

Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Scouts
presents

THE 50TH GANG SHOW 1999



£1.00



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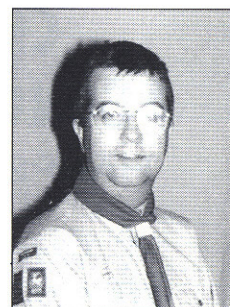
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FROM THE PRODUCER

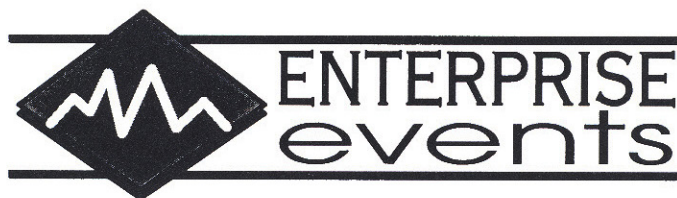
Many people have asked what we are going to do this special year – the answer has been to produce, as we do each year, an all-new Show sticking to the traditional formula. We doff our hats to Shows gone by with the Four Old Codgers (members of the original 1949 cast), the Flying Zucchini and the Finale tribute to Ralph Reader, but we believe that what has kept the Harpenden Gang Show so special throughout its history is the constancy of the format coupled with the freshness of the material and the performers. It would be wrong to spend 2½ hours simply reminiscing. The continuity of the Show is in itself a fitting tribute to those people who have made it such a special part of the District and County Scouting over the past half-century. We celebrate our birthday, whilst using the occasion as a springboard to the next 50 years.



Ewan Murray

It is a privilege to be part of such a great team effort. A team that stretches right back through the 24 years of Marilyn Hudson's production of the show, to the vision of Harpenden Gang Show founder Eric Thair and his contemporaries back in 1949, when a one-off Show was so talked about in the "village" that it simply had to become an annual event. October 1949 was followed by January 1951, and every January since. Any Scout in the District who wanted to be in the Show could simply turn up and participate. This is still the case, although for safety reasons (and Production Team sanity) numbers do have to be limited. We have never auditioned, nor will we ever do so, for such is the ethos of Scouting – a movement for all young people, whatever their ability.

When writing the finale song "Golden Years", I had a lump in my throat. I remembered my own days on this same stage as a Cub, a Scout and a front row tap-dancer. Whatever the part played by these wonderful young people before you tonight, there is no doubt that the memory will never fade – "these are dreams come true, forever turned to gold; yes, these are Golden Years".



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Did You Know ?

That Dennis Paddison for many years the Gang Show Lighting Designer and currently Technical Manager and assistant General Manager of the Public Hall appeared in many of the early Gang Shows in the late fifties and that Dennis holds the record for the longest span of involvement. You can see his son Keith in tonight's performance.



Did You Know ?

That 40 years ago in the Gang Show programme there was a request for people to buy a "brick" in aid of the about to be erected Baden Powell House on a plot of land on the junction of Cromwell Road and Queens Gate close by where the Great Man himself lived (no, not Ewan).

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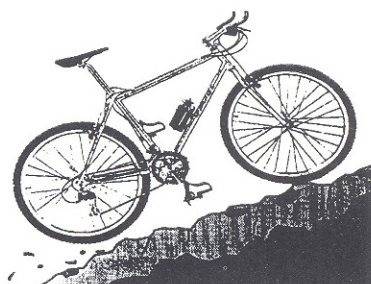
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Did You Know ?

That Liz Barringer acts as a
coordinator for Gang Show lost
property and may even have some
of yours from last year. She will
also help when even more
embarrassingly someone comes
home wearing another Gang
member's clothes. Phone Liz when
you need to on 01582 768592



Help!

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with this successful, vibrant,
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GOLDEN REUNION

"I'll be there". Without a doubt Ralph Reader would have penned a song out of the phrase I have heard regularly over the last few months. Perhaps..

I'll be there, I'll be there,
Through rain and stormy weather;
I'll be there, I'll be there,
We'll always be together.....

