

HARPENDEN AND
WHEATHAMPSTEAD
DISTRICT SCOUTS

65th

2014 GANG
SHOW



scouts

be prepared . . .

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Chief Scout Bear Grylls was certainly impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of all those involved in this year's show when he dropped in on a rehearsal day last October. We are sure you too will be impressed by the final result of all that hard work.



Gang Show is one way of celebrating the energy and commitment of scouts, but none of this is possible without the fantastic dedication of many adults. One such was Marilyn Hudson, our longest serving producer (24 years). Marilyn sadly died in May 2013. Many of those involved with Gang Show this year remember her creative talent and dedication with great affection and respect. Read our tribute on page 9.

Current producer Ewan Murray celebrates 21 years at the helm this year. He ensures Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Gang Show maintains its deserved reputation as one of the best shows in the country.

Gang members on- and off-stage come and go with the years, but some things never change. 'Crest of a Wave' was one of the first Gang Show songs written by Ralph Reader and it is still being sung over 80 years later. If you don't know the words, turn to Page 17 and get ready to raise the roof later in the show.

Many thanks to former cast member Richard Washbrooke, who has once again taken all our fabulous photos. You can see a selection of his work on display in the foyer. **Photos can be ordered direct from Richard at: www.richardwashbrooke.photoshelter.com or on a CD via our online store at www.hwgangshow.org.uk**

A DVD of the show is available to order from: www.allmediaworks.com (use the passcode HARPENDENGs)

Please do not distract the Gang by taking photographs, making any recordings or calling out names of individual cast members during the show. Thank you.

Sit back and enjoy the show!

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INTRODUCTION

From our District Commissioner

I am the proud District Commissioner, overseeing all the effort put in by so many people to create the annual miracle that is Gang Show. My part in it is tiny, but it is only by lots of us doing a little that we manage to achieve such a lot. When Bear came to see us, he was accompanied by various publicity people and one of them was from Scout HQ at Gilwell. He said 'Bear has now visited every part of Britain to see scouting in action. He left the best County till last ... and you can quote me on that.' I would like to add to that, that he left the best District in the best County till last! Watch tonight's show and try to tell me I am wrong. Then think about joining in the adventure by becoming a leader – you won't regret it.

*Jane
Murray*



From our Committee Chair

Welcome!! For those of you for whom this is a brand new experience, prepare to be wowed by the sheer exuberance of the young people who will perform tonight. Be aware they have been rehearsing every line and every step since last September, with the added personal encouragement of Bear Grylls, the Chief Scout, who dropped in to take part in a rehearsal. Be grateful that there is such a fantastic pool of people who are prepared to give of their personal time, energy and enthusiasm to make this all happen. Be enthused enough to contact us and say I would love to help too – whether in a small way or a full-on role – the payback is fantastic, as you will see tonight!! A few years ago I asked an old school friend, Richard Washbrooke, who had been a Harpenden Venture Scout with me, to take some photos for the programme – he's still here and this year we are delighted to welcome his wife Cathy as our new Choreographer – and so the Harpenden Gang Show family grows once more. A sad goodbye at the end of this Show to Katie Coxon who has manned our Box Office for a number of years – our thanks for all you did!! For those of you who return as regular watchers of the Show – what can I say – it's the Best One Yet (as ever)!!

*Sally
Clark*



If you would like more information about getting involved, please email us.
For Scouting within the District please contact Jane Murray: dc.harpenden@gmail.com
For Gang Show please contact Sally Clark: sallyjaneclark1@gmail.com

*Proud to support the
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District Scout Gang Show*

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INSPIRATION

It's a Family Affair

In 1950, the American academic and scouter, Forest E. Witcraft, wrote: "One hundred years from now it won't matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank nor what my clothes looked like, but the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child."

It's what being a Scout Leader is all about; my predecessor Marilyn Hudson knew this and lived it out to the full (see our tribute on page 9). In 1972, a young cub made his first faltering steps on the Gang Show stage and, guided by Marilyn's inspiration, he has ended up penning these words. It wouldn't surprise me in the least if the next producer were to be someone who has grown up within the unsurpassed family that is Harpenden & Wheathampstead Gang Show.

The cast will tell you that the Creative Team encourages, cajoles, whispers, screams, laughs, cries, cares and glares its way through rehearsal in order to get the very best performance possible. Equally, the Creative Team will tell you that the cast delights, frustrates, gives, takes, amuses, annoys, empties and fills their lives from September to January every year. We are all one big family, with one big family dynamic.

After the last show, we said goodbye to Rachel Glynn as our choreographer with our thanks for everything she brought to the Show. This year, we are delighted to welcome Cathy Washbrooke, with whose

husband (our photographer Richard), brother- and sisters-in-law I trod the Gang Show boards in the 70s. You see, it really is a family affair! To prove it further, we have siblings, children and grandchildren of past Gang members on stage this week.

We have enjoyed notable family treats this year. We have been in the recording studios and our festive track I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day is available for download on iTunes as part of the Bright Sparks Project. The Chief Scout is now an honorary member of the Gang. We have performed at the annual Harpenden Christmas Lights Switch On. You, the audience, are also part of our extended family, so enjoy the treat that we set before you now.



