



**Letchworth
and Baldock
District Scout
Council**

January 2004 No: 500

Co-ordinator



FIVE CENTURIES OF CO-ORDINATOR

It hardly seems possible! When we look back to 1504, can we remember what the world was like five centuries ago? There was the Treaty at Lyon, where the King of France finally agreed to hand Naples over to Ferdinand of Aragon. And that was the year they founded the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain, wasn't it? Is it really as long as that since CO-ORDINATOR first rolled off the presses?

Well, no, it isn't, actually. Someone has just pointed out that we haven't yet had 500 years of this District newsletter, but only 500 editions. I do apologize. At my time of life, it feels very much like the same thing.

Perhaps if we look in the right drawer of the filing cabinet, we might get a clearer picture of what this is about. Yes, here it is, look! "CO-ORDINATOR, Monthly News Service for Letchworth and Baldock District: Number 1—June 1959" "with the badges of the Boy Scouts Association (as it was called then) rather badly drawn, having been scratched in the wax of a Roneo duplicator stencil. It's printed on both sides of a quarto sheet of duplicating paper. Quarto means eight inches by ten, of course. The top story explains that this is "intended to co-ordinate ideas of Scouters and Cubbers by helping to ensure that everyone concerned knows what is going to happen, when." We asked for dates of forthcoming events: "even if you are not inviting other groups, you may avoid two events clashing, and we shall accept small advertisements at a halfpenny a word. Tell any member of the Letchworth District Rover Crew".

For what is now the historical archive, the names of the LDRC were listed: Martin Brown, John Collins, John de Louvois, Arundel Hoyer, David Northover, Jeffrey Robson

Congratulations Co-ordinator!

What a splendid achievement to be celebrating your 500th issue! And what a record too, to have been published without a break since June 1959. I wonder if that is a record in itself for Scout District Newsletters – I bet it is in Hertfordshire!

Good communications is so important in Scouting. Everyone needs to know what's going on locally, and you manage to keep Co-ordinator fresh and full of interesting information and stories to keep in touch with.

Letchworth & Baldock Scout District always seems to be so together, so keen and enthusiastic and I feel it every time I come to visit you, or talk to your people at events. Co-ordinator plays an important role in creating that super general happy atmosphere.

Well done to everyone concerned and I look forward to reading the next 500 issues!

**Roger Sands
County Commissioner**



Maxwell Vines, Peter Wey, plus something called a Service Auxiliary (too old to be a Rover) who seems to have been using my name. Flipping Cheek!

Coincidentally, the KJ diary for 27 May 1959 says that "in the afternoon I went back to the library to use the typewriter to cut the two stencils for pages 1 and 2 of the first Co-ordinator" before going to the Palace Cinema to see a German film called "Blitzkrieg" all about the war that only ended 14 years ago. Not so very different from 500 years, after all.

In the August CO-ORDINATOR (August was recognized as a real month in 1959) there was news of the 4L summer fair which raised exactly £100:0s.0½d for the group's building fund. "4L" was the simple code for "Fourth Letchworth", saving a lot of space on the stencil. In 3L, Nicky Imber and Paul Martin had just won their Leaping Wolf badges, the best any Wolf Cub could get. John Foster had got his Queen's Scout badge. And in 1W (First Weston) John Pugh and Richard Clements had left Cubs to start the Wolf Patrol on their own without any Scoutmaster yet. This left 5L as the only group in the District without any Scout section at that time.

Things have changed during these five centuries! By July 1961, so much was going on that CO-ORDINATOR number 26 had to be printed on bigger sheets of paper, called foolscap, 8 inches by 13.

We thought it would prove cheaper in the long run. By the following July, CO-ORDINATOR even burst into colour!

turn to page 2

It used bright yellow foolscap paper for its four pages, and in the list of coming events we included for August 4: "Chief Scout opens Lochearnhead Scout Station, the Hertfordshire Highland Headquarters." Also for September, a new event for Senior Scouts was announced as "Jim's Mystery Tour". Perhaps we can tell you about that some other time.

