

Scouts ?





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## From our committee Chair

What a couple of years it's been - a time like no other. We've all had to adapt, learn to live our lives in different ways and just get through as best we can. None more so than our youngsters, with a massive amount of disruption to their normally structured lives. Home schooling, cancelled exams, 'bubbled' learning, no hobbies, separation from their friends ... and never knowing what is round the corner and yet they have all been brilliant - resilient, agile and a real credit to all of us!



And we hope that in part that resilience and adaptability has been helped by the experiences that we give them. Scouting is one of the very best of those and there is no doubt that the Gang is so happy to be back together, having the very best time and making friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Thank you to every single person who helps makes this incredible Gang Show experience happen for our children. You are all amazing.

Now sit back and enjoy: applaud, cheer, laugh and cry. The Gang has been away too long.

Colette Eagles



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



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## From our district commissioner

I am so pleased to be able to welcome you back to the annual highlight that is our District Gang Show.

Scouting has had to adjust and adapt a lot since March 2020 but, throughout it all, I was confident that it would grow bigger and stronger as a result. As you will see from the District Review, activities continued throughout the year: sometimes on Zoom, sometimes virtually at home with family involvement, sometimes in small groups and, in the autumn, back in large groups and with a renewed vigour. Through the hard work of our adults, and the superb positivity of our young people, the number of members involved in Scouting within Harpenden, Wheathampstead and Kimpton is even higher today than it was in March 2020.

With theatres closed across the country, not surprisingly our Gang Show was impacted in January 2021, but many of those who started rehearsing in late 2020 have returned bigger and stronger too and I know will put on a wonderful show for you today. My thanks go to every one of the Gang for their resilience in trying their hardest to put on a Show in 2021, and for applying their energy to the challenge of a new venue this year.

Please show your thanks today by filling this auditorium with your loudest cheers and applause for our Gang.

RUSSELL









## From the Producer

"The show must go on!" has been our maxim this year. To be fair, it was the same last year, but in a fraught period of uncertainty it just wasn't possible. At the time of writing Scouting went back to yellow Covid alert, meaning that rehearsals were still viable, but with mask-wearing. Not ideal, but we are nothing if not tenacious, and here we are!

There is a tinge of sadness about no longer performing in our home since 1949, Harpenden Public Halls, but that is attenuated by the excitement of moving into a brand new home, the Eric Morecambe Centre. It has to be said that, while the front-of-house facilities are splendid, the backstage team has had to adapt in order to overcome the shortcomings that have become ever more apparent as we near Show week.

The late Ralph Reader CBE, founder of Gang Show, wrote in one of his songs: "We've been making memories for a long, long, long time. It's a lovely thing to do and we've made them all for you."

Those memories started back in October 1949, our original Show, but the very first London Gang Show happened in October 1932. 2022 marks 90 years of Gang Show, and a celebrational national show, featuring cast from 40 Gang Shows around the UK, will take place at the Eventim Apollo, Hammersmith on 9th July. Becca and I are privileged to be in the production team, and twelve members of our Gang (eight from past Shows and four from this) have been selected to take part. Tickets are on sale now to see Harpenden and others "live at the Apollo!"

I first trod our Gang Show's boards 50 years ago, and the "annual miracle" is still a thing to behold. This year we have 129 excellent young people on stage ready and waiting to wow you with their talents. The Show will be memorable for all sorts of reasons, but it's the fun and friendship that we all have that will stick in my mind, as happens every year. Enjoy yourselves.

Ewan Murray





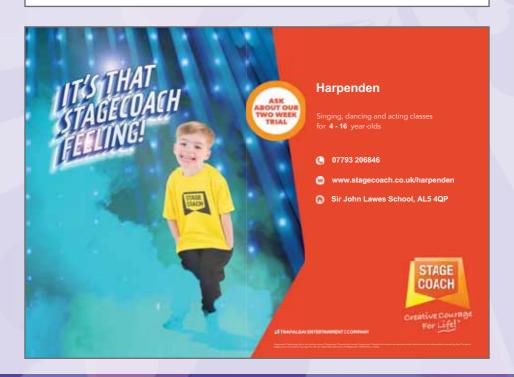
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## A whole new theatrical world

It's finally happened! You are sitting in the Eric Morecambe Centre (EMC), the brand new venue for the Harpenden and Wheathampstead District Gang Show! Due to the pandemic we did not get to say goodbye to the Public Halls in our postponed January 2021 Show, but we are delighted to be in this glamorous new theatre now.

