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WHEATHAMPSTEAD
DISTRICT SCOUTS

66th

2015 **GANG
SHOW**



scouts

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WELCOME

From our Committee Chair

A really warm welcome to the 2015 Gang Show. I am writing this on a wet and windy October Saturday whilst members of the Gang are out in cagoules and boots running round the hills at Peak Assault – by next week they will be back singing and dancing at show rehearsals. It's wonderful the breadth of experiences that Scouting can offer young people. And not just the opportunities themselves, but moreover the long lasting and deep friendships that come out of time spent within the Scouting movement.

Recently, the Gang Show and HVSU (the fore-runner of HESU) Facebook pages have been inundated with former members of the Gang posting up pictures from Shows in the 1980s and 1990s, bringing back memories and eliciting comments from those who recall the fun and excitement they had when they themselves were on the stage.

And now, fast forward to tonight. Many sons and daughters of those former cast members will join with those for whom this is a first generation experience to create new memories and, tonight as you leave, there will be new words of amazement from the audience who won't believe that the cast wasn't auditioned, or that rehearsals only started four months ago.

As ever, this Show wouldn't happen without the dedication of everyone who volunteers their time, skills, energy and enthusiasm in a multitude of capacities. If you are interested in helping with next year's show please contact us through the Gang Show website hwgangshow.org.uk or me directly sallyjaneclark1@gmail.com.

*sally
clark*



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

PPS...There are amazing photos from the Show – check them out and order for yourselves directly from Richard Washbrooke at www.richardwashbrooke.photostream.com or on a CD via www.hwgangshow.org.uk

PPPS...Not only great photos but a **DVD of the show**, taken by Galaxy Video, is available to order via our website at www.hwgangshow.org.uk

The Gang Show is based on an idea by the late Ralph Reader CBE



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INTRODUCTION

From our District Commissioner

Officially the longest continuously running Gang Show in the world! Doesn't it make your spine tingle with pride to hear that superlative for our little town in Hertfordshire that manages to produce excellence unmatched by anywhere else "In The World" (as Jeremy Clarkson would say)?

There's another unofficial statistic about Harpenden and Scouting that we think is true, but we can't be absolutely sure about, and that is that Scouting happens more intensively here than anywhere else ... In The World:

- Globally, 0.4% of the world's population are young people participating in Scouting.
- In the UK that figure rises to 0.55%.
- In Hertfordshire that rises to 1.2%.
- In Harpenden and Wheathampstead it reaches a stunning 3.5%.

We have 10 Scout meeting places with 250 wonderful leaders and 1,236 young people participating every week. Sadly, we have over 200 young people of Scouting age who have registered an interest in participating but whom we can't currently accommodate.

With the continuing expansion of Harpenden already in evidence from increased housing and the pressure on schools, we can assume that the demand for Scouting places will continue to edge up towards "2020 by 2020". And some of those new houses will have children wanting to be Beavers – of that I have no doubt.

The Scout Association is creating the citizens of tomorrow and we need the support to create the resources for this today. Those of you who have read my message in this programme over the last five years will be very familiar with my plea for more leaders, and I am delighted with the quantity and quality of leaders who have come on board in recent years.

As I prepare to hand over to a new District Commissioner, I am very aware that premises are our next challenge. Young people don't want to have to meet for Scouts in the same place they've been all day for school. We call upon everyone in the town to help us get the three new Scout huts we will need to continue to create the best young citizens ... In The World.

*Jane
Murray*



If you would like more information about getting involved with Scouting, please email us.
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*Wishing Harpenden Gang
Show every success in 2015!*



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INSPIRATION

From the Producer

We are family!

11 lucky Scouts from this District, several of whom you will see on this stage, will find out later this year exactly what the 'family of Scouting' means at the World Scout Jamboree in Japan. Closer to home, family is what it's all about. 21 members of this year's Gang have parents who were in the Show in the 1980s (two have a grandfather who was in our earliest shows!).

Take a close look at the nine members of the Creative Team (those who nurture and direct the show from March last year until today) and there are close family ties too. Five of us were in it; two had children or step-children in it; four had siblings in it; one had a dad and aunt in it; one has a husband who was in it. There's no escaping it – you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family!

The similarities between the Gang Show and a family are legion. There is respect, and occasionally a lack of it (well most of them are teenagers, after all!). There are cross words and there is some mollycoddling. There are tears both of frustration and joy. There is annoyance and much laughter. But most of all there is fun, togetherness and the feeling of growing through the years. Look carefully at our Mini Gang during 'Live and Get Guy'. They are the Senior Gang tap dancers of the future.

