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DISTRICT SCOUTS

67th

2016 **GANG
SHOW**



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WELCOME

From our Committee Chair

Welcome to the 2016 Gang Show. I've just watched the DVD of the 2015 Show to get me in the mood for writing this. Outside it is wet and windy, Shackleton ESU has just won Peak Assault, half term beckons and rehearsals are in mid flow. The sounds of Bollywood from last year have been replaced by Brazilian sambas as the dance moves are being learnt in my lounge.

The Show is a real testament to the unwavering dedication of our volunteers - from those pouring tea and daubing faces, to those painting scenery and building props, to those projecting effects and stitching costumes, to those creating dance moves and inspiring young people to sing their hearts out and dance their socks off. All are connected by teamwork, friendship and a desire to create something magical for you.

Just last year I hosted the infamous "After After Party" at the end of the Show. It began at midnight and ended at around 5 am, long after the final curtain came down. People thought I was mad but that party was testament to the wonderful young people that make up the Gang. As I returned home from the Public Hall there were 60 pairs of shoes neatly lined up in my hall, 60 exuberant teenagers dancing and singing to hits from the Show and, by 9 am the next morning, everyone was gone, back to the Public Hall to help clear up. In a world where we read of how it can all go so wrong for teenagers in Britain - knife crime, guns, extremism, drugs - it is really rather wonderful and relieving to be amongst young people who have been so incredibly creative, talented and united in making this Show.

So enjoy tonight and take home a memory of something really very special: our 67th Show, the longest continuously running Gang Show in the world.

*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 with thanks to Richard Washbrooke - check them out and order for yourselves directly from Richard 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

Some of you may know that, along with 11 Explorer Scouts from the District and as your new District Commissioner, I was lucky enough to go to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan – you can read more about that in the District Review. Scouting offers some extraordinary international adventures, but visiting Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs and Scout Troops since my return has reminded me that adventure and challenge really start here at home within our own District.

Our leaders across the District organise an amazing array of different experiences for our young people. Some of these are fun, some educational, some challenging, but they all help to broaden experiences and ultimately horizons. Those challenges start in Beavers with perhaps their first night away from home, moving onto Cubs and taking part in longer camps under canvas, and into Scouts where they may have to build their own dens, make their own fires and cook by themselves. By the time they are in Explorers, they are planning their own expeditions.

Performing sketches and songs has, from the beginning of Scouting, been an integral part of that journey of development through challenge. In the first instalment of "Scouting for Boys", back in 1908, Robert Baden-Powell provided Scouts with the script for a short play about Pocahontas. From such small beginnings, we have the annual miracle that is our Gang Show.

Within the District, every Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout who is old enough, can apply to take part. There is no audition before the Gang is selected. Everyone has a chance to be involved – some may have larger parts, others will build their confidence through smaller parts. Others may help back stage. For everyone involved, they will rightly gain a huge sense of achievement as they take part in the 6 shows performed to more than 2,000 people during the week.

Before the curtain rises on our 67th Gang Show, I want to thank everyone involved in providing this opportunity, this challenge, to the Gang. Your time and efforts have given them the chance. Now, it is just up to the Gang to seize that challenge and entertain us.

I know they will – Together.

*Russell
Brooks*



We are currently short of leaders across the District. If you would like more information about getting involved with Scouting, please email me at DC-Harpenden@virginmedia.com.

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INSPIRATION

From the Producer

Our Gang Show exists for three reasons:

1. For the Gang: the confidence gained, the skills learned, the experiences shared, the friendships made and the sheer thrill of applause and appreciation for effort made cannot be replicated anywhere else. And the memories last forever.
2. For the audience: let us entertain you! Then go and tell everyone what the young people of this country are really about. You are looking through a fantastic shop window of Scouting. Have you been moved by what you've seen on stage? Then join us. The more adults who are inspired to volunteer, the more activities we can offer.
3. For District funds: we are the largest single fundraiser in our District, keeping the cost of Scouting down for all, and contributing towards specific events and items. But this is very much a bonus and the last and least reason for doing Gang Show.

