us...' and perhaps for a few moments they have been really enthusiastic about a Scout evening. And that's what it is all about.

Dave Strong SL—7th Letchworth

5th Letchworth Cub Scouts 50 YEARS ON

Our Cub Scouts have started the Jubilee programme by learning 50 knots, telling 50 jokes, and finding out about life 50 years ago!

In 1952, when King George VI died and his daughter the Princess Elizabeth came to the throne, there wasn't any Fifth Letchworth pack—but if there had been, they would have been WOLF CUBS. (The change to Cub Scouts came in 1966: did you know one of the very first Cub Scouts invested was Nick Farmer, who is now our GSL?).

Our Cub Scouts have been handling real money with the King's head on it, like half crowns and Farthings - and they have learned the old version of the Grand Howl: the salute wasn't with three fingers like today, but two to represent a wolf's ears.

Fifty years ago, the Grand Howl was led by a sixer calling "DYB" (meaning Do Your Best) and the Pack answered "We-e-e'll Dob, Dob, Dob, Dob" (for We'll Do Our Best). It was all decoded 36 years ago, and now it's in clear English: "Cubs, Do Your Best" - "We Will Do Our Best".

Extract from the 5th Letchworth News Letter

CENSUS

Summary of Census Returns 2002

Group	Beavers		Cubs		Scouts		V Scouts		Leaders		Helpers		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1st Ashwell			12	0	6	6			2	4	2	1	33
1st Baldock	12	1	40	4	22	0			6	4			89
1st 3rd Let			8	4	8	1			5	2			28
2nd Baldock	22		19		9	2			1	4	1	1	59
2nd Weston			11		6				2	1			20
4th Let	17		22		21	7			4	4	1		76
5th Let	20	1	28		17	2			4	3	1	2	78
7th Let	17	3	29		12	1			3	3	2		70
8th Let	12		16						2	3	1		34
11th Let	5		6				5	2	3	1			22
12th Let	24		13		11				3	3	1	4	59
Beech Springs							14	6	2	2			24
TOTALS	129	5	204	8	112	19	19	8	37	34	9	8	592
District Fellowship													23
District Team													9

Jubilee Runner

Andrea Soulsby—ADC (Adult Training) Letchworth & Baldock District has been selected to carry the Baton on Friday 28 June 2002 as it makes it's journey from Newmarket to Luton via Baldock. Andrea will only know four weeks beforehand exactly which part of the route she will be 'running'.



Jubilee Runners were nominated by people in their community.

Andrea said

"My application was based upon my involvement with Scouting and the letter says that I have been chosen as a representative of my community as someone that embodies community values, spirit and national pride". There are 5,000 runners, of which Andrea is one of only 2,500 nominated people, and the others are athletes, celebrities and sponsors.

On 25 July, the Baton will arrive at the Opening Ceremony in the City of Manchester Stadium. The final Runner will hand the Baton to the Queen who will read the message it contains to formally open the first Commonwealth Games of the 21st Century.

Letchworth & Baldock District Quiz

In aid of Wymondley Wood



Why not enter a team in the District Quiz Night. Pit your wits against the best in the District.

Date	23 March 2002
Venue	8th Letchworth Headquarters
Time	8.00 pm
Cost	£5.00 per person (Maximum of 6 adults per team)

There will be a bar available for beer, wine and soft drinks.

The cost includes a Fish & Chip Supper. For tickets please contact Bob Williams, 53 Hawthorn Hill, Letchworth, SG6 4HQ, telephone 01462 686727.

Please make cheques payable to the Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council.

ALL PROFITS TO WYMONDLEY WOOD.

Look out for future events in the year

Sponsored Walk	22 September 2002
Farewell to Norton Bury	12 / 13 October 2002
Silver Mile	TBA
Bag Pack at a local supermarket	TBA

Gang Show 2002

The performances are on Friday 15th March (7:30 pm)
Saturday 16th March (2:30 pm and 7:30 pm)

Tickets are available from Plinston Hall Box Office - 01462 480282

Please note that we are sold-out for Friday night although there are still some tickets available for both performances on Saturday.

Prices are £5 for adults and £4.50 for concessions (children under 14, OAP's etc)



Youth Day - Sunday 16 June 2002

10.00 am - 6.00 pm



The English School of Falconry has a special event planned for the Jubilee Year. It is their Youth Day which gives them the opportunity to bring a better understanding of Birds of Prey and Conservation to our future generation.

They are home to various birds of prey from all over the world and the day will allow the children to learn and have fun at the same time.

There will be opportunities for them to handle a variety of birds, as well as see a number of flying displays. In addition, Matthew Garrett, a member of the Magic Circle, will be there all day to entertain the children with Magic, Punch & Judy Shows, and Balloon Modelling.

During the day, why not bring a picnic which you can enjoy in beautiful surroundings beside the lake. There is plenty of room for the children to play while they are eating. Alternatively, barbeques can be arranged on request.



