



January 2003 No: 489



# Co-ordinator



I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas break and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year .

The New Year opens with four of our Venture Scouts attending the World Jamboree in Thailand.

We look forward to an exciting and very active New Year within the District. January sees the start of the District Explorer Scout Unit—Oak Eagles and their first expedition to the Malvern Hills. In March the District together with the Guides take possession of the new Wymondley Wood Centre. We have a lot to work ahead of us to ensure that it is ready for the first bookings later that month. March also brings our annual Gang Show with its lively songs and sketches. This year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever at its new venue at St Francis School.

April sees the annual St George's Day Parade and Service which will take place at St Mary's Church, Baldock.

In May we have the District Jamboree to celebrate the centenary of the Letchworth Garden City and this will also be the opportunity to officially open the Wymondley Wood Centre.

During the year initial plans will be formulated for the District expedition to Lochearnhead in August 2005.

I know that all sections are busy planning their District events and the Groups are busy getting to grips with the new training programme. From what I have seen and heard our young people can look forward to an exciting, active and fun packed year with the Letchworth and Baldock District.

**Dave Hawkins**  
**District Commissioner**



**The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin**



### **Ramblings of a Scout Leader**

Called it Presentation Evening in the programme but wasn't really sure how it would turn out. Am used to doing this sort of social evening at the end of the year, a couple of boisterous games, reorganise patrols, talk ideas and future programme.

.Bring out the mince pies, tea coffee, different coloured fizz. Talk about the year behind us, tell a couple of funny stories...invite all the parents and you'll know that only the usual few will turn up. And so it was.

I promoted three PL's to SPL's; promoted three APL's to PL and created four new APL's. Had the badges ready. Gave out nine Outdoor Challenge badges and four Outdoor plus. Three long overdue survival skills badges, some gliding certificates. Even ADC Scouts Nick Farmer turned up perfectly on time to present the District Quiz trophy. And so it was.

A few weeks ago a couple had asked if they could perform. Didn't really give it much thought... 'yes of course you can' Didn't know what to expect. Richard Seaholme brought his guitar. Apparently the first time he had played in public. Did 'Streets of London' note perfect. Lots of applause. He bowed low. His parents looking on proudly. Aaron Giles had asked if he could sing. And so he could. No nerves, no hesitation, he sang 'Fly Without Wings' to his CD player. So polished, so confident, so clear. Graham Parkes brought out his clarinet and played 'Jingle Bells' Now this was getting special. Hayley played her oboe. Aaron and Andy Lawrenson duetted. Even harmonising. 'I didn't know you could sing' I said to Andy who has been in my Scouts for nearly four years. 'Now you do' he replied. Sometimes kids can be amazing.

I think I might be putting a talent contest in the programme for next term. But then I will be more than tempted to join in and sing a long forgotten Beatles song. And that would be a mistake. Or would it?

**Dave Strong - SL 7th Letchworth**

Dear Bob, Barbara and All

We were most touched by the generous presentation of the Norton Bury picture.

There has been a wonderful team of people involved in the development of the Centre, and we feel that we have been only a part of that team.

Peter has been able to shed some light (sorry about the pun!) on the electrical and mechanical 'gadgets' at Norton Bury and I had quite a few years as booking secretary, committee member and finally 'housekeeper'. But none of that would have been possible had it not been for the dedication by a succession of management committee members, wardens and so on.

We wish Wymondley Wood all the success we have known at Norton Bury.

Much love to you all.

Ruth and Peter

### CENSUS TIME AGAIN

**Shortly your Group Secretary will be receiving the information regarding the census for 2003.**

As last year the census returns can either be completed in paper form or electronically via the internet. The letter will contain the necessary information. Please ensure that your figures are returned in advance of the deadline.

At the December District Executive Meeting it was agreed to set the District Subscription at £2.00 making the total amount payable per member of £25.00.