Talking of money, we have decided that a proportion of our box office receipts each year should be donated to a charity close to the Gang's hearts. We were going to ask the Gang whom we should support but then, just three days before rehearsals started we learned of the tragic passing of Nick, father of three members of our Gang, all of whom you are watching now. So we asked the family whom they thought Nick would have liked us to support. MacIntyre provide fantastic support to children and adults with learning difficulties, including to Nick's sister over many years, and so our donation this year is going to them. You can check out the great work they do by going to macintyrecharity.org.

Scouting, while youth-led, is for everyone of all ages. And once you're in, you're hooked. The proof is in our waiting list to be on stage, in the former Gang members (and their parents) who come back to help, in our sell-out audiences who come back year after year. And for those who are happier on a mountainside or in a kayak than under a spotlight, Scouting is for you too. If you want to be involved, you only have to ask!

Enjoy the Show.

*Ewan
Murray*



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WE ASKED LAST YEAR'S AUDIENCE

What did you think of Gang Show 2015?

Had a blast at
Harpden
Gang
Show ...

Once again I was
blown away by
the quality
of the
show ...

Absolutely
loved
the show!

... another amazing,
inspiring,
knock-out
performance ...

[My daughter's] confidence
has grown enormously
over the last few
months and I
am eternally
grateful.

... lots of fabulous
memories
to last a
lifetime.

... the choreography
has gone
up another
gear.

Gang Show
was stupidly
good
again.

The number of sets and
costume changes
probably outnumber
those required
for a West End
stage play or
major opera.



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FOUNDATION

WE GROW OUR OWN - Mini Gang

So where do these enthusiastic Scouts and Explorers come from? Many of them appeared for the first time in the Mini Gang.

Mini Gang is made up of Cubs and Scouts in school years 5 and 6 and it's been part of our Show since the very beginning. This year there are 10 girls and 26 boys.



The Mini Gang feature is a packed 12 minutes (or so) and is totally original. Rikki Harrington, the Mini Gang producer, comes up with a theme, brews the whole sketch in his head over a few months and then creates the script on a single frenetic summer's day! He gets his ideas when he's out running in the countryside or, more usually these days, walking!

We interviewed Rikki to find out more ...

How long have you been involved? I took over from Fran Franklin for the 49th Gang Show in 1998, making this my nineteenth year of writing and producing with the Mini Gang, although I did write a few sketches for the Show prior to that.

What's the most difficult part of being the Mini Gang producer? The casting evening is the toughest because not everyone can have a speaking role. It's very difficult to be sure I've got it right and sad that some have to go home disappointed, even though every single part is vital to our success.



FOUNDATION

What's the best bit? Seeing the Cubs and Scouts achieve things on stage that they didn't know they could, and the amazed reactions of parents.

Do you get nervous? I'm unbearable in Show week – ask my helpers! I always get nervous about the Mini Gang catching bugs. Last year James Bond was ill between the Saturday performances. In the end everything was fine and I had to call the understudy from a busy restaurant to tell him very loudly that he didn't have to be James Bond ... but I called the wrong number and I had a very puzzled stranger on the end of the 'phone and howls of laughter from the Creative Team in the restaurant!



Do you produce Mini Gang by yourself? No way! I have help every week from several great people. This year the team included old stagers Yvonne Lowry, Tina Miller, Sarah Cripps and Carol Arnsby, and newcomer Kat Foster-Jenkins. Ewan is always there on the keyboard. Jane Todd leads our wonderful wardrobe team this year for the first time.

Which have been your favourite Mini Gang numbers? I think probably "Phantom of the Panto" from the 57th Gang Show in 2006 and last year's Guy Fawkes cum James Bond-themed "Live and Get Guy". And, of course, "Dogs – The Musical" is going to be (like most of the others in fact) simply barking!



PREPARATION

Preview Day July 2015

The Gang Show takes nearly 12 months to create and even the Gang gets involved early in July each year at the Preview Day.

Although rehearsals start in September, Preview Day is where the producer and the creative team present the format of the Gang Show to an excited Gang. This gets everyone buzzing over the summer!

The Gang gets to hear the songs and find out the themes of the next show.



It's also the chance for any brave members of the Gang to stand up and showcase some of their talents. Anyone can have a go!



This year we had a trombonist ...

PREPARATION



... and a guitarist ...



... a violinist, a Harry Potter adaptation ...



... a soloist ...



... a magician, a dancer ...

... and singing and piano playing.