The young people on stage can be rightly proud of what they have achieved over these past 17 weeks of rehearsal as a Gang, as friends, as family. Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Scout Gang Show will go on growing, but we have found the secret of eternal youth, the philosopher's stone. It is, quite simply, a sense of family. It abounds in the cast, in the support from parents and friends and, just as importantly, in you the audience, which is why you come back year after year. Thank you.

So now, it's time to sit back and enjoy the show (and if you like what you see and would like to be a part of this family's support network, you only have to ask!).

*Ewan
Murray*



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EVOLUTION

We've been searching our archives...



1970s -
Romance in the
Gang Show!



1950s -
The traditional
Gang Show



1980s -
Can you see anyone
you know?



1960s -
In a time before
girls were involved

All these photos and more are at www.hwgangshow.org.uk.
Please let webmaster@hwgangshow.org.uk know if you have any pre-digital photos which we could copy for our collection.

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WE ASKED THE CAST

What does Gang Show mean to you?





THE WONDERS OF OUR WARDROBE

The Wardrobe team were kind enough to help some of the Gang to take a trip back in time and try on some of our more iconic costumes...



... Many of the audience will remember, or may even have worn, some of these costumes (remember the monks and the polka dot skirts?)



Did you know that our Wardrobe Team produces almost 1000 costumes for each show? Sometimes cast have to be sewn into costumes!



Wardrobe is a team of 23 which meets 10 times a year to maintain and create costumes.

At least 14 people work at each show behind the scenes, ironing, sewing and hurrying the Gang into costumes!!



All the costumes, irons, ironing boards, haberdashery, mirrors, hanging rails and heavens knows what have to be moved down to the Public Hall for 'Show Time'.



THE WONDERS OF OUR WARDROBE



10 second costume changes in the wings are not unknown.

Someone from wardrobe attends every rehearsal.

All show costumes need to be washed and ironed - thank you parent helpers!



There are thousands of costumes in the store, including a snowman, a spaceman, a dragon and a mermaid!

*Wardrobe gets the month of
February off!*



*Some of the costumes are at least
50 years old. Some are used over
and over, some only once.*

*The Team members have
sewn their way through
well over 150 annual shows
between them.*

*The following (slightly tongue-in-cheek) poem was written by Justin Heyes, whose mum
Suzie is in charge of the Mini Gang wardrobe.*

An Ode To A Desperate Father

He had a family once, and a normal life,
Three healthy children and a loving wife.
All of that gone, now fading like a dream,
Replaced by the whirr of a sewing machine.

Costumes cover what once was his house,
The mask for a lion, the tail of a mouse.
A discord of noise from the bedrooms,
Three different voices, three different tunes.

The Gang Show fever has truly over run,
Affecting everything, as well as everyone.
He tries to resist it, he tries in vain,
He knows that it will never be the same again.

Year after year this affliction comes,
Every year supposed to be 'the last one'.
When will this end? How long must he wait?
Will he ever escape this musical fate?

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PARTICIPATION

Crest of a wave

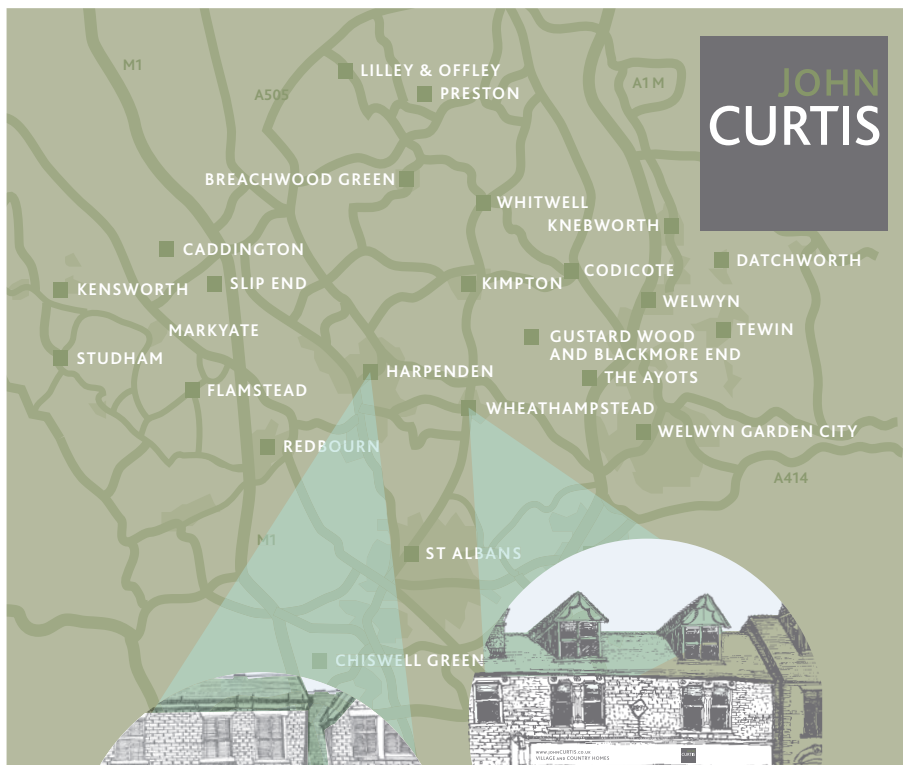
 We're riding along on the crest of a wave
And the sun is in the sky 
All our eyes on the distant horizon;
 Look out for passers-by. 
We'll do the hailing,
When other ships are round us sailing
 We're riding along on the crest of a wave 
And the world is ours.