Ewan Murray
Producer





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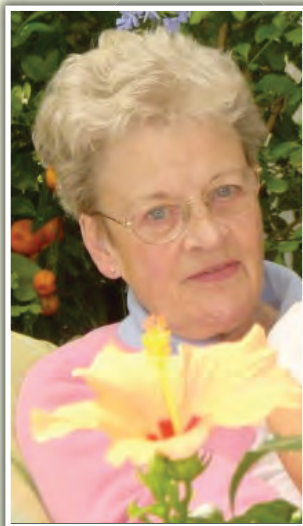



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A TRIBUTE

Marilyn Hudson



The month of May 2013 marked the sad death of former Gang Show producer Marilyn Hudson, aged 81, who was also variously Ranger Guide Leader and District Commissioner, Venture Scout Leader, District Commissioner and Assistant County Commissioner Venture Scouts.

Marilyn began her involvement with Gang Show by offering to help with costumes as "something to do" and in 1969 became the producer of the show, a position she held for 24 shows until 1993. She still holds the record as the longest serving producer!

Much loved and admired by all those who tapped their feet and sang their songs for her, she is likely to be remembered by many of the audience who, whilst tonight are here as parents, were themselves once on stage as Cubs, Scouts or Venture Scouts.

Marilyn brought a love of young people to the Show and encouraged, praised and generally whipped the cast into action with her own blend of humour, energy and charisma. Totally in tune with young people, she inspired many of us who remain involved with the show today and will be sorely missed.



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SPOTLIGHT ON SCENERY

In all productions it is a combination of elements that create the 'wow factor'. Let's go behind the scenes to find out how the stage hands and scenery crew create the fabulous sets that you will see on stage tonight.

The crew produce rough sketches for the production team to approve. These are marked on to backcloths, each of which is about 40 square metres in size. The scenery has to fill up the space at the back of the stage plus the entrances and exits in the wings and the fronts of the rostra. The whole team is involved and it's a mammoth undertaking, equivalent to painting the front of an average size house many times over. It is not unknown for the painters to end up trapped in the middle of the backcloth entirely surrounded by wet paint! At times like these a sense of humour is vital.

All five backcloths, one for each big scene and one for the mini gang, are designed and painted by the crew. Each backcloth also needs 2 flats and flats for the front of the rostra. What's more, the backcloths and the flats are all double sided.



Painting takes place over ten or so Sundays up to Christmas and then daily after that if need be. Everyone prays for a rain and wind free day on the Saturday before the show when the scenery moves to the Hall.

While you are enjoying your interval ice-creams, the crew are frantically rolling the backcloths and reversing the flats for the second half. This has to be done while all the other backstage crews are doing their jobs and the cast is getting into position for curtain up. Once the curtain falls at the end of the show everything has to be prepared for the next performance.

All too soon it's the final curtain call. The artwork over which they've lavished so much time, effort and loving care will never see the light of day again but will emerge transformed and unrecognisable for next year's show.

PREPARATION

*I absolutely love it more than anything ... and you get to be with everyone from across the district.
(Lucy - Senior Gang)*

*The past six years of my life would have been so boring without Gang Show. Performing on the Saturday night will be the saddest experience, being on stage with The Gang for the last time. I never want to leave.
(Megan - Senior Gang)*

Bear being one of the boys.

Reach for the stars!





I've got an idea!



It's fun learning the
dances and songs.
(Alice - Junior Gang)

Awesome experience!
(Sam - Junior Gang)

All the hard work put
in during rehearsals
finally pays off when
it comes to show week! It
is honestly the best way
to make new friends
and feel like you have a
second family! I LOVE
GANG SHOW - YAY.
(Fiona - Senior Gang)



Hop to it!



"I've got all
my sisters
with me"



PREPARATION



Stretch...



And step to the right ...

I have been in nine shows,
there are highs and lows, new
faces joining ... but seeing
old faces go is sad. You get to
express talent ... it gives you the
confidence to do it.
(Howie - Senior Gang)



What's the joke??
Answers on a postcard please ...



Atmosphere on stage
is buzzing -
really good.
(Sam - Senior Gang)



"Girls
just
wanna
have
fun"



Positive energy,
always a smile
from the leaders.
(Isabella - Hairy Gang)



If a song comes on
the radio from a previous
show, you can guarantee I'll be
belting out the words and dancing along ... I
Love Gang Show and I don't ever want to leave!
(Annemarie - Senior Gang)



"We're riding along on the
crest of a wave ..."

Exciting, everyone is
nice to each other - there
is a positive atmosphere
- Saturday night is 'the best'.
(Cameron - Junior Gang)



"Look out for passers-by"

Show week is
phenomenal, it's just an
amazing thing. Do not know
what I would do without it!
(James - Senior Gang)

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"every day's a celebration"

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in our world - Every day is a celebration!*

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From 8pm onwards

PARTICIPATION

All Together Now ...

♪ We're riding along on the crest of a wave
And the sun is in the sky
All our eyes on the distant horizon;
Look out for passers-by.
We'll do the hailing,
When other ships are round us sailing
We're riding along on the crest of a wave
And the world is ours. ♪

Thank you to The Scout Association for permission to reproduce the words to Ralph Reader's famous song

Test yourself

- 1 In which year were girls permitted to join all sections of the Scout movement?
(A) 1971, (B) 1985, (C) 1991
- 2 Which famous Scout visited Harpenden and Wheathampstead District on 13th October 2013 and took part in the Gang Show rehearsal?
- 3 Who is celebrating 21 years as Producer of our Gang Show this year?
- 4 What special duty do Queen's Scouts perform at the annual Remembrance Sunday parade at the Cenotaph in London?
- 5 Do Scouts wear their activity badges on their left or right sleeves?
- 6 When was the first Harpenden Boy Scouts Association Gang Show performed in this hall?
(A) 1949, (B) 1947, (C) 1951
- 7 How many flats did the stage hands and scenery crew paint for this show?
- 8 Which ESU is the newest addition to the Scouting family in the District?

