



CO - O R D I N A T O R

**JANUARY 2007
ISSUE 533**

District 2007 Celebrations



6 January 2007—Joining In Celebration Party

There will be four simultaneous parties with a quiz to be held on Saturday 6 January 2007.

The four venues will be , 1st Baldock HQ, 7th Letchworth HQ (Wilbury Hall), 8th Letchworth HQ, St Paul's Church Hall
The cost of £3.00 per head includes the first of the Centenary Badges.

22 February - Baden-Powell's 150th birthday

Scout uniform day will be targeted at Primary Schools and it is hoped that the Schools will invite Leaders to an assembly with a Scouting theme. Displays will be prepared for Secondary Schools.



23 - 24 March - Gang Show

A show on the theme of "The Centenary of Scouting" will be held at the St Francis Theatre.

22 April - St George's Day Parade and Service .

This will be held outside at the Broadway Gardens. This will be a multi-faith service as the Scout motto for the World Jamboree in 2007 is "One World, One Promise". The Letchworth Salvation Army Band has been asked to put the date in their diary. The collection will be donated to a local charity preferably relating to young people.



Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

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4 – 7 May District Jamboree **Wymondley Wood.**

The District is holding a Jamboree Camp at Wymondley Wood where it is hoped that every member of the District will attend and be a part of the Celebrations. There will be off site activities for the Scouts at Wyboston Lakes and an outing to Woburn Safari Park for the Cubs. It is hoped that

members of the District who were present at the Sutton Coldfield Jamboree 1957 will attend the opening ceremony. There will be a 'street party' with invited guests. The second centenary badge will be awarded to those taking part.



June District Sports Day – Ashwell

The 1st Ashwell Scout Group has agreed to organise a sports day at the recreation ground in Ashwell followed by a barbecue.

7 July - Black Tie Dinner and Dance – Spirella Ballroom, Letchworth.

All members, past and present, will be invited to this centenary celebration of Scouting together with invited guests.



1 August - Broadway Gardens **The 'Sunrise' Renewal of Promise.**

All members of the Scouting Movement have been asked to renew their promise at 8.00 am on Wednesday 1 August 2007. The third Centenary Badge will be awarded at this event.

September - recruitment and publicity month.

Local shops will be asked to take part in a walking treasure hunt. The idea would be for the shops to put a Scouting item in their window and Scouts, their families and the general public would have to identify them and the shop they are in. The competition will be held in Ashwell, Baldock and Letchworth.

Local Supermarkets will be asked to hold a display.

On 7 October we will attend the Volunteers Fair organised by Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation.



October - Museum Exhibition

It is hoped to hold an exhibition of the history of Scouting at the Letchworth Heritage Museum, the Baldock Museum and Ashwell Museum . Frank Brittain, the County Archivist will help provide materials.

2 November - Firework Display

There will be a firework event at Wymondley Wood.

11 November – Remembrance Day

Scouts will attend Remembrance Day Services in Letchworth and Baldock.

December

Carol Services will be held in Ashwell, Baldock and Letchworth during the weeks leading up to Christmas. We will pick a late shopping night and Groups will walk with lit candles/ lanterns from different parts of Letchworth and all converge outside WH Smiths.

During the course of the year the Scouts in the District will undertake 100 good deeds relating to the community and the environment.

For further details on any of the events planned in 2007 please contact your child's Leader or visit the District website



**for fun, adventure,
excitement and the s-factor**

Happenings Around the District

1 December	7th Letchworth Scouts - Sleepout at St Albans Cathedral
4 December	8th Letchworth Cubs Christmas Concert
4 December	Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts - County Meal - Aroma, Stevenage
6 December	7th Letchworth Cubs Christmas Concert
8 December	7th, 8th & 11th Letchworth Beaver Sleepover - Wymondley Wood
9 December	District Fellowship Christmas Dinner
11 December	11th Letchworth Group Christmas Party
15 December	2nd Baldock Scout Group Santa Drive
15 December	Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts - Round Table Hamper Pack
21 December	8th Letchworth and Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts - Bag Pack, Morrison's

Green Beret - Unofficial report by the Laing Brothers - 5th Letchworth Scouts

Jamie- As we arrived at Phasels wood (knee deep in baggage), Simon and I got spectacularly down to business, in a fashion that even the army would have been proud of. After failing to get to our pitch we resorted to phoning Gareth, who sent Nick down to retrieve us. Soon we were at our site (which we were sharing with 12th Letchworth) to the surprise that the tents were already up! Mim and Joe had got there around an hour earlier; and had been putting up tents ever since, so that the remaining 4 Scouts (Simon, Andrew, Sam and I) only had to do half a tents work, because the dining shelter didn't have the right poles. Shortly after eating everyone was crashing out in my tent and eating sweets, which later ended up somehow stuck to my sleeping bag, of all places.

