



June 2002 No: 483

Co-ordinator



The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council would like to extend their warmest wishes and congratulations to HM Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee

The Medal of Merit
Deb Dilley
ADC Cubs



Chief Scout's
Commendation
Nick Farmer
GSL 5th Letchworth

The medal of Merit is awarded after a period of not less than 15 years of outstanding service while holding an adult appointment

Congratulations to Deb Dilley on being awarded the Medal of Merit. It is well deserved in view of her commitment and enthusiasm to both 2nd Baldock Scout Group and the District. She has the distinction of being one of the few Leaders to have completed her Wood Badge for four training sections.

Chief Scout's Commendation is awarded for good service while holding an adult appointment for a period of not less than seven years.

Congratulations to Nick Farmer on being awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation. Nick's award is in recognition of his dedication to Scouting and the practical skills that he brings with him. To 5th Letchworth and District events.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following members of the Letchworth & Baldock District on their long service awards.

Ten Years Service

Geoff Smith
Ron Smith

ASL 5th Letchworth
Appointment Secretary

Five Years Service

Graham Hopkins
Wendy Murphy
Mark Sinclair
Paula Jordan

ASL 8th Letchworth
BSL 5th Letchworth
AVSL Bacchus VSU
BSL 1st 3rd Letchworth

Jubilee Baton Relay

Andrea Soulsby will be taking part in the Jubilee Baton Relay on Friday 28th June 2002. This is the 23rd day of the batons 50-day journey around the United Kingdom, prior to the start of the Commonwealth Games in Manchester at the end of July.

Andrea will be running from 89 London Road, Baldock up to the 5 tonne sign, which is about 100 yards past the George IV Pub on London Road. She has been informed that her part of the run through Baldock will take place at approximately 8:27 am.

So if you wish to support Andrea please be in Baldock early as the roads through Baldock will be closed for a couple of hours on that morning. She will wave to you as she 'crawls' past the George IV pub on London Road.

The route through Baldock will be Royston Road → Whitehorse Street → High Street → London Road. The baton will be arriving at Royston Road at about 8am and will take about half an hour to pass through the town. Each runner will take the baton approx 500 yards. The baton will then continue on its journey through to Stevenage and eventually reach Luton by the early evening.



Mammoth Badge Nights

1st Baldock (Knights) Cubs undertook a badge night recently. Each Cub was encouraged to bring along all the items they had completed in order to be assessed on some of the activity badges.

Every Cub brought along items for at least one badge and by the end of the evening 37 activity badges had been completed and passed with flying colours. Another 23 badges are almost complete and the Cubs have been asked to finish off these bits and pieces over the half-term holiday.

Many thanks to the parents who helped to talk to each of the Cubs about their chosen badges and well done to Fiona Potts, the Akela, for a very active Cub night.

The badges undertaken were Artist, Astronomer, Book Reader, Collector, Community, Computer, Cook, Craftsman, Cyclist, Handyman, Hobbies, Home Safety, Martial Arts, Musician, Navigator, Road Safety, Sportsman, Swimmer 1 and Writer.

1st Baldock (Knights) Cubs have also recently undertaken the Communicator, Map Reader, Navigator and First Aid badges.

1st Baldock (Templars) have recently undertaken their Cyclist badge.

1st Ashwell at Camp

1st Ashwell Cubs enjoyed their Camp at Boyd Field, Henlow, in spite of heavy rain. They all scaled the climbing wall, excelled themselves at archery and went on a hike.

DISTRICT CUB CAMP

We are all looking forward to the District Cub Camp which will be our last major camp at Norton Bury.

Hopefully the weather will be kind on this occasion.

The editor looks forward to receiving articles, poems, drawings, photographs of your experience.





New Programme



I have been visiting AGM's and District Leader Meetings during the last month and giving short talks where requested about PRI. At the District Cub and Scout Leaders meetings' we went through in more detail than at the launch about all the badges and when they are awarded etc. I will be doing the same for the District Beaver Leaders meeting on 10 June.

If you now look through the Transition Booklet that each Colony, Pack and Troop were given, there is a page in there that explains how you credit each child towards their Chief Scouts Award based on the awards they have currently gained, and the number of new Challenge awards that they will need to gain.

Please also remember that the existing programme for all sections can continue until the end of 2003. The District Badge Secretary, still has many badges in stock, and if he hasn't got the one you want then he should be able to find one from another badge secretary elsewhere in the County. If you are planning large pack activities based upon the current training/activity badges then please warn the badge secretary so that he can make every effort to find the badges for you in time, if he doesn't already have stocks of them. Don't forget to talk to other leaders in our own District as we know that some Groups are holding stocks of badges that they would be quite happy to sell on or swap for a badge that they need.