Answers: 1 (C) 1991; 2 Bear Grylls, Chief Scout; 3 Ewan Murray; 4 They represent the Scout Association and form the Sovereign's Escort from Whitehall; 5 Left sleeve; 6 (A) 1949; 7 12; 8 Owls



PRESENTATION

Act 1

The Heat Is On

The Rivals

Hairy Poppins

Last Day Of Camp

Origin Of Irish Dancing

With This Ring ...

Act 2

Market Day

The Judge Is Right

Wonderland

Imaginary Friends

Cry Me A River

Think

Together



DEDICATION

The Gang of 2014

Senior Gang

Howie Atton
Kirsty Bentley
George Berry
Jessie Campbell
Edward Cripps
Felicity Cripps
Nick Davis
Megan Dixon
Emma Dobson
Caitlin Donnelly
Georgie Eagles
Harry Edwards
Fiona Elledge
Lucy Elledge
Vita Ellis
Kate Evans
Josh Gooding
Amy Griggs
Gemma Haines
Robert Hanson
Rebecca Harbord
Andrew Harkness
Madeleine Harkness
Fieldie Harrison
Beattie Hartley
Callum Heyes
Edward Ingram
James Jessop
Oliver Kelly
Alistair Kerley
Susannah Lawford
Becca Leigh
Jack Maloney
Emily Mason
Paul McCullough
Ailsa McKie
Tabi Noble
Dan Peeters

Annemarie Playle
Lucy Rainsford
Harry Sherwood
Rebecca Simpson
Matthew Smith
Dan Solbe
George Stubbs
Charlie Taylor
Sam Todd
Becca Trodden
Lucy Turberville
Chris Wharton

Junior Gang

Charlie Alvis
Lottie Apsey
Joshua Banks
Macy Banks
Cameron Barford
Esther Batt
Hannah Bedding
Dylan Bentley
William Bowran
Bertie Brooks
Daniel Burns
Ruby Chaston
William Cowan
Aidan Donnelly
George Elledge
Nathan Flemons
Matteo Garlich
Addy Gisby
William Grover
Nick Gurteen
Esther Harbord
William Harris
Callum Haward
Alice Hilton
Matt Hollingham

Daniel Hubbard
Joselyn Hunt
Georgia Jessop
Eleanor Jones
Charlie Kennedy
Rachel Key
Emily Knight
James Lawford
Noah Layzell
James Leadbetter
Sam Lewis
Robyn Luffman
Jack Martin
James Mason
Sarah McCullough
Tom McNeill
Douglas Noble
Henry Parr
Andrew Pearce
Owain Peter
Lucy Porter
Charlotte Rainsford
Emma Risley
Rowan Robinson
Alexandra Sach
Toby Scowcroft-Tay
Matthew Shelley
Ellie Stocks
Harry Tallantire
Thomas Tallantire
Ewan Totty
James Tuck
Katie Turner-Small
Sam Venner
Jo Wharton
Owen Willis
Murray Wilson
Ben Winfield
Cara Wyper

Hairy Gang

James Agg
Rosie Aldridge
Katy Andrews
William Barford
Philip Batt
Nicole Cockburn
Jay Colston Patel
Caitlin Cook
Oscar Cook
Elodie Cowan
Isabella Coxon
James Daniel
Arthur Downes
Olivia Elledge
Aidan Freeman
Oliver Gamble
Noah Goodhind
Jack Gray
Ewan Harkness
Luke Harris
Hamish Hartley
Fraser Haward
Theo Hilton
Joseph Hunter
Jonty Kelly
Zak Knight
Amelia Martin
Natasha Morrissey
Ben Parrish
Freya Peter
Ben Petevinos
James Pollard
Alice Rainsford
Adam Sharp
Theo Winfield