Andrew- Suddenly I jerked awake. The sound of 12th Letchworth (who had gone to bed at about 8 or 9 o'clock the previous night) talking at the top of their voices filled my ears. I looked at my watch and groaned as I saw that it was 5 o'clock. Two extremely long hours later 12th Letchworth went around the tents screaming their heads off for us to wake up! So much for a lovely and calm start to the day.

After a quick breakfast the Famous Fifth (us) put some more layers on and set off for the orienteering contest in the wood.

I would say we did pretty well at it considering Joe's feet suffered from shoes that were too tight.

When we got back to our shelter we had a quick rest and then set off to some day bases to earn some points, including shooting, semaphore and map bearing. ((Note from Jamie- Nicks flask (Water skin?) was so fun to drink out of))

Jamie- After this we had some quick

refreshment and moved on to the assault course. This involved Simon and I lugging a pole for over a mile. After some great advice (to not wear jumpers) we set off to a flying start. We took a wrong turning right at the start but that was soon put right by Joe, who spotted the wrong turning about two seconds later. After a short sprint to our first station, we got a rest while the two teams before us completed their activity. Our objective was to crawl under a cargo net, through a tunnel and under another cargo net. We allotted the task of taking the pole through to Simon, who undertook it spectacularly, clearing all obstacles in his way with ease. We were only the 4th team so far to complete the first base, and also the quickest. Simon and I got some help in carrying the pole this time, although we carried it far too high for anyone else to aid us most of the way to the next activity. When we arrived we discovered we had to make it across a pole, which was hanging loose across two platforms. I went first, to demonstrate how to do it correctly. I failed to get onto the next platform, but had



proven my point that going upside down was the right way to get across. Joe, Simon, Sam and Mim got across; but Andrew didn't have enough time to get across. We picked Andrew to do the next activity first and he, unlike the team against us did it getting full points. Next up on our team was Simon who got halfway. Then it was Joe's go. He couldn't reach the rope. Simon quickly got up in our last few seconds and heroically scrabbled across to the finish, almost breaking the extremely well lashed together ropes.

Andrew- Unfortunately that was all the people we had time to get across. Next up we had the spider webs in which we had to get everyone through a, yes you guessed it, spider's web. Unfortunately it was after we had started that we were told we weren't allowed to put someone through a hole that someone had already been in.

Next it was to the one that I can't remember the name of (Jamie-Aerial walkway). We had to walk across a load of objects tied up high in the trees, then slide down a gigantic fireman's pole.

Jamie- After a particularly long run to our next activity, we encountered a new addition to the assault course- a large wall. The aim of this task was to get our whole team (including the pole) over the top as quickly as possible. This was our cue for some heroics from the PL (Simon) and the APL (me). First we lobbed the pole over, then we (quite literally) threw everyone over. When everyone other than the heavy lifters were over, Simon lifted me up and I hoisted myself up so that I was sitting on the wall. Then, (full credit to Simon) he spectacularly launched himself halfway up the wall. I then grabbed his arm, and pulled him up with me. We had done the impossible- got everyone over, without the pole! We were the first team to get everyone over, and now we only needed to get to the end. After a sprint finish we came out feeling proud, red-faced and about seven inches slimmer.

We went for some refreshment and a bit of rest, and came out totally replenished and

ready to do some bases. We set off in the direction of the field, but stopped to complete a base, which involved making a bivvy- without our PL! While on that base, we bumped into Stevenage, who are some friends of the Fifth (We met them at Born 2B). When we had completed that base, we headed off into the field, which had most of the bases and made our way straight over to the van. This was, like the name suggests, a van, but with a difference. There was a board attached to one side. You had to get your team (who each carried one or more cups) over the van using only the board and your bodies. Once on the other side, the cups had to be stacked. The catch was that members of your team must have at least one cup on them. We managed to get everyone apart from Simon over, scoring a large amount of points. We then completed various other tasks, including a base when you completed a giant sudoku, an industrial size operation, a massive buckaroo, and an extremely large Ker-plunk.

Andrew- As it was my first Green Beret I wasn't sure how the night bases would be done. It turned out to be a lot easier than I had thought. I hadn't expected them to be all squashed together. I reckon that altogether we did pretty well. I don't want to boast or anything, but we came best out of everyone at the land skies (joint). We ended up doing about 7,8 or 9 bases.

The next day, after our breakfast, we took the tents down, well I say we but it was mostly Charlie and me. Soon we went to find out about who won and all that. I was disappointed to find that we had come 4th in the assault course and hadn't been announced. So that meant goodbye to an exciting Scout camp and hello mum making me take a bath.



