



Harpenden & Wheathampstead
District Scouts
presents

THE 55th GANG SHOW 2004



£1

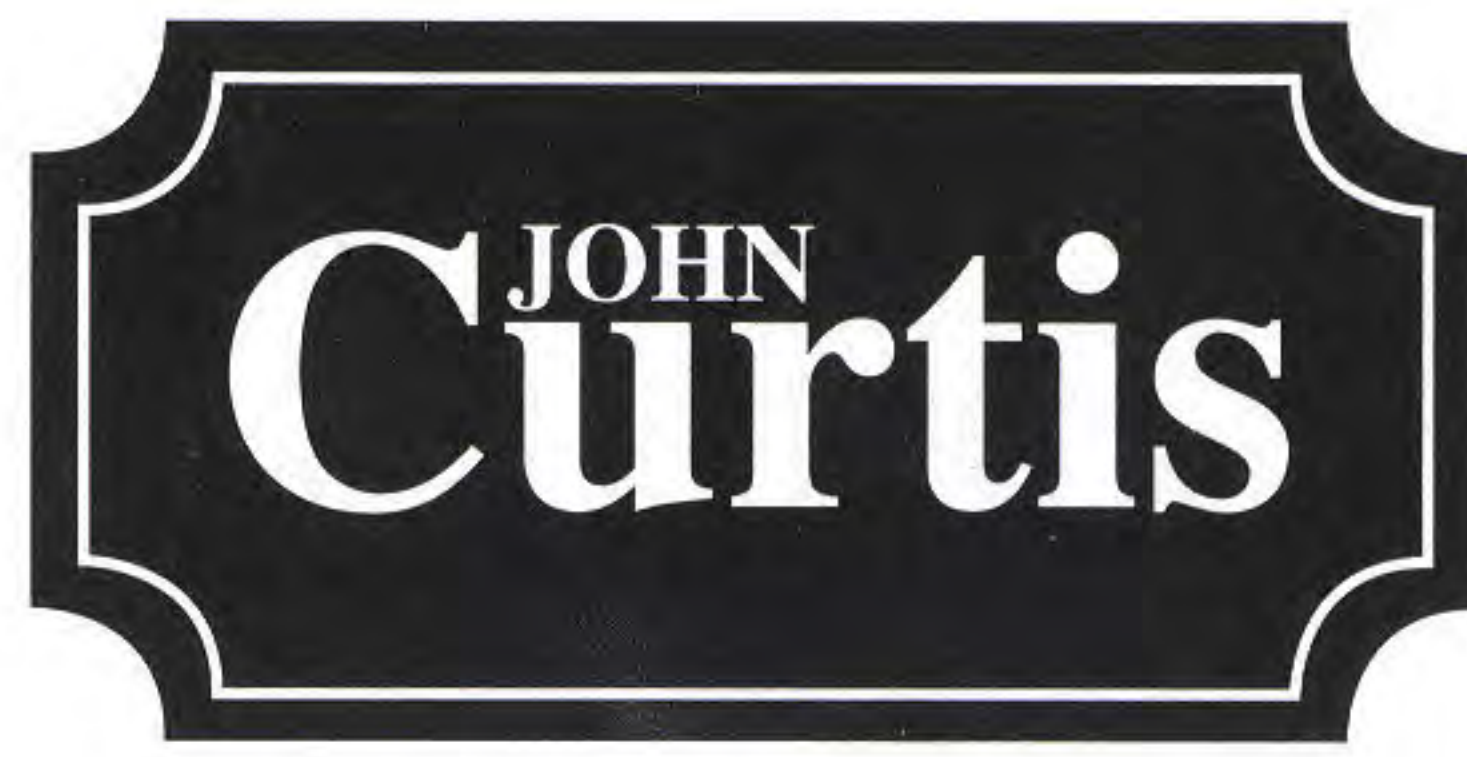
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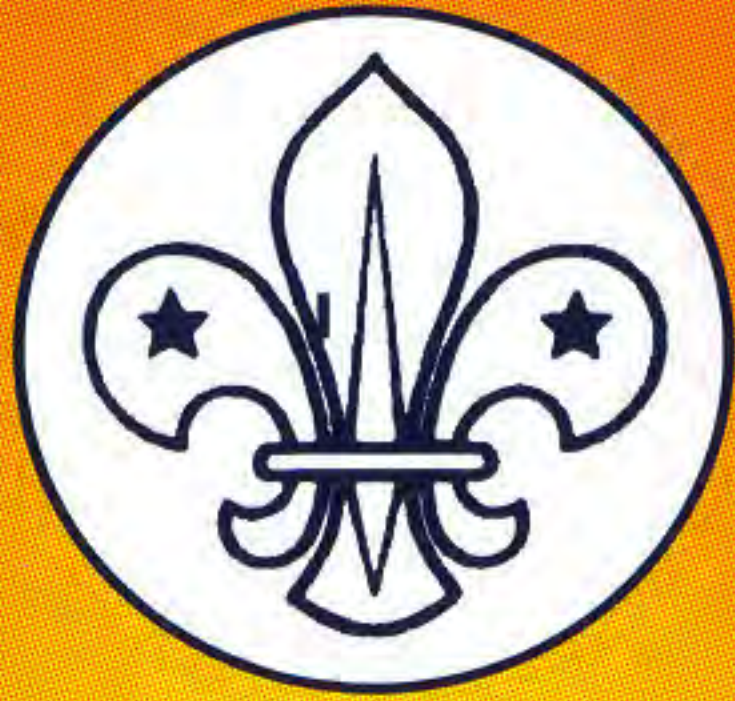
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**Did
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Know?**

That the actor Peter Sellers,
after being conscripted to
serve during world War II,
served in India and then in
occupied Germany, mostly
for the troops in *Ralph
Reader's Gang Show*. We
wonder who Ewan Murray
is now grooming for the
Silver Screen . . .

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From the District Commissioner

On Classic FM they have a slot called 'If you like that, you'll like this' where David Mellor (I think) tries you out on a fairly obscure piece of music which he reckons you'll warm to if you are keen on a given piece that is much better known. Of course in music, tastes differ, but there's something for everyone, whether it's played on Radio 1, Classic FM or somewhere further down the dial. Scouting is like that. If you enjoy the Gang Show, try the Old Time Music Hall. If you're not that type, you're probably not reading this unless you are here under duress, but take a look at the incredible range of activities Scouting has to offer. There are 70 Activity Badges in the Scout section alone, encompassing such diverse topics as Aeronautics, Circus Skills, D.I.Y., Martial Arts, Smallholder and World Faiths. As a Scout you can even get your 'Guide' badge!! For 'basic aviation skills' you can 'collect photographs of six aircraft and describe their operational uses'. Presumably the Greeks have a slight modification. Our Naturalists have a cushy time finding out about wildlife in a piece of parkland. In Australia for the same badge they have to identify three poisonous creatures they might encounter during an expedition into the outback and what to do if they are bitten! One of our badges asks Scouts to 'carry on a simple conversation for about ten minutes'. I should add that it must be in a foreign language, although achieving it in English is becoming something of a rarity these days! Not in this District, of course! There's even a badge called 'Pulling' but I haven't dared read the requirements for that one yet. There are also badges relating to the more traditional Scouting skills such as camping. One of our Troops has a special woggle for those who have camped for fifty nights. Fifty nights during four years with the Troop - that is phenomenal! So, all you parents who are delighted with the range of activities that our great leaders already provide, including relieving you of your offspring for fifty nights, why not take a look at the full list of badges. For certain there are some in which you are expert. If you can set up a waggler rig, recognise Merak and Dubhe in autumn, use a stern gland screw, picket a light aircraft, demonstrate a bumtwister or are skilled in any of the other myriad of activities, why not surprise your leaders and offer to pass on those skills to the Scouts, Cubs or Beavers. There is nothing more welcome than an unsolicited offer of help. All tonight's participants qualify for the 'Entertainer' badge by the way. Incidentally, if you like that lovely Bruch Violin Concerto Number 1 in G minor, try number 3. I think it's even better!