DEDICATION

Behind the Scenes

Producer / Musical Director	Ewan Murray
Choreographer	Cathy Washbrooke
Sketch Director	Mike Layzell
Technical Lead	Jeremy Finch
Assistant Choreographers	Wendy Bideau, Charlie Meade
Vocal Coach	Gill Barrett
Video Director	Jon Gisby
Hairy Poppins written and produced by	Rikki Harrington
Assisted by	Carol Arnsby, Sarah Cripps, Liz Jack, Yvonne Lowry, Tina Miller
Stage Manager	Andy Barford
Deputy Stage Manager	Steph Bell
Stage Hands & Scenery Crew	Pete Desborough, Paul Freeman, Sam Keen Gooch, Colin Jeffs, David Keen, Rebecca Keen, Darren Lowry, Sue Mann, Trevor Miller, Richard Mulholland, Phil Robinson, Marianne Wheeler, Kit Yardley
Properties	Stuart Jack, Liz Jack, Trevor Miller
Lighting Designer	Robert Hemmin
Assistant Lighting Designer	Ross Wilcox
Lighting Crew	Neil Hewitt, Keith Paddison, Jamie Shirra, Edward Kennington, Richard Aldridge
Audio Visual	David Errock, Jeremy Finch
Wardrobe	Claire Williams, Margaret Melville, Suzie Heyes and Ginny St John Glew, with Liz Barringer, Elaine Brind, Helen Brind, Liz Davie, Cath Evans, Beryl Jeffs, Bridget Leadbetter, Debi Lee, Julia Lloyd, Ann Loader, Karen Meade, Sally Melton, Jane Murray, Jude Playle, M-T Spicer, Jane Walter, Judy Whyman, Pam Woodford-Smith
Music Arranger	Chris Pettitt
Rehearsal Pianist	Graham Thomson
The Band	Reeds – Sue Pettitt, Hilary Robertson Trumpet – Rob Bryan Trombone – Adrian Jarvis Keyboard – Graham Thomson Guitar – Carl Gurney Bass – Gareth Covey-Crump Drums – Les Arnold
Make Up	District Explorer Scouts
Call Boy	District Explorer Scouts
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Foyer Display	Rod Keen
Websites	hwgangshow.org.uk
Photo CDs	hwgsshop.org.uk
Stewards	District Explorer Scouts
Refreshments	Clare Webster, Jane Todd and Parents
Programme - Co-ordination	Janet Dixon, Marion Huckle
Programme - Printing & Production	Platinum Press Ltd www.platinumpresslimited.co.uk 0844 880 4722
CCTV	Mark Hubbard
Health & Safety	Neil Liles
Gang Show Committee	Chair – Sally Clark Secretary – Lesley Wallace Box Office – Katie Coxon Treasurer – John Mulholland
Photography	Richard Washbrooke Photography www.richardwashbrooke.photoshelter.com Les Clark
DVD	All Media Works
After-show party catering	Les Clark, assisted by Carole Finch
Acknowledgements	St. John Ambulance
Special Thanks	Peterborough Gang Show, Harpenden Film Society, Roundwood Park School, Sir John Lawes School, St Georges School, Everyone at the BBC who said 'Yes'.

The Creative Team



Top row: Ewan; Cathy; Mike. Middle row: Jeremy; Wendy; Charlie. Bottom row: Jon; Rikki; Claire.

THE GANG SHOW STARS 2014

Hairy Gang



THE GANG SHOW STARS 2014

Junior Gang



THE GANG SHOW

Senior



The Gang Show is based on an idea

SHOW STARS 2014

or Gang



idea by the late Ralph Reader CBE



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District Review 2013

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**TAYLOR
WALTON**
SOLICITORS



Each year I report on the success of scouting in our District and the challenges it brings with it. Sometimes the challenges can be overwhelming but mostly I love being a part of the lives of so many young people and helping in a small way to shape their lives.

This year our Chief Scout, Bear Grylls came to visit us. He dropped in on a Gang Show rehearsal and Peak Assault preparation. Bear told our Scouts they were the lucky ones, he told them to make the most of the fact that they have a place in Scouts as there are over 38,000 young people in this country who can't get a place.

In Harpenden we have worked hard and increased our provision by over 30% in the last 4 years. Yet still I have to report that we have over 200 people on the Waiting List. That does not include children under the age of 6; that is just the people old enough to be in Scouts that we have no places for.

We so want to make room for these young people to join in, but that means we need your help. Do you know anyone who has a couple of hours a week

to spare to help at Scouts. Maybe they have just retired and are looking for a new challenge. Maybe they are on gardening leave or have gone part time and have a little more time on their hands. Maybe they just want a different challenge to the day job. Even if you can't spare the time to be a leader please take the time to think if you know anyone who does.

Anyone wanting to know more can email me at dc.harpenden@gmail.com and I will be happy to help. I am confident that, like me, they will love being a part of young people's lives. Over 200 leaders in Harpenden & Wheathampstead already do.

Please, please persuade anyone you know to 'Join the Adventure' that is Scouts. They won't regret it.

Jane Murray
District Commissioner

1st Harpenden Scout Group

It has been a year of changes at the 1st Harpenden: we said goodbye to Sean and Michelle – with many thanks for their huge contribution to the Group over the years. Also, we have new Leaders in all the three sections, and the Group's Executive Committee has a new Chairman. Among the whirlwind of change, we had the roof of the HQ replaced.

Notable events of the year for the scouts include a sleep-out in the High Street under cardboard boxes to raise money for Herts Young Homeless – a truly chilling experience shared with the 12th Harpenden scouts and the High Street Methodist youth group. Certainly, the best camp was the truly epic "igloo" camp themed on Harry Potter. The Cubs had their Spring Camp at Tolmers and they also enjoyed a joint Cub-Beaver evening at the common.

Five attended Cubjam. The Beavers' activities included a rounders game with another Pack as part of the friendship challenge, boat racing and litter collecting at Batford Springs and plenty of boisterous games. In September the Group had a superb (if wet!) Family Camp at Lees Wood.

2014 promises to be another year filled equally with challenge and fun!

Paul Bedding, GSL



Scouts climbing
at Lees Wood



The Harry Potter Camp at Harmergreen Wood

2nd Harpenden Scout Group

0-100 in 3 years

The 2nd Harpenden has reached a milestone in this its third year of operation. We now have 100 young people participating in our sections, with the major contributor to expansion being the creation of two Scout sections, named Snowdon and Great Gable by the scouts themselves.

It's been an active year again, with a full and balanced programme during the week, and lots of sleepovers, camps, and activity days at the weekends.

The 2nd is particularly proud of its involvement in the local community in Batford, and three great examples of this were:

- the Porters Hill Park planting evening,



Fun at the Family Camp

when beavers, cubs and scouts came together in Scout Community Week to tidy up the park and plant some nice flowers.