1963 opened with a notice from the Rover Crew that so many copies of CO-ORDINATOR were now wanted that they could no longer deliver them all by hand, so everybody was asked to pay a subscription of three shillings a year to cover postage.

CO-ORDINATOR 101, in October 1967, carried congratulations from the County Commissioner Melville Balsillie, "not only on reaching a century but also on the quality and regularity of its production." So there! It went on regularly churning out coming events and competition results, including news for Guiders as well, till after 19 years the original typist got fed up and Josephine Sullivan took over with the stencils, which were then printed on the District's own duplicator machine by ADC Ken Hart. This was in 1978, and Rover Scouts had been succeeded by Venture Scouts by then, so Champion Hills continued the job of addressing all the envelopes, with Andrew Osborne on the news desk passing everything printable to Jo on the keyboard.

By June 1982, Jo Sullivan had graduated to being the complete editor, but with a family to run as well she gracefully retired., and after a three month break the District bulletin was reborn in the skilful hands of the newly appointed ADC (Public Relations) John Baker. The present era of universal A4 paper had recently taken over the



world, and John experimented by typing CO-ORDINATOR sideways in July and August 1984, giving us a neat little tabloid (or A5) official news-letter, when it was folded properly.

Anyone who has tried it will know that it is easier to start an A4 sheet at the top and go on till you reach the bottom, so CO-ORDINATOR went back to its familiar format in September 1986, being distributed by the District Scout Fellowship, or posted to a few subscribers at £1.20 a year, which is nearly nine times the cost it had been twenty years earlier. Life is like that.

And then, after three years of producing the news-letter, John Baker bowed out with a full seven-page District directory in March 1986, to attend to many other commitments. An awkward three months followed, the CO-ORDINATOR back to its old original typist to fill the gap until Lorraine Riley launched the new image of this bulletin, clearly readable at last thanks to the magic of photocopying.

This new high standard of production was continued by Anne Lilley from July 1993, and in November 1994 the first photograph were included, showing winners of that year's Operation Nightjar. Next month, however, CO-ORDINATOR 400 called in a professional designed Jacqui Hawkes for a very special commemorative edition printed in two colours in the latest computerized technology.

When Anne Lilley retired from the editorial chair in 1995, Andrea Soulsby

leapt in with new fonts and clip-art cartoons that those Rover Scouts never dreamed of, giving us a brighter looking magazine that it would seem hard to improve. Yet when Andrea's turn ended (with a whole-page Gang Show advertisement, and why not?) the District looked around for another editor.

From May 1998, the DC at the time appointed the most obvious person for the job, Bob Williams, and CO-ORDINATOR continued to grow in



every way, with a full colour front page in December and up to twelve fully illustrated pages promptly delivered each month, except August of course.

How could this new standard of production be kept up after Bob's star editorial year? Well, the answer is staring you in the face, because the last 50 monthly editions have been edited superbly by a shy little lady living in a quiet corner of Baldock. Not only do we get dates of forthcoming events, news of what other Scout groups have done, and important announcements from District, County or national HQ, but there are pictures and poetry and paragraphs of history. No District could have any better bulletin to keep it going—and it doesn't even charge a halfpenny for advertisements!



K.J.



THE SCOUT SHOP

The shop is central to life in the District. Not only does it provide us with our uniforms and equipment but its profit is a vital element in District finances.

The shop was the brain child of Eric Oldham. It was launched in February 1968 in a room at the rear of the Council for Social Services in Gernon Road. All stock was stored in boxes and the "changing room" was a Venetian Screen!

Eventually it outgrew the room in Gernon Road and in 1977 it moved to 1st 3rd Headquarters in Icknield Way where the stock could be displayed on open tables. Even this was not satisfactory to meet the ever growing demand and September 1989 saw the opening of purpose built premises.

In the meantime Ruth and Peter Baker took over the shop in 1978 and continued to manage it in a most efficient manner until Nora Hitcham succeeded them in 1994.

The manager together with helpers from the Scout Fellowship, Trefoil Guild and active Guiders and Scouters provide an invaluable service to the Scout and Guide Districts.