Thirty Seven Members and their guests attended this year's District Fellowship Christmas Dinner held at the Clulow Room. They welcomed new members Dave and Pat Northover, Rose de Roeck and her husband Nigel. Dave Hawkins presented Roger Comley, ADC (Fellowship) with the 25 year Bar to the Long Service Decoration.



Next year it's planned to make the Christmas dinner something special as it will be the Fellowship's Pearl Anniversary (30 years). So make a date in your diaries to keep Saturday 8 December 2007 free.



Two hundred and ninety three Explorer Scouts from around the County, including members of Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit converged at The Aroma, Stevenage to enjoy a Chinese, as much as you can eat, meal as their Christmas get together.



Friday, 1 December, saw the annual Sleepout at St Albans Cathedral, when hundreds of people of all ages spent a mild, if rather damp night outside to raise money for local charities.

7th Letchworth Scouts together with over 250

young people under the age of eighteen were among those sleeping out over night.





Gang Show

It's a Gang Show thing, and happens when you hear a perfect solo or a group or even the whole cast getting it right for the first time and it makes the hairs on the back of your neck stick up.

In Saturday's rehearsal we went over the opening then the closing sections of the Show. I was very pleased that both the Cubs/Brownies and the Scouts/Guides sections had all remembered how the movement and line formation goes without too much cajoling. We hadn't been over it in two weeks. Well done guys! And the last song of the opening sounded so good. With seven different soloists. Wow! Mike Miles would have been pleased.

We have a strange ending to the first half this year. With all of the cast on stage sitting round a camp fire circle. Kum Ba Yah, my friends. We reckon we'll move the audience.

How do you persuade someone to do a part that they do not really want to do? I have this Billy Elliot thing; wonderful piece of music. And all I want is a loud, energetic, athletic piece of set movement. Ok... So Billy was a boy. And only girls want to dance. But I'll settle for two girls and two boys. Harrison and Elliot are so lively. It is so perfect for them. And you won't have to wear ballet tights guys, honestly!! Track suit bottoms and a black t-shirt is fine.

It's a balancing act casting all the parts for the Show. I now have a cast of 103; made up of 38 Cubs/Brownies and 46 Scouts/Guides, the rest adults and Explorers.

I like to give as many cast members a solo or small group singing part or a sketch part as I can. But so many want to do something special. I have so far given 44 different cast members something, I am nearly there. And I know that Riordan, Abigail, Sophie, Russ, Emily, Megan, Chris, Rachel, Rosie and others deserve something more. Hang in there guys, please.

1st Baldock is the perfect venue for us to rehearse in and I thank the Committee for letting us use their halls.

Dave Strong - Gang Show - Producer

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Celebration of the Centenary of Scouting has now started and it is going to be a very busy year within the District. We started the year off with the joining in parties where over two hundred and fifty young people together with Leaders and adults celebrated the start of the Scouting Centenary. I look forward to meeting with you at various events during the year and especially at the District Centenary Camp in May 2007.

I look forward to visiting the new Beaver Colony at 1st Baldock.

Dave Hawkins - D.C.

We're on the web
www.lbdscouts.org.uk

DISTRICT SCOUTS

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5th Letchworth Scouts
 Carol Singing at the Ernest Gardiner Day
 Hospital



2007 DIARY

January 2007

- 6 District Joining in Celebration - four venues
- 8 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 8 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 9 Scout and Guide Shop Reopens
- 10 Young Leaders Training - Module E - W. Wood
- 10 - 13 Harpenden Gang Show
- 11 District Executive Meeting - Wymondley Wood
- 11 District Beaver Leaders' Meeting
- 12 - 13 1st Baldock Murder Mystery Weekend - W. Wood
- 21 Module 10 - First Aid Course - 8th Letchworth HQ
- 25 Module 3 - Tools for the Job - Wymondley Wood
- 28 District Scout Cooking Competition

February

- 3 Watford v Bolton Watford FC
- 6 District Camp 2007 Meeting 1 South Close
- 8 District Cub Swimming Trials

- 8 District Executive Meeting - Wymondley Wood
- 12 - 16 School Half Term
- 18 County Scout Cooking Competition
- 18 Saracens Rugby Day
- 24 - 25 County Chiltern Challenge - Explorer Scouts
- 25 District Scout Shooting Competition

March

- 3 District Cub Football Competition Leisure Centre
- 6 Young Leaders' training - Module G W. Wood
- 8 District Executive Meeting - Wymondley Wood
- 9 - 10 4th Letchworth Beaver Sleepover - W. Wood
- 16 District Scout Quiz
- 16 Comic Relief Red Nose Day
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 17 County Cub Swimming Gala
- 23 - 24 District Gang Show - St Francis Theatre
- 30 - 1 April District Sixers and Seconders Weekend - Wymondley Wood