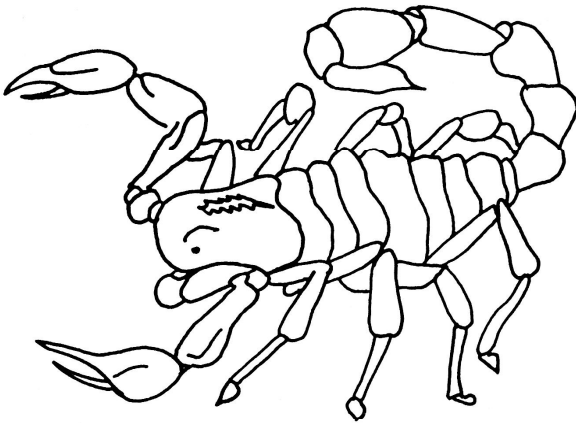


SPINNING



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
BY SCORPION VENTURES

CHAIR PERSON'S REPORT

THE STING

JUNE 1982
ISSUE 1

50^A COURT ROAD
ORPINGTON, KENT

ADVERTISEMENTS 02P33564

WELCOME

Welcome to the first of, I hope, many magazines connected with the Scorpion Unit. Hopefully it will give many an insight into venture scouting in a mixed unit, through the "report" pages, as well as offering entertainment, via the lighter pages, such as the quiz and the amusing articles, and most importantly act as an advertisement for scouting in general.

The Editor

EDITOR : CLIVE MARTIN
TYPIST : FRANCES FISHER
ARTWORK : KERRY JONES
FEATURES : TREVOR LUDLOW
DEBORAH GARNER
JANE COMPTON
H. G. MARTIN

1981 was a very successful year for the Unit, and hopefully with our influx of new members we shall continue to thrive throughout this year and next.

One of the highlights of 1981 was the opportunity to go gliding at Challock near Ashford and plans are already being made to participate in further weekends this year.

LONDON VISIT

A very enjoyable Sunday was spent in London - visiting Speakers Corner, Baden-Powell House and the Commonwealth Institute. Many of the unit members would like to visit Hyde Park again this year to listen to more people expressing their right to free speech.

Despite heavy snow in December, most of the Unit managed to struggle along to the George, Farnborough for our traditional Christmas meal. I can't help wondering if they would have been as enthusiastic to get to Church Parade!

So far this year we have started our training for the holiday in Switzerland by hiking out as far as Shoreham! The route we took was, to say the least confusing. Many thanks to Peter Barrett for organising such a 'circular' walk.

MAJOR EVENT

The major event in February was our senior citizens party, during which we entertained about sixty people - minus the extra gatecrashers this time, who have in the past swelled the numbers to over capacity of the hall. This proved to be a very popular event and again this year we were sponsored by Smokemart many thanks and became once more for the Unit something to be proud of and to show off about.

The Unit is still, sadly, lacking in female members despite a "Bring a Friend" evening which did not meet with much success, but as mentioned previously we do have about ten Ventures going to Switzerland in August for two weeks. They will be heading for the Scout camp site at Kandersteg near to one of the highest points in the Alps, making the journey by train - but not all the way by British Rail so they wont need to start walking yet!

Finally, I would just like to thank all those who attend our regular activities, some less interesting than others, but usually livened up by your enthusiasm and without you, and of course the Leaders we would not get very far.

Jane Compton

OUR FOUNDER

This year being the 75th anniversary of Scouting, and for the benefit of those who have not progressed through Cubs and Scouts, or Brownies and Guides, there follows a background to the origin of Scouting based around the work of the founder Robert Baden-Powell.

Scouting today is an international movement for boys and girls from seven to twenty and was founded in England in 1907 by Baden-Powell. It was originally for boys only. Today there are more than twenty million members of the Scouting Movement.

Baden-Powell served with distinction in India, Afghanistan and Zululand, and won fame in the Boer War in South Africa for his part in the defence of Mafeking. As a result of these army experiences he came to the conclusion that British boys needed more physical training and a greater experience of outdoor life. His aim of Scouting therefore was to build character and self-reliance in young people, and to teach helpfulness to others.

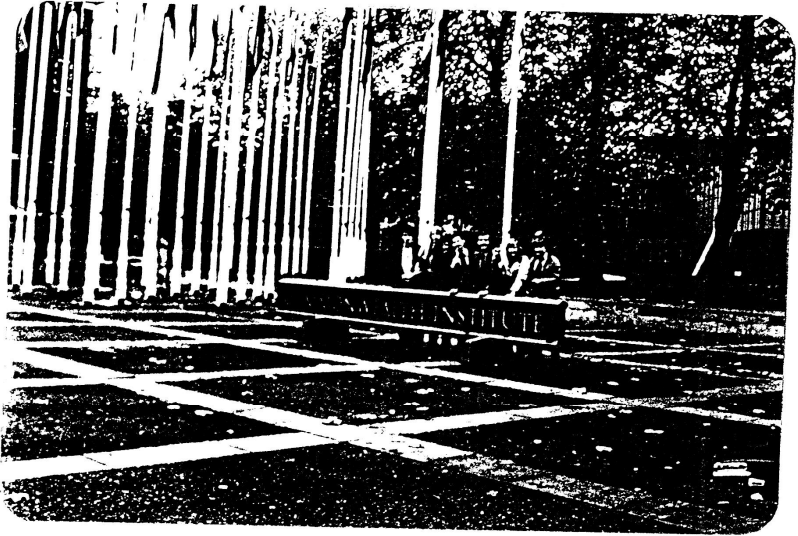
In 1908 there appeared in shops a fivepenny booklet entitled 'Scouting for Boys', authored by Baden-Powell. Fathers bought the book for their sons and word quickly spread about the exciting world of adventure, sports and campfires that were described. He used his army experience to the full and even the first Scout hats were similar to the one he had worn at Mafeking.

