

CO – ORDINATOR

Issue 544
January 2008

You are all truly amazing. I would like to thank every single one of you for making 2007 a year to remember. As Leaders I know that you lead very busy lives and 'Scouting takes only one hour a week of your time' - said with tongue in cheek. Not only has every section and group participated in the District events, but some of you have taken part in County events as well as National. Not forgetting Group events and meetings held every week to have fun whilst learning and achieving through the Scout training programme. The year was very special because of the Centenary of Scouting and we commemorated it with an event each month. Without exception attendance at these events exceeded our expectations and showed the strength and vitality of Scouting in the District.

Success breeds success and the publicity we have received through these events has led to a significant increase in recruitment - regrettably it has also increased waiting lists in some areas and we must make every effort to recruit Leaders, so no child is denied the opportunity of Scouting.

With many new faces in the District and hopefully with many more to come over the coming year I thought it would be interesting to take a look at the District Badge and its meaning.



District Badge - The lines represent 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.

Fellowship Christmas Dinner and 30th Anniversary Celebration



Weather wise Saturday 8 December 2007 started very much like Wednesday 7 December 1977, cold and raining, is this a good omen for the future of the Fellowship? The Fellowship started in 1977, thirty years ago. The first meeting was held at 'The Settlement' and thus began 30 years of the District Fellowship. Thirty six members of the Fellowship and guests enjoyed each others company at the annual Christmas dinner where there was plenty of food and drink. After the meal Matthew Hart gave an interesting presentation on his experiences at the 21st World Jamboree at Hylands Park. Roger Comley ADC (Fellowship) presented David Northover with his Long Service Decoration in recognition of 15years of service to Scouting.

This year is a leap year so please keep 29 February 2008 free as the secretary has pencilled in a 'Leap Year' Party.

What is the Scout Fellowship?

We are a group of adults who have one thing in common - a wish to support Scouting. We welcome men and women of all ages, interests and backgrounds. There is no need to have been involved in Scouting or Guiding before, all that is required is a willingness to give some of your time to Scouting. In return you will make friends and be able to join with others doing whatever you decide. The Scout Fellowship has its own social and activity programme. The aim of the Scout Fellowship is to "Provide Active Support", with the emphasis being very much on supporting the youth programme in an active manner, at all levels of the Association from the local Scout Group to National level.

For further information on how to join please contact Fred Lovelock,
Fellowship Secretary

E-mail: fredlovelock@msn.com



North Herts Christmas Carol Service supported by Letchworth & Baldock Scouts



Organised by Rap-Aid and Letchworth Lions and supported by Letchworth and Baldock Scouts and the Letchworth Town Centre Partnership the North Herts Christmas Carol Service took place on

Broadway Gardens on Saturday 15 December 2007. Over two hundred and fifty young members plus Leaders, Fellowship, parents and family members attended the service led by the Rector of Letchworth, Rev'd Paul Bennett. The Letchworth Town Band provided the musical accompaniment. The District used the event to mark the end of the District Celebrations of the Centenary of Scouting. All those attending were given commemorative torches which were used by the young people in a torch lit procession to the service. The Rev'd Bennett said a prayer for Scouting after which the Centenary flags, which were flown on Broadway Gardens, were lowered for the last time, by two Cubs, Isaac from 8th Letchworth and Rory from 7th Letchworth. This concluded a very busy and successful year for the District.



Welcome to the new District Commissioner



Hello to you all, I hope you have all had a great Christmas and are now recovering from your New Year celebrations.

A quick introduction, my name is Chris King and I am the new District Commissioner. I live in Baldock with my wife Sue. My three boys all went through Scouting within 1st Baldock Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Beech Springs Venture Scout Unit. I restarted my Scouting at 1st Baldock, on the Executive Committee and progressed to Assistant Scout Leader, Scout Leader, ADC Scouts and have for the last 5 years been District Explorer Scout Commissioner.

Dave Hawkins has now completed his term as D.C and is taking a well deserved rest. He has worked tirelessly over the last few years to keep Scouting in the District at the high standard we are noted for providing. It will be a hard act to follow especially with the huge success of our District celebration events for the Scouting Centenary year that have been supported by you all with tremendous enthusiasm. Thank you, Dave.

I, along with the District, I am sure, would also like to pass a huge thanks to Rita who has supported the District Team in all our endeavours during both Dave and Bob Williams' terms of office and will be continuing to do so as we move into our second centenary.