THE SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

There is a loyal band of supporters in the District many of whom have retired from grassroots Scouting and others who wish to support the movement in a non-uniform capacity.

In early editions of Co-Ordinator their activities were reported under the title of the B-P Guild and they were best known for the Trophy competition which they organised each year.

In 1976 they became the Scout Fellowship and they continue to play an active role in the District. The funds which they have raised have been used to sponsor a room at Wymondley Wood, help Jamboree participants and other Scouts travelling abroad and to support new training sections in Groups by purchasing flags and other equipment.

Members can be found front of house and backstage at the Gang Show, helping at the Scout Shop, Wymondley Wood, at the District Executive and providing refreshments and running raffles at the Beaver Sports and District Barbecue.

In between times they have an active social programme of quizzes, visits to nature reserves, race meetings and canal trips.

New members are always welcome. Anyone interested should contact:

Dave Upson
District Fellowship Chairman
7 Sanderling Close.
Letchworth
SG6 4HY

01462 631047
dj.upson@ntlworld.com

ST GEORGE'S DAY

A Personal View From The Back Row



Coming up that slope of Pixmore Way - I'd never realized it was quite so steep - we could see the whole line of hundreds of Scouts ahead with the multicoloured flags nearly a quarter of a mile away. And that was very impressive. Filing into Letchworth's parish church between the young citizens was a great feeling. Some of them I knew by sight and they gave me a grin, but almost all of them seemed to be enjoying the show they were putting on. Inside, to see the building so full with standing room only for the late comers was impressive indeed, and the ceremonial handing over of the colours was beautifully done by the Scouts from all the parishes in our District—Norton and Willian, Wilbury and Weston, Ashwell and Baldock equally with Letchworth.

It was good to hear the Rector, obviously knowing exactly what we are all about and enjoying himself as much as we were while coping with the symbolism of that rather dubious zoology that Saint George is lumbered with.

And outside in the spring fresh air, I dared to desert the Fellowship contingent and change colours to accompany my favourite group, where I was allowed a place of honour alongside the Beavers' colour party. And that was an even greater thrill, to see these tiny fellows walking as tall and proud as any of those magnificent Venture Scouts. Those Beavers are going to be great Scouts in just a few years, and those Scouts are going to be great men (and women) for fighting whatever dragons are lurking in the twenty first century.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Present day readers will recognise many events which have been a feature of our Scouting calendar for many years. Early Co-Ordinators mention cooking competitions, Cub and Scout quizzes, Nightjar and Operation Kon Tiki.

But what of the Tippet Trophy for patrol camping, the B-P Guild Cup for challenges in pioneering, observation, public health, exploration, the Mod Trophy and first aid and JMT (Jim's Mystery Tour) which seem to have been replaced by newer challenges such as Peak Assault, Green Beret, Born 2b Challenged and PAW?

With the forthcoming World Jamboree at Hyland Park, Chelmsford, JMT is of especial interest because it arose from a hike to the Sutton Coldfield World Jamboree in 1957 undertaken by KJ and Jim Bruce. A cathedral city was chosen and Scouts were dropped twenty/thirty miles away and given points for their ingenuity at reaching a chosen venue in the City. By the way another ex DC cycled to the Sutton Coldfield Jamboree - no jetting off to the far side of the World for our stalwart leaders!

An exciting time lies ahead for our Scouts, who can look forward to Lochearnhead 2005, Eurojam 2005 and the Centenary Jamboree 2007.

p.s. who has heard of Operation Phidippides mentioned in the September 1965 issue of Co-Ordinator but never heard of again?



THE DISTRICT AT CAMP

In the 1960's Norton Common was popular for the District Camp and in more recent times two District Jamborees were held at Norton Bury. The second to celebrate the Millennium is probably best remembered for the atrocious weather when the incessant rain rendered the campsite a quagmire - but how many remember a similar fate which befell the camp on Norton Common in 1966?

Probably the most exciting Jamboree was the one held to mark the opening of Wymondley Wood and the centenary of the Garden City this summer when we were honoured by a visit from George Purdy, Chief Scout.

The Cubs, of course, have been holding their Sixers and Seconders Weekend and annual camps for many years.