Yes – the rhymes were real birthday card stuff, and yet there was magic about the songs that ensured they would continue to be sung whenever members of the Gang meet. And that is what we will be doing on February 5 & 6 1999 at our Golden Reunion – singing all the songs that have given so much delight over the last 50 years.

A number haven't worn very well – some are very dated and 'Stepping out, stepping out, we're about to go gay' has, sadly taken on a different connotation. But Ralph wrote with so much vigour, enthusiasm and understanding that, even in these days of Oasis and The Spice Girls, teenagers tackle a Ralph Reader number with verve.

His sketches were often corny, over-sentimental and maudlin, and yet members clamoured to be in them. Because we all, guiltily, sensed that the underlying old- fashioned message was a mixture of loyalty, duty, concern for others, friendship, and, above all, fun. And that was why we were in Scouting, Ralph Reader himself said, "The Gang Show is just a small part of the great game of Scouting and it should never be regarded as the beginning and end of everything".

On 30 October 1932 the first ever Gang Show was staged at the Scala Theatre, off Tottenham Court Road and entitled 'The Gang's all here', written and produced by 'A Holborn Rover' who was later identified as Ralph Reader. It was renamed 'The Gang Show' in 1934 and, until 1967 was an all-male show. In 1968 girls joined the cast and the change was warmly welcomed by the audience and, especially, the Gang themselves.

I was fortunate to be present at the last London Show in 1974 and the songs from that Show are amongst those we will be singing in February - 'Making memories', 'The Happy land', 'London Town', 'The Morning of your life', and, of course, 'Crest of a Wave'. It was a time of high emotion and we all vowed to continue the Gang Shows which by now had sprung up all over the world.

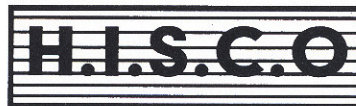
Harpenden Scouts staged their own Show on Saturday 22nd October 1949 in the Public Hall. I listened countless times as Eric and Ruby Thair told of all the problems and heartaches of that first effort, and yet, here we are today, fifty shows later, and still going strong! Eric would be thrilled to know that the cast regularly numbers 180 and members

have to be turned away for safety reasons – but never auditioned! When I became Producer in 1970, mainly because Jack Skinner the Producer of the 1969 Show suddenly had a job transfer and I was obviously underemployed as Chief Costume Lady, Eric told me that he was handing me ‘The Annual Miracle’a stageful of enthusiastic amateurs, ranging from 9-20 years, with minimal talent and great energy.

And so the traditions have grown over the years. The lines of eight (so that we can still move on **that** stage); the front row tappers; the speculation in Cubs that, if you are in a sketch, you might just make the front row in Venture Scouts; those old-worldly floral gestures on Saturday night; and the variation on “Crest of a Wave”, which is banned by the Producer but there is always somebody in the audience who obliges! And the sons and daughters of the originals are now keeping those traditions going. We’ll be remembering all these things – the night the lights went out; the evening when the scenery fell on Trudy; Four Little Fellas who wouldn’t shut up; the melting snowman; Tricky and the five-barred gate; our gentle giant, Peter Hill; and more, much much more.

There will be laughter and great companionship and, somewhere, Eric and Ralph Reader will be joining in when we sing ‘These are the times we shall dream about, and we’ll call them the good old days’. Maudlin and sentimental, but what the heck.....!

Marilyn Hudson



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Did You Know ?

That Peter Barford (until recently District Secretary) was in the chorus of the second Harpenden Gang Show staged in 1951. His son Andy Barford both helped to produce this 50th Programme and is a current "Call Boy" – a post he has held jointly with his wife Yvonne for many years. This is Andy's 25th consecutive Gang Show – the first was in 1975 as a member of the Drum and Trumpet Corps of the 4th Harpenden Scout Group. That is history!



Did You Know?

That Martin Hodge claims the world record for the most annual appearances in the Harpenden Gang Show – performing in no less than 17 different shows. This is not just due to an over extended youth. Until the early nineties the cast included Scout Leaders (and other adult performers) as well as Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts.