The first scouts were often poor children of mixed religions, who wore rags and walked about bare-footed. Alleyways and cellars became their first meeting places and the first camps were often on pieces of waste ground under a piece of tarpaulin held up with planks and anything that could be found - a far cry from today's modern tents and camp sites.

By the time of the first World War, 'Be Prepared' had become a national slogan. Scouts even helped as war office messengers; assisting hospitals, and as farmhands. Whilst sea-scouts did coastguard work.

Baden-Powell died in 1941 aged eighty-three but not before he had introduced a movement that was to become a part of life to millions, of youngsters worldwide spanning seventy-five years.





THE VENTURES AT THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE



Tea for elderly

17/79

The 2nd Orpington Venture Scouts provided tea and an afternoon's entertainment for Orpington senior citizens, at their Court Road hall on Sunday.

DEC 1974

'Scorpion' party

Orpington's "Scorpion" venture scout unit gave a party for about 60 pensioners at their HQ, on Court Road, recently. Each pensioner received gifts before they left. The party was organised by Kay Jordan and the committee.

on the Orpington D. S.S.

5/4/79

PRESENTATION. - The Scorpion Venture Unit of 2nd Orpington Scouts has presented £60 to Mr Webster, whose daughter, Lisa, is brain damaged and needs special equipment. The money came from a sponsored walk.

Venture awards have been gained by Trevor Ludlow and Stephen Wheeler, and the unit successfully competed in the Venture/Rangers District Ave-a-side football tournament.

NEWS IN BRIEF

29/4/78

Learning about police work

More than 20 venture scouts and ranger guides have completed a 10-week police course organised by the 2nd Orpington Scout Group. Run by Police Constable Bill Stacey, of the juvenile bureau, Catford, it included a visit to the scout headquarters by traffic department officers and visits by the scouts and guides to Bromley Magistrates Court and Keston police dog training school. The course counts towards the Queen's Scout award or Duke of Edinburgh silver award. The 2nd Orpington are now open to boys and girls, 16 to 20 years. Information from Peter Minnis, the leader, Orpington 31941.

SCOUT FIRE - Scout leaders and parents tackled a blaze at the 2nd Orpington Scouts headquarters last Saturday night, when about a ton of waste paper, collected as a fund-raising effort, was destroyed, and an old van gutted. The fire is believed to have been started in the van by intruders. The fire was stopped before it spread to the main building.

Entertained

FEB 1982

ORPINGTON old age pensioners who meet at All Saints' Church Hall, Bark Hart Road, were entertained on Monday by Crofton Townswomen's Guild. The pensioners were recently treated to a gala party, courtesy of the 2nd Orpington Venture Scouts.

21/2/82

Party for 60

SIXTY members of the Bark Hart Road pensioners' club, Orpington were treated to a gala party on Sunday - courtesy of the 2nd Orpington Venture Scouts. Held at the All Saints' Church Hall, the scouts organised the party as part of a policy to help the elderly. They provided entertainment including singers and guitarists, and refreshments.



GODDINGTON Venture unit let rip performing a "Highland Reel" at a dancing competition—with a difference.

The competition, held on April 22, was organised by the 1st Green Street Green Venture / Ranger unit and more than 80 Venture Scouts from all over the district took part. The units danced the Can, Can, a Hawaiian dance and Zorba the Greek. The 2nd Orpington Scorpions unit won with a version of a Morris dance. The Can Can dancers from Crofton O.S. were second with the Zeros third.



Greater London South East

THE

Scorpion

VENTURE UNIT

Took Part in the

Tramps Raft Event on the Medway

At
On

Tonbridge 10 May 1981

VIGNETTE FROM YESTERDAY

He was a large Dickensian-like character, with a vast expanse of stomach held in place, so it seemed to me, by a heavy silver watch-chain. A rubicand face beamed benignly from beneath a shiny head - bald save for a fast-receding white fringe - and his booming, slightly burred voice was full of joie de vivre and good humour.

From his seat in the corner this rather larger-than-life figure completely dominated the compartment. He fascinated me in a way that few have done before or since and I am afraid that I must have stared at him with more than the usual childish inquisitiveness. Many people would have been embarrassed, or even offended, but not he. In fact I came in for far more of his attention than the rest, all of whom regarded our somewhat incongruous relationship with delight and amusement.

Perhaps I reminded him in some way of a favourite nephew or grandson - perhaps, as is so often the case, he found it easier to converse with children than with adults. Whatever the reason we got along famously and whenever - as children do on long journeys - I became restless and fractious, or indulged in a fit of tantrums after a deserving chiding by my mother, he always succeeded in quietening me with some friendly, well-chosen words. Most of them I have forgotten. They were trivial, anyway, and not likely to come to mind again after more than 50 years. What I can't, forget, though, is the way he lifted a massive finger, adorned by a heavy gold ring, and pointed out of the window. "Look at the cows, George", he would say coaxingly - the "George" coming out like "Jarge" - "Look at the cows". At once my tears ceased as he diverted my attention to the green, rolling countryside and its animal inhabitants.

With such a jolly companion the journey passed with surprising and regrettable speed. We said our goodbyes; he with benevolent good wishes and a shining sixpence and me with as dignified a handshake as I could muster at an age when I had just scornfully given up kissing

As each holiday came round I half expected to see him again - but, of course, never did. It had been just a chance meeting - a fleeting moment in time. A magic moment for me though, which was to stay clear and sharp in an impressionable mind through the years.