We have looked through the list of new badges and are putting together an initial order for the new challenge badges, joining in awards, moving on awards etc. If there is any Group that is already planning to undertake one of the Group Awards then please let Dave Hawkins or myself know so that we can ensure that we have the required badges in stock by the time that you will need them.

Above all else, please remember that no young person should lose out because of these changes – allow them to complete the award they are on before starting one of the new awards.

By the time you read this we will have sent off the second order for the New Publications. If you would still like to order publications and take advantage of the 20% discount, then the final order will be sent off on 19th June. See last month's Co-Ordinator for the order form.

Explorer Leaders – if you are at all interested in becoming a leader with the new Explorer Section (for 14-18 years olds) then please let Chris King know as soon as possible.

Any questions/queries that you may have about any aspect of PRI then please contact me either by phone (01462-643992), snail mail (32 The Rowans, Baldock) or E-Mail (a.soulsby@ntlworld.com)

Andrea Soulsby
PRI Change Agent



GANG SHOW

The District Gang Show are looking for help in many areas behind the scenes.

Do you have a flair for sewing, construction or painting?

We are looking to build up teams of people who could help with making costumes, building and painting scenery. This would help significantly to spread the load across more people and thus make life a little easier for everyone.

If you know of anyone, be they a leader or a parent (or grandparent, aunt or uncle) then please contact **Dave Upson (Gang Show Chairman) on 631047** or **Dave Strong (GS Secretary) on 624309**



7th Letchworth Scouts Go International

I've done international evenings before. I've had French, Irish, Scottish, American evenings. Tonight I had a Polish evening. Crammed it full.

Started with a North South East West game in Polish, surprising how quickly they caught on. Then had a visitor, Mr Adam Tutak who is the president of the local Polish Club. I interviewed him for twenty minutes, he talked about the history of Poland, the Second World War, the effects of Communism and Solidarity. Then we talked about Poland today. I was concerned to begin with, he was so softly spoken. But the seventeen Scouts were incredibly well behaved and listened semi-attentively. I wasn't sure if he wanted to stay for the rest of the evening but so pleased when he did.

Then we had a game of hockey 7th style with rolled up newspaper hockey sticks and a soft ball; did a patrol competition. They expended energy, whilst I chatted to my visitors. Then we did four bases: Poland map work (recognising rivers, railways, main roads and symbols) European country anagrams, shipbuilding (using my son's remote crane and lego) and helping in the kitchen where Mrs Pawlowski had kindly agreed to help cook some traditional Polish food with one of my parent helpers.

Exhausting stuff, but really went quite well. Mr Tutak even helped on the bases, he really entered into the spirit of the evening. Finished with eating of the food at tables in patrols whilst I did a quiz on Polish city names. Did I cover everything according to the new programme? No idea. But it felt good and the Scouts seemed to enjoy it; my visitors certainly enjoyed it.

The PL's are organising patrol SAS hikes for next week. So much easier. Unless it rains...

[SCOUTS]

Dave Strong
7th Letchworth SL

Poland Activities

Hiking is the most popular of outdoor activities, and not without reason. The most popular hiking routes are those in the Tatra Mountains but the Pieniny, the Bieszczady or the Karkonosze are all options. **Canoeing** is possible on most waterways, though the main rivers are pretty polluted. The Krutynia and Czarna Hancza rivers, both in Masuria, are almost untouched and have some of the best **kayaking** in the country. The Masurian lakes are ideal for **sailing** and, not surprisingly, they are crowded with hundreds of boats in summer. It's possible to hire a sailing boat in Gizycko, Mikolajki or several other Masurian resorts. Poland has about a thousand **caves**, mostly in the uplands near Kraków and in the Tatra Mountains. For those unwilling to plunge into uncharted blackness, a handful of caves are adapted for the spatially-sane. The most spectacular of these are the Bear's Cave near Kłodzko and the Paradise Cave near Kielce. **Skiing** is mostly concentrated in the Carpathians. Zakopane at the foot of the Tatra Mountains is without a doubt ski bunny warren numero uno, with Szczyrk in the Beskid Śląski also popular.