Richard Harrington (Rikki)
District Commissioner

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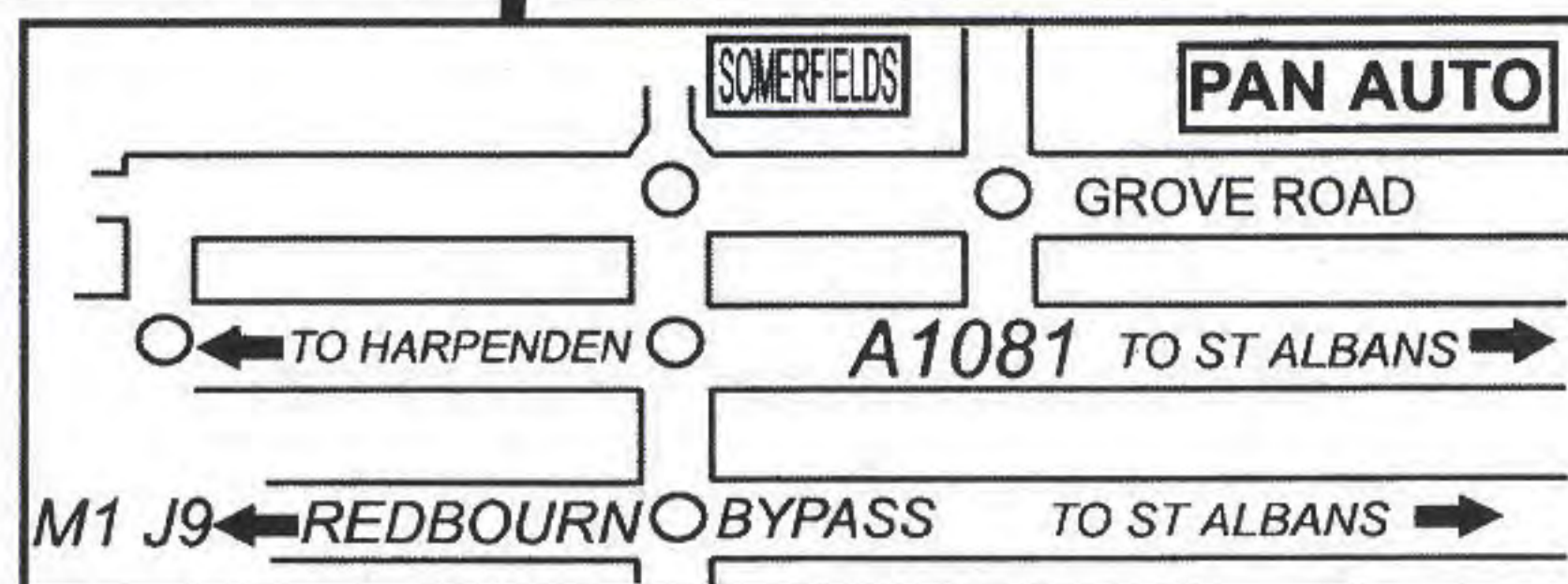
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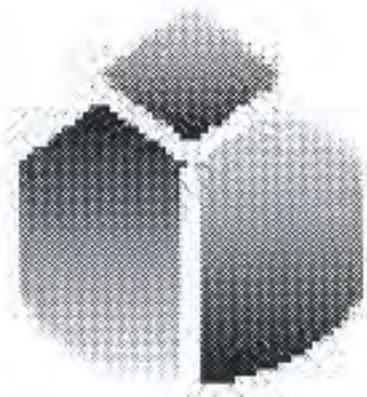
FROM THE PRODUCER

Headache? Tense, nervous headache? No, not an Anadin advertisement, just the usual symptoms of the production team and backstage staff over Christmas when it seems that those words and steps will never be learnt, those backcloths will never be painted, those tickets will not sell out, those dresses will never stay in one piece all week.

And yet, somehow, it all comes together. Eric Thair, the first of just 4 producers in this Show's 55 year history, called it the annual "miracle". Why? Because anyone can be in it – we don't audition. Because out of chaos from September to December comes a result in January. Because every year as people grow out of the top of the Gang, others replace them from the bottom. Because there is never a shortage of people wanting to help backstage. Because rarely do people retire. And because no matter how old you are, if you've been in it then you're forever in it in spirit.

Enjoy this year's Annual Miracle – and who knows, if you enjoy it enough, you can be part of it. You only need to ask!!

Ewan



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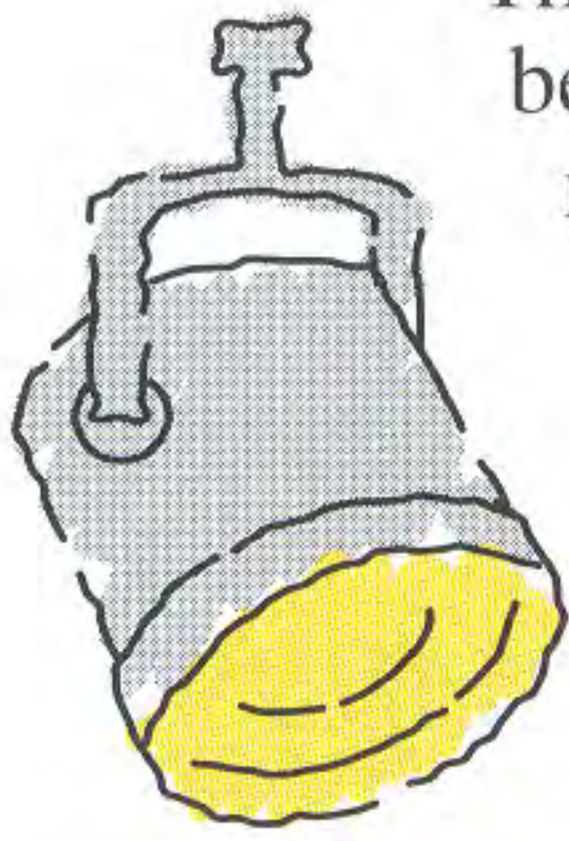
That at a rally in 1909, the founder of Boy Scouts, General Robert Baden-Powell, was confronted by a group of girls desperate to become Scouts. A year later he created Girl Guides, with his sister Agnes at the helm (all in the family). It is now the world's biggest women's group (620,000 members in the UK, 10m worldwide).

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This year we want to put the spotlight on “The Mayor of Kimpton,” so-called because of his active support of the community. But Bob’s enthusiasm is not limited to Kimpton affairs; his involvement with Scouting, and the Gang Show, goes back literally decades. Bob was himself a cub when a boy back in Paignton, Devon in...well, a few years ago. He went on to become a Senior Scout, and kept his love of Scouting later, when he began to raise his own family. His own sons Jonathan and Jeremy joined the Cubs in Kimpton, and were in the Gang Show as soon as they turned 10, in the early ‘80s.

Spotlight on Bob Finch

Bob’s service to Scouting deepened when he became Chairman of the Kimpton Scouts Parents’ Committee at that time, and later when he joined the Parents’ Support Group for the Harpenden Venture Scouts, which daughter Katy had joined. He also got involved with the Gang Show when he started doing the GS Programme in 1990. His enthusiasm led to his becoming Committee Chairman for the Gang Show in 1995.

Some of Bob’s favourite Scouting experiences have been the activities he often organised for Scouts and Ventures when asked to fill in by the leaders. He remembers what he calls the “Wide Games” in the forest, pitting Patrols against each other, or outdoor assault courses called “Now Get out of That!” which set difficult and unusual tasks for the Scouts. And then there was “Defeat the Alien,” where teams of Scouts had to prepare for the arrival of an unknown alien (an egg!), and organise a defence from a jumble of miscellaneous articles (shades of McGyver?). It is from this time that he met his most memorable Scouts – venture leaders James Kingham and Marilyn Hudson, who were “absolutely inspiring” and who set an example for probably over 1,000 Venture Scouts who went through the programme under their leadership.

But Bob also reserves special feelings for the Gang Show. “It’s a marvellous institution,” he says, “these days when you can read so much bad news about youth. To see 150 youth working so positively together brings a lump to my throat. To see the Scouts up there on stage, their eyes shining in the applause, and getting so much out of the experience – and then to look out and see how much pleasure they are giving to the audience – it’s just fantastic!” Bob is also amazed at the dedication and energy of the adults, such as Producer Ewan Murray and Wardrobe Mistress Liz Barringer. Well, for dedication and enthusiasm, you will find Bob himself hard to beat. We in the Gang Show hope “Mayor Bob” will stay involved for many years to come!