In each of the next few summers there was the same journey, the same landmarks, the same fields, the same cattle (or their progeny) and there was always someone to chat to in the corner seat. But it was not quite the same. Something was missing. Something that meant more to me than anyone really knew and which tinged the natural enchantment of holiday-time with a touch of sadness. No doubt, though, as I look back now, in other trains, on other journeys, was placating and charming other restless youngsters with "Look at the cows Johnnie...Billy...Tommy.."

I cannot pass a field of cattle now, particularly on that journey to the Kent coast, without memories of those long-distant summer days being re-kindled anew - and in particular of the jovial and heart-warming old gentleman in the corner, who for two brief hours had completely captured my childish imagination and who, I learned afterwards, had never himself seen - and never would see - a field, a cow or a fair-haired, chubby-faced boy of seven.

BROADSTONE WARREN CAMP

Considering the time of year, the unit enjoyed a sunny weekend at this superb East-Sussex, wooded campsite in Ashdown Forest. It has been many months now since the whole unit has been away together, but they soon found themselves back in the swing of outdoor scouting, the highlights being a pioneering project and an orienteering course.

Again the Log Cabin became our weekend haunt - adjacent to the wood stores and rope huts that were to be the basis of our pioneering project.

Early - by the Unit's standards - on Saturday morning the project began in earnest with Phil Wheeler and Trevor Ludlow taking charge of what turned out to be a drawbridge over a ravine heavily infested with snapping alligators! The basic design was one of having a tripod of logs suspending the pulley that was to draw the bridge made of wooden pallets with log supports. The biggest problem incurred was in trying to lever the bridge in such a way that it missed a closely planted tree. At last however the bridge was raised vertical thanks to the strength of most of us campers on the pulley.

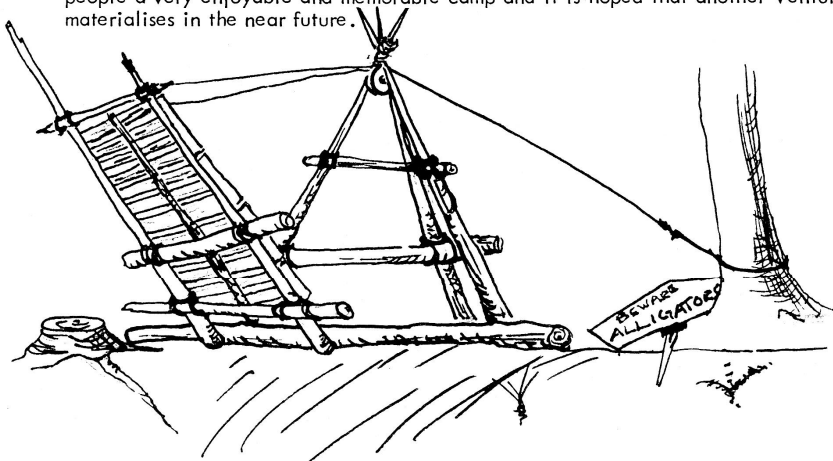
After the traditional providers in the afternoon, everyone partook in a five-a-side game of kick-and-rush football, which was repeated on Sunday afternoon in slightly marshier conditions, as Trevor and Clive found out. Both efforts though must have made England look like world champions.

Saturday night's wide game materialised into two after the first ended prematurely in a stalemate. In this the two teams - 'Eh' and 'What' had the task of filling two bowls with water armed only with small plastic cups. As the nearest watering points were held to be too far away to keep trooping backwards and forwards with only one cup, both teams struck upon the idea of artificially moving these watering points closer to the 'Base'. The discoveries by each team of the other's billy cans and saucepans however provoked water fights and various double-crosses by members of team 'Eh' who feigned support for team 'What'.