If you did not know, the EMC has been created from the town's old sports centre, which was built in 1975. The auditorium used to be the main sports hall where five-aside football was played and gymnastics clubs were held. The squash courts and gym and dance studio have disappeared to become comfortable spacious changing rooms and the foyer.



Compared to the Public Halls, which were built in 1938 and have hosted the Gang Show since 1949, the new auditorium can fit more seats – 511! - although if you are eagle-eyed and quick at counting you will spot that we have reduced that to a maximum of 442 so we can fit in our wonderful orchestra and arm-waving Musical Director.

We hope you have tried at least one of the two new bars, are enjoying the comfortable seats and will soon sample the (not to be underestimated) delights of ample, modern toilet facilities. There's even a lift!

As you exit the theatre tonight, just to the right you will see the rather lovely woodclad sports centre and swimming pools, which were completed as part of the project to revitalise the facilities in Rothamsted Park.

We hope you enjoy the Show, and make the most of the wonderful new facilities!





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# DOUBLE PREPARATION

## so good we rehearsed it twice

Usually the Show takes ten months of preparation but this one took a bit longer! The 72nd Show was quietly hatched in March 2020 and rehearsals began in September 2020, but they soon had to be stopped and the January 2021 Show postponed. However, rehearsals for the 72nd Show restarted in September 2021 and here we are!













Mini Gang learn how to do "Crest of a Wave" at rehearsals – an essential skill!







The Senior Gang on the outdoor stage in November 2021 at Harpenden's "Lights Up" event. It snowed just after these photos were taken!





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## Our Head of Scenery

David Keen heads up the team of about 11 volunteers who design and paint the Show's fabulous scenery. David's journey began in 1962 as a Scout with 3rd Harpenden Scouts, and then he tried his hand again in the 1980s, finally taking over from John Hudson in 1990.

This year the team has a whole new challenge – a new stage!

## After so many years at the Public Halls, how will the new stage differ?

David: Although the new theatre is amazing, there are many differences onstage, so we have had to think hard about the new set up.



There isn't a curtain track for our hand painted backcloths so we are planning to bring a curtain track from the Public Halls and we will hang the backcloths from that.

Also, the new stage is quite noisy so we will have to be extra quiet when moving scenery, and tiptoe even more than usual! You will also notice that the aprons (the wings that used to protrude out from the stage and around the orchestra) no longer exist so the Gang will be arranged in a brand new way.

My philosophy is that the scenery is there to support the amazing young cast's efforts



so even if it ends up being very different, it's secondary to the Gang on stage.

## Why did you get into scenery painting – are you a trained artist?

David: I am definitely not a trained artist – I used to be a head teacher and I've never taken an art exam! I was always too shy to go on stage when I was a teenager, so helping to paint scenery was my way of getting involved in the fun of Gang Show.

Scenery is now my creative outlet! I know that the scenery might not be perfect but it's all hand painted and it gives a unique look and feel to the Show.

I love being part of the Show - my grandson is in the Show again this year and that makes it even more fun for me.

#### What do you and your team do?

David: On Sundays, usually, from the end of October, you will find us painting in a Scout hut in Harpenden. We normally paint 4 or 5 backcloths



and 8 flats, although this year might be different depending on what is needed.

I start by creating scale sketches, which then get chalked onto the canvas backcloths. After a few adjustments we set about painting with special stage paint that is tough



enough to endure rolling and unrolling during the Shows. Each backcloth takes 15 hours of painting.

As well as painting, the team of Pete, Colin, Rebecca, Sam, Sue, Trevor, Richard, Adam, Marianne, Kit and I are also the scenery crew for Shows, moving and holding scenery and props. You really get to soak up the excitement and atmosphere during performances!

#### Do you need more volunteers?

David: Yes! We would love Explorers and Scout parents and carers to get involved. Some of the team have given years to scenery and we must retire one day! You

need no special skills except for enthusiasm and a love of the Show. just remember not to wear your good clothes! We are a team that positively includes a wide range of abilities and capabilities.

If you want to find out more about being part of the Show, please email David at davidkeen100@talktalk.net.