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Some of the Production Team

Left to Right

Angela Archer	Choreographer
Ewan Murray	Producer and Musical Director
Jemma Woods	Assistant Producer
Richard Turberville	Assistant Producer



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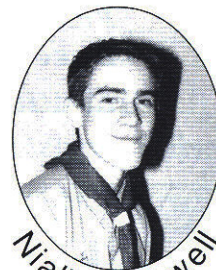
James Barringer



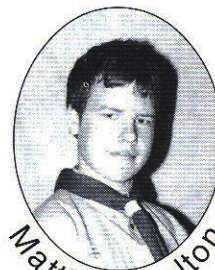
Jemma Benson



Morven Blackwell



Niall Blackwell



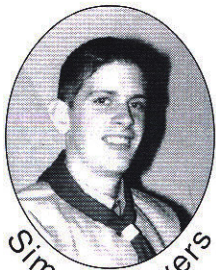
Matthew Bolton



Richard Boulton



Sarah Boulton



Simon Bowers



Patrick Brennan



James Brighurst



Helen Brind



Kim Brooker



Sam Brooker



Chris Bryant



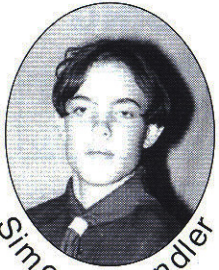
Louise Cameron



Robert Carragher



Nicola Carsons



Simon Chandler



Calum Clark



Lucy Coleman



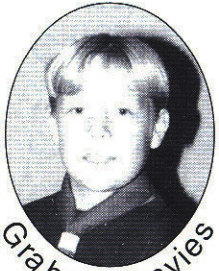
James Connors



Richard Courtman



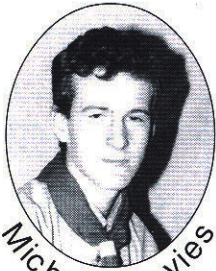
Lucy Davie



Graham Davies



Lucy Davies



Michael Davies



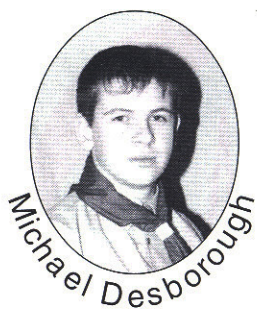
Paul Davies



Robin Davies



Liz Day



Michael Desborough



Tom Drake



Andrew Durbidge



Ian Durbidge



Jonathan Evans



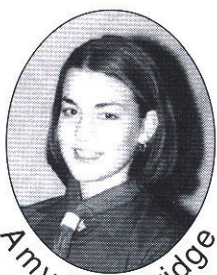
Christopher Fox



Charlotte Godden



Vanessa Godden



Amy Goodridge



Laura Graham



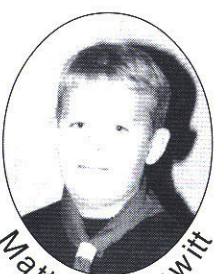
Ross Graham



Chris Hall



Ben Henshilwood



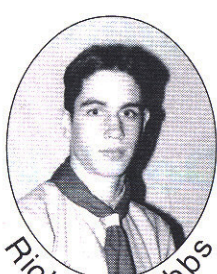
Matthew Hewitt



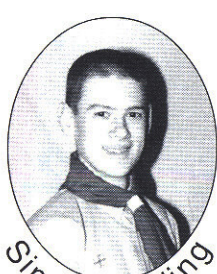
Leonie Higgins



David Hoare



Richard Hobbs



Simon Holding



David Holt



James Horner



Mike Howells



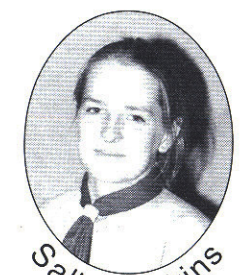
Vicki Hunter



Amy Hurnell



Andrew Jack



Sally Jenkins



Jeni Johnstone



James Jones



Lewis Keen



Alasdair Keith



Andrew Kelly



Jo Kennedy



James Kerridge



Tom Kerridge



Ciaran Kiely



Gill Kilvert



Sam Kirsop



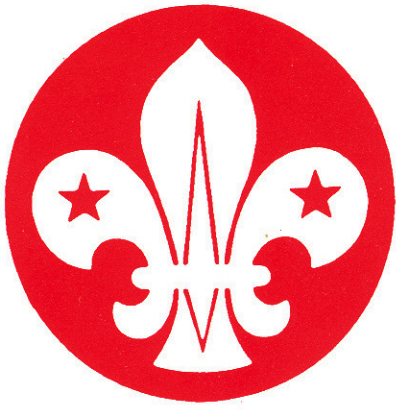
ACT ONE



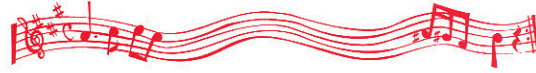
- 
- 0. The Queen**
 - 1. Celebration**
 - 2. Don't Worry**
 - 3. Telecubbies**
 - 4. Global Warming**
 - 5. Dance of the Little Swans**
 - 6. Thank You for the Music**

Producer & Musical Director – Ewan Murray

Choreographer – Angela Archer



ACT TWO

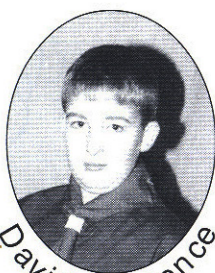


- 7. Let's Stick Together**
- 8. Changing Grooms**
- 9. Club Tropicana**
- 10. Four Old Codgers**
- 11. Swing The Mood**
- 12. The Flying Zucchini's**
- 13. Golden Years**

*The Gang kindly requests that you do not take photographs
or use video cameras. Thank You.*