- the Lark in the Park, where 2nd scouts laid on a range of thrills and spills for local young people to get a flavour of what scouting was all about
- a family hike to Bowers Heath, one of the "Three Peaks of Harpenden" enhancing our awareness of the local area and what it can offer.

As always, the programme is only possible with the contribution of our team of 15 dedicated uniformed leaders who put in so much time and creativity to making the experience as exciting as it is.

Phil Murray GSL



Scouts in competition at 'Lark in the Park'



Beavers planting flowers at Porters Hill

3rd Harpenden Scout Group

This year our HQ has been refurbished with help from the National Considerate Constructors' Scheme and the Harpenden Trust: our thanks to both. Group membership is strong with a balance of boys and girls across all ages.

The Beaver Colony has participated in a range of activities – we have boxed, treasure hunted in the park, created weird and wonderful healthy snack sensations, sailed boats and flown paper planes. 10 of our oldest beavers camped in the 'back garden' and others went to the activity day at Well End.

The cubs have been working towards a number of badges and some attended the District Cub Camp. This was followed by completing the air activities badge. The cubs have also been busy making Christmas decorations and they raised money for Shelter Aid.

The Scout Troop started the year by winning the District Cooking Contest which won us a place at County. We then embarked on a Sainsbury's Bag Pack and donated £250 to Crisis at Christmas. At May Day Camp, scouts did backwoods camping and the older ones made and slept in bivouacs to finish off their Gold Scout Award. Flying followed that and all had a super time. Then to the Harry Potter Camp, which turned into the Camp of Snow! For Community Day scouts helped to clear Batford Springs. St George's Day was well attended, Summer Camp was in Wells-Next-the-Sea and the Troop entered 3 teams in

Green Beret 2013: one team came 10th on the Assault Course and 9th on the Orienteering Course. Lastly, the Group organised an emergency Philippines table top sale which raised £120 in 30 minutes! All donated to "Green Box".

Pete Mann GSL



4th Harpenden Scout Group

Another busy year has led to the Group opening another Cub Pack.

Vincent Pack was reopened in January 2013 on Monday evenings. Emma Head having served with Kinvig Pack as Bagheera became the new Akela and the Pack is thriving. Both Packs provide the same programme and camp together and hold some joint pack meetings.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all held sleepovers or camp regularly. The Scouts held a Harry Potter camp in March and found themselves camping in the snow. The Beavers had fun on a sleepover at Phasels Wood. Cubs spent a day in London during their Pack Holiday at Wymondley Wood to see the Lord Mayor's Show Parade. The participants in the crowds made a special effort to speak to the cubs and we got a special wave from Jessica Ennis.

The Group held a Family camp again at Lees Wood which this year was rather wet but everyone had fun.

Camping is as popular today as it ever was in 1907 when Baden Powell first held his experimental camp at Brownsea Island. Long may it continue at the 4th.

Elaine Brind, GSL

MAY THE 4th BE WITH YOU!



Scout playing quidditch at the wintry Harry Potter Camp at Harmergreen



The Group at St George's Day Parade

Cub scouts on the stepping stones at Batford



5th Harpenden Scout Group



Richard teaches a camp fire song

The 5th Harpenden Scout Group is reborn. Beavers and Cubs started in November 2012 at Batford Methodist Church Halls and after Easter the Scout Troop formed, meeting jointly with the 2nd Harpenden at the District HQ in Talents Crescent.

The memorable moments of this first year include an exciting torch night hike for the beavers around Batford Springs and the local footpaths. The beavers made pancakes, built electric circuits (which actually worked) and applied themselves to badge work. Outings included a trip to the Fire Station, a water activity day with the 1st Luton Sea Scouts, an expedition to RAF Hendon Air Museum and finally, a sleepover in tents inside the 3rd HQ.

Our cubs also enjoyed a sleepover. They had great fun at their Christmas party, participated in their first District Camp, went on a night hike, spent time in a church, learnt golf, then hockey,

scaled a climbing wall, took part in a cycle ride, played sports, listened to a visiting community police officer, practiced first aid and raised money for charity. The cubs have been busy and are proud to wear the resulting badges.

The scouts did many things with the 2nd Harpenden but among the most exciting were the scary high ropes at Phasels Wood, knee boarding in Milton Keynes, raft building at Wheathampstead and the competitions at Lark in the Park, Batford.

Carol Arnsby, GSL



Courage and skill in one activity

9th Harpenden Scout Group

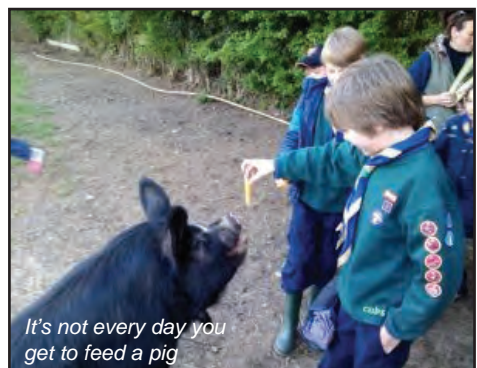
Our cubs have enjoyed another fun filled year including an exciting sleepover at London Zoo in the snow, and a sun-baked Beach Party Camp at Tolmers in July. We visited the Bayfordbury Observatory to see their 16" robotic telescopes and were fascinated by the astronomers' talk. And we spent many evenings working on badges, some at B&Q and HobbyCraft.