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

Together

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

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Photo: Cannes Film Festival 2014



DEDICATION

Behind the Scenes

Producer / Musical Director	Ewan Murray
Dance Director	Cathy Washbrooke
Junior Gang Director	Jemma Finch
Technical Director	Jeremy Finch
Assistant Choreographers	Wendy Bideau, Charlie Meade
Vocal Coach	Gill Barrett
"Live and Get Guy"	
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, Phil Murray, Richard Mulholland, Marianne Wheeler, Kit Yardley
Properties	Richard Aldridge, Stuart Jack, Liz Jack
Lighting Manager	Robert Hemmin
Lighting Programmer & Operator	Ross Wilcox
Lighting Team	Richard Aldridge, Nick Aldridge, Jon Greenwood
Audio Visual	David Errock, Jeremy Finch, Emma Risley, Ollie Melton
Wardrobe	Claire Williams, Margaret Melville, Suzie Heyes and Ginny St John Glew, with Jocelyn Angrave-Smith, Liz Barringer, Elaine Brind, Helen Brind, Jane Burns, Liz Davie, Cath Evans, Beryl Jeffs, Debi Lee, Julia Lloyd, Ann Loader, Karen Meade, Sally Melton, Lucy Mulholland, Jane Murray, M-T Spicer, Jane Walter, Judy Whyman, Pam Woodford-Smith
Music Arranger	Carl Gurney, Chris Pettitt
The Band	Reeds – Sue Pettitt, Chris Pettitt Trumpet – Simon Router Trombone – Adrian Jarvis Keyboard – Graham Thomson Guitar – Carl Gurney Bass – Gareth Covey-Crump Drums – Les Arnold
Make Up	Emmanuelle Bentley-Sanders & parent helpers
Duty Managers	Sally Clark, Bob Finch, Neil Liles
Front of House	Chris & Katy Turberville, Peter Wheeler, Emma Head, Dave Wharton, Liz Scott, Richard Bates, Paul and Candy Jessop and team

Foyer Display	Rod Keen
Websites	hwgangshow.org.uk
Photo CDs	hwgsshop.org.uk
Stewards	District Explorer Scouts
Refreshments	Clare Webster, Jane Todd & Parents
Box Office	Jude Playle
Programme - Co-ordination	Janet Dixon, Sian Denton
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 Treasurer – John Mulholland
Photography	Richard Washbrooke Photography www.richardwashbrooke.photoshelter.com
DVD	Galaxy Video (see page 3 for ordering details)
After-show party catering	Les Clark assisted by Carol Finch
Acknowledgements	St. John Ambulance
Special Thanks	Investec Bank plc Harpenden Film Society Harpenden Barbershop Harmony Club Waltham Forest Gang Show Pyro1

The Creative Team



Top row: Ewan; Cathy; Jemma. Middle row: Jeremy; Wendy; Charlie. Bottom row: Gill; Rikki; Claire.



PRESENTATION

Act 1

Butterflies

Don't Stop Me Now

Live and Get Guy

Go West

Lights ... Action!

Fire

Act 2

Viva Las Vegas

The Audition

No Holds Bard

At The Movies

Chaiyya Chaiyya

Together



DEDICATION

The Gang of 2015

Senior Gang

Chlöe Alvis
Cameron Barford
Esther Batt
Matt Bedding
Kirsty Bentley
Philip Coxon
Felicity Cripps
Andrew David
Nick Davis
Emma Dobson
Caitlin Donnelly
Jay Dunbar
Emma Duncombe
Georgie Eagles
Lucy Elledge
George Elledge
Kate Evans
Josh Gooding
Ollie Grant
Stanley Green
Amy Griggs
Gemma Haines
Maddie Harkness
Fieldie Harrison
Callum Heyes
James Jessop
Oli Kelly
Susannah Lawford
Izzie Lovegrove
Matt Maloney
Tom Martin
Paul McCullough
Ailsa McKie
Tabi Noble
Conor Nugent
Daniel Peeters
Lauren Porter
Charlotte Rainsford
Lucy Rainsford