Tim Lane



David Lawrence



Geoffrey Lewin



Joe Lightfoot



Natalie Lindeman



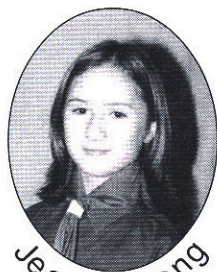
Daniel Ling



Jason Ling



Emma Long



Jessica Long



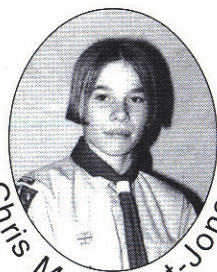
Stacey Long



Anna Luxton



Helen Mann



Chris Marchant-Jones



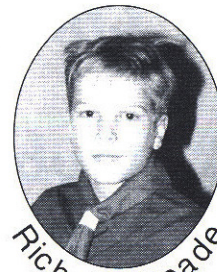
Michael Marchant-Jones



Laura Mastel



Rory McGovern



Richard Meade



Christopher Melton



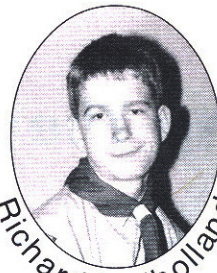
Chris Miller



Nicky Miller



Victoria Molson



Richard Mulholland



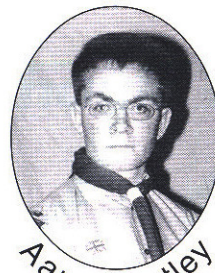
Alan Murray



Joshua Naden



Kieran Nunn



Aaron Nutley



Helen O'Reilly



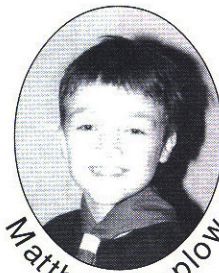
Laura Oggelsby



Keith Paddison



Matthew Pearson



Matthew Peplow



Elizabeth Powell



Adam Prince



Robin Prince



Simon Pryor



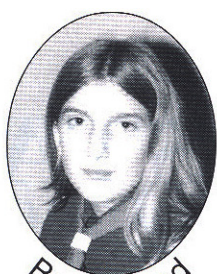
Laura Ratcliffe



Joseph Read



Ben Redding



Beth Reed



Jonathan Richardson



Sam Rickerty



Pippa Roberts



Adam Robinson



Howard Robinson



Daniel Russell



Jonathan Scanlon



David Scott



Lindsey Segall



Imran Shahryar



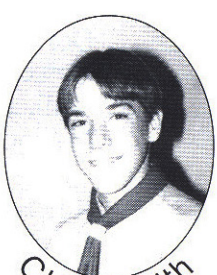
Kathryn Smale



Tim Smale



Andrew Smith



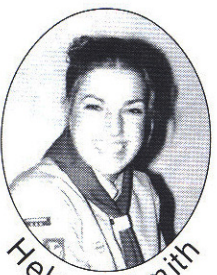
Chris Smith



Christopher Smith



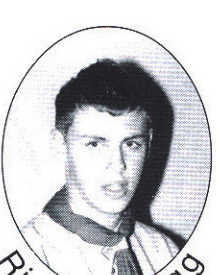
Emily Smith



Helena Smith



Richard Smith



Richard Stagg



Charlotte Sykes



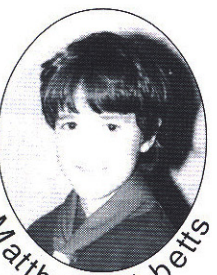
Jonathan Sykes



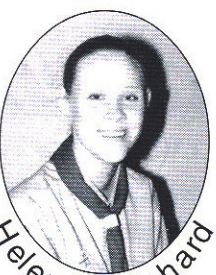
Andrew Thompson



Hannah Tibbetts



Matthew Tibbetts



Helen Trenchard



Robin Turner



Matt Ware



Mark Watson



Russell Westley



Jonathan Whyman