In the coming year we have two more centenaries to celebrate - Hertfordshire Scouting and Scouting in Baldock. We will keep you advised of planned activities as they are launched. They will not be as high profile as last year but they are just as important to us all within the District.

As we face the second century of Scouting it is vital we continue to provide the opportunities that being in the Scout Movement offers, to as many Young People as we can. Fun and challenging programmes and many and varied activities are the foundation stones of retaining the Young People. What we need to find is more Adults to help us deliver it. As you have no doubt realised, there is no magic formula for recruiting Adults, just persistence and persuasion by all involved in the weekly meetings of Colonies, Packs or Troops. We currently have big waiting lists in the Cubs and Beavers and this is where we need to target our efforts over the coming months.

I intend to ensure that we, the District Team, continue to do all we can to help and support you in delivering superb Scouting to the Young People of the District and look forward to working with you all as I begin to get used to my new role as your District Commissioner.

Chris King

A very belated thank you to 4th Letchworth Scouts, who after seeing the buoyancy aids supplied with the kayaks, and after some discussion with Chris King, donated new buoyancy aids to the District - they were given to 4th Letchworth Scout Troop to use in Scouting by Apryl's and Simon's previous GSL in Arlesey.

The nine new aids are all the same make (yellow) child size, registered BSI 50.

Thank You



8th Letchworth Christmas Concert



8th Letchworth Cub Pack entertained parents and invited guests to a Christmas Concert which included a short play on the three wise Cubs, music and traditional Christmas songs. The entertainment was followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

During the proceedings Darren Greener CSL presented the yellow sixer with the Troop's "Best Six Award" Well Done.



8th Letchworth Scout spent Saturday 22 December 2007 at Morrison's supermarket where the shoppers gave a donation for the Scouts to pack their bags or not! Their efforts raised £871. Thank you to Darren, Claire, Lesley, Amanda and all the adults who helped the Scouts on the day. Thank you to the public for their generosity and goodwill towards Scouting Well done.

7th Letchworth Scout Group as part of their Group Environment award have helped the Countryside Management Team with some work on Norton Common.

Norton Common, 63 acres of unspoilt grass and woodland adjacent to the ancient highway of Icknield Way. It houses Letchworth's famous black squirrels. First sighted in 1944, these truly black squirrels are found only within four miles of the town centre.

The 5th Heavenly Chorus

Scouts from 5th Letchworth returned by request to Freeman House Old Peoples' Home just before Christmas to sing carols. The Troop had sounded simply awful in rehearsal for the previous two weeks. Even Dave Strong himself would have despaired. So what came over them all that day? Divine inspiration? I don't know. I only know that with Father Christmas hats, sparkling antlers and tinsel, they found both tune and harmony! They smiled and sang and acted out the songs to the obvious delight and pleasure of both residents and staff.

Then across the road to The Garden House Hospice, which we had also visited last year. Dr Viv Lucas the Medical Director is also the father of two of our Scouts and made us welcome. Another star performance, only slightly marred when I decided to make one patient feel more at home by joining her in a duet of carols in her native German. The Troop behaved like 'Troopers' and took it in their stride! The 'twelve Lords a leaping' were at serious risk of denting the roof as they put heart and soul into their rendition. Once more the pleasure they brought was clear to be seen.

I was never more proud of the 5th Letchworth Scouts - and they all had a 'fun' evening themselves. I think we came as close as possible to reaching the true spirit of Christmas.

Geoff Smith

GSL





Gang Show 2008

It's one of the rehearsals I look forward to.

The one just before Christmas where all the cast get together for the first time.

We now have an on-stage cast of 105 which only includes seven adults and wonderfully includes thirty eight newcomers to the Show. The Brownies and Cubs had not seen nor rehearsed with the Scouts and older ones until Saturday.

So much of the Show this year, the opening, the closing and three complete sections are full cast that we expected chaos, bringing all the kids together for the first time. And it was chaos. But fun.

We had seventy three at 1st Baldock Scout HQ for the whole two hours.

The Show is coming together ok. But we have a long way to go. Some of it is looking really exciting, especially the closing. Really good stuff, guys. It's so pleasing that so many of the cast know the words already. We have a closing song this year that is the best ever, they already sing it louder than either Memories or Crest of a Wave. Great choice Phil.

We have such surprises in store for our audience this year. From traditional to very unusual, from gentle to very loud.