The cost is £2.00 per child (one adult free with every 5 children)

For a booking form contact P W Gooden 01767 627527 or write to The English School of Falconry, The Bird of Prey Centre, Old Warden Park, Nr Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 9ES

1st 3rd Beaver Scouts Investiture

Monday 4 February saw the first investitures of 1st 3rd Letchworth Beaver Scouts. Maggie Miller ADC (Beavers) firstly presented Paula Jordan with her Beaver Scout Warrant after which Maggie and Paula invested seven Beavers into the Colony.

Graham Birch
Thomas Bowal
Joe Cragg
Bebe Harrington - O'Brien
Jamie Morris
Ryan Pantemy
Carl Wallis

The evening was also attended by family and friends, the GSL, Cub Scout and Scout Leaders of 1st 3rd, Dave Hawkins, DC and Rita Hawkins.



1st 3rd & 12th Letchworth Cub Scouts at Norton Bury

Over twenty one Cubs and Leaders joined together to become 13th Letchworth for the weekend at Norton Bury in February 2002.

During the weekend the Cub Scouts practised their compass skills map reading and orienteering.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a trip to the Peterborough Ice Rink. They had to be escorted to the Ice Rink by a taxi due to the fact that the Leaders were not as good as the Cub Scouts at map reading. They maintained that they were never at any stage lost, but took the scenic route.

Each Cub Scout went home with a certificate that recognised their individuality over the weekend.

Well done to all the Leaders, Helpers and Parents for making it an enjoyable and successful time for the Cubs and especially to Paul for doing most of the cooking.

St George's Day Parade & Service



This year's St George's Day Parade and service will be held at St Paul's Church in Letchworth on Sunday 21 April starting at 3.00 pm.

There will be a rehearsal for FULL COLOUR PARTIES WITH NECKERCHIEFS and readers on Saturday 20 April at 4.00 pm at St Paul's Church, Letchworth.

As in previous years there will be refreshments for Guests and Leaders after the event.

The 4th Letchworth Scout Group has arranged for the Salvation Band to take part in the Parade and Service.

Mike Thomason - District Treasurer

Mike is going to Papworth Hospital on the 8 March for major heart surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery. Both Mike and Monica will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Dave Hawkins DC

District Cub Scout Swimming Trials

The District has held two swimming trials to choose the team that will represent the District at the County Cub Scout Swimming Competition - Saturday 16 March 2002.

Good Luck to



Kieran Anderson	1st Baldock
Edward Potts	1st Baldock
Kieran Willoughby	1st Baldock
Richard Forsyth	2nd Baldock
Tommy Hunt	2nd Baldock
Jonathan Anderson	2nd Weston
Oliver Betteley	2nd Weston
Gregory Hobbs	4th Letchworth
Thomas Kelly	4th Letchworth
Vaughn Lewis	4th Letchworth
Ricky Cortis	7th Letchworth
Jamie Hare	7th Letchworth
Daniel O'Donnell	7th Letchworth
Sean Fell	7th Letchworth

Garden City 15 Mile Charity Walk Sunday 19 May 2002

The Twentieth Annual Rotary Club of Letchworth Garden City 15 mile walk will take place

Date : Sunday 19 May
Registration Fee: £1.00
Entry Forms from: Peter Jackson
32 South View
Letchworth
SG6 3JJ



Tel: 01462 484413
peterjackson32@btinternet.com

The walk takes place around the borders of Letchworth and is fully marshalled with check-points, route map and refreshments. Walkers do not have to complete the full course and transport will return any drop-outs to the start.

HAVE FUN AND RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR GROUP OR CHARITY

Registration Fee of £1.00 per walker is charged to help with administration and refreshments cost but in the case of Scout and Guide Groups Rotary has agreed this money will be refunded to support the costs of the new activity centre at Wymondley Wood.

75% of the money raised will be retained by the walkers for the Group or Charity of their choice.



The Fellowship has arranged to hold a cake stall to help raise funds

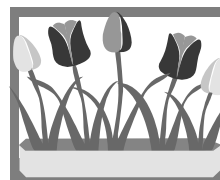
Venue: Letchworth Town Centre
Date: Saturday 18 May
Time: 9.30 am - 11.00 am



Please help by baking or buying a cake or two. Contact Margaret Durrant 01462 624731 if you can help on the day.

Laurie Cook is arranging a coffee morning and will also be selling his plants.

Venue: 22 Hillshott, Letchworth
Date: 25 May
Time: 10.00 am



A day at the races has been arranged for Saturday 20 July. Please contact Margaret Durrant for more details.



Ken Johnson is hoping to publish a book on the history of Scouting in Letchworth and Baldock in time for the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the District and he would like as many old photographs, log books and any other items that can be used in the book that you may have tucked away in your lofts, cupboards etc. They will be treated with respect and returned to you after he has finished with them.

Hedge Planting at Wymondley Wood Saturday 9 March 9.30 am - 4.00 pm

Manor Wood Conservation Volunteers are assisting with the development of the Wymondley Wood Site and an early requirement is to plant a boundary hedge of 200 metres along the eastern edge.