## 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.



## The Creative Team



The wardrobe Team











## Behind the Scenes

Producer/Musical Director	Ewan Murray
Creative Director	Becca Leigh
Deputy Producers	Jemma Finch, Fiona McCarthy
Choreographers	Charlie Meade, Wendy Bideau, Emma Ball
Technical Director	Jeremy Finch
Assistant Technical Director/	Steph Bell
Deputy Stage Manager	
Assistant Stage Manager	Jamie Urquhart-Shirra
Vocal Coach	Robin Hilton
Sketch Director	Mark Denton
Junior Gang Assistants	Mark Denton, Andrew Dadswell, Yvette Husbands,
	Rachel Keen, Nicky Lewis, Steve McCarthy
"Around the Pond" (Mini Gang)	
Written and directed by	Kat Foster-Jenkins
Assisted by	Carol Arnsby, Sarah Cripps, Tina Miller, Felicity Cripps
Call Boy	Andy Barford
Stage Hands and Scenery Crew	David Keen, Pete Desborough, Colin Jeffs, Rebecca
	Keen, Sam Keen Gooch, Sue Mann, Trevor Miller,
	Richard Mulholland, Adam Robinson, Nick Urwin,
	Marianne Wheeler, Kit Yardley
Properties	Richard Aldridge, Stuart Jack, Liz Jack
Lighting Designer	Ross Wilcox
Assistant Lighting Designer	Jon Greenwood
Followspot Operators	Mike Desborough, Jamie Urquhart-Shirra, Kayleigh
A 1: 30 1	Urquhart-Shirra
Audio Visual	Jeremy Finch, Mark Hubbard
Radio Mics	District Explorer Scouts
Wardrobe	Sophie Crompton, Mylene Fourie, Kathy Hilton, Jane Todd
	Liz Barringer, Elaine Brind, Helen Brind, Katie Coxon,
	Liz Davie, Cath Evans, Helen Frost, Beryl Jeffs, Debbie
	Lyon, Nicola Martin, Margaret Melville, Jos Sharp,
	Jane Walter, Judy Whyman, Tania York
Music Arranger	Chris Pettitt
Rehearsal Accompanist	Graham Thomson
The Band	Reeds – Sue Pettitt, Chris Pettitt
	Trumpet – Simon Router
	Trombone – Adrian Jarvis
	Keyboard – Graham Thomson
	Guitar – Ned May
	Bass – Gareth Covey-Crump/Andy Borrows
	bass - Garetii Covey-Crump/Andy Borrows

Make Up	Emmanuelle Bentley-Sanders and parents
Duty Managers	Neil Liles, Colette Eagles
Front of House	Peter Wheeler, Katy Turberville, Chris Turberville, Candy Jessop, Paul Jessop, Jackie Agg, Jo Duncombe, Mark Sanders, Emma Gadsby, Sue Gurteen, Jackie Moore, Pip Tuck, Dave Wharton,
	Selina Porter
Website, Shop, Displays and Media	Rod Keen, Ray Vassie
Stewards	District Explorer Scouts
Box Office	Jude Playle, Kevin Playle
Programme Editors	Siân Denton, Julie Brooks
District Review Editor	Steph Bell
<b>Programme Design and Print Producti</b>	on Platinum Press Limited
	www.PlatinumPressLimited.co.uk
CCTV	Mark Hubbard
Health and Safety	Neil Liles
<b>Business Committee</b>	Chair – Colette Eagles Secretary – Lesley Wallace Treasurer – Louise Gordon
Photography	Richard Washbrooke Photography www.richardwashbrooke.photoshelter.com
Filming	Galaxy Video (see page 46 for ordering details)
Special Thanks	Harpenden Computer Services, Entertainment Effects, Confetti Magic, PK Roberts, Talk to the Hand (Christchurch Hitchin)





Act 1

House On Fire
Telling The Time
Around The Pond
Dreams
Music
Superstition

Act 2
Keep In Touch
Back To The Office
These Streets
Condimentally
Fosse
Give Them A Hand
Together



#### **Senior Gang**

Emma Agg Samuel Barber Freya Barker Tyler Birkwood Adam Brooks Thomas Dadswell Lauren Dent Tilly Denton George Downes Charlotte Dytham Sam Eagles Liv Edwards James Evans Matt Finch Coemy Fourie Sophie Grace Katie Grav Al Holmes Katie Jewell Matilda Johnson Ollie Johnston Sam Keen Gooch Elizabeth Kennedy Sammy Lewis Thomas Lewis Nina Mahendra Ruben Mahendra James McCarthy Lucy McCarthy Ella Montgomery Hannah Mulholland Izzy Parr Chloe Petevinos

Kit Porter Amelie Pvm Immy Rule Chloe Sayle Ollie Schlich Ella Smith Josh Todd Lucas Vicente Serra Sam Walker Eddie Watson **Amy Webster** Elise Wilson Anneka Wrentmore Charlie Young