Emma Williams



Lindsey Wood



Luke Worlock



Christopher Wright



Amy Yardley

STAGE STAFF

Production Assistants	Jemma Woods and Richard Turberville
Music Arranger	Chris Pettitt
Rehearsal Pianist	Graham Thomson
Scenery Designer & Stage Manager	David Keen
Stage Hands and Scenery Crew	Mark and Jennifer Hubbard, Colin Jeffs, Darren Lowry, Sue Mann, Helen Mann, Phil Robinson, Kit Yardley, Conor Mulholland, James Bryant, Nick Bonner, James Bowers, Pete Devonshire
Wardrobe	Dorothy Cawrey assisted by Marion Goodson, Margaret Melville, Jeanette Bowers, Beryl Jeffs, Pam Woodford-Smith, Sue Brooker, Ros Mulholland, Jane Walker, Liz Barringer, Elaine Brind, Susanne Woods, Chrissy Hunter, Helen Mellor, Liz Davie, Mavis Whiteway, Jackie Freeth, Jill Picken, Fran Coulter
The Band	Reeds – Lucy Campbell, Chris Pettitt, Sue Pollitt; Trumpet – Steve Mills, Tim Benwell; Trombone – Richard Turberville; Piano – Graham Thomson; Bass – Gareth Covey-Crump; Drums – Neil Duncan
Lighting Designer	Neil Hewitt
Lighting by	The Harpenden Lighting Pool
Sound	Robert and Susie Hemmin
Make Up	Jeremy Finch assisted by Harpenden Venture Scouts
Properties	Brian Woods and Jonathan Finch
Call Boys	Andrew and Yvonne Barford
Cub Number written and produced by	Richard Harrington
Assisted by	Jo Busby, Albert Elliott, Liz Jack, Yvonne Lowry, Tina Miller
Scout Room	Liz Davie, Dorothy Whitehouse, Helen Mellor, Liz Scott
Box Office	Phil and Lois Robinson
Front of House	Kit Yardley
Stewards	Chris Turberville assisted by Venture Scouts
Refreshments	Katy Turberville with the assistance of parents and leaders
Confectionery	Jan Yardley
Programme	Bob Finch and Andrew Barford
Press Relations	Steve Gledhill