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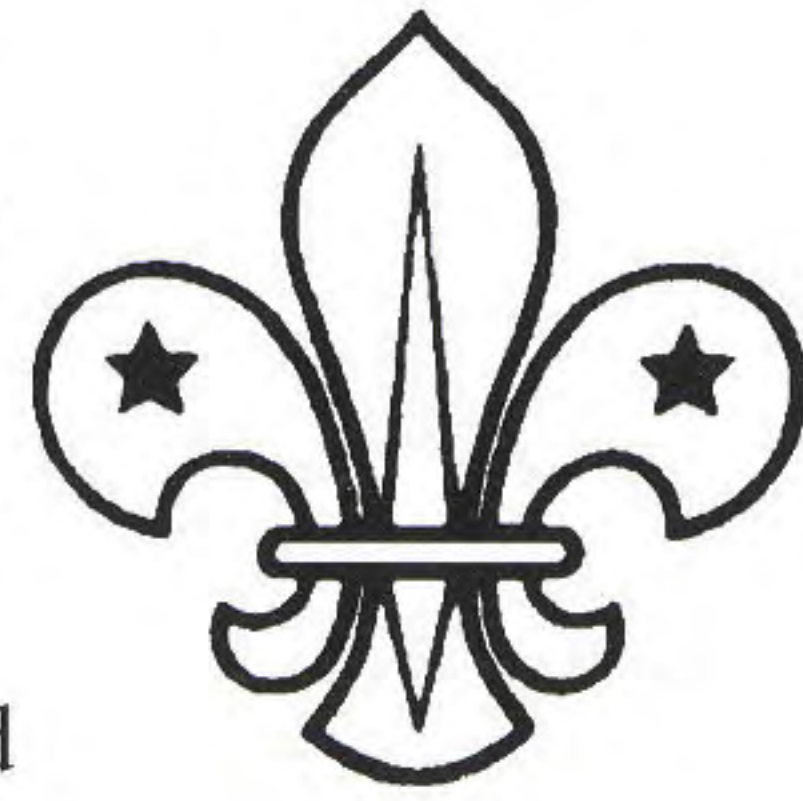
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Memories for Sale

Photos from this year's Gang Show are on display in the foyer, and cost a mere 50p each. Just use the forms by the display, indicating which photos you wish, and how many (be sure to give your address). The displays (and order forms) will also be at the Scout Shop (Tallents Crescent, Batford) until the end of January – open Saturdays 10am-Noon. Photos will be delivered in mid-February to your door.



JOIN THE AWARD WINNERS

We're always on the lookout for Venture Scouts and their friends who want summer and autumn employment. So if you're taking a year out or graduating and would like to join our award-winning team, call Simon Keeble for a friendly chat on 01582 485555.

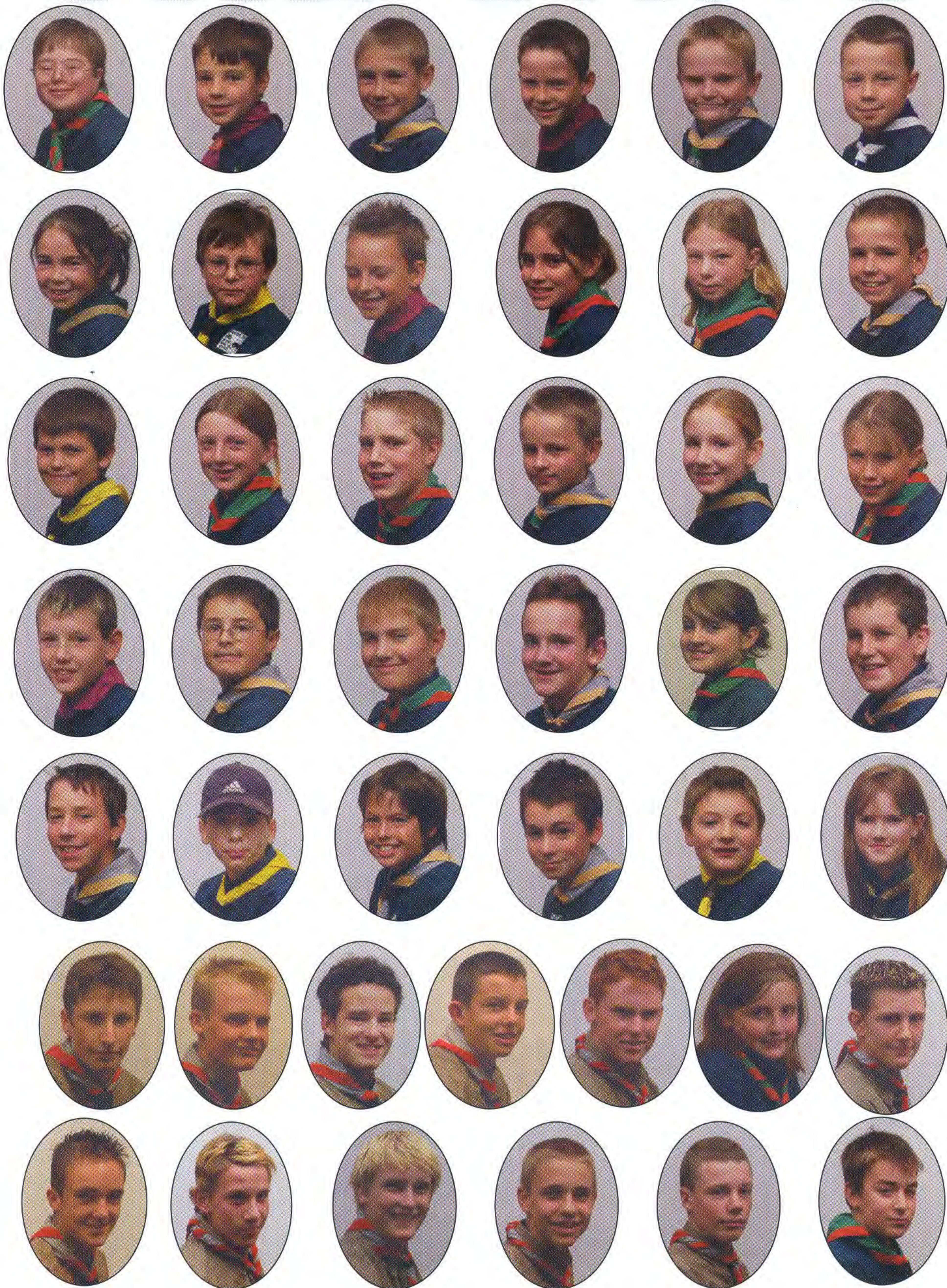


Fantastic Fireworks, Rocket Park, Pepperstock, Luton LU1 4LL
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Ralph Reader

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

THE GANG



THE GANG



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Act 1



The Queen

1. *I'm So Excited*
2. *Nicholas Knox*
3. *Celebearty Big Brother*
4. *Marooned*
5. *Headline News*
6. *Staying Alive*

Interval

Producer & Musical Director – Ewan Murray
Choreographer – Jan Cox



Act 2



7. True Colours

8. Cinderella

9. We're Having a Party

10. Job Seekers

11. Won't You Charleston?

12. Mastermind

13. Friendship

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

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Peter Caparelli

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Acknowledgements

St Albans Gang – for the loan of props and materials

Andy Mann – for arranging the printing of the Show's tickets

Molly Thompson – for her years of managing the Scout Shop and building in Tallents Crescent

The Harpenden Light Operatic Society – for loan of props

St John Ambulance – for being ready to serve, in case of medical need

Rod 'HTML' Keen – for maintaining the Scout website, and other technical services