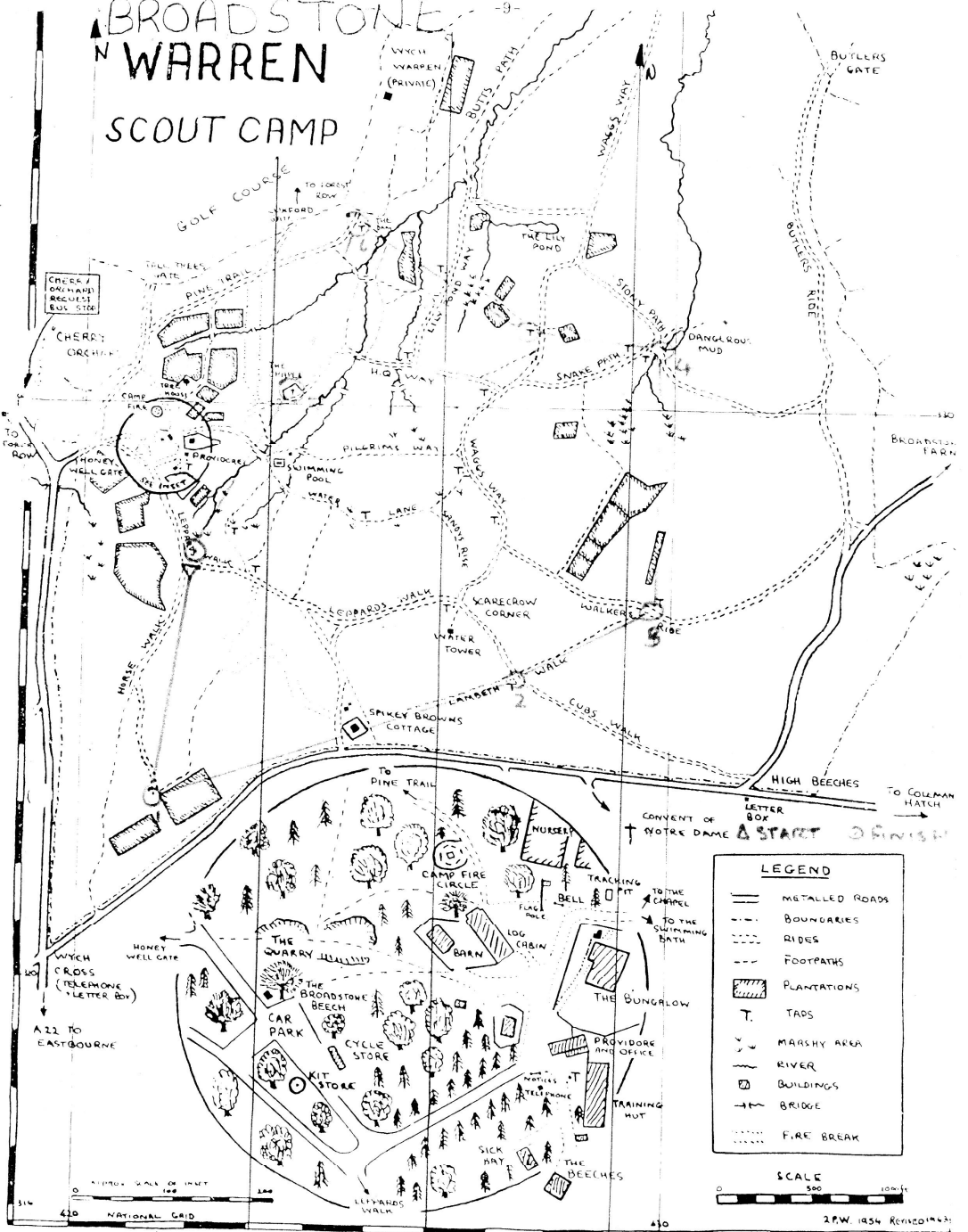
The second wide game involved getting one's person to another 'Base' without being seen by the 'Guard'. This proved difficult for John Minnis however as he incurred a bout of hiccups midway thus forever giving himself away.

After the hangovers had subsided on Sunday morning, whilst half the unit were prussicking and dismantling the drawbridge the others set out on Peter Barratt's orienteering course, made more difficult by the out of scale map, the areas of marshy ground and the fact that nobody could read a compass. The course was completed in a record (!) three hours - half of which was spent looking for base 2 which was nowhere near its stated point.

The clearing up on Sunday afternoon left us looking back on what was for most people a very enjoyable and memorable camp and it is hoped that another Venture camp materialises in the near future.

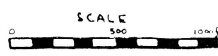


BROADSTONE WARREN SCOUT CAMP



LEGEND

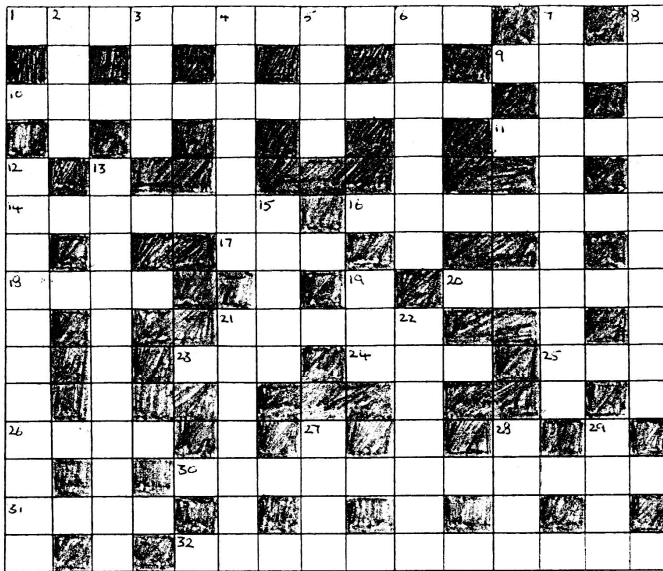
- METALLED ROADS
- BOUNDARIES
- RIDES
- FOOTPATHS
- PLANTATIONS
- T TAPS
- MARSHY AREA
- RIVER
- BUILDINGS
- BRIDGE
- FIRE BREAK



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GD	RB	GE	EC	RB	RA	

2.P.W. 1954 REVISED 1964

PRIZE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) OUR FOUNDER (5-6)
- 9) David was a famous one (4)
- 10) Seated at the executive meeting (11)
- 11) This girl comes back the same (4)
- 14) Old Moore's annual one (7)
- 16) Where an adventurous type is bound for (7)
- 17) Organised the running race (3)
- 18) Stars at page open-mouthed (4)
- 20) An A.I. duo can be heard (5)
- 21) Direction to find a thorn (5)
- 23) No friend (3)
- 24) The answer to 27 (3)
- 25) Seems to take one ages (3)
- 26) Big share of cards on the Kent Coast (4)
- 30) Scouting journeys (11)
- 31) This friend is indeed (4)
- 32) Extra invites ? (Especially at an old people's party) (5, 6)

DOWN

- 2) Head, Back & Ear can each have it (4)
- 3) Backward tide to sort it out (4)
- 4) A well liked car ? (4)
- 5) Adopted from a hospital ? (4)
- 6) Careful, he may guard you (4,3)
- 7) Stan Drew Air in Scotland (5, 6)
- 8) Experiences on a see-saw (3,3,5)
- 12) Flying from the noose ? (Without an engine) (4,7)
- 13) May help you to find your way in Charles' principality (1,3,2,5)
- 15) Sailing vessel from the ocean (5)
- 19) Sounds like a pig's eye ailment (3)
- 21) Kept unchopped (3,4)
- 22) Harp to keep you warm ? (7)
- 27) There beheaded gives the opposite (4)
- 28) Joins 9 to sit round (4)
- 29) Is it a hitch for a granny ?