Four Old Codgers

Original 1949 cast members taking part in the "Four Old Codgers"

Bryan Clarke

John Dellar

Derek Saunders

Darrell Clarke

John Every

John Seabrook

Bill Culley

Michael Picton

Roger Udell



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Acknowledgements

St. Albans Gang Show; Stage Door;
St. John Ambulance; Luton Carnival;
Oggelsby of Harpenden; Southdown
Entertainers; Ted & Molly Thompson;
Damian of Gosling Design

Ralph Reader

The Harpenden Gang
Show is based on an
original idea by the late
Ralph Reader C.B.E.



Did You Know ?

That you can be on the Harpenden Gang Show mailing list for the year 2000 show and thus be early in the queue for tickets? Just fill in one of the blue forms you can find in the foyer or give Phil Robinson a call on 01582 713325

ROTHSAY

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Did You Know ?

That just to show that there is little new in this world, in 1979 the Gang Show programme had a late "Stop Press" entry – the World Jamboree in Iran was cancelled. Our very own Andy Barford was one of those with a place. By the time we read this let us hope that this year's Chile Jamboree is safely underway.

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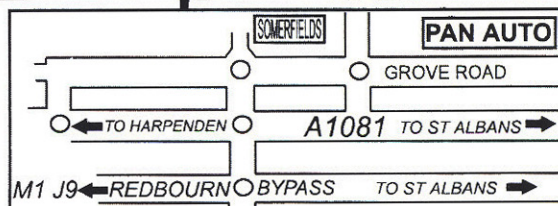
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Did You Know ?

That the Harpenden Gang Show
has it's own Web site and it can be
found at **http://**
www.gangshow.com/harpenden

And that the email address is
harpenden.gang.show
@unforgettable.com

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP OUR ADVERTISERS

We are very fortunate in having so many generous advertisers in this programme, particularly when times are difficult for many small businesses. Thank you all. Now to what you the Gang Show Supporter can do to help keep the price of tickets down and to support Scouting in Harpenden.

It is quite simple – go through this Programme, find a shop or business that you haven't used before and give them a try, you may well be pleasantly surprised with what's on offer. Mention the Gang Show Programme too. That way they will be happy to advertise again next year.

Thank You



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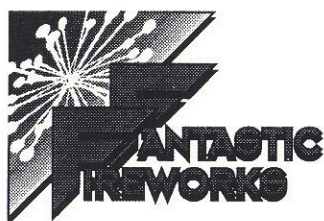
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Wanna be in our Gang?

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Harpenden Lions Club

Did you know that Harpenden Lions run a

Youth Award competition for those who carry out voluntary work in the community? Hilary Turnbull from Harpenden Venture Scouts won the local heat this year. Watch the Press and other announcements next September for entry details.

Did you know that Harpenden Lions also run the Highland Gathering? Scouts have helped run the event the last two years – thank you! The Lions have given funds to Scouts as a result of their involvement.

Any Dads in the audience who would like to get involved with Lions, and have fun while fund-raising and helping the local community, should phone Nick Eckford on Harpenden 713338.



TOGETHER

**Together, when we are all together
We know how lucky we are.**

**The world around us is everything
The sound of music, the songs we sing –
And even from the coldest winter
The warmest summer will rise.**

**We'll share together, when we're together
The best years of our lives.**



GOLDEN REUNION – 50 Years of Harpenden Gang Show

The “Gang Show Music Halls” will be held on Friday and Saturday 5th and 6th of February 1999.

The Reunion is for people who have appeared in or helped with a Gang Show from the very beginning to 1992. Phone one of the numbers below to find out more, and to see if there are any tickets still available.