The beavers have also been busy this year taking part in a range of activities such as putting up tents, visiting a farm and learning about Diwali. There was map reading, a night hike, the three-legged race, maypole dancing and a sleepover. There was also a Halloween party and, of course, a visit to the Fire Station where all had a go with the fire hose!

Because we've been without our HQ for half a year the scouts focused on outdoor activities. For instance, there have been more hikes, cycling, orienteering

competitions and climbing. Our scouts also helped at Batford Springs in the clear-up projects. Further afield at Loochearnhead, scouts spent an invigorating week bagging Munros.

Gurch Randhawa, ABL



10th Harpenden Scout Group

The 10th Harpenden have had another fantastic year!

One of the many highlights of the year has to be the designation of the land opposite our Headquarters as a "Jubilee Field in Trust". This designation gives the area protection for ever and work has started to make the area more appealing. The clear up project started with a dedicated working party including more than 50 people - beavers, cubs, scouts, explorers and parents, clearing out rubble and rubbish. All sections are looking forward to using the area next year when the evenings are lighter.



Our Beaver sections have played football with Dave Clarke of Paralympic fame, and handled snakes and lizards.

The Cub Packs' annual Spring Camp took place at Phasels Wood during the last weekend of March which coincided with snowfall of 4 inches. Many first experiences for all involved!!

Scouts had a wonderful camping season the highlight of which was a week long camp in a green field near Hathersage.

All our sections are lucky enough to have very active programmes led by dedicated teams of leaders. We are grateful to them all!

Katy Turberville, AGSL



Sitting on the highest point is irresistible!



Liberation! Oh to paddle one's own canoe

12th Harpenden Scout Group

Beavers concentrated on international ideas, their Promise and various creative challenges; they tried to live the values demonstrated by Olympic and Paralympic athletes in our Sporting-Adventure-Programme; they also celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and achieved many activity badges.

Nearly all the cubs attended our camp at Lees Wood themed on the 'Best of British', and our Pack holiday at Phasels Wood, also well attended, adopted a much faster, higher and stronger theme. During weekly meetings they worked towards challenge and activity badges including mini Olympics, karate, outdoor cooking and safety.

The scouts survived thick snow on Spring Camp (the Harry Potter camp) and sunshine on a survival camp, plus PACE (patrol activity challenge experience) at Tolmers, Green Beret at Gilwell Park where one of our teams came 3rd in orienteering and 11th overall. The Troop's annual camp was held at Can-nock Chase. Weekly meetings included

examining their Shelter Box, meeting unusual animals plus all the usual knotting, hobbies, bike rides and hikes.

Once again we raised over £2,500 for local charities at the church Christmas Fayre.

Stuart Jack, GSL



1st Kimpton Scout Group

The Kimpton Group has been very active with every section offering great Scouting to the young people of our village.

One activity that involved the Troop was helping with an environmental project in Bowers Heath. Ground improvements, litter-picking and path clearance kept us busy in mid June and we are very grateful to all the scouts and their parents who joined us.

Early in the year, our Beaver Scout Leader and Assistant Cub Leader, Scott Goodge, was the first recipient of the Pauline Ballan Trophy; a real honour to be associated with such a fabulous stalwart of our Scouting community.

The beavers, cubs and scouts have enjoyed a variety of camps, sleepovers and trips. The scouts, for instance, en-

joyed a terrific week away in May learning new skills and building great friendships and the pictures below show our cubs enjoying their trip to London.

Annie New, GSL



Visit to London



Seeing things



1st Wheathampstead Scout Group

The Group took part in the Remembrance Day Parade, the St George's Day Parade, our local Scout/ Guide Carol Service and the national Community Week by collecting litter in and around the village.

Both Troops entered the Green Beret competition getting good placements in some activities and both have had night hikes & sleepovers in the HQ. They held a joint summer camp in July at Harry's Island in the New Forest. Some scouts have worked for their Chief Scout Gold Award.

Both Cub Packs have been active and the highlights are: a visit to Duxford Museum for the Air Activity badge; the Cub Weekend Camp at Phasels Wood; visits to the St Albans Synagogue; a visit to Pots of Art; and various boating activities on Fairland's Lake in Stevenage. Both Packs had a Christmas Outing to Fun Zone. There were 19 Chief Scout Silver Awards gained during the year.

The Beavers have been having a fun time with an outing to St Albans Abbey & learning about Diwali for their Faith Badge; they have visited Devils

Dyke and took part in the District Beaver Day at Lees Wood campsite. They learnt about healthy eating and how to be safe at home. There have been two Chief Scout Bronze award gained during the year.

The Group had a great time when Bear Grylls visited Phasels Wood in October. There was a day of activities for everyone to take part in and 49 from Wheathampstead went by coach and had a great day out in spite of the weather.

The Wheathampstead Group has 127 members (as of January 2013) and we have waiting lists for all Sections. Lastly, congratulations to Barbara Fox on her award of Chief Scouts medal of Merit: it's well deserved.

Jan Spragge, GSL



All in uniform and ready for a day out



To build a raft and sail it is one of the joys of camp

Harpenden Explorer Scout Unit

The past year at HESU has been, as ever, full of exciting evenings and events. The year started with many members of the Unit performing in the District's Gang Show, some helping backstage and everyone else coming along to watch. The performance spirit continued with our annual Old Time Music Hall at the start of the Easter Holidays which, as always, was a sell out success!

The summer brought a weekend at Gilwell Park and our annual expedition which this year took us back to Engleberg; highlights including a day at an Ice Park bombing down glaciers on toboggans and rubber rings, hiking through the Swiss Alps, and of course LOBBY which was won by the boys this year.