Headquarters	£17.00
County	£ 4. 75
Training Levy	£ 1.25
District	£ 2.00

**Total                      £25.00**



← The only way  
is up

### Welwyn Garden City Night Hike

Well done to 5th Letchworth Scouts for achieving 340 points in the Welwyn Garden City Night Hike. There were eleven entries in the Accompanied Visitors Section and 5th Letchworth gained 2nd place and 3rd place overall.

Accompanied Visitors

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1st Place | 4th Hertford Guides<br>(2nd Overall)   |
| 2nd Place | 5th Letchworth Scouts<br>(3rd Overall) |
| 3rd Place | 11th WGC Guides<br>(5th Overall)       |



### Tree planting over the February half-term: Saturday 15 - Sunday 22,

**Second phase of tree planting at Wymondley Wood**

Following a meeting with the Heritage Foundation and Countryside Management Services it was agreed that the Foundation would infill the perimeter hedges and plant a hedge along the northern boundary of the site.

The CMS would fund the shrubs required to establish a hedgerow to define the garden area and infill areas between the three camp sites and around the camp fire. Peter Deary is to arrange delivery of the shrubs and wants offers of help with the planting over the February half-term week. It would be very much appreciated if leaders would contact Peter Deary direct (Telephone: 627330) and offer him their unit's support !



# Wymondley Wood Centre



## We need your help!

Please scan the list below and let Bob Williams, 01462 686727 or Barbara Crombie 01462 671062 know if you can help.

Construct wood pile compound	Move wood if required	Erect flagpole
Move and re-establish Colin's Memorial seat	Help move and re-plant Ken's oak tree (plus other major trees)	Move the cross and stone and re-create the chapel
Construct a shrub/flower bed across the back of the centre	Lay paths and patio paving slabs	Landscape the camp fire circle.
Bunks to be assembled	Hooks in dormitories, plant room, hall, ablutions—as required	Shelving as required
Store room/broom cupboard to be organised and equipped	Shoe rack in plant room	Carpeting or carpet tiles to laid in Leaders' room
Wardens' Office to be organised desk, chairs, cupboard, etc.	Install a rotary clothes line	Move the "bicycle shed" and re-locate
Service the trolleys and re-locate	Remove/rebuild the assault course particularly the little one	Help will be required in "moving house"
Tuck shop display/shelving to be constructed	Cooker will require a major clean and service	Kitchen equipment will need to be checked out, cleaned and replaced as required.
Kitchen appliances to be installed: fridge, freezer, microwave, Lincat boiler, extractor hood etc.	Construction of site entrance gate	Pictures to be hung
Ablutions (including site blocks) to be equipped with mirrors, dryers, loo roll holders, shelves etc as required		



## LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT GANG SHOW

ST. FRANCIS THEATRE

28, 29 and 30 MARCH 2003

### TICKET ORDER FORM

### TICKET COSTS

BEFORE END JANUARY 2003 £3 PER TICKET

1 FEBRUARY £5 ADULT £4 CHILD

	ADULT	CHILD	COST
FRIDAY EVENING			
SATURDAY MATINEE			
SATURDAY EVENING			
SUNDAY MATINEE			
TOTAL			

CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO:-  
LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK DISTRICT  
GANG SHOW

SEND FORMS TO:- MR P M MARSH  
44 BEDFORD ROAD LETCHWORTH HERTS  
SG6 4DR

WITH A S.A.E.



Please support this event and encourage your pack/troop/unit to be there. Please note that we are having an extra show this year on Sunday afternoon and that performances will be at St Francis' Theatre in St Francis' School.

Pete Marsh  
Treasurer—Gang Show



### Wymondley Wood Open day

Wymondley Wood Centre will be opened for Leaders Helpers, and any interested parties to view the excellent facilities that are available at the centre on **Sunday 27 April 2003.**



## Memories of Norton Bury

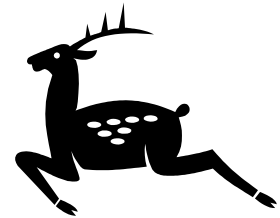
With the closing of Norton Bury go many memories of its development, activities held there and the personalities associated with it.