We decided not to have a Christmas party this year. But celebrated in a festive Gang Show way. The younger members of the cast were open-mouthed astonished as three adults sang to them at the end of the rehearsal. I can't help but smile wondering what they thought of the fish-net tights.. and what they told their parents.

Dave Strong
Producer

Mike Wheeler

At the Scout Leaders' meeting in December Mike Wheeler, ADC (Scouts), was presented with a crystal Scout paperweight in recognition of all his hard work in his role as ADC (Scouts).

Mike stood down as ADC (Scouts) at the end of 2007. He will continue as ASL at 1st Baldock Scouts.

Thank you to Mike for his contribution to the District Team.

Lochearnhead 2009

It's only eighteen months before the District expedition to the Hertfordshire Scout Centre in Lochearnhead, Scotland. Shortly presentations will be held at Troop meetings to show the young people the tremendous opportunity that Lochearnhead offers for adventurous activities.



It is time to start preparing for Lochearnhead 2009

We are particularly keen to see Leaders train for the skills we need most

The District is short of Leaders trained to lead Water Activities - Kayaking - Sailing - Rafting

If you have either ability or enthusiasm in one of these areas , NOW is the time to arrange training to Scouting levels, both for Lochearnhead and to strengthen our District Activity Team year round.

You may need training from scratch - you may just need an update on a previous qualification - you may just need assessment by Scouting.

Hill Walking - it is just the right time to book your place on one of the County IMC (Intermediate Mountaineering Course) courses at Easter (advert in December's Headlines) saying you want to train for, or be assessed as, a mountain walking leader.

Please contact Geoff Smith for further information and advice.

carfax.t21@btinternet.com phone is now 01462 731935

DO IT NOW ! The District will help to meet the cost

Minibus Assessment

Don't wait till the week before your camp or activity - book your mini bus assessment now and use the District Mini Bus to improve the quality of your Group activities

Geoff Smith is one of the County Assessors. He has a new phone number and address, but would like to hear from you first by email - unchanged at:

carfax.t21@btinternet.com
phone is now 01462 731935

Check out the requirements at
www.hertsdirect.org/roadtrans/rsu/driving/advice/minibusguide1

Geoff will do assessments by arrangement, either day time - evenings - or weekends

Not available 6 - 13 January , 20 - 27 January, 28 February - 3 March 2008

County Training

Manager Modules 2008 The County is looking at the provision of a weekend in March 2008 for the completion of the following Manager Modules - 20,21,22,23,24,25 and 26.

This will run at Well End on Saturday and Sunday 8 and 9 March 2008. There will be an evening pre course session to plan the training over the weekend. If you would like to complete these modules, please complete our application form which can be found on line www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk, telephone County Office on 020 8236 0040 to let us know you wish to attend.

Managers are GSL, DC, District Team member

Front Cover Photographs.

One of the table decorations at the Fellowship Christmas party made by Deirdre Williams, Broadway Gardens fountain looking Christmassy for the Carol Service and 8th Letchworth receiving their Centenary 'Thank You' Certificate

Tom Mealing 1929 - 2007

2007 was an unforgettable year for a lot of good reasons, but it ended sadly for Letchworth and Baldock. No sooner had we said goodbye to John Baker than it was time to pay our respects to dear Tom Mealing. He had been ASL with the Eighth Letchworth Spartans troop for several years before he took over as Akela of their Cub pack. By 1974, so many boys wanted Cub Scouting that the Eighth needed to run two packs.

At the District camp marking the Cub Jubilee in 1976, where groups adopted different countries as their theme, Tom's lot widened the game to include what was still Soviet Russia and acted as "Young Pioneers"!

Known in the troop as "Bing" (from his resemblance to another famous star), Tom Mealing was for years assistant stage manager keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes at the District Gang Show. All his life he gave his skill and craftsmanship to so many other organisations, who paid tribute at the memorial service that almost overflowed North Avenue Methodist Church on Christmas Eve.

Privileged to know them for forty years or more, we know that Tom Mealing and John Baker both exemplified the old wording of that Scout Law which said "a Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what country, class or creed the other may belong".

K.J.