Extract from the Lonely Planet Guide to Poland

The Criminal Records Bureau & Scouting

There is some good news and there is some bad news. The **good news** is that the new Criminal Records Bureau is open for business. For more than a year now we have been aware that the Scout Association along with every organisation that has contact with children would have to start using the process set up by the Bureau once they were ready. Well, the delays are behind us and from 1 June 2002 we all have to follow a new system for vetting adults new to Scouting. From now on whenever you want to have an adult vetted, whether they are a parent who will help only occasionally or a potential new leader, they will be required to complete the new Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) form.

Please destroy any Confidential Enquiry (CE) forms you may have in your possession. I cannot accept a CE from now on – if one is used, it will mean that we will have to approach that person and ask them to start all over again using this new form.

The **bad news** is that this CRB form is a much more detailed one than we've ever used before and its content, once completed, needs to be validated. This validation takes the form of the applicant providing evidence of who they say they are by showing some of the following – passport, photo driving licence, (or paper driving licence), birth or marriage certificates, utility bills (gas, electricity or telephone), mortgage statement, bank or credit card statements.

These documents have to be shown to a representative of the Scout Association – it is assumed that this will be the Appointments Secretary - who then notes various items of information on the last page of the CRB form and makes a declaration that he (or she) has seen them. The aim is to be as sure as is reasonably possible that the details written on the CRB form relate to the applicant and where he (or she) lives. I suggest that this validation can only really be done in the person's home, since expecting them to bring such evidence to a meeting or posting it somewhere isn't really acceptable.

Speaking with Dave Hawkins, I have volunteered to do the first few and when we see how it is working out I expect to run a 'teach-in' for GSLs. I don't think, at this stage, that we should plan to ask the applicant to show such evidence to anyone other than the District Appointments Secretary or possibly the Group's GSL.

When you next have someone who you'd like to involve in local Scouting, let me know and I will approach him or her for you.

Of course, in future, doing a quick CE just before Cub Camp isn't going to be possible!

Ron Smith
District Appointments Secretary

Orienteering with 12th Letchworth Beavers



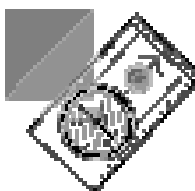
I went orienteering in Stevenage. me and my dad saw lots of trees and lots of birds. Orienteering is finding posts with numbers that you are looking for

Alex Duxbury

We went on a course in Stevenage and at the place we had to find posts with a red and white triangle with a number and a letter on it. I want to do it again
James Adams

On Tuesday we went orienteering and we had to find signs it was fun. I want to do it again

Alexander Condor



Fairlands Valley Park consists of 120 acres of beautiful parkland situated within the heart of Stevenage. The park supports a varied selection of wildlife, and an assortment of wildfowl can be seen on the established reserve.

The 11 acre sailing lake is used for the centre's many watersports courses, and the waters used for angling are well stocked. For the jogging enthusiast, keeping fit is a pleasure on the Trim Track, which is situated within the park. Children can enjoy the play area with paddling pools and play equipment. The popular sport of orienteering can also be experienced here, testing map-reading skills. and physical fitness



[SCOUTS] District Survival Weekend

The week started with glorious sunshine, our weekend at Hitch Wood promised so much, especially in such weather. But we all know about the vagaries of our British climate.

This was the follow up weekend to the midweek survival skills camp where twenty Scouts had built bivouacs and practiced survival cooking.

This weekend was the real thing; sleep overnight in a patrol in a naturally made shelter and cook entirely on an open fire for a day. Proper Scouting stuff. They arrived Friday evening for an early 9 am start the next day. I wanted the rest of my troop to visit my six adventurers and organized a hike to Hitch Wood from St Ippolytts. I organised a convoy of parents' cars, had two parent helpers walking with me. We arrived at Hitch Wood with three quarters of an hour spare time. I let them go off by themselves to have a run around. And see where the bivouacs were to be built whilst I chatted to Sir Chris King who had organised the event. It got dark. And in the middle of the wood, very dark. The parents convoy had been told that we would meet them at the car park at the corner of Hitch Wood between 9 and 9.15pm. No probs. I know Hitch Wood really well, have often taken the Scouts there. It's only a 5-10 minute walk to the car park. Needless to say I got myself, my two adult helpers and ten Scouts totally lost, even with a full moon to walk towards. I eventually spotted a camp fire and walked towards that. couldn't believe I had walked in a complete circle back to Chris King. I hadn't. They were a troop from 16th Hitchin Scouts. And delighted in telling me the direction of the road. We made it to the car park at about 9.35.

The Scouts loved the being lost bit, thought it was great fun. And I had very understanding parents. Apart from one who had gone looking for us. I waited for Polly to come back, only trouble was that she got totally lost too. Hitch Wood gets really dark. It was gone 10 pm before I left.