The Carpenters Arms

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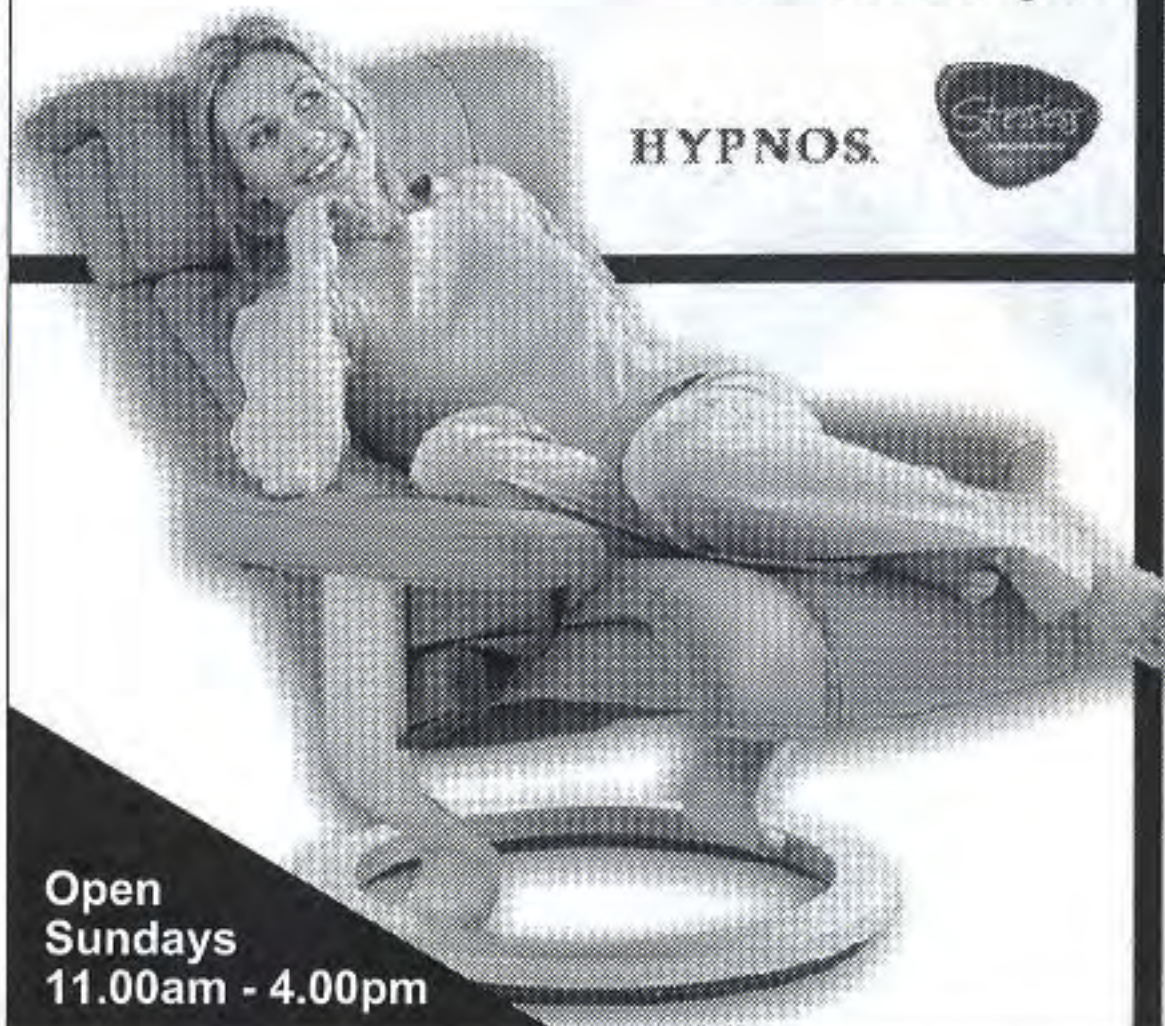


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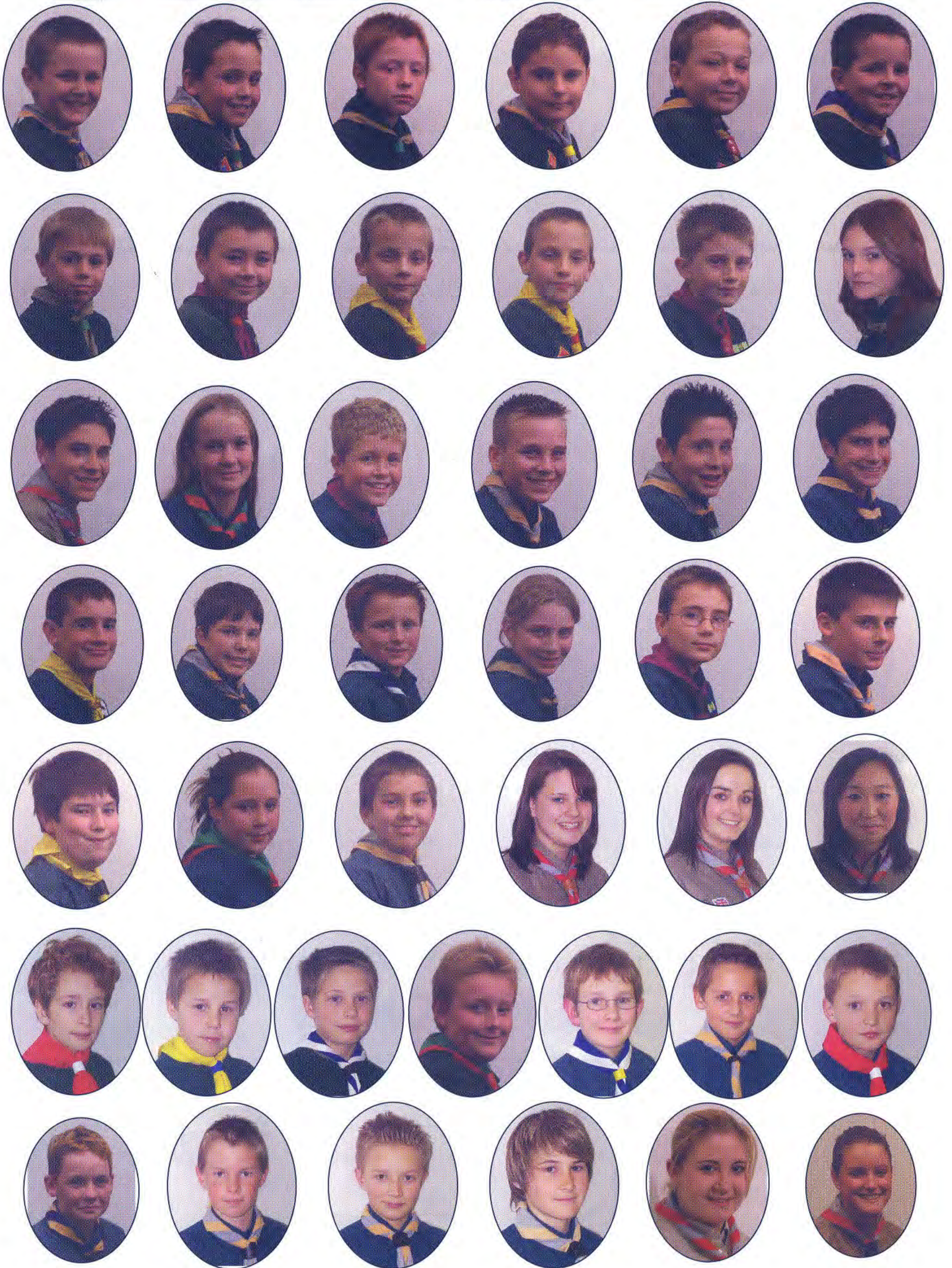
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THE GANG