The Gang is also taught a few moves and the "front row" is chosen.

Everyone is loudly supportive!



And everyone goes away totally excited!

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PARTICIPATION

On the 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,
While 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 share together, when we're together
♪ The best years of our lives. ♪

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Encore!

Bravo!

Hooray!

*Well
done!*

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DEDICATION

Behind the Scenes

Producer / Musical Director	Ewan Murray
Dance Director	Cathy Washbrooke
Junior Gang Director	Jemma Finch
Technical Director	Jeremy Finch
Choreographers	Charlie Meade, Wendy Bideau
Vocal Coach	Gill Barrett
Production Assistants	Fiona McCarthy, Emma Dobson
"Dogs - The Musical"	
Written and produced by	Rikki Harrington
Assisted by	Kat Foster-Jenkins, Carol Arnsby, Sarah Cripps, Yvonne Lowry, Tina Miller
Wardrobe	Jane Todd
Stage Manager	Andy Barford
Deputy Stage Manager	Steph Bell
Stage Hands & Scenery Crew	Masami Christian, Pete Desborough, 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	Ross Wilcox
Lighting Programmer & Operator	Rob Hemmin
Lighting Team	Richard Aldridge, Nick Aldridge, Jon Greenwood
Audio Visual	David Errock, Jeremy Finch, Lucy Porter
Wardrobe	Claire Williams and Margaret Melville, with Jocelyn Angrave-Smith, Liz Barringer, Elaine Brind, Helen Brind, 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
Music Arranger	Carl Gurney, Chris Pettitt
The Band	Reeds – Sue Pettitt, Chris Pettitt Trumpet – Simon Router Trombone – Adrian Jarvis Keyboard – Graham Thomson Guitar – Ned May Bass – Gareth Covey-Crump Drums – Les Arnold
Make Up	Emmanuelle Bentley-Sanders and parent helpers
Duty Managers	Sally Clark, Bob Finch, Neil Liles
Front of House	Peter Wheeler, Chris and Katy Turberville, 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
	harpenden.gs
Stewards	District Explorer Scouts
Refreshments	Clare Webster, Jane Todd and parent helpers
Box Office	Jude Playle, Alison Cook
Programme - Co-ordination	Sian Denton, Kathy Hilton
Programme - Design & Print	Platinum Press Ltd
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Health & Safety	Neil Liles
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	Secretary – Lesley Wallace
	Treasurer – John Mulholland
Photography	Richard Washbrooke Photography
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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	Harpenden Film Society - for use of their projector
	Gatsby & Miller - for assistance in 'Bad Hair Day'
	St Albans Gang Show - for a musical arrangement

The Creative Team



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



PRESENTATION

Act 1

Crazy Night

Four Yorkshire Scouters

Dogs - The Musical

Bad Hair Day

The Fortune Seekers

Wish You Were Here

Act 2

A Pirate's Life

ABC

Behind Bars

Nothing To Fear

Lola, Tony and Rico

Size Matters

Together



DEDICATION

The Gang of 2016

Senior Gang

Esther Batt
Matt Bedding
Kirsty Bentley
Jessie Campbell
Ruby Chaston
Will Cowan
Philip Coxon
Felicity Cripps
Andy David
Toby Denton
Finn Donnelly
Laura Duncombe
Georgie Eagles
George Elledge
Lucy Elledge
Kate Evans
Josh Gooding
Ollie Grant
Ella Green
Nick Gurteen
Maddie Harkness
Fieldie Harrison
Al Hilder Jarvis
Dan Hubbard
Georgia Jessop
James Jessop
Emily Knight
Sarah Lawford
Josephine Linhart
Izzie Lovegrove
Robyn Luffman
Matt Maloney
Jack Martin
Sarah McCullough
Tom McNeill
Douglas Noble
Conor Nugent
Alex Ray
Emma Risley

Alex Sach
Sam Sharkey
Matt Smith
Ollie Stubbs
Charlie Taylor
Sam Todd
Lisa Trodden
James Tuck
Lucy Turberville
Sam Venner
Jo Wharton
Tim Wheeler
Ben Winfield