Each group and company is offered the opportunity to establish an early connection with Wymondley Wood by planting 10 metres with 50 mixed hedgerow shrubs. A certificate will be presented acknowledging your planting and a wood carver will be on hand to help you carve a post with your group or company name which will permanently identify your length of hedge. Please allow two hours.

Your group will be required to make a contribution of £10 to cover part of the cost of the shrubs and rabbit guards but the bulk of the cost is being grant-aided by the Countryside Management Services.

The entrance to Wymondley Wood is off the Willian/Wymondley Road at map reference TL.218296.

All groups and companies in the District should have received an application form. If you are interested please speak to your GSL / Chairman who will be co-ordinating the Hedge Planting for your Group.

Peter Deary

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following leaders who have completed training recently:

GCA Unit 3

David Miller - GSL, 4th Letchworth

Chris King - ADC (Scouts)

Andrea Soulsby - ADC (Adult Training)

GNAS Archery

Nick Jewell - CSL 1st Ashwell



Wardens Norton Bury

Training Dates coming up

Phase 3/42 – Mon 13 May plus 3 further evenings to be arranged

Phase 4(Beavers) – 14/15 Sept plus 10 November

Phase 4(Scouts) – 15/16 June plus 29 Sept plus 12/13 October

GNAS Archery Course – 11/12 May plus 18/19 May – Basingstoke (run by Hampshire Scouts)

If you would like an application form or more details about training opportunities then please contact

Andrea Soulsby – ADC(Adult Training)
01462 64392
a.soulsby@ntlworld.com

March

5	Sheila May	673427
12	Sheila & David Daws	621699
19	Elaine Wigglesworth	626218
26	Barbara Crombie	671062

April

2	Nora Hitcham	627905
9	Dave Hawkins	643432
16	Ann Howard	452500
23	Michael Wright	790359
30	Pauline Gimson	677993

May

7	Carol Emsall	674543
14	Ann Chapman	686772
21	Nora Hitcham	627905
28	Ann Martin	627439

Health & Safety Policy

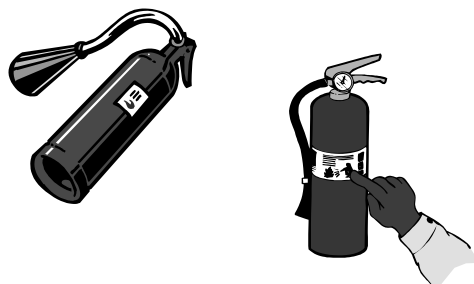
The update of the District Health & Safety Policy and procedures is being delivered to all Groups.

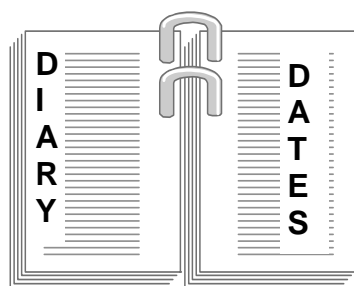
It is important that all Uniformed and Non Uniformed members of your Group should familiarise themselves with the policy and understand their responsibilities under the Health & Safety At Work Act - yes it does cover voluntary organisations.

If you require any further information concerning the policy please contact Alan Wright
01462 685768
a.wright193@virgin.net

Fire Extinguishers

If any Groups on checking their fire extinguishers find that they require replacements please contact Alan Wright 01462 685758 or a.wright193@virgin.net who has a source for discounted fire extinguishers.





2002

MARCH

1 - 3	Peak Assault	TBA	
4	D.C. Meeting	Well End	
6	Ghana National Day		
6	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Norton Bury	
8	DEADLINE FOR SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENT TO RON SMITH		
8	Fund Raising Meeting	1 South Close	8.00 pm
9	Hedge Planting at Wymondley Wood		9.30 am - 4.00 pm
9	County PRI Launch - ADC's		
10	County Scout Cooking Competition		
11	Commonwealth Day		
11	GSL Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
12	Mauritius National Day		
14	District Executive	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
15 - 16	District Gang Show	Plinston Hall	
16	County Cub Scout Swimming	St Albans	
16	District Beaver Challenge		
16	County Guide AGM	Hertford County Hall	
17	St Patrick's Day		
21	Namibia National Day		
23	District Quiz	8th Letchworth HQ	8.00 pm
23	Pakistan National Day		
23 / 24	Scout Survival Weekend	Hitchwood	
26	Bangladesh National Day		
28	Good Friday		
31	Malta National Day		

APRIL

1	Easter Monday		
7	District Clusters P.R.I Launch	Stevenage	
11	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	
13/14	Sixers & Seconders Weekend	Norton Bury	
20	Rehearsal - St George's Service	St Paul's	4.00 pm
21	St George's Day Parade & Service	St Paul's	
27	Cub Scout Football Trial	Lannock School	

MAY

3 - 6	P.A.W. (Patrol Activity Weekend)	Tolmers	
8	8th Letchworth AGM		
9	District AGM	TBA	
18	Scout Fellowship—Cake Stall	Letchworth Town Centre	
19	Rotary Club 15 Mile Walk		
25	Scout Fellowship - Coffee Morning	22 Hillshott, Letchworth	10.00 am
28	5th Letchworth AGM		

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