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**Letchworth and  
Baldock District  
Scout Council**

# Co-Ordinator

Thank you to the  
Civic Trust for  
sponsoring the  
printing of this  
special edition.

## 600 editions of Co-Ordinator

Welcome to the 600<sup>th</sup> edition of our brilliant monthly newsletter "Co-ordinator". Do you realise that this equates to 50 years of monthly publication? How things will have changed since it was first published in June 1959. Throughout, the ever changing team that has run Scouting and more especially put together this publication the focus on delivering up to date news and views, topical reports, words of wisdom and advice has never changed. Of course, the format has altered as technology has developed. We now publish in full colour on glossy paper loaded with crisp, clear photos that really catch the eye. There are a number within the District who I am sure can clearly remember the time consuming effort to put together Coordinator in it's early days. You have to admire their commitment and thank them for starting us on the road to this milestone.

Co-ordinator is a publication designed to keep everyone in touch with what Scouting is doing in Letchworth and Baldock, not only those currently involved within the movement but past Leaders, parents, friends and a wide range of local organisations and it does so with amazing effect.

My thanks for keeping Coordinator up to date with the needs of the readers go to the current and past editorial teams, who have done an amazing job and I hope will continue to do so over the coming years.

Well done to all Editors and contributors alike, here's to the next 50 years!

**Chris King - District Commissioner**



Congratulations on your 600<sup>th</sup> edition. According to "Milestones of 100 Years of Hertfordshire Scouting", in January 2004 when you were a mere 500 editions old, Co-ordinator was the longest running District newsletter in the UK. Clearly it still is. By my calculation, your 1000<sup>th</sup> will be produced in June 2046. I predict that it will be in holographic format with recorded events coming to life in 3D in your living rooms.

I've been looking at that 500<sup>th</sup> issue, alongside the 598<sup>th</sup> which has, bang on time as always, just popped through the letterbox. It's fascinating to see the differences and similarities. The 598<sup>th</sup> is glossy, colourful, big on pictures, small on words, written by old hands and spring chickens. The 500<sup>th</sup> is matt, black and white, small on pictures and big on words, written by old hands. The technology and the thinking have moved on as Scouting does, pleasing some and cheesing others, but both do what they say on the tin – co-ordinate, and that is a big part of making L&B the success and delight which it is.

I notice that the announcement of KJ's Silver Wolf was made in the 500<sup>th</sup>. Most appropriate. I also notice a truly astonishing crop of Queen's Scouts recorded – 33. Surely that can't have been in a single year? I'd be very happy with that number across the whole County.

All your DCs were listed in the 500<sup>th</sup>. Number 11, Chris, was due to step down at Christmas but kindly offered to continue his great leadership whilst the search for a successor goes on. I rather hope that by the time you read this, progress will have been made, but this is an opportunity for me to thank Chris publicly for all he has done.

I did say "short on words". Better stop! Congratulations and thanks to one and all.

**Rikki Harrington - County Commissioner**

This celebration edition of Co-Ordinator brings you highlights of Scouting in the District reported in the last hundred editions dating back to 2004.

## SCOUTS ON PARADE

### St George's Day

Lord Baden-Powell chose St George to be the patron saint of the Scout movement. "St George is typical of what a Scout should be. The Saint George of legend set a good example of faith, courage and perseverance".

We honour St George, give thanks for the lives of Lord and Lady Baden Powell and renew our promise at our annual St George's Day Parade and service.



The parade is a spectacular sight as our Scouts resplendent in their uniforms and colours flying march behind the Salvation Army band in the beautiful village of Ashwell already bursting with spring colour or stretches half the length of Baldock High Street whilst our local police keep the traffic at bay and it is a tingling experience to hear the beat of drums as the parade approaches Broadway Garden from Pixmore Avenue as it did in our Centenary year when we held the service outside on Broadway Gardens. Our Scouts used their pioneering skills to turn the gardens into a cathedral with an altar, gateways and their flags flying.