Of course we cannot forget the visit from Bear Grylls in October, who was guided by our very own George Stubbs and Fiona Elledge and met by our Peak Assault Teams and members of The Gang.

October also brought the successful defence of the Peak Assault title as HESU were awarded the highest overall team Trophy. Our evenings this year have been jam-packed, including the usual night hikes, games evenings, crafts and guest speakers as well as a re-enactment of The Hunger Games, a trip to Quasar and a barn dance. Bring on 2014!

Emma Williams, ESL



WAK Explorer Scout Unit



A year of change for WAKESU. Dan, our leader for many years, has had to stand down but he goes with all our thanks and gratitude for his energy and leadership. Matt has taken over the reins with Hannah, Andy and Tom also in the new leader team.

Highlights of the year include an overnight hike, visit to the Herts Police and a free seaside trip on the train to Brighton. We had a great weekend raising funds at Formula 1 selling programmes. Explorer competitions have also been very popular with us entering a number of teams to Chiltern Challenge, Gilwell 24, Dragnet, Peak Assault and the Explorer Weekend Away. To top it all, some explorers even managed to meet Chief Scout Bear Grylls, who gave us a new motto: *'The adventure begins when the navigation goes wrong'*, after the explorers mentioned to him how bad they were at navigation.

This year's Expo took 18 explorers and leaders to the beautiful Gorges du Tarn in the south of France featuring an unforgettable programme of activities. After freezing in the cold waters of the Tarn river in dinghies, we tried our hand at canyoning and hiking to explore the stunning areas of World Heritage.

We also donned some helmets and cycled around; some managed to scale the entire side of the gorge. A less physically demanding day was spent relaxing on the beach, finished with photos beside the stunning "tallest bridge in the world" in Millau. Before picking up some last minute presents in the market, we managed to slip in some rafting and hydrospeeding — absolutely irresistible!! A fantastic end to the summer for us all, with banter that will be shared for months to come.

Matt Wood, ESL



Meeting Bear Grylls, Chief Scout,
Crabtree Fields, October



All together -- just for the album

DORA Explorer Scout Unit

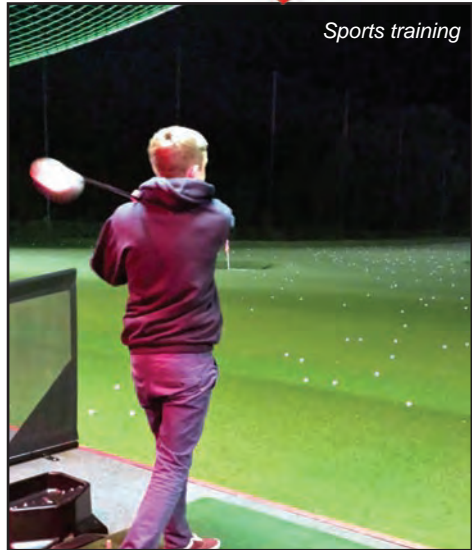
Well, here at DORA we have been celebrating our first anniversary and we have a lot to celebrate!

We are supporting a Duke of Edinburgh bronze group, actively participating in Gang Show and, looking back, we have succeeded in creating weekly meetings that are varied and enjoyable, often with a theme.

We have also been out and about, most notably on night hikes. We have bonded as a group and are now ready to install our Explorer Committee! We expect it to be fully operational from 2014 onwards. We have also had the great news that one of our explorers will be representing both our Unit and the District at the World Scout Jamboree.

So although DORA ESU is still very new to the world of Scouting, we are doing our best to put this young Unit on the map!

Charlie Meade, ESL

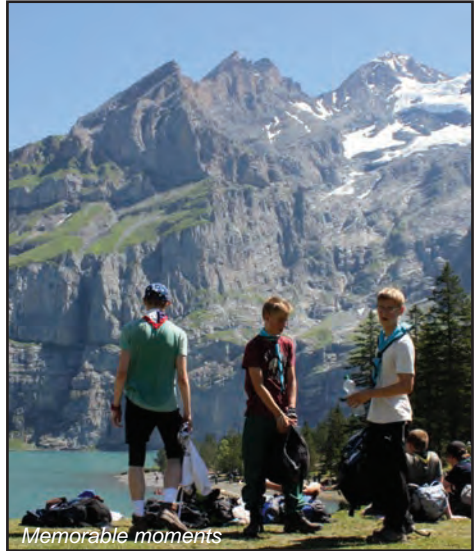


Kinsbourne Explorer Scout Unit

KES have had another great year with the Unit offering a diverse range of Scouting activities in the programme. Unit numbers have been steady at around 40. This year saw us attend District events including Gilwell 24, Chiltern Challenge, Dragnet and Peak Assault where we had three teams entered and won the trophy for the highest placed mixed team. We have also run events with other Units in the District and shared our summer camp in Kandersteg, Switzerland with DORA and Shackleton Units. Other events included our own camps for the explorers to gain kayaking qualifications, and a climbing camp in the Peak District.

KES have also focused on their local community, helping out with other organisations: selling programmes for the Round Table's carnival and the Lions' Highland Gathering; cutting the grass for the local church; and helping with other fundraising activities.

We have also included evenings covering various life skills such as self-defence, first aid and navigation as well



Memorable moments

as fun events like skiing, competitions and off-road cycle rides. All events have been well supported and enjoyed by all.