Junior Gang

James Agg
Rosie Aldridge
Charlie Alvis
Katy Andrews
Cam Angrave-Smith
Phoebe Apsey
Herbie Barwell
Philip Batt
Dylan Bentley
Bertie Brooks
Phoebe Christian
Oli Clarke
Nicole Cockburn
Jay Colston Patel
Tom Cooney
Elodie Cowan
Emma David
Ellie Day
Tilly Denton
Aidan Donnelly
Arthur Downes
Joe Eagles
Ben Elledge
Ben Finch

Aidan Freeman
Matteo Garlich
Noah Goodhind
Martha Green
Katie Gummer
Ewan Harkness
Hamish Hartley
Callum Haward
Fraser Haward
Theo Hilton
Al Holmes
Matt Hubbard
Joselyn Hunt
Zac Jenkins
Sam Keen Gooch
Ed Kennedy
Zak Knight
Oliver Lewis
Ruben Mahendra
George Martin
Gethin Martin
Millie Martin
James McCarthy
Thomas Mulholland
Henry Parr
Ben Petevinos
Amelie Pym
William Pym
Alice Rainsford
Adam Sharp
Matt Shelley
Jonathan Speller
Ellie Stocks
Harry Tallantire
Freddie Todd
Ewan Totty
Dan Webb
John Wilson
Molly Wright
Amy Yalden

Mini Gang

Emma Agg
Chris Alvis
Isabel Andrews
Sam Barratt
Freddie Brooks
Finley Brown
Millie Chauhan
Matt Coogan
Stefano De Marchis
Harry Dytham
Sam Eagles
Olivia Edwards
Rosie Elledge
Matt Finch
James Gleeson
Dan Goodbun
Toby Goodhind
Katie Gray
Reuben Hall
Ginny Harris
Connor Haward
Verity Hawkins
Harry Hill
Giles Holloway
Louis Jenkins
Eddie Noble
Kit Porter
Levi Pym
Ollie Schlich
Ella Smith
Daniel Speller
Isabel Thomas
George Venner
Michael Wharton
Luka Wilson
Max Winfield

THE GANG SHOW



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District Review 2016



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A Message from the Chairman, Keith Brooker



A sleepover at the HQ for the Beaver Colony or a trip to Japan to take part in the 23rd World Scout Jamboree, demonstrating when to use a reef knot or being a mountain marshal at Peak Assault, auditing the accounts or painting the backdrops for the Gang Show, administering CRB checks or running a base at the Green Beret Challenge. All of this and more depends upon the thing that makes Scouting possible – volunteers.

How blessed we are to have so many folk, some in uniform some not, who give their time, energy, enthusiasm, skill and experience to make the magic of Scouting come alive. No volunteers? No Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Gang Show, Cub camp or weekly training programme ... thank you for every minute you give – you are all stars!

But there are some young people in our District who want to enjoy the excitement of our movement but can't because we have a lack of leaders. Worse still, because we desperately need people to help run our Explorer Scout Units, some Scouts may have problems finding a space in a Unit. So, if you or someone you know can help, do something today to make a difference. Drop me a note on scouting.volunteers@gmail.com – a warm welcome awaits.

Keith Brooker
Chairman
Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Scout Council

Chairman's Welcome

First Harpenden Scout Group

A highlight of the year for the 1st is coming third in the country and first in the District for the Green Beret Challenge. The 1st have redecorated their hut with the help of young people from the National Citizen Service and it is now available for hire. In June our Lees Wood camp was enjoyed by over 50 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The early morning fire alarm drill and getting a tent peg stuck up the tree just added to the adventure.



The 1st opened a second Beaver Colony this year. Since then the two Colonies have grown their own beanstalks, raised tadpoles to froglets, and built a bug hotel.

The Cubs met Paralympic gold medallist David Clarke and built rafts on Stanborough Lakes. They also participated in "Dinosnores", a sleepover at the Natural History Museum, where they searched for dinosaur bones by torchlight and slept on the balcony overlooking Dippy.

Scouts built their own go-karts and held their very own wacky races in Rothamsted Park. 17 Scouts went to the Jamborette in Haarlem, took part in an epic 15 mile hike and excelled on the ultimate frisbee field all while making friends with Scouts and Guides from across Europe.

Second Harpenden Scout Group



The 2nd currently has 101 young people enjoying weekly activities. With a tremendously varied programme and so many outdoor activities we like to think we are developing free range children!