We were honoured to have our MP Oliver Heald lead the parade at Ashwell.

### Remembrance Day

Scouts are also proud to parade their colours on Remembrance Day at the War Memorial especially when our own Arthur Scott is the Royal British Legion Standard Bearer.



Other parades take place in Baldock and Ashwell and the 4th Letchworth attend St Paul's Church.

In the weeks before Remembrance Day many Groups invite members of the Royal British Legion or war veterans to talk about the significance of the event and on one occasion to teach the Scouts how to march and drill the colour party.



## LOCHEARNHEAD

### 2005 / 2009 / 2012

Every four years the District provides the Scouts with what must be the ultimate test of their Scouting skills on a expedition to the County activity centre based at Lochearnhead Station - a wonderfully equipped facility in a magnificent location. It stands at the entrance to the beautiful Glen Ogle, overlooks Loch Earn and is surrounded by magnificent mountains.



The Scouts spend nights on the wild mountainsides often in atrocious weather conditions. They enjoy climbing and abseiling on the Benny Beg Crag and enjoy the adrenalin rush of white water rafting at Aberfeldy. They experience the thrill of sailing on Loch Earn and canoeing on a smaller loch.



As a grand farewell there is the traditional Scottish supper of haggis, always piped in by a piper in full highland dress and addressed in the words of Robbie Burns.

A Scout said "it was a great trip and one which I will remember for the rest of my life".

A grateful parent summarised it up by writing "Thank you for giving my son such a great time at Lochearnhead. He came back really full of all his adventures".



## Centenary of Scouting 1907 - 2007

2007 was one of the best years ever in the history of Scouting in the District as we focused our programme around the Centenary celebrations.

In January we held **JOIN IN CELEBRATION** parties which were enjoyed by over 300 youngsters throughout the District. These were followed in February by **SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES** with a Scouting theme in all our primary schools. Head teachers allowed Scout and Guides to attend in uniform. We displayed our colours and told the story of Scouting and sang songs and hymns which caused huge excitement in the schools.



In March the Garden City Heritage Museum had an **EXHIBITION OF SCOUTING** and in April 400 Scouts and their Leaders marched to Broadway Gardens to be met by over 250 dignitaries, family and friends for a **ST GEORGE'S DAY SEEVICE** conducted by Father Paul Bennett and Father Seamus Murphy. We returned to Broadway Gardens in August to make the **SUNRISE PROMISE** with fellow Scouts across the World.

Our **DISTRICT JAMBOREE** was packed full of adventurous and exciting Scouting activities. The Scouts camping at Wymondley Wood enjoyed traditional bases to show off their Scouting skills as well as pursuits such as archery, shooting, climbing, an aerial runway and an amateur radio base. During the

weekend there were visits to Wyboston Water Activity Centre for the Scouts and Woburn Safari Park for the Cubs as well as visits to the cinema and swimming pool. The Beavers enjoyed a sleepover and took part in all the activities. A highlight of the camp was when the Leaders and Scout Fellowship served over 400 Scouts at a giant street party.

The Jamboree closed with an enjoyable and stimulating Scouts Own and the flags were lowered by our three youngest Beavers as we looked to the future.

In July our Leaders took time off to enjoy a Black Tie **DINNER DANCE** at the Spirella ballroom.

The **WORLD JAMBOREE** started a few days early for a group of our Leaders who volunteered to "meet and greet" overseas contingents arriving at Luton Airport. In the words of Dave Strong "What a buzz.com it was. We soon got into the swing of welcoming and chatting to arriving Scouts from all over the World. Running about, Wizz.com, sorting transport, helping to organise coaches. And we felt so useful. We were the first English representatives these people met. Ambassadors us. First Choice Scouting people from Letchworth and Baldock.

We met people from all over the World. From Spain and Italy to Bolivia and Columbia, from Bosnia to the Netherlands. And all so interested and keen to tell us about themselves and interested in us".

On a day visit to Hyland Park we experienced the unique atmosphere of a **WORLD JAMBOREE**.