It would be a shame to lose these memories or to forget the role Norton Bury has played in our District for the past twenty five years. It is proposed to compile a booklet of stories and anecdotes, so please jot down your memories of the centre and send them to Bob Williams - photographs also welcome.

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



## Answers to the Christmas Quiz



1. Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in **b) 1895**

The idea of using electric Christmas lights came from an American, Ralph E Morris. The new lights proved safer than the traditional candles.

2. Which name does not belong to one of Santa's reindeer? **d) Klaxon**

A klaxon is actually an electric horn

3. The real St Nicholas lived in **c) Turkey**

St Nicholas was bishop of the Turkish town of Myra in the early 4th century. It was the Dutch who first made him into a Christmas gift-giver, and Dutch settlers brought him to America where his name eventually became the familiar Santa Claus.

4. Who was the author of A Christmas Carol?  
**b) Charles Dickens**

After A Christmas Carol Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.

5. The tradition of erecting a tree at Christmas is believed to have started in **c) Germany**

Christmas trees are known to have been popular in Germany as far back as the sixteenth century. In England, they became popular after Queen Victoria's husband Albert, who came from Germany, made a tree part of the celebrations at Windsor castle. In the United States, the earliest known mention of a Christmas tree is in the diary of a German who settled in Pennsylvania.

6. The first charity Christmas card was produced by UNICEF in 1949. The picture chosen for the card was painted not by a professional artist but by **c) A seven-year-old girl**

The girl was Jitka Samkova of Rudolfo, a small town in what was then Czechoslovakia. The town received assistance from UNICEF after the Second World War, inspiring Jitka to paint some children dancing around a maypole. She said her picture represented 'joy going round and round'.

7. During the ancient 12-day Christmas celebrations, it was considered unlucky to  
**a) Let the log in the fireplace stop burning**

would be kept to kindle the fire next winter, to ensure that the good luck carried on from year to year. The Yule Log custom was handed down from the Druids.

8. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer made his first appearance in 1939, in a story that was written to **d) Promote a department store.**

The story was written by Robert L May, the advertising editor of the Montgomery Ward department store chain. His four-year-old daughter picked the name Rudolph. May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, later turned it into the now familiar song, which was popularised by singer Gene Autry in 1949.

9. The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol was **d) Jacob Marley**

Jacob Marley's spirit was the first of the four to appear to Scrooge on Christmas Eve.

10. Good King Wenceslas was king, of which country? **c) Bohemia**

The historical Wenceslas was actually only Duke of Bohemia, not a king. He lived in the tenth century.

11. The first instrument on which the carol Silent Night was played was **c) A guitar**

The carol was first sung as part of a church service in Oberndorf, Austria. The unusual choice of guitar for the accompaniment rather than the traditional church organ has given rise to a number of picturesque stories (the organ bellows had been damaged by mice; the organ had been sabotaged; etc), but in fact it was simply a matter of preference on the part of the author, Joseph Mohr.

12. In Victorian England, turkeys were popular for Christmas dinners. Some of the birds were raised in Norfolk, and taken to market in London. To get them to London, the turkeys

**d) Were supplied with boots made of sacking or leather.**

The turkeys were walked to market. The boots protected their feet from the frozen mud of the road. Boots were not used for geese: instead their feet were protected with a covering of tar.

# Congratulations to

## Long Service Awards

### 15 years

Fiona Eve	ABSL - 8th Letchworth
Nick Farmer	ADC (Scouts)
Peter Frankland	SL 4th Letchworth
Chris Lunnon	VSL - Beech Springs VSU
Sheila Staines	BSL - 1st Baldock

### 10 years

Simon Tierney	CSL - 2nd Weston
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### 5 Years

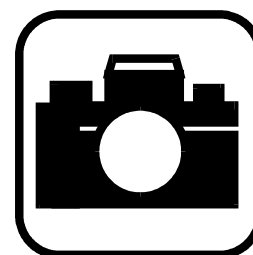
Paula Jordan	BSL 1st 3rd Letchworth
Margaret Miller	ADC (Beavers)

# Congratulations to

James Bainbridge from 5th Letchworth Scouts for the highest score in the Christmas Quiz Competition in Decembers Co-ordinator. A camera is on its way to him.