I went back Saturday evening to stay over. I was really impressed with the patrol bivouacs, they had really entered into the spirit and had taken it all very seriously. But it was drizzling and they were to be well and truly tested. They had cooked real army rations for lunch and were enthusiastic about being just like the SAS. Until it started raining. At 11 o'clock my two patrols wanted to call it a day. But after a bit of persuading went back to have another go. And all was quiet. And wet. Nick Farmer, Chris and Sue and the Venture Scouts and I chatted quietly and eventually drifted off to our snug tents. But I couldn't sleep. The rain got worse. I worried. I was getting wet even in my tent. I worried about poor little Scouts huddled up soaked to the skin, too cold to move.. should I get up and see if they were OK?

At 2 am I heard voices and quickly pulled on my trainers and waterproof. Torches, shining in my face. "You lot OK?;"... " We're getting soaked..." It was my lot, looking sorry for themselves. They bedded themselves down in the dry marquee, and the two girls in their own tent. Their sleeping bags were not that wet. They were Ok. Another troop soon joined them. I squelched my way back to my tent through puddles two inches deep.



In the morning the sun shone; laughing at us. Two patrols had stayed out all night, their bivouacs were impressively dry. Well made. My lot returned to their camp to light fires with whatever dry wood they could find. They cooked their own breakfasts then dismantled their shelters. Chris and Nick did the rounds, asking survival questions, checking the sites. Sue cooked us lunch and we left the Wood as we found it. By then it was dry. Of course.



Dave Strong
7th Letchworth SL

District Barbecue

Saturday 13 July 2002

3.00 pm until late

After a busy time Scouting come and join us to relax with family and friends at the annual District Barbecue.

Price

£5.00 per ticket adult

£2.50 per ticket children over five and under 12

£12.00 family ticket (2 adults 2 children)

under five's go free



Price includes all food and your first drink.

Tickets are available from Rita Hawkins, 1 South Close, Baldock, SG7 6DS
01462 643432 rita.hawkins@ntlworld.com

Operation Ferret

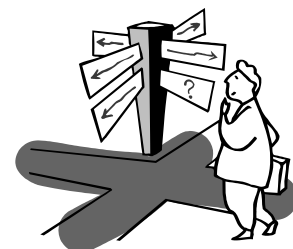
Friday 12 - Saturday 13 July 2002

Calling all GROUPS - It's time for Operation Ferret. Please contact Deb Dilley 01462 730300 to enter your team. Cost £5.00 per team. Operation Ferret is a chance for Groups to involve everyone in the hunt for articles to gain points.

This year's Operation Ferret will commence at 6.30 pm on Friday 12 July when you can collect the clues from 2nd Baldock HQ, Baldock Catholic Church Hall, Providence Way, Baldock.

The judging will take place from 6.30 pm at the District BBQ at Norton Bury on the 13 July 2002.

Please come and join in the fun.



Fourteenth Forest Foray

Following the success of the last thirteen conservation projects the 2002 event will take place from 18—24 August. Explorer Scouts aged between 14 –18 (or Scouts/Ventures Scouts in the 14.18 age range) are invited to take part.

Working under the guidance and supervision of The Epping Forest Centenary Trust with sponsorship from The Corporation of London the projects are challenging, fun and very enjoyable.

The cost is £30 each which includes all meals, camp fees, a T-shirt and a fun day's outing. Further information can be found at www.project813.scoutcamp.org.uk/

Legoland

The Legoland Scout exclusive weekend will be on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November 2002.

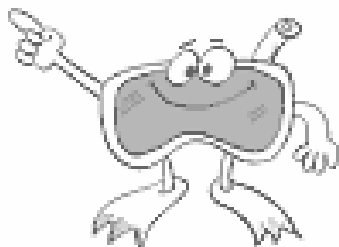
Put the dates in your diary and look out for further information.



Try Snorkelling Snork Week

The British Sub-Acqua Club is launching Snork Week, an opportunity for young people and adults across the UK to have a free snorkelling lesson. It runs from 17—23 June.

To register for your Try-Snorkelling lessons contact the BSAC on free phone 0500 947202 or visit www.bsac.com



Advance notice to all Group Treasurers

**The Scout Association's Membership
Subscription for 2003 will be £17.00 with a
rebate of 50p for prompt payment plus
County and District membership**

Community Re-Paint Scheme Painting for Pleasure

This is a nationwide scheme where unwanted paint is collected from retailers, decorators and households and redistributed to Community Projects, Charities and Volunteer Groups.