There were displays, activities and lots to do. There were

international cuisine food halls run by Scouts from all round the World. There were games to play,



skills to try and entertainment to enjoy. There were cultural displays and Scouts running them trying to get you to visit their countries.

Walk anywhere round the site and people from all round the World just come up and talk to you. It's exhilarating. It's amazing. We chatted to Americans, Africans, Asians, South Americans, Chinese.

We all have one thing in common, a friendship, a link that is unique to us. We are Scouts. Truly "One



World, One Promise". Scouting really can change the World.

How do you follow all that? Well December saw us back in the Broadway Gardens to significantly swell the numbers at the **CIVIC CAROL SERVICE** What a magnificent finale to a wonderful year it was when our Scouts marched into the arena from all

four corners of the Gardens with their candle torches alight and the sound of their singing drifting across the Letchworth night air.



## GANG SHOW

Each October there is a buzz around the District as Scouts and Guides gather to start rehearsals for the annual Gang Show.

There are no auditions, everyone is welcome, the only qualification is a desire to entertain and enjoy the fun and excitement of performing songs and sketches on stage.

Fifty years ago the "Pictorial" reported "Bright songs, sad songs, broad comedy and sentiment. Yet whatever the mood of entertainment the Gang worked their



skilful way through the programme." And that spirit is still alive to-day as a new generation of youngsters keeps up the tradition. They entertain us in the time honoured manner but in the smart surroundings of the newly refurbished St Francis theatre and with the help of modern sound systems and hi-tech lighting. Long may the show go on.

Congratulations to Dave Strong, the producer and his Gang and all the supporters in the background providing the costumes, scenery, music, lighting and front of house services. They deserve your support. It is a magnificent achievement to produce the show year after year.

## WYMONDLEY WOOD SCOUT AND GUIDE CENTRE

Our residential and camping centre at Wymondley Wood has become a star attraction and established itself as one of the best small centres for miles around.

Over 500 Scouts attended the Centenary Jamboree in 2007 when in addition to all the Scouting events on the field, visits were made to Woburn, Wyboston Water Activity Centre and the Broadway Cinema. This was followed the following year with Letchworth, Hitchin and Stevenage District Guides all

olding big camps to celebrate the Girlguiding Centenary.

Otherwise the centre has been a hive of activity hosting everything from individual groups to District competitions ranging from the Beaver sports to archery and shooting as well as the annual Cub camps and the renowned 1st Baldock murder mystery weekends. It has hosted the Girlguiding big patrol hunt and handicapped guides.

The centre has become popular with local schools who make residential visits in the summer and we always look forward to the annual visit from Woolgrove School. In 2008 we took part in



the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and our Scouts were able to talk with Scouts from all continents - the furthest contact being the Willis Islands just off the coast of Australia

We have also hosted youth groups from other organisations such as St John Ambulance, Hertfordshire and Metropolitan police cadets and the RSPB.

Our thanks, go to the enthusiastic bunch of wardens who make all this possible.

## DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

The District HQ dates back to the 1930s and apart from a period during World War II when it was requisitioned by the army it has been used continually by Scouts and for a long time was home to the 1st/3rd Scout Group.



However, it had become very dated in its facilities and needed extensive work to repair, rewire and decorate the building. With the encouragement of grants from LGCHF and NHDC a group of energetic Leaders rolled up their sleeves and provided the hard graft needed to once again turn the building into a smart HQ with new toilets and kitchen that the District can be proud of. In addition to District meetings it now houses district archives and is the meeting place for Oak Eagle Explorers and the Scout Network.

## SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT

On 14 January 2011 the Scout Fellowship which had its first meeting at the "Settlement" in 1977 faded into history to re appear with a new image as the Scout Active Support Unit - a title intended to reflect more strongly the nature of its activities.