Alex Ray
Alexandra Sach
Rebecca Simpson
Matthew Smith
Callum Stocks
Charlie Taylor
Sam Todd
Becca Trodden
Lucy Turberville
Ollie Turberville
Jo Wharton
Tim Wheeler
Charlie Wright

Junior Gang

James Agg
Rosie Aldridge
Charlie Alvis
Katy Andrews
Phoebe Apsey
William Barford
Hannah Bedding
Dylan Bentley
Will Bowran
Bertie Brooks
Dan Burns
Phoebe Christian
Jay Colston Patel
Thomas Cooney
Will Cowan
Eleanor Day
Alex De Marchis
Toby Denton
Aidan Donnelly
Arthur Downes
Joseph Eagles
Ben Elledge
Aidan Freeman
Matteo Garlich
Leo Goodhind

Noah Goodhind
Martha Green
Katie Gummer
Nick Gurteen
Ewan Harkness
Callum Haward
Alice Hilton
Matthew Hollingham
Matthew Hubbard
Joselyn Hunt
Charlie Kennedy
Rachel Key
Zak Knight
James Lawford
Oliver Lewis
Millie Martin
Gethin Martin
Jack Martin
James Mason
Tom McNeill
Thomas Mulholland
Henry Parr
Ben Parrish
Owain Peter
James Pollard
Lucy Porter
Alice Rainsford
Adam Sharp
Matthew Shelley
Eleanor Stocks
Maisie Taylor
Frederick Todd
Ewan Totty
James Tuck
Katie Turner-Small
Sam Venner
John Wilson
Ben Winfield
Molly Wright

Mini Gang

Christopher Alvis
Cameron
Angrave-Smith
Herbie Barwell
Freddie Brooks
Finley Brown
Hannah Burns
Oli Clarke
Elodie Cowan
Tilly Denton
Harry Dytham
Charlie Edney
Olivia Edwards
Rosie Elledge
Al Holmes
Henry Husbands
Louis Jenkins
Sam Keen Gooch
Ed Kennedy
Thomas Lewis
Ruben Mahendra
Nia Martin
George Martin
Matthew Marven
James McCarthy
Hannah Mulholland
Izzy Parr
Ben Petevinos
Kit Porter
Guy Prunty
Amelie Pym
William Pym
Tom Sarrau
Josh Todd
Will Van Geesbergen
Hannah Van
Geesbergen
Emma Wilson

THE GANG SHOW



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Book by THOMAS MEEHAN · Music by CHARLES STROUSE

Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN · Original production directed by Martin Charnin

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2014 District Review

Harpenden and Wheathampstead Scout District

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Chairman's Welcome

Keith Brooker



In 1907 an experimental camp on Brownsea Island confirmed to our founder that Scouting was a good idea. Over a century on and Scouting is active in over 200 countries and territories around the world with a membership in excess of 30 million!

In 1972, twenty four years before any of this year's Gang Show cast had been born, I was a Scout Leader at the 3rd Harpenden and Ian Fulton became the District Chairman. After serving the District in this role for a stunning 42 years and working with six District Commissioners, Ian retired in 2014. Thank you, Ian, for your time, effort, enthusiasm and support.

In 2014 Scouting in Harpenden, Kimpton and Wheathampstead was enjoyed by over 1200 people, thousands of badges were awarded, nights camping enjoyed, sausages burnt and friends made. We are also planning the support for eleven Jamboree participants going to Japan in 2015.

In 2056 and in 2121, I predict, Scouting will still be thriving. So, what changes? Not the thing that makes Scouting so enduring - our core aim of encouraging and supporting the development of young people and empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. What does change and needs to keep changing is the way that is achieved. And that takes a great deal of effort – from people who wear the uniform and those who don't. Running training programmes, maintaining huts, raising funds, organising Gang Shows, keeping the accounts, running meetings, training the leaders, doing the paperwork, ...Thank you all.

If only we had more of all this energy and more places to meet we could offer Scouting magic to all who seek it and have no waiting lists. I hope we don't have to wait until 2056.

If you want to help please let us know. Find out more in 'Getting Involved on pages 20-21.

1st Harpenden Scout Group **First**

2014 was another action-filled year for the 1st.

The Beavers enjoyed a torchlight scavenger hunt, played rounders with another pack and made s'mores by campfire. In September, they went geocaching in Heartwood, where a member of public used the geocache to help a Beaver find the Colony. His log takes up the story:

"I parked up and on the way to GZ (Ground Zero) I met up with a rather distressed lady and her young grandson, who asked me if I'd seen a group of Beavers in the area since she was supposed to be meeting them but had got lost on the way. I asked the lad if he was part of the 1st Harpenden and he confirmed that he was. We therefore followed the GPS to GZ, with a potted lesson on caching for gran on the way and there they were...the 1st Harpenden! After a big hug from gran I signed the log and said my goodbyes."