The family camp in June in Woburn was a real celebration, with a record 91 people in attendance. The combination of wacky

races, raft building, hiking, crafts and campfires gave a fabulous weekend in a beautiful location.

The 2nd inherited a somewhat neglected building when the group re-started in 2010, but with grants, gift aid and parental generosity significant improvements have been made to the facilities. The best bit of all was the work done by Scouts to lay a disabled access path so that one of the Group's disabled Scouts could participate more easily.

We were delighted to pass the milestone of 50 Chief Scout's Awards in 5 years, a good indicator of the richness of our programme. It was great to hear all about the amazing experiences of Lucy Porter representing us at the World Scout Jamboree in Japan.





2015 was another exciting year for the 3rds. The Group ran a family camp at Phasels Wood in September, enjoyed by a large number of families from across the sections.

The Beaver Colony is full and there is a long waiting list to join. The children have participated in a range of indoor and outdoor activities this year including visiting the police station and Pets at Home. We have several parents who regularly help the leaders providing valuable assistance.

The Cubs had a very busy year again taking part in a variety of evenings and a popular camp.

The intense training reported in last year's District Review proved successful resulting in 1 of the 3 teams coming first in the orienteering section and coming second overall in the Green Beret Challenge. The Scouts also took part in a flying day in July, a sleep-over at the hut and a sailing day at Luton Hoo. In August the Scouts returned to Wells-next-the-Sea for their annual summer camp.

Fourth Harpenden Scout Group



The 4th continue to be as strong as ever with all sections providing excellent and varied programmes.

After a year the second Beaver Colony, Heather, has grown and held their first sleepover.

Jon Bramall (Badger) has taken on the role of Beaver Scout leader ably assisted by Nicola Maddison (Fox).

All sections held sleepovers or camps including bug hunting, Scruffs (a version of Crufts) and the Scout's Bear Grylls Born Survivor Camp. Our

leaders continue to find new and exciting themes for their camps so it is no wonder that all our young people are totally committed in taking part.

The World Scout Jamboree was attended by four of our members who had moved on to Explorers led by the 4th's Richard Bird and Russell Brooks. All came to our Group AGM and spoke so enthusiastically to encourage more of our Scouts to take part in 2020 and pass on the legacy. At the same time, Scouts left Harpenden for Haarlem in Holland. They enjoyed a wonderful time in Yellowlands taking in the atmosphere, an experience of a lifetime.

So much goes on in the Group it is just not possible to tell all but many thanks to the leaders that make it all possible.





The Beavers had some great food-related activities making their own pizzas, fruit salads and getting messy with a chocolate fountain. They have also made puppets, put on a puppet show and enjoyed a night torch hike. The Beavers were presented with their air activities badge at Hendon Air Museum. They learnt about magnetic north and

compass points, which culminated in following a trail around Harpenden Common.

The Cubs have expanded in 2015 in numbers, leaders and activities. We carried out many science experiments to earn our scientist badges and hiked in the dark. At the District Cub Activity Day, Cubs built bivouacs and cooked over open fires. Cubs undertook their global challenge badge, which included learning about food and traditions of Indonesia, learning about the history of the telephone and being visited by ShelterBox, an international charity, to learn about their work.

The Scouts have been practising traditional Scouting skills such as map reading and outdoor cooking. Scouts have built their own rafts and go-karts during four troop evenings for their adventure challenge badge. Thanks to Ray Vassie for all of his help. After undertaking a 4-week training challenge our Scouts entered the British Indoor Rowing Championships held at the Olympic Park. This resulted in five Scouts attending the national event and one placing fourth in their age group.

The 5th have formed a relationship with Jumbulance, a local charity with two unique specialist vehicles that are part coach, part ambulance. These "Jumbulances" are designed and equipped to make it possible for disabled people or those with long term illness to travel throughout the UK and Europe on holidays or day trips. The aim of the charity is to maximise their passengers' quality of life through social and travel opportunities. Through the year we held a number of fundraising events raising a very respectable £260.



Ninth Harpenden Scout Group

The Scouts' programme has included navigation exercises, pioneering, chariot racing, cycling and cooking haggis, neeps and tatties for Burns Night. The local Fire Brigade visited (not linked to the cooking!) and the Scouts learned about fire safety and let off some expired fire extinguishers.