Once again the Scouts will be busy with a full programme of Group, District and County events in 2008. Here are just a few of the dates for your diary

District

27 January - Cooking Competition

1st Baldock HQ

24 February - Shooting Competition

Wrayfield Farm, Stotfold

7 - 8 June - Kon Tiki

Venue TBA

4 - 6 July - Walking Weekend

Orchard Farm

County

17 February - Cooking Competition

Stevenage

7 - 9 March Matrix Weekend

for PLs and APLS

2 - 5 May - Patrol Activity Weekend

Phasels

26 - 28 September - B2B Challenged

26 October - Triathlon

14 - 16 November - Green Beret

Not forgetting CCT (Come to Tolmers) 27 July - 9 August 2008)

The Scout Association has become increasingly aware of the emergence of local and imported scarves, some of which are of dubious quality and unknown labour and manufacturing standards.

A new initiative will therefore be launched on 1 January 2008 to assist members in identifying a product which has been approved by The Scout Association.

All scarves delivered by Scout Shops Limited from 1 January onwards will be phased in with the Scout logo on the tip of each scarf. The logo will be visible yet discreet, measuring 20 x 10 mm.

Prices of scarves will not be increased as a result of this initiative which we hope you will fully support.

The logo will mean a slight change to care instructions: 'iron motif on reverse'.

County News

Ivor Thomas, County Commissioner, announced the following appointments as of 1 January 2008

Nigel Clark will take over from Colin McIntyre as County Treasurer.

Chris Searle and Mark Jefferson will be Deputy County Commissioners with responsibility for Programme and Activities respectively. Chris will retain the position of County Training Manager.

Hertfordshire Scouts will celebrate their Centenary starting in July 2008 and running through to June 2009.

The County Team is in the process of organising a number of events to mark the Centenary.

It is planned to have a special neckerchief and there will be the opportunity to gain four special badges during the 12 months.

More details will be available in Headlines and Co-ordinator when available.

THE  **Ordnance
Survey**
THE OUTDOORSSHOW
14-16 MARCH 2008 NEC BIRMINGHAM

The annual Outdoors Show will take place 14 - 16 March 2008 at the NEC Birmingham. Both The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK will be exhibiting at the show. The show is well worth a visit and if you leave it until the

last day many bargains can be picked up as exhibitors sell off their display equipment. For more information visit their website www.theoutdoorsshow.co.uk



Welcome to

Melanie Dawson

ABSL

1st Ashwell



Congratulations to

Darren Greener 8th CSL Letchworth
on gaining his Wood Badge.

Census and Subscription 2008

Calling all Treasurers

The annual subscription for 2008 per member will be £32.30. The breakdown is as follows:

National	£19.10
County	£ 9.90
District	£ 3.30
Total	£32.30

Group contacts will shortly be receiving the annual census return information which needs to be completed and returned to Ron Smith by the date specified. .

Long Service Awards



Long Service Decoration

15 years

Sue King DESA

Simon Tierney DSL

Certificate of Service

10 years

Gareth Howell DA (M)

Oops

Sorry Barry somehow I gave you the wrong surname in last month's co-ordinator. Of course, I know your surname is Dickinson. Apologies once again - remember even editors are human.

2nd Baldock Scout Group

2nd Baldock Scout Group with the help of one of their Scouts and a parent have launched a Group website. To view the site you will find a link from the District website.

8th Letchworth Scout Group

8th Letchworth Scout Group are in the process of constructing their own site. More information to follow.

2008 DIARY

January

10	District Scout & Guide Shop	Opens
10	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
16	District Celebration Meeting	District HQ
21	District Team Meeting	Venue TBA
27	District Scout Cooking Competition	1st Baldock HQ
28	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Wymondley Wood

February

2	County Scout Fellowship Quiz	1st Hatfield Scout HQ
4	Lochearnhead Meeting	8th Letchworth HQ
7	District Scout & Guide Shop	Closes
14	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
17	County Scout Cooking Competition	Stevenage
19	Scout Leaders' Meeting	5th Letchworth HQ
19	District Scout & Guide Shop	Opens
22 - 24	County Chiltern Challenge (Explorer Scouts)	
24	District Scout Shooting Competition	Wrayfield Farm, Stotfold
29	Fellowship 'Leap Year' party	TBA

MARCH

8 - 9	County Matrix Weekend APLs/PLs	TBA
13	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
13	District Scout Shop Closes for Easter	Re opens 3 April
14 - 15	District Gang Show	St Francis Theatre
15	County Cub Swimming Gala	St Albans

If you have not yet replied to the letter sent in October to continue receiving Co-ordinator and / or Headlines these will be the last editions you will receive. Thank you for showing interest in the publications in the past. However, if you still wish to continue receiving them please e-mail me before the end of January.

pro@lbdscouts.org.uk

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

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