The Cubs paid a visit to the fire station and launched homemade rockets from Nomansland. In May they had a superb camp at Phasels Wood.

The Scouts' programme included a sleepover, Quasar and an astronomy evening. The highlight was the Brownsea Camp - they were lucky enough to pitch at the very site of B-P's first camp. Activities included archery, sailing and kayaking (the GSL was first to capsizе, ha!)

In July, all sections joined the Methodist Church and other Scout and Guide groups for a Sponsored Water Carry from Batford to the High Street,

an effort that raised over £8,000 for Water Aid.

In September we had a great Family Camp at Henlow, where the indifferent weather failed to dampen spirits and we produced some of the best cardboard ovens ever seen. To top off the year everyone enjoyed our "Gunge A Leader" event and you can see the results for yourself!



Second 2nd Harpenden Scout Group

2084 seems like a safe target for the 2nd!

Originally formed in 1910, the 2nd was closed down in 1984 due to a lack of interest from boys (sic) in the area. Reformed in 2010, a hundred years after the first attempt, we have absolutely no intention of folding in 2084 or at any other time.



The rolling slide show at our AGM in September, showing the activities our boys

and girls got up to throughout the year, had parents developing the colour of envy in their gills, somewhere between the blue and green colours of our scarf

that are now proudly displayed in the rafters of our Tallents Crescent hut.

Highlights of our year include: high speed Beavers at Luton Sea Scouts;

dedication of our new toilets through a toilet twinning fundraising activity by our Cubs; a visit to Brownsea Island by our Scouts on their Summer Camp; a scary Cub sleepover at London Zoo.

It is heart-warming that despite how 2nd has come together from across the District, such a friendly and collaborative community has built up, showing itself in the wide variety of ways that parents help out, in the friendships our young people have forged across school divides, and in generosity shown by our trailer load of Food Bank contributions in Scout Community Week.



3rd Harpenden Scout Group **Third**

This year our hut has undergone yet more refurbishment works to make our premises much more user friendly.

The Beaver Colony is full – with 24 children all invested.

Children have participated in a range of activities this year – we are now into the second cycle of our two year rolling plan and have covered badge work including the Friendship Challenge, gardening, adventure, health and fitness and the new Disability Badge. There are several parents regularly helping out at meetings and most importantly we have managed to 'recruit' two new Assistant Beaver Leaders.

We have had a very busy year with some very enthusiastic Cubs. Earlier in the year we were lucky enough to welcome Paul Gillett as a leader who has been a great addition to our leadership team. We have had a variety of fun evenings including an evening hike around Rothamsted which included walking through Knott Wood in the pitch darkness and an evening lighting fires and toasting marshmallows, which was very sticky! Our Cubs who have been working very hard at several activity badges including the Disability Badge and Map Readers badge. This term our Cubs enjoyed fun and games at a spine-chilling party and have shown their talents at producing and presenting a Newsnight-type programme.

The Scouts came a magnificent 3rd in the County Cooking Contest, and our team of six were a total credit to the 3rds. The Scouts participated in the 4th's Mighty Sherlock Holmes Camp where we built mighty fire. In May we entered PACE, a Patrol Led District Contest, for the first time. We loved this so much that we have booked for next year already! We had a flying day in Cambridge and a sailing day at Luton Hoo. The 4th's joined us for the last weekend of our Charles Darwin Galapagos Island Creatures Summer Camp, where we went to Chislehurst Caves, on zip wires and high ropes and Biggin Hill Airfield.

We then focused on Green Beret 2014, with intense training and we were pleased to field three teams.



Fourth 4th Harpenden Scout Group

The 4th goes from strength to strength.

At the beginning of 2014 we opened another Beaver Colony to help alleviate the pressure of numbers on the District waiting list. We now have two Beavers (Clutterbuck & Heather), two Cubs (Kinvig & Vincent) and two Scout Troops (Petter & Duckmanton), each is named after former 4th leaders. All sections held sleepovers or camps and we held our usual family camp in June. It was certainly a brilliant sunny weekend.



Each section has received a visit from Scouts representing the 4th at next year's World Jamboree in Japan, our own Richard Bird being one of the County Leaders. We were very surprised to receive the Centenary Trophy at the District AGM this year. A real treat for the leaders who give so much of their time and energy into providing good quality Scouting to young people.

During September Cubs from Kinvig & Vincent Packs presented bird boxes to the Town Mayor as part of Scout Community Week. October



saw another trophy at the 4th when the joint Cub football teams won the District Football Tournament. That makes it four times and that doesn't count the old trophy.