For real adventure our expeditions to Lochearnhead amongst the Scottish mountains and lochs cannot be beaten.

Incidentally these camps have brought forth rivals to Co-Ordinator in the form of the "Common News" and the "Lochearnhead Express" both of which are now collectors items.



SCOUTS ABROAD

Co-Ordinator has followed the adventures of our Scouts abroad with interest. Issue 13 reported the exploits of Rover Scout Arundel Hoye serving with the RAF in North Africa. He described his hike through the desert with other Rovers from the First El Adem. He reports "it was a hike of endurance in all types of weather - scorching sun by day, very cold desert nights, gale force winds and dust storms."

Our Venture Scouts have found the Alps an adventure playground and Champions Hills experienced history in the making when they were in Germany at the fall of the Berlin Wall. Nicola Macrae (AVSL) reports "a large iron girder came in handy and two hours of hard labour rendered a large slab of the Berlin Wall flattened."

1st Baldock have camped at St Petersburg and 2nd Baldock have a favourite venue in the Gorges du Tarn, France.

In recent years a visit to the Haarlem Jamborette has been popular.

No report on overseas travel would be complete without mention of the World Jamborees. District representatives have been at all World Jamborees. Nick Howell, who has just returned from Thailand speaks for them all when he says "it was a truly once in a lifetime experience when I was an ambassador for the British people."



NORTON BURY TO WYMONDLEY WOOD

Where better to enjoy the adventure and excitement of Scouting than at an activity centre. How fortunate we are as a District to have had our own centre for twenty five years thanks to the generosity of the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and its commitment to youth.

Norton Bury served us for twenty five years and now we have moved on to Wymondley Wood.



What a contrast between the two centres. Norton Bury an old manor house dating back many centuries and Wymondley Wood a brand new centre developed on a greenfield site.

Norton Bury truly a labour of love developed by a band of enthusiastic Scouters and Guiders who rolled up their sleeves to repair, clean and decorate an old building which needed extra toilets, a new sewage system, central heating and other facilities - all undertaken by



volunteer labour. Wymondley Wood a purpose designed building with all modern comforts to take us into the 21st century and constructed by professional builders.

However, no matter the background, the important thing to keep in mind is the fun and adventure enjoyed by thousands of youngsters at these centres. For many it may be their first time away from home and a time to develop social skills living

together and co-operating with others.

The inspiration for all of this is the hours and hours of dedicated work by the people who run and maintain the centres and the Leaders who visit them with their Scouts and Guides - Co-ordinator has countless reports of their activities over the years.

GANG SHOW

Since the famous Ralph Reader Gang Shows in London Gang Shows have been a feature of Scouting throughout the country.

We have been fortunate to have had talented producers such as Ernie Cardwell, John Baker, Jim Bruce Ernie Cardwell, Fred Cogar, Harry Frankland and Andrea Soulsby so from its earliest editions Co-Ordinator had been reporting the fun and excitement of our annual Gang Shows.

It is an occasion when Scouts and Guides from all over the District come together to show off their musical and acting talents. There are no auditions, everyone is welcome, the only qualification is a desire to join in the fun and entertain. This year's show will have a cast of over a hundred so just imagine how many people living in the District have taken part over the years—our present cast will be cheered on by parents and grand parents who may well have been in the show themselves!

Youngsters who didn't know they could sing, dance or act suddenly grow in stature and confidence as the audience responds to their performance. What could be more inspiring than the traditional finale when the cast don their Scout and Guide uniforms and lead the audience in a rousing chorus of "We're riding along on the crest of the wave?".

Long may the tradition survive.



A HISTORY OF ADULT TRAINING

All Scout Leaders promise to undertake training to equip themselves with the skills necessary to deliver a quality programme of Scouting.

Adult training has changed with the times and the needs of Scout Leaders.

In 1919, the first adult training scheme was issued in book form under the title of "Aids to Scoutmastership".

Later Adult training developed into Initial, Basic and Advanced Training, and then from 1989 the Initial, Introductory, Leadership One and Leadership Two courses. In Hertfordshire this was revised to become the "Hertfordshire Integrated Leader Training Scheme" with 5 phases of training.