Other events included a talk on Red Bull Formula One racing, climbing at the XC and raft building at Stanborough Lakes. One of the early highlights of the year was a visit to the Madina Masjid Mosque in Beech Hill, Luton. The Beech Hill Scout Troop reciprocated with an evening of outdoor pioneering and fire building. During the May half term, 27 Scouts visited Lochearnhead for the week, walking the hills, doing canyoning and white water rafting, and tasting the local fish and chips.

22 participated in the Green Beret Challenge. We were delighted that our teams won first place in the night bases, third place in the day bases and overall finished sixth.

The Cubs enjoyed a sleepover at the Natural History Museum for "Dinosnores", visited Longridge Water Activities Camp and had great evenings filled with junk modelling, healthy eating and bowling. They also participated in the District night hike and went camping in the Peak District.



The Odakota Beaver Colony have completed the navigator stage 1 badge, disability awareness badge, hike stage 1 badge, and their experiment badge as well as working towards their challenge badges with a variety of fun activities. They have done some joint activities with the Cherokee Beavers including a visit to Harpenden fire station, a sleepover and a Halloween party.



With two Colonies, two Packs and two Troops, there is always a lot going on at the 10th. 1431 nights away, 11 bronze, 12 silver and 9 gold Chief Scout's Awards give an idea of how busy they have been, but this only tells part of the story.

The Scouts have been sailing off-shore from Ipswich, cycling in the New Forest, gorge walking in the Brecon Beacons, fundraising for a number of charities and backwoods cooking fish and rabbits. An individual highlight this year has been a 100 nights away award for one of our Scouts, Jake Willis.

Cubs have had a sleepover on HMS Belfast, go-karting at Rye House, a visit to the Hare Krishna temple in Watford, and a safari trip to Woburn amongst many other things.

The Beavers have been having fun too. They have had a Harry Potter sleepover and a trip to the studios in Watford, a range of water activities at Luton Hoo, and have been introduced to the sport of conker fights.

The whole Group has been continuing its work on making our neighbouring woods more accessible for the local community. The Mayors of St Albans and Harpenden officially unveiled the QEII Field in Trust plaque and thanked us for our work.



Twelfth Harpenden Scout Group

The 12th Scouts had their usual busy year including weekends at the Green Beret Challenge, spring camp, Tolmers 50th Birthday Bash and ASAP, but the highlight was the Haarlem Jamborette. This involved 10 days of many activities with thousands of Scouts from around the world including arena events, entertaining at the subcamp campfire and visiting Amsterdam and Leiden.

The Beavers refreshed their Colony rules and created a beautiful promise tree. They had great fun celebrating the



Chinese New Year including food, clothing, a Chinese dragon headpiece and Chinese lanterns. They conducted experiments, made wonderful Mother's Day cards, and raised £38 for the

Guide Dog Association.

The Cubs had some very special visitors. Dr Jill Stuart, a space lawyer, helped them to explore space junk and the Cubs made space items from recyclables. Paralympian footballer David

Clarke (complete with Olympic torch) visited for disability awareness badgework. They camped at Lees Wood, and their pack holiday at Phasels Wood built on the space theme, including rockets.





It has been a busy year in Kimpton.

The Cubs and Beavers went on trips to Greenwich, the Emirates cable car and Tea Green golf centre. Camps at Well End, Lees Wood and Harmergreen Wood were all well attended.

The Scouts had great success at the Green Beret Challenge where the three teams were placed 3rd, 14th and 69th out of a 131 teams.

Our biennial family camp took place in September and was thoroughly enjoyed by 22 Kimpton families. To prove it is not all about mud and orienteering we had a fundraising quiz night and the 'Great Gatsby' Ball in November.

After many fantastic years, Mark and Christine are standing down as Scout leaders. Much of the year has been spent looking for a new leader. Cover has been arranged until summer 2016, and many parents have come forward to offer support in the weekly running of the Group, which is a huge



help – BUT we need a new leader or leaders to be able to continue the group. Can you help?

Please contact chairman@kimptonscouts.org.uk

First Wheathampstead Scout Group

The Group goes from strength to strength but struggles to meet the needs of those youngsters wanting to get involved in Scouting. We have waiting lists for all sections but especially for

Beavers and we need more leaders.