Well done

Rita Hawkins  
Editor



# Welcome to

John Charles  
5th Letchworth



- ACSL

Stuart Duxbury - CSL 12th Letchworth  
Diane Turner - ACSL 8th Letchworth

## SCOUT GROUPS - how about making

a contribution to Wymondley Wood by purchasing some floor squares? Your contribution would be very welcome and your name will be recorded on the commemorative wall chart.

**Contact: Bob Williams**

## 20th World Scout Jamboree—Thailand

We are proud to have four Venture Scouts at the World Jamboree, - Nick Howell, Joel Miller, Nicola Smith and Steven Woolmer. I got up early— 4.30 am! - to see them off from Tolmers on a dark, cold and wet morning. How I envied their trip to the sunshine and their stay in Singapore before they more on to the Jamboree itself. We look forward to hearing their stories when they return home. In the meantime you can receive a daily bulletin of their activities by signing up at [www.scoutbase.org.uk/inter/jambo/thailand/mailling.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/inter/jambo/thailand/mailling.htm)

Dave Hawkins

## Volunteers Wanted

1. When Wymondley Wood opens in March 2003 we will require more wardens to supervise the centre. Can you help?
2. The Scout & Guide Shop is looking for volunteers to join the sales team on a rota basis and for people to help sell badges on a Tuesday evening.

Pay excellent  
Benefits outstanding  
Pension unbelievable  
312 days holiday entitlement  
Job satisfaction guaranteed

Want to know more, contact  
Dave Hawkins

# 2003



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## January 2003

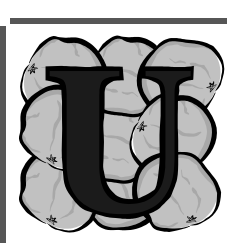
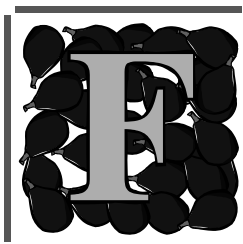
9	District Executive Meeting	TBA	8.00 pm	Deb Ivory Webb 01462 894744
10	Explorer Scout—Oak Eagles	8th Letchworth		Chris King 01462 637901
13	District Beaver Leaders' Meeting	1st Baldock HQ	8.00 pm	Maggie Miller 01462 632163
13	District Cub Leaders' Meeting	TBA		Dave Hawkins 01462 643432
14	District Jamboree Meeting	1st Baldock	8.00 pm	Andrea Soulsby 01462 643992
16	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	Guide HQ	8.00 pm	Bob Williams 01462 686727
22	District Fund Raising Meeting	107 Spring Road	8.00 pm	Rita Hawkins 01462 643432
25-26	Explorer Scout Weekend	Malvern Hills		Neil Ward 01462 624583
26	District Scout Cooking Competition	1st Baldock		Lesley Gwilt 01462 790019

## February

8	Watford v Rotherham	Watford FC		County Office 020 8236 0040
13	District Executive Meeting	TBA	8.00 pm	Deb Ivory Webb 01462 894744
16	County Scout Cooking Competition	1st Baldock H.Q.		Ian Greaves 01992 301812

## March

29 Feb - 2 March	Peak Assault	Somewhere		John Clifton 01582 622454
13	District Executive	Wymondley Wood	8.15 pm	Deb Ivory Webb 01462 894744
15	County Cub Swimming Gala	St Albans		Bob Cooper 01438 235969
28 - 30	Gang Show	St Francis College		Peter Marsh 01462 624894



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