From January 2004 this method of training is being replaced with the new National Modular Scheme. For section leaders this will comprise of 19 modules each made up of two parts – the theory/prior experience followed by the validation/practical tasks.

The present Scout Leader must also have a knowledge and understanding of risk assessment, data protection, child protection, health and safety, hygiene and codes of practise for adventurous activities.

On completion of training a Scout Leader is awarded the Wood Badge.

It consists of two parts:-

Two Wooden beads – these originated from a necklace belonging to the Zulu Chief, Dinizulu.

A Leather Thong – an elderly man at Mafeking gave a leather thong to B-P telling him that it would bring him luck.

Wood Badge holders become members of the 1st Gilwell Park Scout Group and may wear its beige scarf with a distinctive patch of Maclaren tartan on the point.

DISTRICT HONOURS



SILVER WOLF

Kenneth Johnson

SILVER ACORN

Fred Cogar
Laurie Cook
Ken Hart
Hannah Moules
Colin Phillips
Bob Williams

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT

Mick Dilley
John Moys
Jeff Robson
Andrea Soulsby
Eric Woodward

MEDAL OF MERIT

Nancy Baker
John Chapman
Michael Eaves
Anne Lilley
Lorraine Riley
Wendy Tierney
Rod Tiplady



QUEEN'S SCOUTS

As listed in HSN, Broadsheet and Noticeboard.

Senior Scouts

Stephen Page
Patrick Byrne
James Murden
Chris Flemming
David Ringrow
Brian Robinson
Lawrence Sapsed
Jonathan Savage
Robert Hilditch
Graham Rowson
Michael Hoeg
David Emery
Christopher Page
Robert Wilsher
Chris Anderson
Richard Eagling

Troop

7th Letchworth
2nd Baldock
1st Letchworth
3rd Letchworth
7th Letchworth
7th Letchworth
3rd Letchworth
3rd Letchworth
1st Baldock
1st Baldock
1st Baldock
1st Baldock
1st Baldock
1st Baldock
1st Baldock
5th Letchworth



Venture Scouts

Peter Foster
Antony Keech
Gerard Yates
Christopher Morley
Nigel Pitchers
Peter Moys
Keith Osborne
Mark Gentle
Alison Wenz
Philip Kerrigan
Nick Charsley
Susannah Church
Jason Urbani
Karen Woodman
Peter Thorogood
Nick Brown
Rachel Anderson

Unit

Champion Hills
Champion Hills
Champion Hills
Champion Hills
Champion Hills
Champion Hills
Champion Hills
Champion Hills
Beech Springs
Champion Hills
Beech Springs
Beech Springs
Beech Springs
Beech Springs
Beech Springs
Beech Springs
Beech Springs
Beech Springs

THE DISTRICT BADGE



The line represents two major trading routes which pass through our District. The east west line is the ancient Roman route - Icknield Way and the north south line is the busy modern Great North Road (A1M).

The ash leaf represents the ancient Ash Forest which used to cover our District and forms part of the name Ashwell.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Aldfred Hodgson 1945 - 1954

Leslie Brown 1955 - 1963

Harold Hodge 1963 - 1964

Edward Smith 1964 - 1967

Frederick Eaves 1967 - 1976

Peter Norton 1976 - 1984

Ronald Wilkes 1984 - 1986

Frederick Cogar 1986 - 1988

Robert Williams 1988 - 2001

David Hawkins 2001 -

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Hertfordshire SG7 6DS

Congratulations to Co-ordinator on its marvellous achievement - 500 not out. The activities and events described in the columns of this issue paint a broad picture of all that has gone on in a very busy Scout District over the past forty five years. They represent hours and hours of adventure, excitement, fun and learning for thousands and thousands of Scouts. At the root of all this is the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteer Leaders who have devoted their time and energy to deliver first class Scouting - it is impossible to pay sufficient tribute to these people or to quantify the impact which their leadership has had upon children and society.

I am proud to join the list of DCs who have had the privilege of leading such a wonderful band of people.

Dave Hawkins