The Group celebrated the 50th anniversary of the reforming of the Group in 1965 by Dennis Playle and others. In April 72 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts plus leaders and parent helpers spent a day at Phasels Wood enjoying the activities on offer. The youngsters were put into mixed groups from each section, all supporting each other. Also in celebration, in September the Group took part in a 50 mile walk. No one walked 50 miles but the added totals walked made 50. Some of the leaders and WAK ESU walked 13 miles each, Scouts 7 miles, the Cubs 4 miles, and the Beavers 2 miles. We had over 120 involved, which included parents walking to form one long walking group by joining up at intervals.

The Harpenden Active Support Group did a splendid job cooking the barbeque for the hordes of hungry walkers, when they all



arrived back at our HQ. We were joined at HQ by past leaders and executive officers for a great reunion.

World Scout Jamboree - Japan

The District had 11 participants at this year's World Scout Jamboree, held in Japan. They were: Sam Sharkey, Macy Banks, Lucy Temple, Lucy Porter, Alex Bird, Callum Liles, Lawrence Clarke, Josh Garfield, Ben Clarke, Nick Gurteen and Cameron Barford. They were joined by DC Russell Brooks and Richard Bird as Hertfordshire Unit leaders. A World Jamboree takes place every four years and is a gathering of Scouts and Guides from all round the world. This time there were 35,000 participants.

There were three stages to the expedition, HoHo, Tokyo and the Jamboree itself. Home Hospitality (HoHo) was provided by Japanese families, where the Scouts spent time living with the families and experiencing Japanese life. In Tokyo, the Scouts had the opportunity to ride on the Tokyo subway, visit temples, the Tokyo Skytree and to go shopping.



The Jamboree took place from 28th July to the 8th August, during a Japanese heatwave, where temperatures reached 50°C, (120 °F) which

presented quite a challenge. Each day started at 5am with food collection, before it started getting really hot. We were provided with a salt solution drink called Pocari Sweat to maintain fluid balance and prevent dehydration.

The programme provided lots of opportunities to mix with the Scouts from other countries and it was common to hear that "the South Africans are coming for dinner" or "we're going to find the Swaziland Scouts". The energy and excitement levels were very high, from beginning to end. Every Scout visited the nearby city of Hiroshima, on the 70th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of the city. This was extremely moving and we made origami peace cranes which we left at the Peace memorial.



One of the District Scouts, Lucy, said:

"I'm not sure I've got the words to describe what it's like to take part in such a huge event, where one moment we were being addressed, in person, by Ban Ki-Moon and the Crown Prince of Japan on world peace, global development and human rights... and then the next moment I was dancing wildly with 35,000 people to heavy metal. But all I can say is that the whole Jamboree experience was awesome in the extreme".



The Scouts are keen to keep the Jamboree "Spirit of Unity" alive by visiting groups in the District to tell their stories of Japan. We hope you will invite them.



The year has been exciting and successful for HESU. Our Unit has again grown in size and we are enjoying ourselves just as much as ever. From week to week, our evenings are filled with a variety of activities. These include Zumba, a trip to Top Golf, a general election evening, and a giant catapult making challenge.

As a Unit we take pride in helping the community. For example, parking cars at the Oakland's lambing weekend, helping show jumpers at the Herts County Show and patrolling the Lea Primary School's Lego exhibition.

This year also saw the return of HESU's Old Time Music Hall, where members of our Unit turned the clocks back and sang, danced and acted their way through old time classics.

We gained a second and sixth place in Peak Assault 2015, also winning the award for highest placed girls' team. We have participated in: the Christmas Carol service, our New Year's Day football game, Gilwell 24, Remembrance Sunday and St George's Day parades.

Our biggest event this year was our summer expedition to Llanrug in Wales, where we all managed to summit Snowdon, along with a range of activities. These included gorge walking, mining, and sea traversing. The girls were victorious in the annual "Lobby competition" - a battle of the sexes to see who could be first to find an orange plastic lobster! We all had a lot of fun and returned to Harpenden exhausted but having fully enjoyed our time in Wales.

Kinsbourne Explorer Scout Unit



KES have had another great year with the Unit offering a diverse range of activities in the programme. Unit numbers have been around 35 with a good mix of males and females.