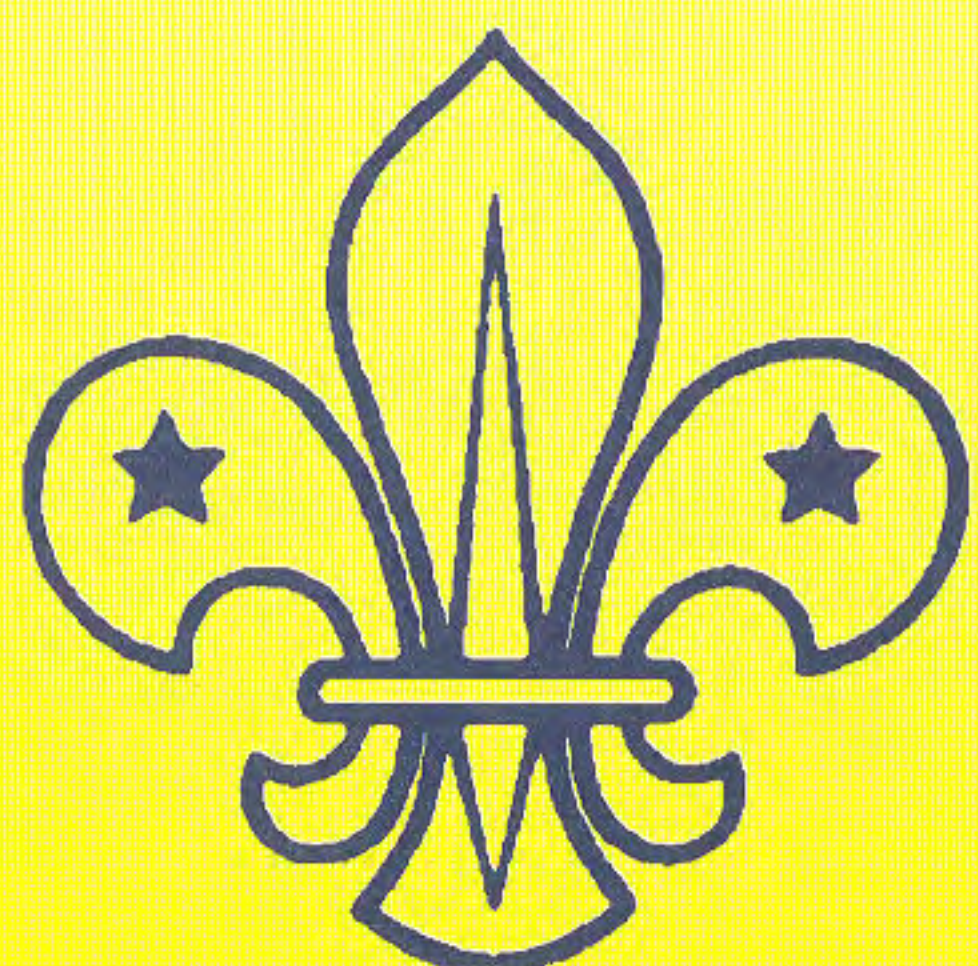
THE GANG

Alasdair Arnsby
Jenny Arnsby
Catherine Atton
James Austin
Elizabeth Blacker
Harriet Blacker
Grace Borgeat
Luke Brennan
Matthew Briggshaw
Scott Broad
Tom Brown
Andrew Bruce
Matthew Budd
Patrick Butler
Celia Carr
Nicola Carsons
Rory Caseberry
Andrew Chapman
James Chapman
Elliott Chaston
Suzi Coggins
Sarah Collins
Clare Collins
Stephen Colman
Danielle Cox
Ruth Cram
James Croft
Billy Crouch
Beatrice Currie
Izzie Currie
William Dixon
Craig Drewett
Adam Duffy

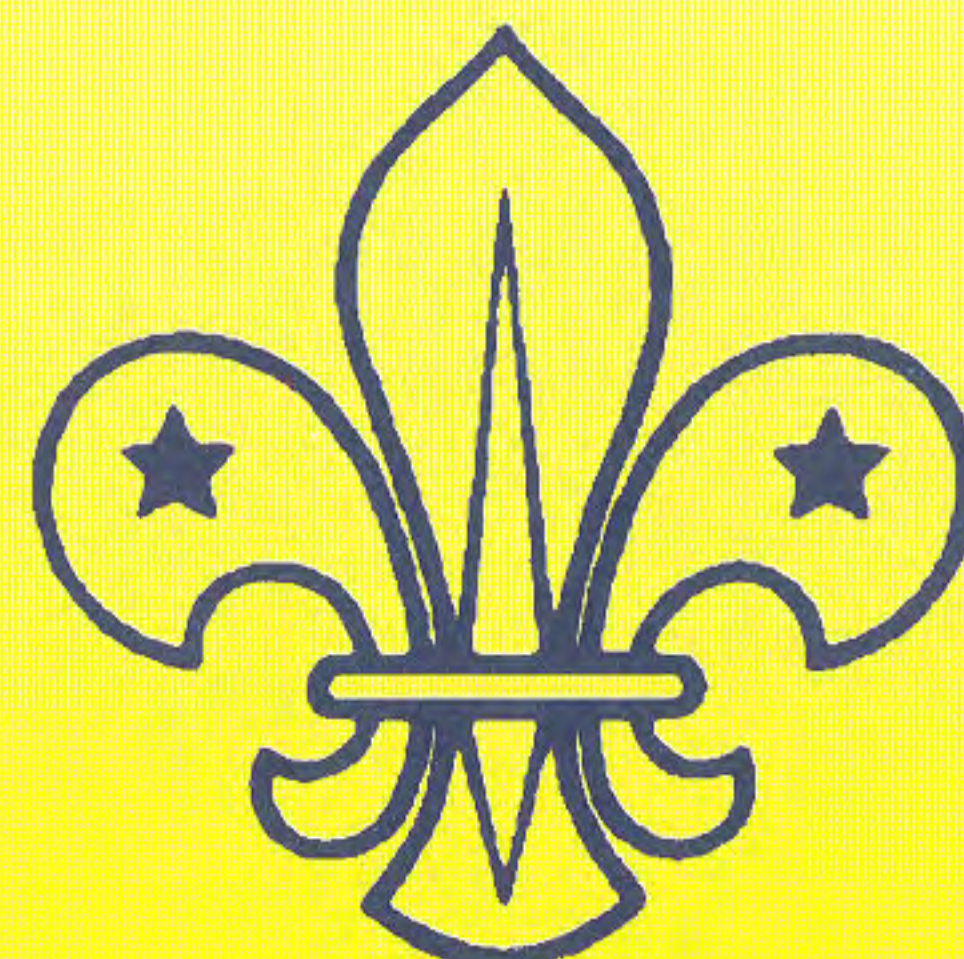
Mitra Esmizadeh
Simon Evans
Tom Finch
Luke Fitzgerald
Jacob Foster
Hugo Goodridge
Joseph Gosling
Emma Grace
Jacob Graham
Joseph Graham
Dominic Green
Russell Hammond
Ciaran Harte
Paul Hearman
Matthew Heyes
Justin Heyes
Jinny Holder
William Hulme
Sophie Hunt
Sam Hunt
Michelle Hysom
Anthony Hysom
William Ingram
Jamie Jarvis
Cameron Jenkins
Rebecca Jenkinson
Aleck Johnston
Sarah Jump
Tom Jump
Philippa Kennedy
James Kerridge
Nyil Khwaja

Jess Ko
Jack Kosky
Sam Lee
Thomas Leigh
Claire Linacre
Oliver Ling
Daniel Ling
Martin Loader
Simon Loader
Daniel Marlow
Jacob McLean
James McMillin
Richard Meade
Daniel Meakin
Chris Melton
Ollie Melton
Stephen Miller
Chris Miller
Nick Miller
Alex Monson
Evan Moore
Rory Morris
Cathy Morris
James Mottram
Ian Murray
Alan Murray
Abe Nash
Liam O'Donovan
Eddward Parsons
Nicole Paterson
Heather Payne
Ellie Pearson

Matt Peplow
Michael Petersen
Alex Piercy
Stephen Playle
Lizzie Powell
Katy Radcliffe
Ben Redding
James Riley
Alex Rose
Ben Schneider
Alex Scottow
Tanisha Shah
Vicky Shah
Matthew Sinnott
Emma Stratton
Lawrence Tate
Charlie Tate
Sam Taylor-Hansen
James Thurman
James Tink
Nick Urwin
Charles Walmsley
Ashley Waters
Chris Waters
Carly Watson
Thomas Wheeler
Matthew White
Catharine White
Hannah Whyman
Sam Willcocks
Peter Williams
Emma Williams