THE OLD PEOPLE'S PARTY - FEBRUARY 1982

On the 21st February, the Unit organised their fourth old folks party, which in the past have all resulted in a great sense of achievement for those involved. This one again proved this point, with the added bonus of only a handful of Venture absentees.

The preparations really started weeks before the big day, with Kerry Jones and Bridget Style organising the invites and Jane Compton, our venerable Chairperson proving to be a first class co-ordinator. She was aided by Debra Stewart in the acquisition of raffle and bingo prizes from local retailers which included a man's shirt, a tie and some briefs with an unfortunate logo which were held to be unsuitable for anyone over the age of maturity. Other prizes received included earrings, bubble baths and boxes of fruit and provisions - the names of the generous donors are listed on Page 12. Special thanks must go however to Waby Butchers for the turkey which became the sandwich fillings and to Smokemart (plug!) for once again sponsoring the afternoons events.

As usual the hall was adorned, mainly with Christmas decorations, including two balloon nets which at the end of the evening, showered our guests with most managing to smuggle at least one out.

By Sunday morning all that remained was the transportation of the tables from the nearby Church Hall coupled with the final preparations of the food with many of the cakes having been baked by the Ventures themselves although the male members seemed to find Safeways more convenient.

The urns started to boil, teapots were filled by the minute as our guests started rolling up, and as soon as they'd downed their first cups it was eyes down for Bingo - luckily not run by The Daily Mail but by our very own enamouring, obstreperous, propitious, unmitigated Stella Hodoszy who, with her own inimitable style called the numbers, whilst constantly being refreshed with countless cups of tea. The raffle was held during the interlude given to the Bingo and again the prizes were first class.

With the accompaniment of Duncan Hellicar and Trevor Ludlow on guitars/vocals the Unit proceeded to chant some old favourites whilst the old folk supped their glasses of sherry and generally as much as they could. Any leftovers went to the H.V.B.S. (the Hungry Ventures Benevolent Section) which involved most of the unit.

Background music - mainly Max Bygraves 100 Golden Greats - was supplied by Richard Northam with our leader Peter Minnis rounding off the successful afternoon with a short but praising speech and expressed a wish to see many more of these parties over the next few years.

All that remained was to return the hall to its previous state and to help to transport the ladies and gentlemen home, many of whom lived in Green Street Green and St Pauls Cray and had walked the forward journey so as to be at our function - a high praise indeed.

P R I Z E S

The prizes for the raffle and bingo were kindly donated by the following:-

James Terry	(Menswear)
Snowdons	(Menswear)
Lingfields	(Confectionary)
Waby Butchers	
Mr D	(Menswear)
Parker Bromley	(Plumbing)
Smokemart	
Pollards	(Clothes)

SHOCKING STATE OF AFFAIRS

A loud hiccup can cause something of a shock to people around you, but a shock can sometimes cure it. The first advice friends give you will probably be to take a very deep breath, hold your breath or breathe into a paper bag.

Others will suggest a glass of cold water or swallowing a teaspoonful of sugar.

But shock treatment should be approached with caution. A New York security guard drew his gun on a typist to frighten her out of an attack of hiccups, accidentally pulled the trigger and shot her dead.

An Indiana chemist was more successful. His stories of how people had died from the complaint so shocked a sufferer that the hiccups stopped before the man left the shop.

Guy Mordant, of Missouri, became so depressed by continuous hiccups that he decided to shoot himself. As he pulled the trigger he hiccupped and missed. The shock of what he had nearly done brought an end to the hiccups.

There are plenty of alternatives however - these include sniffing snuff; dropping ice down your back; putting a hot mustard poultice on your chest or pressing your knuckles on your eyes.

An L.A. shop assistant, suffered for eight years, during which he is reputed to have tried 60,000 cures - all of them without success. Someone then suggested praying to St. Jude - patron saint of hopeless causes. His prayers were answered - his hiccups came to an end.

GLIDDING

"Ooh ! Sounds expensive ! "
"No, only twelve pounds each"
"Well" (dubiously) "maybe".
"Indoor accommodation available"
"Possible"
"Cheap Bar"
"Yep ! We'll go !"

And so began the Unit's interest in the hitherto unthought of sport of Gliding (or Glidding, as it appeared in the programme). Twelve members and ex-members of the Venture Unit finally succumbed to attend a Scout introductory gliding course at the Kent Gliding Club's base at Challock, near Ashford.

Instruction began almost immediately after arrival in the G.L.S.E. caravan, dealing mainly with safety precautions on the airfield, safety checks, double checks, re-checks of the double checks and so-on. This was a very important section of the course, as some of the possible dangers are not as obvious as one may think, and it was pointed out that some of the gliders at the airfield would cost around ten thousand pounds to replace!

After a couple of hours the course adjourned to the bar; space invaders machine and pool table.

Saturday morning saw the gallant souls staggering out of their luxury tents and splashing across the field for breakfast at some ungodly hour, to be followed by a rather surprising shepherding ceremony - moving the sheep from the airstrip. It was pointed out that sheep do not have much of a head for heights, and can make a substantial dent in the fuselage of an aircraft!

The gliders are given a thorough daily inspection (D.I.) before use, and the next hour was spent watching this and asking relevant questions like "What are you doing?". "Is that all that holds the wings on?" and even "But where's the engine?".