This year saw KES attend national and county events including Gilwell 24, Chiltern Challenge, Dragnet and Peak Assault and one of our Explorers, Josh, attended the World Scout Jamboree in Japan.

The summer camp was a back-to-basics camp under canvas in the Peak District with activities

including hiking, climbing, high ropes and camp fires.

KES have also focused on their local community, helping out with other organisations: selling programmes for the Round Table carnival; assisting the local food bank with a relocation in the summer and subsequently helping process harvest festival donations; cutting grass for the local church, and helping with other fundraising activities.

The peer-group-elected committee of eight continue to plan the majority of the meeting night programmes providing a mix of Scouting and fun activities with community events. We have worked on our traditional Scouting skills such as fire making, pioneering and navigation as well as events like skiing, bowling, off-road cycle rides, competitions, quizzes and party and water nights. All events have been well executed and supported by the Unit.



The Parliament of Owls continues to grow as we enter our third year since inception.

Our Explorers joined in with other District Explorers at Gilwell 24 and



the summer camp in Snowdonia. Two Owls, Sam and Ben were fortunate enough to be selected to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan, representing Hertfordshire as part of the U.K. contingent.

Owls ESU organised the carol service at St John's church, which saw a packed congregation and fantastic performances by an orchestra made up exclusively from District Explorers. The carol service collection raised £136.31 for Keech Hospice Care.

Our Explorers are on their way to achieving the platinum and diamond awards and beyond and we look forward to 2016.



Shackleton Explorer Scout Unit



Shackleton ESU is approaching its fifth birthday, having officially opened its doors in January 2011. The Unit goes from strength to strength. It now has over 50 members, the realistic maximum our home can accommodate. The “Elders” committee has its second chairman and mostly new members

and is demonstrating the sustainability that will be key to the future leadership of the Unit.

Amongst the many highlights of a busy year was victory in Peak Assault. Shackleton teams won both the senior competition and the training competition. Next year we are targeting the girls and mixed team titles as well!

The senior team also triumphed in the Southern 50 competition and won the night hike section of Chiltern Challenge. If anyone has a spare trophy cabinet please let us know!

Amongst the most popular Unit evenings were two sailing and zorbing sessions at Bury Lake in Rickmansworth and our first attempt at geocaching.

Shackleton also sent 3 Explorers to Japan for the World Scout Jamboree.

Sadly, one of Shackleton's founding leaders, Felicity Falconer, retired from the Unit. She was instrumental in our success.



Shackleton



WAKESU have had a very eventful past year including meeting every Thursday evening, going out on summer camp, and weekend stays at Whittlebury Park for programme selling at Silverstone race circuit. Each week is planned by the leaders, bringing us all the fun we wait all week for. Just like summer camp too! They find a nice house or hotel for us to stay at and arrange the best off-site activities to make the start of the summer a week to really remember.

Another part that we play in the life of an Explorer is to raise money for our summer camps, and this year we camped overnight near Silverstone to sell programmes to the spectators of the British Grand Prix and sometimes we even got to watch some races ourselves. Overall we have had a great year at WAKESU and we can't wait to see what the future brings.



Harpenden & Wheathampstead District

Network Unit

Most of the District Network members are at university, this means during term time numbers 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.

Scout Shop

District HQ
Tallents Crescent
Batford
Harpenden

Every term time Saturday
9am - 11am

4th Monday of the month
By appointment only

Visit
<http://www.harpendenscouts.org.uk/>

Active Support Unit

The Active Support Unit aims to do “what is says on the tin” - a group of adults looking to support and help out across the District in any way we can. Our members include warranted leaders, administrators and many others who, whilst wishing to support Scouting in the District, are not able to commit to a regular slot as a leader. Our commitment is more flexible and we simply ask people to give whatever time they can when they can.

During the past year we have been involved in many District activities including organising night hikes for both Beavers and Cubs, running a Beaver fun day; catering for the District Cub camp, stewarding the annual St George's Day Parade and much more besides. At the same time we have an active social programme with walks, talks, barbecues, a weekend away and an annual post-Christmas dinner.

We are always pleased to welcome new faces and if you would like to become involved, please speak to any of our members or e-mail me at suedave@lowndes45.freemove.co.uk