2004



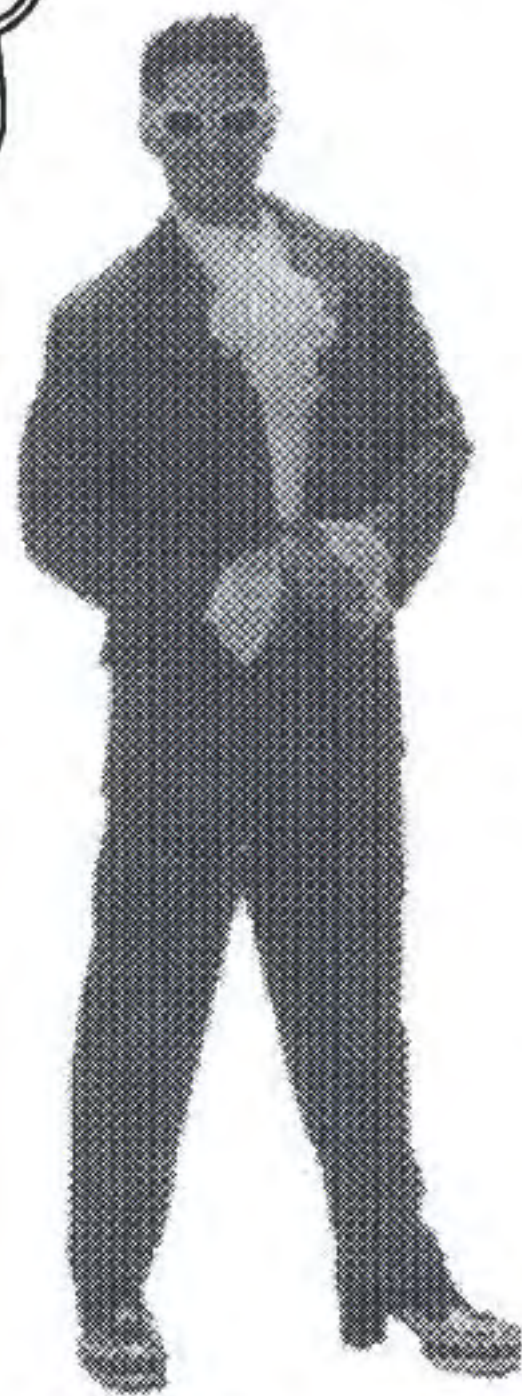
Behind the Scenes

Assistant Producers	Martin Allen, Jemma Finch, Julie Higgs, Pete Mann and Wendy Marquis
Music Arranger	Chris Pettitt
Scenery Designer and Stage Manager	David Keen
Stage Hands and Scenery Crew	Lewis Keen, Rod Keen, Colin Jeffs, Fran Coulter, Michael Desborough, Pete Desborough, Paul Frisher, Darren Lowry, Sue Mann, Connor Mulholland, Adam Robinson, Phil Robinson, Amy Yardley and Kit Yardley
Wardrobe	Liz Barringer, Elaine Brind, Sue Brooker, Dorothy Cawrey, Penny Chapman, Diane Chichester-Miles, Liz Davie, Sue Foord, Marion Goodson, Georgina Jeffrey, Beryl Jeffs, Anne Kilvert, Anne Loader, Helen Mellor, Margaret Melville, Christy Monson, Ros Mulholland, Jane Murray, Sarah Thrale, Penny Turnbull, Jane Walter, Mavis Whiteway, Claire Williams and Pam Woodford-Smith
The Band	Reeds – Lucy Benwell, Sue Pettitt; Trumpet – Rob Bryan; Trombone – Richard Turberville; Piano – Graham Thomson; Bass – Gareth Covey-Crump; Drums – Neil Duncan
Lighting Designer	Robert Hemmin
Lighting by	Neil and Margaret Hewitt, Jonathan Murray, Dennis Paddison, Tom Smith and Ian Woodford-Smith
Sound	David Errock and Paul Arnold
Make Up	Martin Allen assisted by the Harpenden Explorer Scouts' Unit
Properties	Brian and Susanne Woods
Call Boy	Andrew Barford
Cub Number written and produced by	Richard Harrington
Assisted by	Carol Arnsby, Albert Elliot, Liz Jack, Yvonne Lowry and Tina Miller
Cub Costumes	Jeanette Bowers and Jo Busby
Box Office	Phil Robinson
Front of House	Jan and Kit Yardley
Stewards	Harpenden Scout Network
Refreshments	Helen Peter with assistance of parents and leaders
Programme	Roger Monson
Publicity	Penny Turnbull and Marion Morris
CCTV Monitors	Mark Hubbard and Mike Howells
Health and Safety	Jeremy Finch
Web Site	Rod Keen
Treasurer	John Mulholland

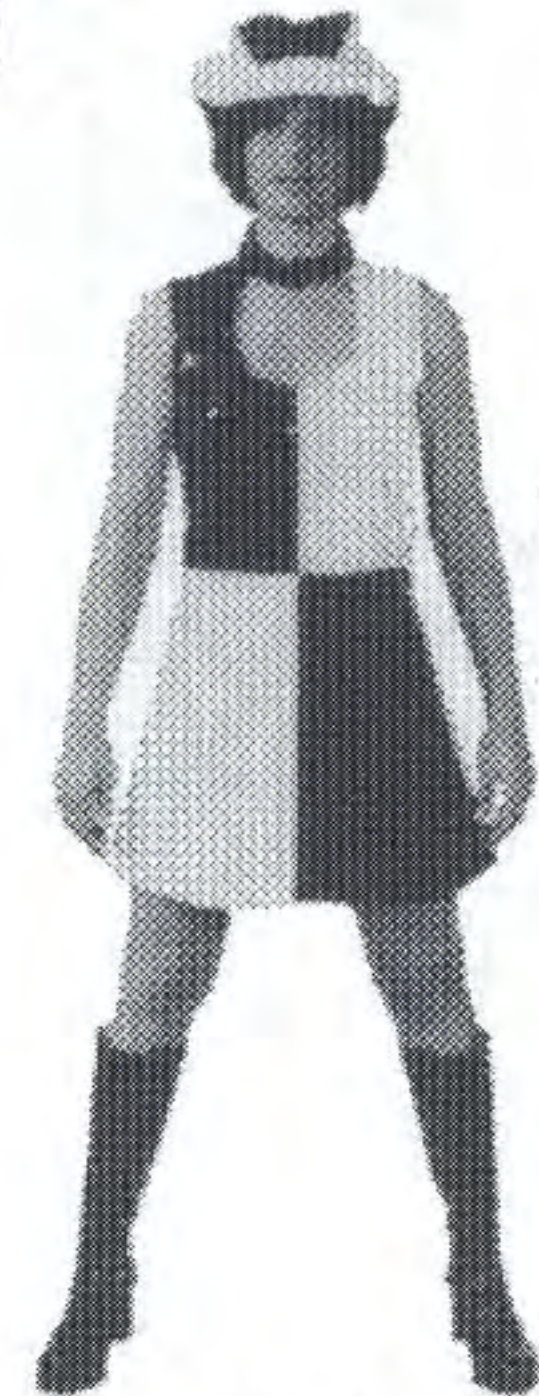


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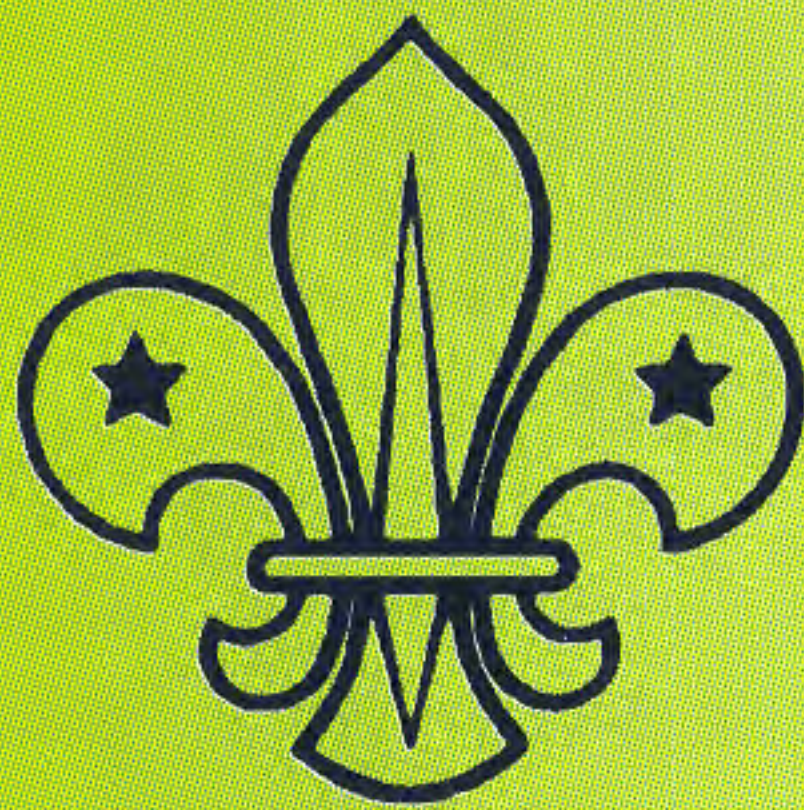
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An exclusive video-recording of the Gang Show will be available price £15. To order, please send your name, address, telephone number and email address if you have one, together with the remittance (cheques payable to Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Scout Council) to Ros

Mulholland, 5 Browning Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4TS. Tel: (01582) 767878.