1940s/50s	Roger Udell	01582 760503
1960s	Martin Hodge	01582 712432
1970s	Trevor Miller	01582 460712
1980s/90s	Katy Turberville	01582 760565
Backstage	Marilyn Hudson	01582 760562

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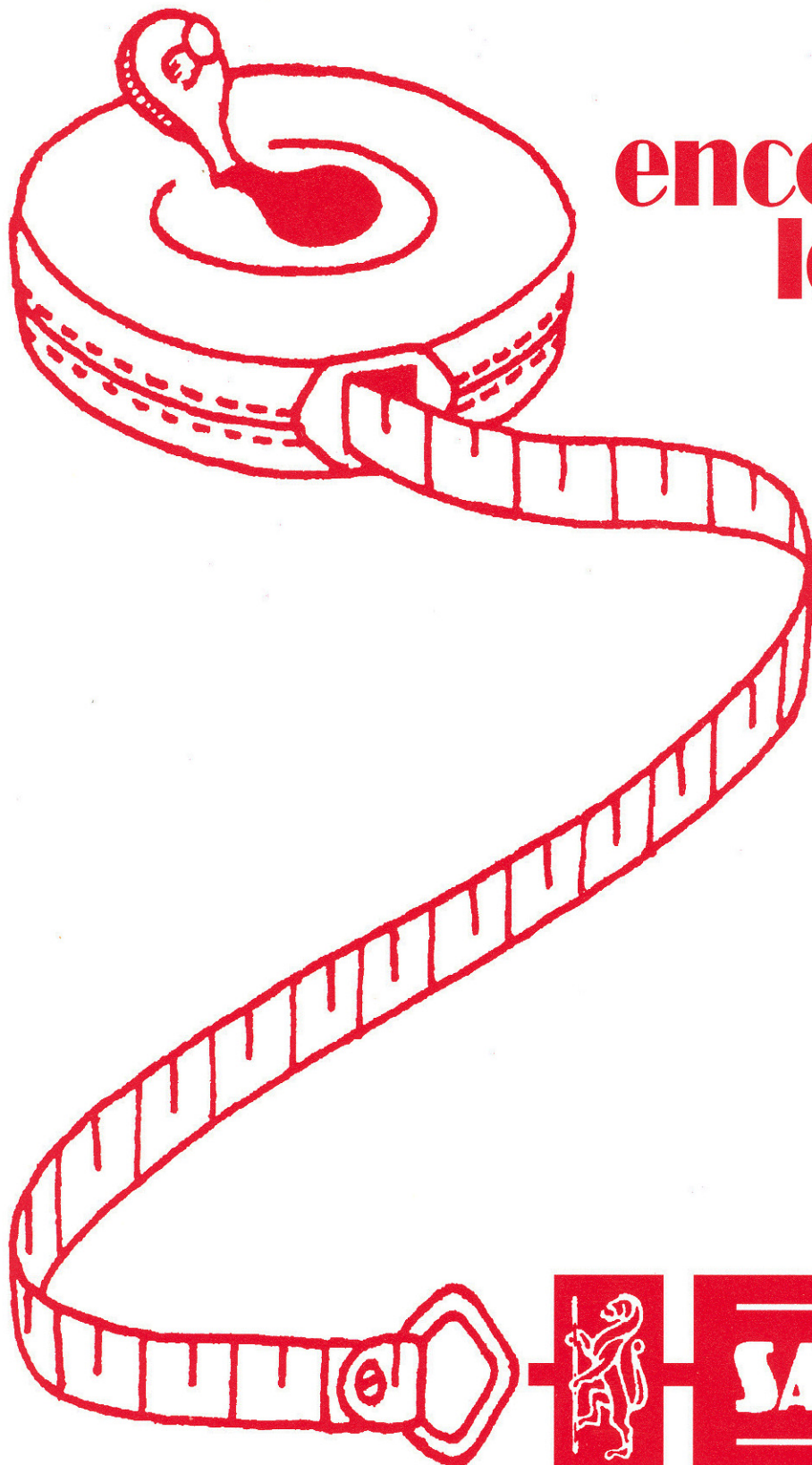
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