#### **Junior Gang**

James Austin Freddie Barker Charlotte Barratt Tom Baudot James Bonner Maxton Brewer Isobel Bright Ella Burridge Sam Clift Sophie Crisford Anya Davis Isabelle Dixon Isla Dixon Olivia Downes Izzy Falconer Ellie Finch Jonah Giles Sam Gillies

Tom Goddard Boo Hanna Anesu Harkema Chloe Hill Luke Hilton Charlie Hold Jude Jenkins James Jewell Lara Jones Annabel Lee Jemima Martin Max McCarthy Branna McCluskey Isabel Mellor Owen Mellor Billy Montgomery Daisy Musgrave Kuzev Otuk Isabel Priggen Stanley Priggen Tommie Priggen Tom Rae Ewan Robson Rebecca Rock Bella Rule **Bobby Shaughnessy** Alex Sweeney Chloe Symons Sophie Tallantire Alice Tate Alex Taylor-Rose Ben Taylor-Rose Noa Vicente Serra Flla Walton Peggy Watson

Callum Whelan Clover Whidburn Oscar York

#### Mini Gang

Abigail Ahmed George Allen Robbie Andrews Liam Beausang Alice Bright Max Corley Joe Finch Heidi Griffith **Daniel Hayes** Oliver Hibbert Heather Hilton Marcus Jenkins Benii Lewis Lucas Maxwell **Eddie Mellings** Finlay Murphy Oliver Pacifico Isobel Pickford-Cook Lily Robson Lonimi Sanusi Adam Sims Adam Smith Blake Stopforth Luke Vos Rafferty Walsh Eda York











## Digging into the archives

Thanks to the careful work of our Gang Show archivist, you can find past programmes, films and photos online in the "About Us" section of our Gang Show website at www.harpenden.gs.



Many of the old programmes need delicate handling so electronic copies have been uploaded onto the website. You can look right back to our first Show in 1949!



We have around 7,000 photos in the archive, with older photos being scanned and saved digitally. We have complete photo collections since 2002, but there are many gaps and we would love to hear from you if you have any older photos.



We have copies of Shows from 1995 up to the most recent Show, some of which have been copied from old VHS tapes.

#### Can you help?

Next time you climb into your loft or dust off that old box of prints, if you are willing to lend us any of the following, Rod Keen would be delighted to hear from you at rod. keen@harpendenscouts.org.uk:

Gang Show photos from 1949, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s Gang Show film from before 1995 – even cine film and VHS

Any photos of Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Scout events are also gratefully received. The archive can be viewed at www. harpendenscouts.org.uk in the "About" section.

We will always treat your old photos and films with care and we will make arrangements to return them to you once they have been copied.

We look forward to hearing from you!





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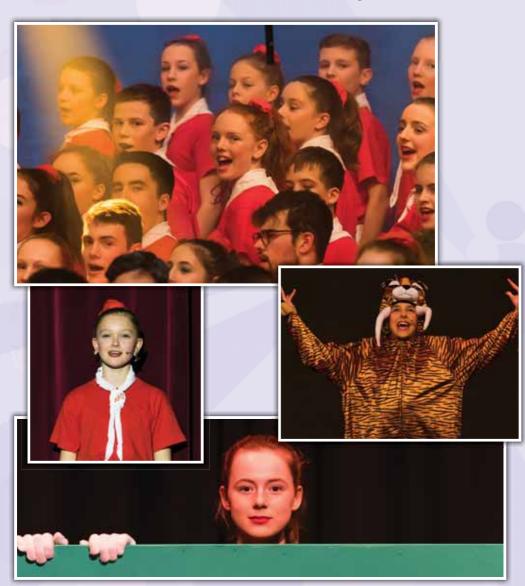
72<sup>nd</sup> Gang Show

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# memories from January 2020





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and to be asked to produce this 72nd Programme.

Good luck to you all and break a leg!

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# **District Review 2021**



Harpenden and Wheathampstead District





#### **Fact Sheet**

- Beavers are aged 6 8
- Beavers wear a turquoise sweater and their Group scarf
- Beaver Groups are called Colonies
- There are around 280 Beavers in the District

## Highlights of our year across the District

From meeting lambs, building dens at home and making scarecrows to rafting and water games, night hikes complete with UV facepaint and torches. It's been a packed two years for Beavers.