Orders should be placed by 31st January. The video is likely to be completed and available late spring/early summer and you will be notified when it is ready for collection. If you prefer, it can be posted to you, in which case please add £1.50 per video ordered to your remittance.

To make life easier, order forms will be available as usual in the foyer. Ask a member of the front of house staff if you can't find one.

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**WISH THE GANG
SHOW EVERY
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. . . What was the Question??

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Gang from**

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By WHEN . . . ??
. . . It's still likely to be YES!



Did You Know?

That despite the fact that Ralph Reader got his inspiration for the original Gang Show from the US (see page 26), no native American has ever heard of Gang Shows. Ask an American what she thinks it is, and she may well refer to the Jets and Sharks, gangs in "*West Side Story!*"

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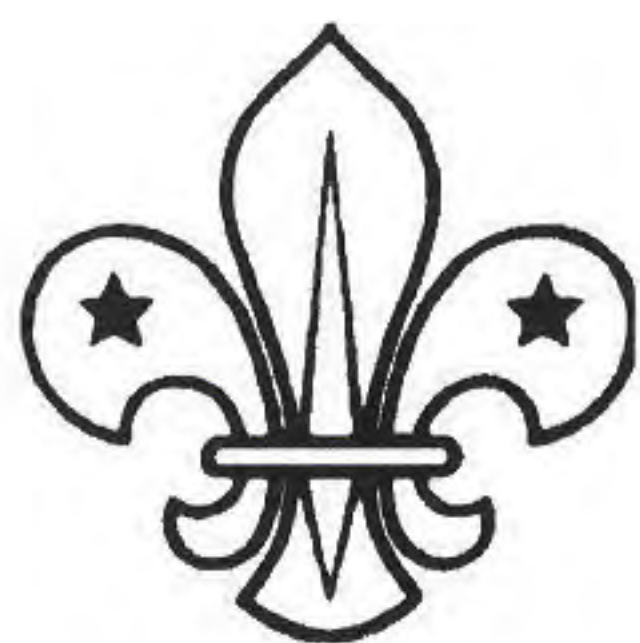
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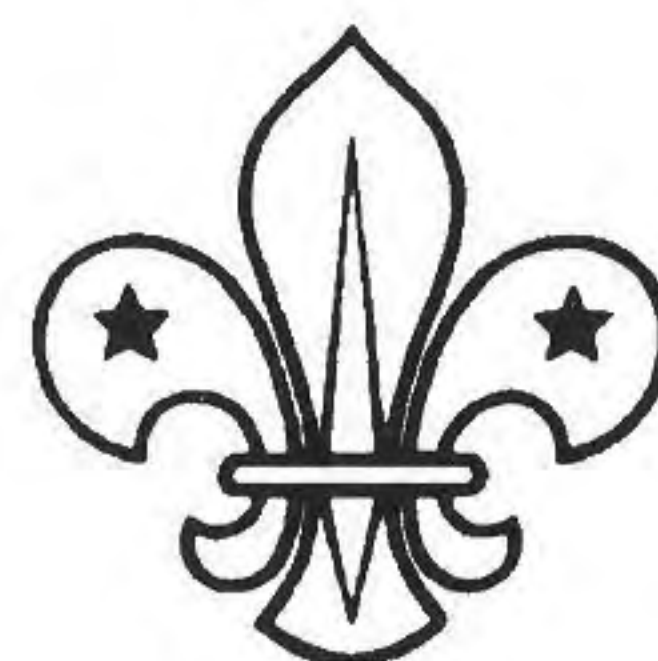
Did You Know?

That Liz Barringer keeps watch over Gang Show lost property, and may even have some of yours from last year. Also, if you find yourself with someone else's clothes – phone Liz on 01582 768592.

Old Scouting Uniforms Wanted Please

Bought the new uniform yet? If so, may we have the old one please? The Gang Show Costume Team would be grateful for your out-of-date uniform (Cub, Scout, Venture or Leader). We would also gratefully receive (and cherish) any really old uniforms that you may have tucked away.

Please phone Liz Barringer on 01582 768592 or hand them in to your local leader.



The Scouting Movement

The Scouts are now organised into five age groups (Sections) in a seamless programme to cover everything young people do in Scouting from age 6 to 25.

Beavers (ages 6 - 8) enjoy activities focused on fun and crafts in a friendly environment, preparing them for the next step in Scouting: Cubs.

Cubs (ages 8 - 10) enjoy learning and outdoor activities as part of the preparation to join the Scouts. They learn about the Scout Law and Promise as preparation for joining the Scouts.

Scouts (age 10 - 14) have to be prepared to take the Scout Promise and accept the Scout law, committing themselves to integrity and service. Many outdoor activities and an emphasis on leadership development and individual responsibility, with proficiency badges for achievement, are at the heart of Scout Groups.

Explorers (age 14-18) enjoy an emphasis on exciting, adventurous and challenging activities again based around a progressive training scheme for leadership.

The Scout Network (ages 18 – 25) gives older Scouters the chance to stay involved, also helping in leadership roles with the younger sections.



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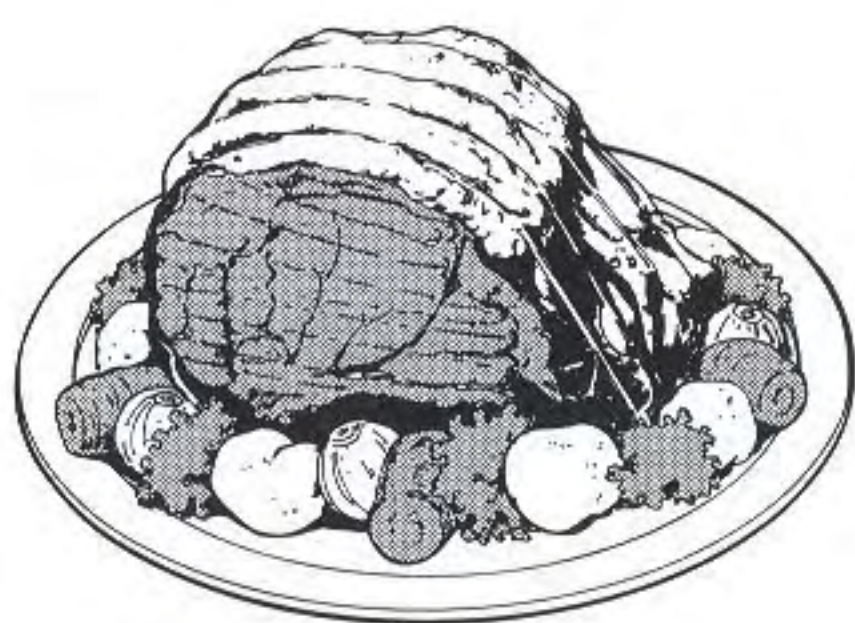
Martin Allen on 01582 768077 or

martinrallen@hotmail.com



Did You Know?

That a severed electricity cable disrupted the Harpenden Gang Show 30 years ago, and the stage was lit by the headlights of parents' cars driven up the steps of the Public Hall?