Now, all being experts in what does what and where it goes, came the big moment - actually flying. "Kermit" was the name painted on the front of the heavy, old, twin-seater glider, which looked as though it stood as much chance of flying as the sheep we had cleared off the airfield earlier. Still it had wings and a certificate, and had passed its D.I. so it must have been alright. In climbed Dick Dungan (who had accidentally drawn the short straw) and the Duty Instructor, and soon the cable was attached to the nose ready for take-off. Final checks completed, no other gliders coming in to land, no people in the way, the bat was waving the cable went taught, then pow!

Off shot "Kermit" across the field bumping and bouncing as it was hauled up by a winch at a speed of up to 50 m.p.h. Then up into the sky, the cable released, and everything was still. The only sound was that of the air rushing through the cockpit, the land spread out below like a tiny model. A gentle banking of the glider brought it round in a graceful sweeping circuit, and then in for the landing. The ground rushed up until with a sharp bump the glider touched down, bouncing across the field, splashing through the puddles until finally coming to a halt. Out climbed the passengers with broad smiles -not so much of relief as the result of a genuinely exhilarating trip.

Back at the bar in the evening the conversation was all gliding - the first trip may be indescribable, but the second was even better. The party's verdict ? - Gliding is a sport well worth pursuing, and further trips are in the pipeline for 1982.

LEADER TRAINING

Being an O.A.P. Venture, I was pressurised and bullied into writing an article for this magazine. The problem was what to write about; which resulted in me explaining one of the outlets that one can take after that horrible day when one becomes a T.O., F.V.P. (a Too Old For Ventures Person).

I had already been helping with the Leopards cub pack before I left Ventures, so when I reached the T.O.F.V.P. age, I decided to train to be an A.C.L. (Assistant Cub Leader).

An application form for a warrant is needed firstly, which is followed by two meetings with the District Commissioner and the A.D.C., which includes the G.I. (General Information). After a couple of weeks, I was up before the Warrant Committee trying to plead my case.

My first weekend activity - the Cub Leader Basic Training Course - took place in February at Wilberforce Camp Site, Keston, where there are facilities to stay overnight, and with enough food to feed an army, I was very happy. Everyone was very helpful and really made me feel a part of the Brotherhood of Scouting. We left having learnt about many aspects of the organisation in particular the Cub section through various mediums such as film slides; tutorial groups; and actually acting the parts of Cubs ourselves in our groups.

Until the second Cub Leaders Course in May, I have been set the arduous task of completing some project work which includes a choice of some of the following - compiling a book of games; a meeting with another Cub Pack in which I organise games for the evening; a joint outdoor venture with another Pack which must include food preparation and camping; a general discussion amongst our own Sixes; a book of Prayers written by the Cubs; and a talk on the Jungle Book or the Just-So stories.

Becoming an assistant leader with one of the sections of the Scout Group therefore, although hard work, is I feel a very worthwhile progression from Ventures as it now enables me to put something back into the movement that I received during my time as a 'Pupil'.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT ?

If you subtract 40 from the number of times a cricket chirps in a minute, divide by four and add 50 to the result, you have the temperature Fahrenheit.

Every time we breathe, each of us is likely to suck into his lungs some 50 million molecules of air exhaled by Leonardo da Vinci.

Fourteen million, eight hundred and thirty-six thousand British men regularly visit public houses. Half that number watch golf on T.V.

THE VERY COMPLETE VENTURE SCOUT

REQUIREMENTS FOR A GOOD INSPECTION

HAIR: Posh Hairdos permitted but unadvisable for pot holing.

EYELASHES: Must be your own (sorry girls)

BUTTONS: Done up right to left, or left to right depending on sex. If in doubt ask a Leader for immediate examination.

SACK: Own equipment prepared. For pot holing please supply own pot, but take while little weed isn't looking.

EARS: For piercing refer to Adrian.

BELT: Either to keep trousers or suspenders up - leather ones useful elsewhere.

LEGS: In most cases there to be seen on the girls and seen to be all there on the blokes.



DANIEL (LE)

HANDS: Again nails must be your own and must come up to scratch.

SHIRT POCKETS: Must always be kept full (older girls excepted).

KIT BAG: Female's handbags welcomed at camp - saves taking a bowl for the washing up.

TROUSER POCKETS: Always carry 10p for the phone - or the space invaders in the Pub.

ELBOW: Patches required for regular visitors to the Rock and Fountain & Artichoke.

STOMACH: Should be where the heart is to give you "Courage" in Scouting Activities.

FOOTWEAR: High heels acceptable but most of the fellas are tall enough anyway.

BRAIN: Sorry its called "The Complete" not "The Abnormal" Venture Scout.

BASED ON "THE COMPLETE VENTURE SCOUT" - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO R. GARDNER

YOUR STARS

OR - MY HORROR SCOPE

BY REGINALD MAUDLINGS PLUMBER

FOR 19TH FEB 1976

The only Horoscope to correctly foretell the outcome of the friendly between Cray Wanderers and Maidstone United in 1973 and to wrongly predict a Plwyd Cwmyru victory in the following year's general election - with an introduction by Ted Heath's parrot who unfortunately cannot write but tells us he thinks this is Pretty Jolly (probably means Polly-ed).

CAPRICORN

Dec 21-Jan 19

A Leader, someone new in your life will appear with great physical attraction. Beware.

TAURUS

Apr 21-May 20

You will be thoroughly mocked by boring people in pubs every time you mention that you are just full of Bull.

VIRGO

Aug 22-Sept 22

Money this week is scarce. If going to the R & F be careful - its probably your round. (swap for Dicks).

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

A bit of a drip sometimes but you must sort yourself out and get both feet on dry ground.

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

A tight fisted person, dont worry - aren't we all? Though prepare yourself for a spending spree mainly on boy-friends.

LIBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22

A serious thoughtful person who looks out for others but not for him or herself. Beware of getting run over.

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Dont go out this week you smelly old ratbag.

CANCER

Jun 21-July 21

Friends and Colleagues will continue to invade your home and previous privacy with a few party fours so they can borrow your can opener.

SCORPIO (N)

Oct 23-Nov 22

Used to be a Liberator. Dont answer the door to Avon ladies.

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 20

A Windfall is on its way. Be sure to wear something warm.

LEO

July 22-Aug 21

A nice old friendly chap please do not feed him buns and things.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 20

Your work continues to make what you feel are excessive demands on you - change to employment by The Post Office (Secretarial Side).

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE FIRST CORRECT ENTRY PICKED AFTER
CLOSING DATE - 7TH JULY

EASY SECTION

- 1) If a group of sheep is called a flock, what special name is given to a group of (a) lions, (b) porpoises (c) herring (d) buffalo?
- 2) What is a fishermans knot used for?
- 3) Which European city was built on seven hills?
- 4) The Holger - Neilson method is a means of doing what?
- 5) Can you name the longest range of mountains in the world?
- 6) What do the following abbreviations stand for (a) E.M.S. (b) B.O.C. (c) S.D.L.P. (d) I.B.A.
- 7) What is the smallest bone in the human body?
- 8) What name is given to a word whose spelling remains exactly the same when it is turned back to front?
- 9) Lewis Carroll was the pen-name of the Author of "Alice in Wonderland" what was his real name?
- 10) Which organisation is renowned for leaving copies of the bible in hotel rooms?

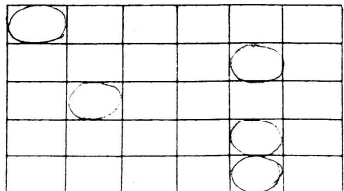
TEASERS

- 11) What five letter word has six left when you take two away?
- 12) Take one letter from each vertical column to spell out the name of a T.V. comedian - there are four in all.

D	R	I	C	E	W	K	L	Y
E	R	C	N	E	Y	I	R	L
B	I	N	I	S	H	E	S	S
E	E	N	K	Y	M	I	E	E

- 12a) the left hand maze contains anagrams of five articles of clothing - rearrange on the right to create the name of another garment.

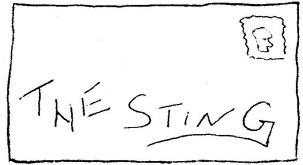
1	M	U	R	E	J	P
2	Z	B	A	R	E	L
3	J	E	T	C	A	K
4	O	K	N	M	I	O
5	E	O	B	S	U	L



Send your entries to The Editor c/o The Scout Hut, Court Road, Orpington.

Letters

THE EDITOR - THE STING, c/o The Scout Hut
50a Court Road, Orpington



COMPLAINT

Sir,

I am writing to complain about the excessively low price of a dog licence; my dog feels he is worth much more than 7/6d.

F. Bassett esq
Houndslow.

Mr Bassett. You're going back a few years now - you must realise that a dog licence now costs 371/2p.

ASTONISHING

Sir,

I have just witnessed the most astonishing event ever in the history of Independent television - an actor in 'Crossroads' has just remembered his lines.

K. Mortimer,
Australia.

COLLECTING

Sir,

I have just taken up stamp collecting; I've already got two large bruises on my big toes.

M. Foot,
House of Commons
London, SW1

Mr Foot. Have you any water marks ?

DUKE'S AWARD

Sir,

I am interested in winning a Duke of Edinburgh's award. Where do I write for information?

P. Mountbatten Esq
Windsor.

Mr Mountbatten. For Information you should write to:

Duke of Edinburgh's
Award
5, Prince of Wales Terrace
London, W8.

FARMING

Sir,

I am thinking of taking up farming and I would like to know your opinion of the viability of wheat production within the confines of the E.E.C. pending subsidies, market forces, climate and who wins the Cup Final?

A.C. Riculturalist
Dartmoor

Mr Riculturalist. How can I even begin to encapsulate in mere words my scorn for any authoritarian interventionists. The hypocrisy by which contemporary management executives relate external factors to the likes of one self - supporting agrarian society; at the same pressurising other groups' interventionist projects that only go to break down the society in which we live etc.... Understand ?

ERNIE

Sir,

Which in your opinion has a better chance of winning a prize on 'ERNIE' a full £2000 block of certificates or one section of £400 and the residue in blocks of £20.

S.C. Rupulous
Golders Green

Mr Rupulous. According to the Post Office your chances would be the same as 'ERNIE' picks numbers completely at random. However, if you want to go into the mathematics of the matter you should write for information to...

The Director
Bonds & Stock Office
Lytham St Annes,
Lancs, FYO 1YN

Hopefully our next edition should have some more genuine letters on this page, so don't forget to send any of those niggling questions that desperately need answering to the above address.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE WORRYING -
HERE'S AUNTY JANE'S PROBLEM PAGE

FIRST (OR LAST) (AID ?? - A FEW HANDY HINTS) IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

HEADACHE

Take an aspirin, taking into account the following points:-

- (a) Is it the right shape to swallow ?
- (b) Is it the right brand and if not, why not ?
- (c) Can you see flashing lights behind your eyes ?
- If so, start a Disco:

REMEDY

Take some pills, or some other bottled lager.

TOOTHACHE

The best antidote for a sore tooth is whisky, or, if you can afford it - brandy. It may not help the toothache but at least after consuming one bottle, you wont care about the pain; (Thanks granted to the 'Rock & Fountain' for aiding our experiments)

A CUT FINGER

Leave under cold running water until either
(a) the blood clots
(b) your finger falls off.

THE COMMON COLD ?