However, the enthusiasm for



Scouting amongst its members continued unabated and they are to be found whenever help is needed. It may be offering financial help to Groups requiring new equipment or at a more practical level they have helped judge the Arts and Craft Competition, the Cooking Competition or Kon-tiki or they have been up all night providing refreshments at Nightjar. Their friendly and efficient help is welcome front of house at the Gang Show and individual members help at places such as the Scout Shop and Wymondley Wood.

Finally it is a place to make friends, have fun and make a positive contribution to Scouting.



## SCOUTING IN THE COMMUNITY

## SCOUTS ABROAD

Scouts endeavour to play a positive role in their community. This spirit was noted by Father Seamus Murphy in his St George's Day address when he said "I know that in all your different actions and the things you do, Scouts are not just concerned about having a good time for themselves. I am very inspired by all the charitable works you do, not only locally but also by generously responding to the world's needs, Well Done".

Co-Ordinator chronicles Scouts getting to know their community with visits to the ambulance station, the fire station, - always popular when the hoses are turned on, the air ambulance as well as the local library and Sikh temple.



1st Baldock Beavers held an environment evening when they learned about the environment and recycling and 2nd Baldock Cubs supported

the Hounds for Heroes.

Hardier members of the movement have helped clear shrubbery, erect fences and undertaken coppicing at Weston Hills and Ivel Springs and Oak Eagle Explorers help with the annual spring clean of Letchworth. 7th Letchworth Scouts have helped Countrywide Management in Norton Common.



Oak Eagle are busy on local election nights when they help with collecting the ballot boxes and distributing them to the tellers. Scouts support national events with enthusiasm. They have joined in the Blue Peter Shoebox appeal, Sports Relief and Children Need with fund raising events ranging from sponsored silences to fancy dress parties. 7th Letchworth have helped the homeless by sleeping out in the "Cardboard City" at St Albans Cathedral. Christmas



entertainment is popular and 5th Letchworth make an annual visit to Freeman House and the Garden House Hospice.

The annual St George's Day collection is donated to local groups helping children and similar donations are made by the Gang Show. The Tiger Club at the Hospice. The Phoenix Group for Deaf Children and Herts Young Carers have all been



beneficiaries of these donations. We have also supported international charities such as the Tsunami Appeal, 1st Ashwell supported the Toybox charity which rescues street children in Latin America, 8th Letchworth have supported the Powell Memorial Group in Kenya and 2nd Baldock held a sponsored famine to support children in Ghana.

Five youngsters chosen for their Scouting prowess, represented the District at the World Jamboree held at Rinkaby, Sweden in 2011. The theme for the Jamboree was Simply Scouting and it was enjoyed by George Budd, Tom Barwell, Alex Hunt, Adam Lunnion and Will Smith. Also attending as part of the International Service Team was Matt Hart, Scout Network. George wrote "It's amazing here! The most memorable moment so far was 39,000 Scouts standing in the opening ceremony, Scout signs in the air, in complete silence remembering those killed in the Oslo attacks. Today I was working in the Global Development Village, which is all about sustainability and international relations. Last night we had dinner with some French, America and Spanish patrols. .



Sixteen Scouts and Explorers joined the County Expedition to Naesby in Denmark and were able to make a day visit to the Jamboree.

Katie Goodwin, Emma Hart and Luke Franklin from Oak Eagle Explorer Unit participated in the County expedition to Swaziland, Lesotho and Kwa-zula where they helped with community projects.

Two Groups returned to their favourite haunts. The 5th Letchworth visited the Haarelem Jamborette in Holland and 2nd Baldock went to the spectacular Gorges du Tarn in France.

In 2004 Oak Eagle Explorers visited the Czech Republic, and two years later they went to the Lech Valley in Austria.

## SCOUT LEADERS

The remarkable thing about all the activities described in these issues of Co-Ordinator is that they have been organised and run by volunteers. They have been inspired by a wonderful group of people who hold down full time jobs and yet willingly give their spare time in the evenings, at weekends and often during annual holidays.