We look forward to our trip to the pantomime and, as always, a visit to see the talented 4th at the Gang Show.

5th Harpenden Scout Group **Fifth**

The 5th Harpenden Group moved to Wood End School in this, our second, year.

We had outgrown our original home in Batford, we now have 24 Beavers, 28 Cubs and 11 Scouts.



Over the year we have worked hard on our badges as shown by our first two Beavers achieving the Chief Scout Bronze Award and our Scouts working on their DIY badge. The calendar has included a wide range of visits, for example the Cubs went to the St Albans Signal Box, the Beavers visited Harpenden Library and the Scouts went to Apsley Paper Mill.

Other events in our Scouting year have included a game of Human Monopoly in Harpenden town centre for the Scouts, a Beaver and Cub trip to Luton Sea

Scouts in Luton and a visit from Bear Grylls in October.

Camping has also been high on the agenda as the Cubs camped on their own for the first time at Bromham in June, the Scouts joined the 2nd in Sherwood Forest and our Pack Holiday at Gilwell in February was enjoyable for all.



Ninth 9th Harpenden Scout Group



The 9th have had a very exciting year.

The result of four year's dedicated planning and fundraising came to fruition with the opening of our stunning new hut in May. Ben Saunders, polar explorer, opened the hut on a beautiful Spring day in front of many local dignitaries and sponsors as well as some very excited Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and their Leaders!

All the sections are revelling in the huge hall right next to Kinsbourne Common. In addition there is an Explorer Lounge, Kinsbourne Meeting Room, Leaders' Room, a well equipped kitchen and two large storage areas.

Our Beaver Colony has had a busy year, and enjoyed a movie night in the new hut and trips to Knebworth and the fire station.

Our Cub Packs continue to work together and enjoyed an excellent sleepover adventure on the Golden Hind, sleeping amongst the cannons on the gun deck, having learnt all about life on a Tudor ship. They have also camped with the District at Lees Wood in July, and had their first trip to Gilwell in October for a Pack Holiday. Other activities have included shelter building and campfire cooking at Gibraltar Farm, a visit from G4S security dog trainers, and a lovely summer hike around Luton Hoo Estate.

The Scouts have enjoyed building bivouacs and surviving overnight at Harmer Green in March. Then May half term saw a trip to Hautbois, (Hobbiss!) Campsite in Norfolk, where despite some torrential rain and deep mud the Scouts kept cheerful, and enjoyed archery, climbing and a day trip to Cromer for surfing and Fish & Chips!



10th Harpenden Scout Group **Tenth**

The year has been filled with exciting activities for 10th Harpenden.

The Beavers have enjoyed a Samba evening and a stargazing evening.

The Cubs raised funds for our two selected African charities: KESHO; where we are funding education for 2 children in a village in Kenya, and Harpenden Spotlight on Africa.

The Scouts have been skiing, gliding and ice skating under the London Eye as well as taking part in some exciting night hikes.

As a Group, we achieved the highest number of nights camping within the District. We have run camps to Cromer, Henlow, Longridge, Phasels Wood and Chalfont Heights as well as enjoying the wider social opportunities by joining some of the District and County events; for example the Beavers attended a Gilwell Fun Day and the Cubs joined the District for their summer camp.

Further progress has been made on the protection of Crabtree Fields, which is now a Jubilee Field In Trust. Several old cars and other scrap metal has been removed and lots and lots of rubbish cleared up. Paths have been made and a bug Hotel created.

The 10th Group has had another excellent year, this is testament to the quality of the program and leadership provided by the excellent team of Adult Leaders and helpers.



Twelfth 12th Harpenden Scout Group

12th have had a great year fundraising, they have raised money for the Haarlem expedition and local charities.



Our Beavers focused on the Fitness, Friendship and Global Challenges.

They hunted for treasure in Rothamsted Park, discovered the plaque on their teeth and dirt on their washed hands, and hosed each other down at the Fire Station. They eagerly put each other into

the recovery position and dressed wounds, and are now brilliant at spotting danger in the home. Their Winter Olympics included curling, sledging and cross-country skiing and they experienced unusual foods and International Beaver Games.

Our Cubs camped at Lees Wood and activities included fire building, cooking spaghetti and shelter building. Their Pack Holiday at Paccar with a 'Keen to be Green' theme included nature and compass trails, pedal car racing and crate stacking. They completed many and varied Challenge and Activity badges including Global Conservation, Fitness, Home Help, Chef, Artist and Scientist.



The Scouts camped in patrols at Tolmers, joined in the celebrations of Lees Wood's 50th anniversary and enjoyed Summer Camp at Blacklands Farm (despite 36 hours of continuous rain) with lots of activities including giant zip wires, canoeing, Chessington, Brighton and expeditions in Ashdown Forest. Once again they produced creditable results at the Green¹¹ Beret competition at Gilwell Park.