We continue to encourage our explorers to work towards the Chief Scouts Awards and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, both of which are great achievements. Platinum and Silver Chief Scouts Awards have been completed by a number of our explorers this year.

Nigel Marriott, ESL



2,000 metres to the top!

Shackleton Explorer Scout Unit

Shackleton is now 2 years old and has grown to 35 explorers and 4 leaders. The explorers have appointed their own committee of “elders” to help run the Unit.

Our highlights for 2013 include the outdoor events Chiltern Challenge in March and Dragnet, Cumbria (our first time) in July. 40 teams entered Dragnet and our team was among the hardy 10 teams that finished the 2 day, 35 mile hike without being caught by the search squads.

25 explorers completed the expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award with a two-day training expedition in April and then an assessed expedition in September. Then 5 of our explorers joined DORA and WAK explorers on a summer camp at Kandersteg in Switzerland: a truly memorable experience. All achieved their “High Altitude Activities” badge.

Shackleton is fortunate to have a committed parents’ supporters group who coordinate fund raising activities to help equip the Unit, support our expeditions and camps and help us raise money for charity. This year the Unit has bag packed at M&S, operated the Tea Tent at St George’s Day Parade and run a family quiz night.

Looking forward, two Shackleton explorers have the honour of being selected to attend the World Jamboree



Returning from a hike



Photographing their scarf on a mountain is a Shackleton tradition!



Camouflaged to avoid the search squads during Dragnet in Cumbria

in Japan in 2015. Congratulations to them both!

Mike Weston, ESL



Owls Explorer Scout Unit

Harpenden Owls is the District's newest Explorer Unit, founded in the summer of 2013. We are based in fantastic premises at Wood End School and meet on Monday nights.

Our Unit ethos is that the explorers take the lead but supported by the adult leaders.

The Explorer Committee, already up and running, has decided that all explorers in the Unit should work towards achieving the Platinum and Diamond awards, and ultimately, the Queen Scout Award and have much fun in pursuing them. The Duke of Edinburgh's scheme and other activities will also feature in the programme.

as participating in the larger events such as Peak Assault, District camps, Chiltern Challenge, Gilwell 24, Dragnet and international expeditions. In our inaugural term, we held our first Unit Camp at Phasels Wood and, in October, we entered a team in the 2013 Peak Assault competition and successfully completed the course. We look forward to a busy 2014.

Richard Bird, ESL



The Owls ESU offers lots of opportunities for camping together, as well



Active Support Unit

As it says "on the tin", our Unit provides active support to Scouting in the District and also at some County events.

We aim to respond to all requests for help, for example at Group family camps, District events, Green Beret and Peak Assault. But we are inevitably restricted sometimes by the number of people available at any one time as our resources are finite.

But we could do more and if you would like to join a team which has an active social side too, then please contact **Dave Lowndes** at suedave@lowndes45.freemove.co.uk

No previous experience needed and we only ask for the time you are able to offer.

Dave Lowndes, ASU Leader



Judging the winner of a relay game involving water at the 2nd Harpenden Family Camp

Network



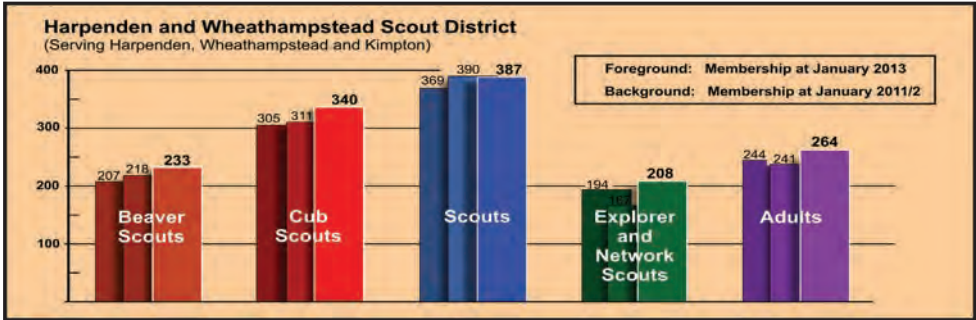
Network Scouting – bounded only by imagination

We are proud to announce that Harpenden & Wheathampstead Network Unit is now up and running.

We have 22 members in our Facebook group which is how we plan to communicate as some of our members are away at University and will join in with activities in the holidays. Up coming events include a Christmas Pub Quiz, Christmas Meal and night out, Top Golf, Dry Skiing and we may be called to help at Gang Show in the New Year with Front of House or Makeup. If you are 18 or older and want to join please email handwnetwork@gmail.com, or you will be approached through your current Explorer Group the term before your 18th birthday.

Martin Allen, Network Leader

District Statistics



The art of Scouting

There can't be many investments as sure as the investment in youth. Our security, wealth, happiness and democracy depend more on youth than any other factor. All the wisdom of today must somehow pass over to the next generation. If it doesn't, the gaps will show. Youth is not passive in this quest: they too see the need and want to learn. But they cannot do it on their own. Scouting is a kind of scaffolding that enables youth to climb. The adults' task is to build the scaffold, indeed to be a part of the scaffold. Join us in the investment. Much more at harpendenscouts.org.uk rv.



The Scout Shop is stocked with all the kit needed for Scouting

Scout Shop

Uniforms
Badges
Books
Equipment

District HQ
Tallents Crescent
Open: 9.00 to 11.00am
Saturdays (term time)

6.00 to 7.00pm
Every 4th Monday of the month
(term time)