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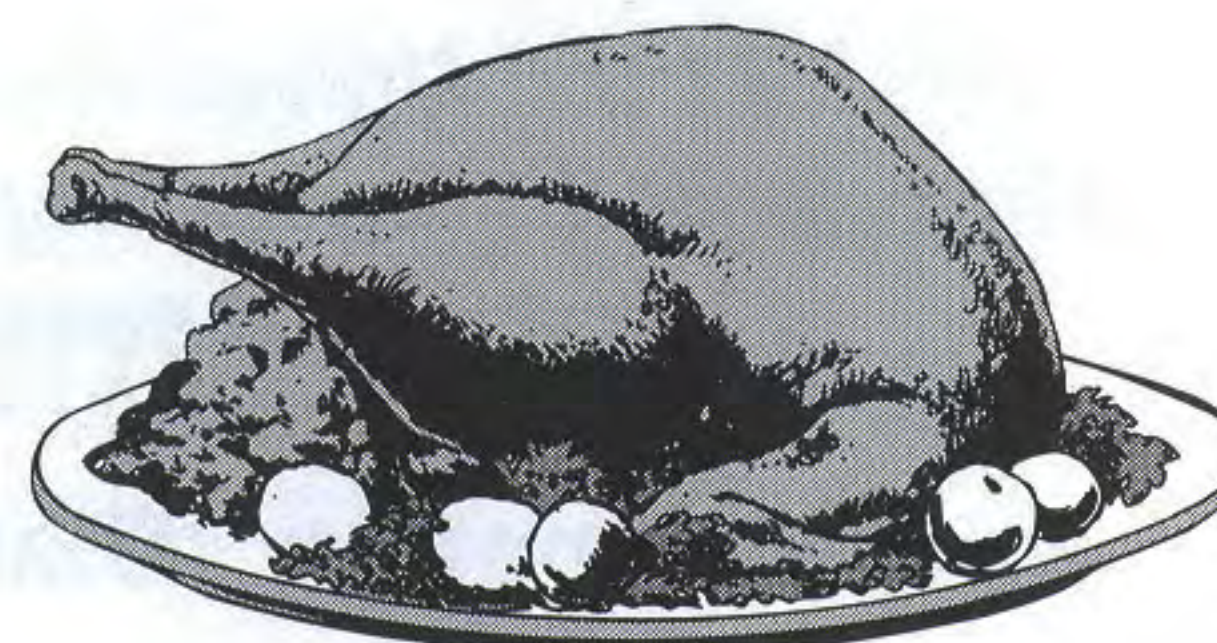
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Gang Show Essentials

When Ralph Reader formulated what was to become a “Gang Show” in 1932, he didn’t want it to be labelled a “concert”. In those days, the typical form of entertainment produced by amateurs was a concert, i.e. a series of acts introduced by a compère who covered while the scenes were changed.

Ralph had been to America where he was involved in producing fast moving revues and musicals. What a “Gang Show” has become first of all is a fast moving revue, i.e. a series of big musical numbers interspersed by small musical numbers and sketches, the whole thing moving swiftly from scene to scene without a break. This is achieved by having mid-stage tabs brought across or cloths dropped in and out to allow items to take place “front of tabs” and therefore to allow the show to happen seamlessly.

The second essential for a Gang Show is that it is performed by Scouts, showing off the talent of members of The Movement, both young and old. Many shows also involve members of the Guide Movement but historically and essentially, the Gang Show is a Scout entertainment – in our case including both Boy and Girl Scouts.

In the early days, another important factor was that all material was written by Ralph himself. That had its drawbacks: the first show, called “The Gang’s All Here” was not a success. But Ralph’s friends knew the idea had potential, and they persuaded him to try again the next year and the rest, as they say, is history. In time, shows have gradually dropped or updated Ralph’s material and it’s now left up to each show to decide how much of Ralph’s material they should include.

Ralph, as a pioneer in musical theatre, would not have wanted Gang Shows to stand still and would have probably withdrawn a lot of his own material as being out of date. However, to ensure that his name is kept alive, each Gang Show is requested to include in their programme...

“Based on an idea by the late Ralph Reader C.B.E.”

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Get Involved!

Whether you have a child in Scouting, have been a Scout yourself, or just want to be part of a great Movement, there are many ways to contribute to Scouting. Here are some of the leaders in our District who will be delighted to hear from you:

1 st Harpenden Scout Group	Sean Lowry	01582 713428
3 rd Harpenden Scout Group	Trevor Miller	01582 460712
4 th Harpenden Scout Group	Elaine Brind	01582 462034
9 th Harpenden Scout Group	Jane Murray	01582 460988
10 th Harpenden Scout Group	Liz Scott	01582 768597
12 th Harpenden Scout Group	Ian Woodford-Smith	01582 764368
1 st Kimpton Scout Group	Sue Raeside	01438 833454
1 st Wheathampstead Scout Group	Jan Spragge	01582 833659
Harpenden Explorer Scout Unit (<i>ages 14-17</i>)	Martin Allen	01582 768077
Wheathampstead & Kimpton E.S.U.	Phil Hobbs	01727 865086
The Scout Network (<i>ages 18-25</i>)	Jonathan Finch	01582 715317
The Scout Fellowship (<i>supporters</i>)	Dave Lowndes	01582 768049

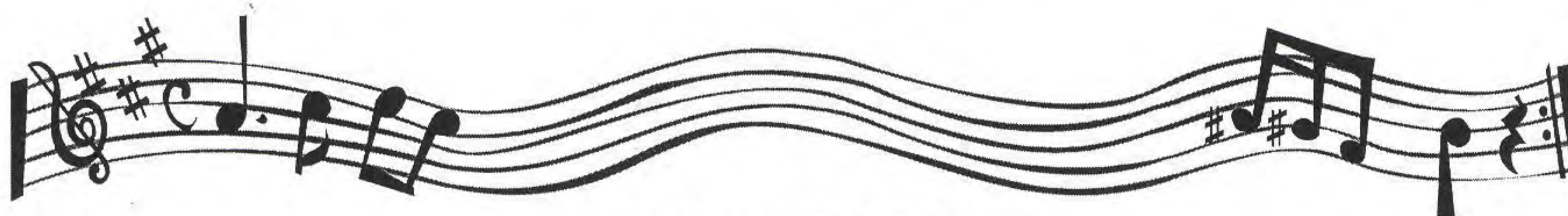
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TOGETHER

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The sound of music, the songs we sing –

And even from the coldest winter

The warmest summer arrives.

We'll share together, when we're together

The best years of our lives.

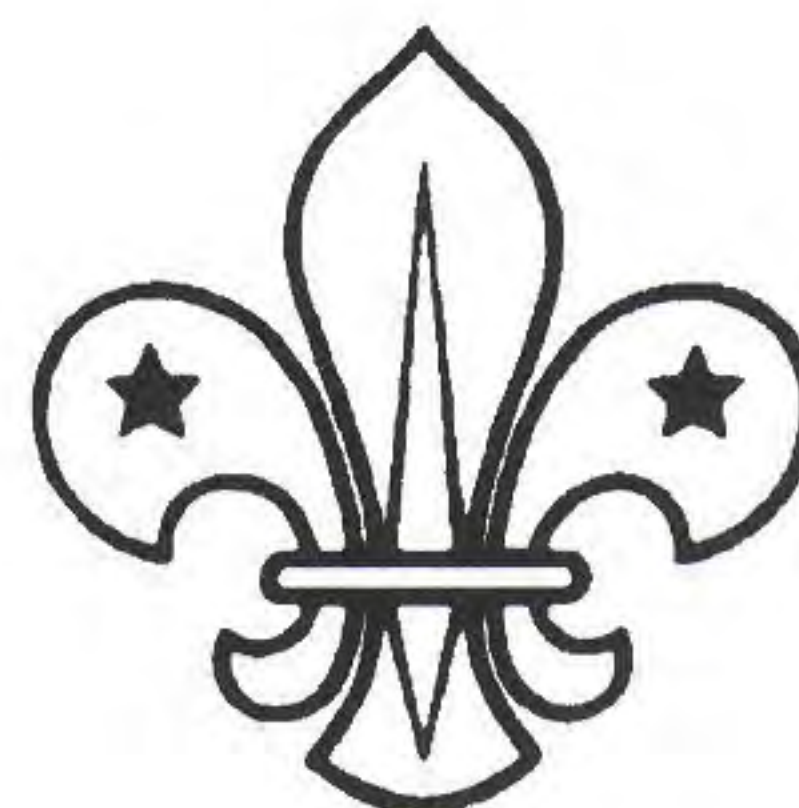


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