1st Kimpton Scout Group **Kimpton**

Our village Group continues to thrive, with good numbers in all Sections.



Our presence is evident in a variety of village events, from our Annual Kimpton May Festival to our recent Remembrance Parade. In May we joined the Festival procession in the High Street, with members from all Sections dressed to represent 50 different Scout badges. Our second hand bookstall was well supported, enabling us to raise funds for ourselves and also many other village organisations. It was a super occasion and one where those not involved in Scouting have an opportunity to learn a little bit more about us.

All Sections have enjoyed nights away with Beaver sleepovers, Cub weekend camps and the Scouts enjoying, among other experiences, a summer hike culminating in a night spent 'sleeping' in a hammock in the



woods plus a fantastic week away camping in Norfolk. All our Leaders provide some wonderful opportunities for our children and young people; the time, energy and enthusiasm they give to ensure all members of the Group have a truly memorable experience is wonderful and much appreciated by all.

Our biennial Family Camp took place in September. A fantastic weekend at Well End, with a plethora of activities on offer (supported by our wonderful District Active Support Unit) was thoroughly enjoyed by 22 Kimpton Families.



Wheathampstead

1st Wheathampstead Scout Group

Wheathampstead are looking forward to celebrating their upcoming 50th Anniversary of the reforming of the Group.

We worked as a group for Scout National Community Week, we picked up litter around the village.



Eight Scouts from across the troops have been awarded the Chief Scout Gold Award. Our team came a very creditable 6th in the County Green Beret Competition. Lamer Troop did a hike using GPS readings and Amwell Troop visited Phasels Wood for archery & rifle shooting. Lamer Troop have been orienteering in Rothampsted Park, sailing & kayaking for their Nautical badge.

Across two packs, our Cubs have been awarded ten Chief Scout Silver Awards. The Cubs enjoyed a night hike and sleepover in the hut in March. Mead Pack have worked on the Pet Carer Badge which included a visit from the Blue Cross with a dog in tow. They held a cake cooking evening and sold the efforts with proceeds going to the Blue Cross. Cubs have been wall climbing at Herts Sports village, been to Stanborough Lakes and completed their DIY badges.

Thirty six Cubs enjoyed the joint camp in June at Tolmers Scout Activity site. Two days were spent having great fun wall climbing and building and sailing rafts on the lake. The Cubs all did their Naturalist Badge while they were there.

The Beavers have visited Pets at Home for their Pet Badges, have learnt about different countries for their Global Challenge Badge, and have done the Air Activity badges. They have been keeping fit with a hike & a treasure hunt.

Wheathampstead were very saddened at the death in December due to cancer of their Chairman Glyn Lambert. He had been ill for a little while but had held our AGM in September. He will be greatly missed especially for his expertise on property matters.



Harpenden Explorer Scout Unit **HESU**

Another busy year for the Unit.

We've seen the unit change leadership and a merge with DORA, but we have successfully made it out of the other side. Beside all of this we still began the year with our New Year's Day football match and large numbers of our Explorers taking part in the Gang Show.

As in past years we took part in Gilwell 24 and Peak Assault, with our two teams coming a respectable 6th and 12th.

Our main event was our expedition to Monthey, Switzerland where we hiked, swam and took part in many other exciting activities. The great Expo was arranged by leaders Carly and Emma and they have now handed the unit over to our

new leaders Dom, Nick and Nikhil. The change was smooth and the unit is still running from strength to strength.

Our weekly meetings have been organised by our 12 strong committee, elected by their peers at our AGM, some of our more exciting nights include a ZUMBA fitness class and a scrapheap challenge.



KES 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 one of our teams won the trophy for the highest placed mixed team.

We held our summer camp in North Wales which was an action-packed week. We tackled activities over ground, underground and in the water. We took on white water rafting, mountain biking, hikes, gorge scrambling, quad biking, caving and more.

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

The committee has really started taking control over the last year, planning meetings and community events. We have worked on our traditional Scouting skills such fire making, shelter building, pioneering and navigation, as well as fun events like skiing, competitions, quizzes and off-road cycle rides. All events have been well executed and supported by the unit.



During the year we have tried to encourage the Explorers to complete their Chief Scouts Awards. This last year we have had one Explorer complete the Chief Scout's Diamond Award, and also one achieve the Queen's Scout Award.

OWLS Explorer Scout Unit **OWLS**

The OWLS ESU has had an active and successful first year.

Our numbers have grown significantly since we started and we now have 33 Explorers with an even mix of males and females.