It is in the Winter.

NOSE BLEED

Pinch the bridge of your nose until either:-

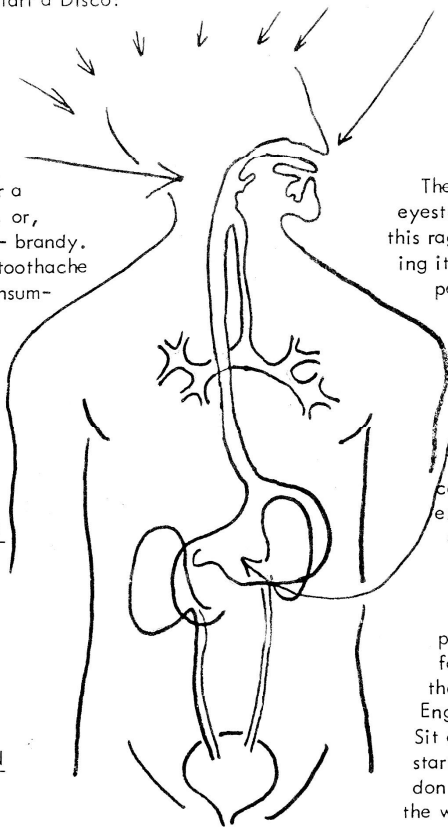
- (a) the blood stops pouring out, or
- (b) you faint due to losing too much blood because you obviously did not pinch your nose hard enough - Keep going until you get it right.

EYESTRAIN

There is no such thing as eyestrain (especially reading this rag - Ed.) you are imagining it. You are the sort of person who is always seeking attention - well this time you've been found out - Go away!

STOMACH ACHE

This is a very serious complaint, commonly experienced at camp, and can lead to a very dangerous condition - e.g. having to be excused the washing up - But don't panic, just dial 999, ask for an ambulance - or if that is out dating a Fire Engine, a Police car will do. Sit and wait quietly and if you start foaming at the mouth, don't worry too much - at least the washing up liquid will clean out your insides !

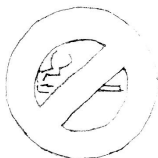


FEELING SICK

So am I listening to all these complaints.

NO SMOKING SIGNS

Red & Black on white, self adhesive vinyl 6" diameter. 50p each. Post Free. Bulk prices on request - ASH, 27 Mortimer St, London, W1 - 01-637 9843.



"DEATH OF A GERBIL"

e gave in and bought a pair of rats in a cage (gerbils they are politely called) because Daniel insisted the only thing he wanted in the whole world was something "furry and cuddly and alive to love".

I think he had in mind a baby giraffe, but he seemed pleased enough at the gerbils.

I am not keen on caged animals even at the zoo, and Bubble and Squeek confirmed my prejudices. For all their balanced diet, "exercise wheel" (a ghastly treadmill to gallop on endlessly and aimlessly) and daily frolic round the bedroom, they became as neurotic as battery hens, biting the cage bars and devouring their plastic house.

Finally Bubble ate Squeek - or most of him. It is all very well saying parents must not shield their children from the facts of life - like death. But to come to terms with death, grief and cannibalism all at once seems a bit hard. Daniel sobs, stricken-faced, inconsolable. His sister Li-Da, more hard-hearted and with a morbid streak, insists on a detailed inspection of the corpse. Trying to comfort Daniel I say, chicken-livered mother that I am, "I expect he's in heaven". Li-Da brightens - "With Benny"? (our recently deceased cat - is there no respite from the mortality of pets)? "Yes, darling, I expect so". "Then Benny can eat the rest of him", she concludes with satisfaction.

The funeral is like all pets' funerals. Funny and very sad. For non-believers we cop out pretty early. We even sing, "All things bright and beautiful" as the cocoa tin is lowered into Mother Earth (I bet even devout Christians who do not believe in the Happy Hunting Ground let their children think it is there.)

We, the grown-ups, are now in a dilemma. What to do with the murderer? (The thought of keeping him alone in the cage is too horrible, but we know if we buy him a friend, the friend may regret it). Lacking the courage to drown the creature we conceive a wicked plan. We suggest to the children that "We give Bubble his freedom". With not a word about cats, owls or hawks we all troop into the field and put the cage down on the grass. We put Bubble into the ditch. He sticks his nose into a nettle and scampers back into his cage. "I don't think he wants his freedom", says Daniel, a little wistfully.

"Oh, I'm sure he does", I say with hospital brightness. "Think how exciting it is for him. He'll be able to make friends with the field mice and bunnies and hedgehogs". I put him firmly back in the ditch, and this time I lift the cage. Bubble scampers from one pair of Wellington boots to the next, nose up, positively pleading.

"I know", I say brightly, a little desperate now and wavering in the most cowardly fashion, "We'll leave his cage open on the ground so he can choose. If he's in it in the morning, we'll know he wants to come home. If he's gone we'll know he's chosen the wild" (on the calculating duplicity of it). We agree on this plan, the children doubtful but trusting.

Just then, round the corner, trots the neighbour's cat. He meets Bubble nose-to-nose. Bubble is too tame to be alarmed and the cat is so astonished at such an intrepid rat he stands stock-still. This is too much for me. I scoop up poor Bubble, who scampers up my sleeve for safety.

Now we have a single, Neurotic, bar-chewing gerbil.

BASED ON "DEATH OF A GERBIL"
BY PRUE LEITH

PASSING THOUGHTS

- An educational toy - The first thing a child learns when he gets a drum is that he's never going to get another one.
- Double Meanings - Dark Ages -- Knight Time
- Inheritance -- Will-Gotton Gains

**STING
SCORPION
VENTURE UNIT**