All Scout Leaders will have been subject to a CRB check and they are required to undertake training leading to the coveted Wood Badge. Additional specialist training is required to take Scouts away over-night or an adventurous activities such as mountaineering, canoeing and archery.

After a Beaver Sleepover one parent wrote "I must pay tribute

to the Leaders who give up so much of their time so that the children can try out and enjoy new experiences. Their care, support and understanding goes way above just planning their weekly meetings" and at our Centenary jamboree a St John first aider remarked that "she had never before been in the company of such enthusiastic and positive people".

## QUEEN'S SCOUTS

The Queen's Scout Award is the top award in Scouting, and in gaining the award I have had many adventures and made many friends and learnt many skills that I will have for the rest of my life.

It has allowed me to take part and complete many challenges among which were completing the 'Explorer Belt' in 2008. Undertaking challenges while travelling around Lichtenstein, Austria, Southern Germany, Northern Italy and Switzerland. I also took part in Hertfordshire Scouts Expedition to Swaziland in

2009 to work in the local communities with local and regional Scouts. Both of these made up my two activities from the international, values and environment part of the award. I gained my Duke of Edinburgh Gold, where I hiked across Snowdonia for four days and three nights, helped at 12<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Beavers as part of my service, and learned to be a Kayaking Coach for my sport among other things. With all of this done I still had to sleep eighteen nights away, twelve of which must be under

canvas. Some were camps within our District but many were camps with other Scout groups I have met on my Scouting travels.

With all this now completed, what I can achieve in Scouting isn't over; it has just prepared me to be a better person, to take on new challenges and adventures in the years to come. I do believe you are not awarded the Queen's Scout Award, rather you become one.

**Matt Hart**

## DISTRICT HONOURS

### Silver Wolf

Bob Williams SASU



### Silver Acorn

Deb Dilley 2nd Baldock  
Mick Dilley 2nd Baldock  
Dave Hawkins Badge Secretary  
Rita Hawkins Editor

### Bar to the Award of Merit

Wendy Tierney ADC (Cubs)

### Award of Merit



Barry Dickinson District Scouter  
Roger Comley SASU  
Janet Conder District Secretary  
Mike Durrant SASU  
Anne Gutteridge 4th Letchworth  
Rob Hemmings 1st Baldock  
Sonja Hall 1st Baldock  
Chris King D.C.  
Sue King DESA  
Fred Lovelock SASU  
Sue Lovelock 5th Letchworth

Diana Marshall 2nd Baldock  
Chris Page 1st Baldock  
Allan Patterson District Chairman  
Brian Plater 1st Baldock  
Ron Smith District  
Simon Tierney District  
Dave Upson SASU Manager  
Mike Wheeler 1st Baldock  
Eric Woodward 1st Baldock  
Amanda Woolmer 7th Letchworth

### Chief Scout's Commendation



Mick Balls Wymondley Wood  
Clair Calver 7th Letchworth  
Gavin Conder District  
Tracey Duxbury 7th Letchworth  
Vicki Gage ADC (Beavers)  
Apryl Goodwin ESU YL  
Simon Goodwin 4th Letchworth  
Lesley Gwilt 8th Letchworth  
Anne Gutteridge 4th Letchworth  
Jackie Hare 7th Letchworth  
Christine Hart 12th Letchworth  
Nora Hitcham Shop Manager  
Gareth Howell 5th Letchworth

Nick Howell 5th Letchworth  
Chris Lewis 1st Baldock  
James Martin SASU  
Fiona Potts 1st Baldock  
Geoff Smith 5th Letchworth  
Sheila Tickner SASU  
Edmond Tickner SASU  
Steve Walsh 11th Letchworth  
Amanda Woolmer 7th Letchworth  
Steven Woolmer 7th Letchworth  
Stuart Wylie 1st Baldock

### Queen's Scouts

Matt Hart  
Joe Hartley  
Nick Howell  
Kim Martin  
Joel Miller  
David Nunnington  
Hayley Palmer  
Daniel Staines  
Ross Taylor  
Steven Woolmer  
Chris Woor