Our aim has been to develop our core Scouting skills and to focus on



traditional Scouting activities. We hope to take part in challenging activities next year as a unit, such as Peak Assault and Gilwell 24. The OWLS calendar has included

some interesting group activities, the favourite one being a wild animal encounter.

We have also taken a keen interest in the local community and have formed a link with Batford Springs Volunteers. Some of the work carried out by OWLS in the nature reserve has included repairing a breached area of river bank and cutting back overgrown vegetation and trees.

We would like to thank the other Explorer units in the district for all the help and advice we have received during our first year.



Shackleton

Shackleton Explorer Scout Unit

Shackleton has continued to grow over the last year, with the unit now up to 45 Explorers. Our hut won't be big enough for many more!

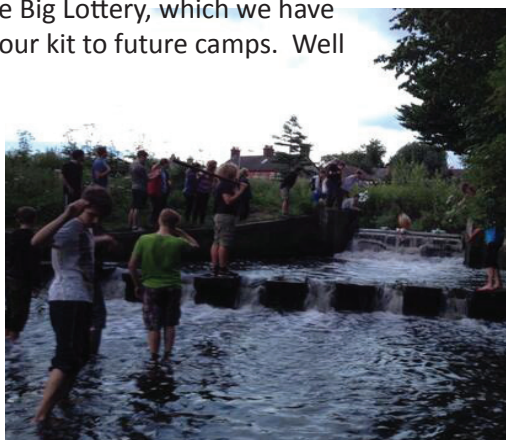
Previous year's experience began to pay off as Shackleton teams performed well in major competitions. There were second places in Peak Assault and Dragnet and third place in Chiltern Challenge.



Highlights of unit meetings in 2014 included building and then racing boats down the River Lea in Batford. Ray Vassie spoke to the unit about firefighting skills (we think a refresher course is needed after our Paintball/Back to Basics camp in September!)

Our parent support group has been tremendously successful at fundraising this year. They ran the tea tent at St George's Day, packed M&S bags at Christmas and everyone enjoyed our family quiz night. To top it off they

managed to secure a grant from the Big Lottery, which we have used to buy a trailer to help us get our kit to future camps. Well done everyone!



Wheathampstead Explorer Scout Unit **WAKESU**

At WAKESU we have had a large intake of new Explorers during 2014 swelling our numbers to nearly 40.

Two former members, Zach and Zowie, have remained involved by being invested as Beaver leaders



in Kimpton. We have been as busy as ever entering teams into Chiltern Challenge, Gillwell 24 and Peak Assault.

We arranged Unit trips bowling, to XC for climbing and high ropes, and are looking forward to our Christmas trip to watch Billy Elliot in the West End.

Summer Expo this year was in Salcombe, Devon where we rented a hotel (yes a hotel! It's a long story), which made a great base for the 19 of us to explore the area. Activities included Go Ape, Sea Kayaking, Aqua Splash and a Carting Grand Prix as well as many lazy days on the beach. We were entertained in

the evening with quizzes, Singstar, theme nights and even spent a couple of nights laying outside and gazing out to space looking for shooting stars. All in all it was a "Great Success".



Network Harpenden and Wheathampstead Network Unit

The Harpenden and Wheathampstead District Network has now been back up and running for just over a year and is still thriving.

Some of the activities we have taken part in are a trip to Top Golf, (almost) won a pub quiz and been on a trip to Alton Towers! We also participated in the Hertfordshire Peak Assault competition coming in second place for the second year in a row.



Most of the District Network members are at university, this means during term turn can be small, so we need more members! Network is open to anyone aged between 18 and 25, so bring your friends, Scouts or not and get involved in something special. If you want to join please email handwnetwork@gmail.com, or you will be approached through your current Explorer Unit the term before your 18th birthday.

**District HQ
Tallents Crescent
Batford
AL5 5BG**

Scout Shop

**Term time
Saturdays 9.00am - 11.00am
(exceptions: Saturdays either side of half term)
Term Time 4th Monday of the month
6.00pm - 7.00pm**

uniforms • badges • scarves • maps • equipment • books

Get Involved Join The Adventure

It is testament to the impact that adults in the Harpenden and Wheathampstead District can have that many groups have been able to run multiple sections of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in 2014, as well as new Explorer units that have recently opened.

These extra spaces mean that children in the District can enjoy the activities and experiences that you have read about and seen photos of. If you would like to get involved there is certainly a Group that would love to hear from you.

You don't need to be Bear Grylls to get involved. You might have first aid or bicycle repair skills, or have an interesting profession that you could share with our Scouts.



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A young child in a green jacket with arms outstretched, surrounded by falling autumn leaves.



To find out more email Jane Murray, District Commissioner: dc.harpenden@gmail.com

Alternatively contact any of the Groups in this Review by visiting www.harpendenscouts.org.uk



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