#### **Fact sheet**

- Cubs are <u>aged 8 10 1/2</u>
- A Cub Pack is usually organised into small groups called Sixes with each Six named after a colour
- Cubs wear a green sweatshirt with their Group's scarf
- There are around 350 Cubs in the District

### Highlights of our year across the District

Cubs spent time on the water paddleboarding and kayaking. Other activities included climbing, building shelters and competing in their own Olympic Games.







#### **Fact sheet**

- Scouts are aged 10<sup>1/2</sup> 14
- A Scout Troop is usually organised into small groups called Patrols, each headed up by an older Scout called a Patrol Leader
- Scouts wear a teal green shirt, navy blue activity trousers, a Group scarf with a woggle and a Scout belt
- There are around 380 Scouts in the District

## Highlights of our year across the District

After adopting a care home Scouts competed with residents to grow the tallest sunflower. The regular cannon-racing event resumed along with archery, off-road biking and many many camps both close to home and across the UK.







## **Fact sheet**

- Explorers are aged 14 18
- Explorers continue to enjoy being outdoors, and developing their life skills through new activities, but are involved much more in planning their own evening activities
- Explorers wear a uniform of a shirt and a Unit scarf
- There are around 135 Explorers in the District

# **Highlights from our year across the District**

Aside from online meetings during lockdown, activities included leaders sending a photo for individuals to walk or jog to find during the week to get outside and keep fit. Units have found time to go on camps in 2021, with particular mention to those who went trout fishing and ate their catch!







## **Fact sheet**

 Scout Active Support allows adults to give their time to Scouting on a flexible basis. People can still be involved in Scouting without the full-time commitment of being a leader

There are currently 200 warranted leaders in the District and just

over 100 active helpers









Scouting hasn't stopped over the past 24 months, thanks to the adults who have given their time. This Review highlights the activities that took place at home when our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers couldn't meet face to face. Notable mention goes to the many nights spent under canvas in gardens across the District.

We are always pleased to welcome new faces, so if you would like to get involved, no matter how little time you have to offer, please get in touch via our website: harpendenscouts.org.uk



















# **Adult Awards**

A huge thank you to all our leaders and other adult support that have enabled our young people to have wonderful experiences and develop skills for life through Scouting.

An extra special thank you to all those who have been presented awards during the last 24 months:

Chief Scout's

Bar to the Silver
Acorn
Jan Spragge
Jan Yardley

# **Silver Acorn**Martin Allen Jane Murray

# Bar to the Award for Merit Steve Cast Stuart lack

Award for Merit
Jackie Agg
Emma Ball
Michael Barrett
Russell Brooks
Rose Geraghty
Scott Goodge
Nicholas Munday

Award for Morit

Chief Scout's
<b>Commendation for</b>
Good Service
Keith Baker
Julian Barker
Anna Batt
Jane Brooke Hughes
Jane Burns
Nick Corran
Julian David
Jo Duncombe
Felicity Falconer
Melanie Gaches
Sharon Gooding
Alan Grace
Mark Grant
lan Hawkins
Lorna Hotti
Raymond Jupp
Elanna Le Roux
Nicky Lewis
Trevor Lilley
Alan McGroarty

Chris Mellor Kate Morrisey Andrew Musgrave Ian Rodger Nick Shah Jay Smith Peter Smith George Stubbs Owain Taylor Jim Taylor Rose Jeff Titman Nick Urwin Liz Wall Amy Whidburn Morag Williams Andy Wrentmore

# Chief Scout's 20 years' Service Award Scott Goodge John Mulholland Katy Turberville

# Chief Scout's 25 years' Service Award

Carol Arnsby John Bowers

Elaine Brind

Pete Desborough

Andrew Falconer

Jemma Finch

Jeremy Finch

Liz Jack

Tina Miller

#### Chief Scout's 30 years' Service Award

Mark Hubbard Mark Sanders Ray Vassie

# Chief Scout's 40 years' Service Award

Sue Lowndes





# Take the Gang Show Lome



#### How to order videos and photos

Photographs - order high quality printed photographs by our excellent photographer, Richard Washbrooke, at www.richardwashbrooke.com (click on "ARCHIVE", then "ALL GALLERIES", then scroll down to the folder called "Scouting").

If you can't decide what to choose, you can order a USB stick, with all of this year's photographs. Go to www.harpenden.gs and click on the link to the Gang Show Shop then on Non Ticket sales. (Due to the size of the photos it is no longer possible to use DVD or Blu-ray disks.)

Video - order a recording of the Show at www.harpenden.gs and click on the link to the Gang Show Shop then on Non Ticket sales. Order by 1 March 2022.







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