Community Re-Paint is expanding its network and is looking to include more Community Groups within the scheme. Successful applicants will receive:

- * a £3,000 capital grant towards the purchase of necessary equipment.
- * 2000 publicity leaflets.
- * a Community Re-Paint Technical Manual and publicity posters.
- * technical and operational advice from WAP (Save Waste and Prosper)

Applicants are required to start the scheme within 12 months of being selected and must be a Charitable Organisation.

If you feel that your Scout Group could benefit from this scheme and would like further details or information on how to apply please contact Mark Gregory on 0113 243 8777. You can also visit their website at www.communityrepaint.org.uk. If you have any further queries please contact the Fundraising Department at Gilwell Park or email natasha.belenkin@scout.org.uk



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

Phase 4 (Scouts) – Pete Frankland
SL 4th Letchworth

Phase 4 (Cubs) – Nick Jewell
CSL 1st Ashwell
Paula Dilley
ACSL 1st/3rd Letchworth
Anne Gutteridge
CSL 4th Letchworth

GNAS Community Leaders Archery

Chris King
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Sue King
District Explorer Scout Administrator

Stephen King
Beech Springs VSU



Wardens Norton Bury

June

4	Ann Howard	452500
11	Mick Balls	893855
18	Jeff Robson	684959
25	Shelley Wilsher	642026

July

2	Sheila May	673427
9	Bob Williams	686727
16	Elaine Wigglesworth	626218
23	Sheila & David Daws	621699
30	Val Bartlett	730817

August

6	Carol Emsall	674543
13	Ann Chapman	686772
20	Pauline Gimson	677993

Hertfordshire Training Dates coming up

Phase 3/43 – 28 Sept plus 9 November
Phase 4 (Beavers) – 14/15 Sept plus 10 November
Phase 4 (Scouts) – 15/16 June plus 29 Sept plus 12/13 October
Phase 5/31 – Tues 8 October Plus 16/17 November

Bedfordshire Training Dates coming up

Please see last month's Co-Ordinator for dates and details of courses available through Bedfordshire County Training. All their courses are run from the Bromham Activity Centre near Bedford.

If you would like an application form or more details about the above training opportunities then

fellowship

**Fellowship
Cake Stall**

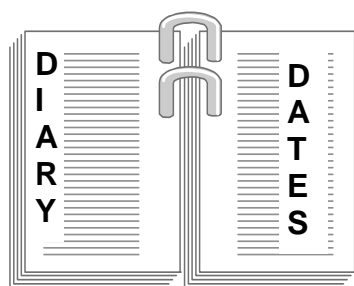
Well done to the Fellowship who held a successful cake stall raising over £50 for their funds.

Rotary Walk

Congratulations to the Scouts who successfully completed the Rotary 15 mile walk. Not only will they have raised funds for their Group and charity but Rotary has generously agreed to donate their entrance fee to Wymondley Wood.

Watch out for details of our own sponsored walk in September in aid of Wymondley Wood—it would be good to see you out in large numbers.





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June

1	District Scout Fishing Competition		
8	First Response Course	1st Baldock HQ	9.30 am—5.30 pm
10	District Beaver Leaders' Meeting	2nd Baldock HQ	8.00 pm
12	District Jamboree Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
13	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
14 / 16	District Cub Camp	Norton Bury	
16	County Scout Football Competition		
16	Father's Day		
21	4th Letchworth AGM	St Paul's Church Hall	7.45 pm
24	District Team Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00pm
28	1st Baldock AGM	1st Baldock HQ	
28/30	25/40 Mile Walk	Ridgeway Path	

July

1	County AGM	County Hall—Hertford	
6/7	District Scout Kon-Tiki Competition		
8	District Cub Leaders Meeting	2nd Baldock HQ	8.15 pm
11	District Executive Meeting		
12/13	Operation Ferret		
13/14	District BBQ		
14	County Cub Fun day	Wickstead Park	
16	Beaver Bangers & Bash	Norton Bury	
20	District Fellowship Outing	Newmarket Racing	
22	Norton Bury Committee Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm

August

9 - 19 2nd Baldock Expedition to France

September

12	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
14	Fellowship Quiz	8th Letchworth HQ	7.30 pm
21	County Cub Night Hike		
22	Wymondley Wood Sponsored Walk	Boundary of Letchworth	

October

5	District Beaver Scout Sports Day		
6	District Cub Scout Sports Day		
10	District Executive Meeting		

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