

COVER PLUS

(Incorporating "Gossip")

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ASHBY HASTINGS VENTURES

1980/81 EDITION

MAKE SURE YOUR
BRAIN IS IN GEAR
BEFORE ENGAGING
YOUR MOUTH

I LOVE MY P.L.
by A.C. REEP.

Eat drink and be
merry - For
tomorrow we may be
radioactive

GIVE SADISTS
A FAIR CRACK
OF THE WHIP

Help the police
- Beat yourself up!

BEAMED DOWN
FOR A PEE -
STARDATE 24-7-81

PLEASE
FLUSH
AFTER USE

1st Class Honours Degrees
Please take one

Smile!
- You're on
CANDID
CAMERA

COVER
PLUS

These days Too Many Young
Girls are spoiling themselves
By using Four Letter Word
- namely: Can't, Won't, Don't

Humpty Dumpty
was pushed!

(at least
please



PREFACE.

Welcome to this, the long awaited second edition of Cover Plus. It was due out at Easter 1980, but never made it to the press. So here is a special bumper edition which, we believe, was well worth waiting for.

Written and produced by ASHBY HASTINGS VENTURE SCOUT UNITT, (with a few lines from some Cub Scouts), it covers Group, Unit, Troop and Pack events between Whitsuntide 1979 and Easter 1981. Some light-hearted stories and puzzles, etc, are also included to add to your enjoyment.

It has been a very successful year for Ashby Hastings, with many camps and other activities for the lads, and a lot of dedicated hard work from our invaluable Group Council, without whom the Group just wouldn't exist. Fund raising events, including jumble sales, cheese and wine evenings and the Hastings Hundred Club, did very well and we are now in a position to think seriously about the building of a new H.Q.

We were very sorry to lose Albert Steele (Bosun), John Whiten (Skip) and then Tomy Logan who all worked very hard to make our Group the best in Leicestershire.

Ladbrokees have 7 to 1 on next years issue coming out at Easter, 1982; so to help us win the bet, we would appreciate it if all readers' letters (please) and other contributions could reach us no later than February 28th, 1982.

Charles P. Smith,
David A. Grose,

Editors-i/c.

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APCLOGY:-

We apologise most sincerely for the use of long sophisticated words such as: conglomeration, contingent, sarcastically and sophisticated; the meanings of which we do not even know ourselves, but they sound good anyway and make us look clever.

WHO'S WHO 1981.

DISTRICT.

		<u>Tel.</u>
District Commissioner	Mr. R.E.Saunders	34031
A.D.C. (Scouts)	Mr. T.Gretton	36842
A.D.C. (Venture Scouts)	Mr. G.Heape	31167

GROUP.

Group Scout Leader	Miss P.D.Smith	412509
Chairman	Mr. J.White	412355
Treasurer		
Secretary	Mr. D.Fill	415600
Quartermasters:	Mr. B.Spotswood	413676
	Mr. R.Oldham	412967
Technical Adviser	Mr. K.Grose	413761
Publicity Officer	Mrs. D.Fill	415600

CUB SCOUTS.

Cub Scout Leader	Mrs. M.Redfern	None
A.C.S.L.	Mr. G.Walker	415471

SCOUTS.

Scout Leader	Mr. G.Davies	71020
A.S.L.	Mr. K.Pearce	412833 (Royal Hotel)

VENTURE SCOUTS.

Venture Scout Leader

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman	Mr. P.Wilkinson	414656
Treasurer	Mr. C.P.Smith	413893
Secretary	Mr. R.Extton	413596

MEETING TIMES.

Cub Scouts	6.30p.m.	Thursdays
Scouts	7.00p.m.	Fridays
Venture Scouts	7.00p.m.	Mondays (unless otherwise specified)
Group Council	8.00p.m.	3rd Thursday every month.

CUB PACK.

"The things we do in Ashby Hastings cub pack are most hilarious. Our Akela says we are most good boys and I totally agree with her. We do the most unusual things you'd ever believe. I've met lots of different people and there's still more to come."

by Kelby Light.

"As long as I have been a Cub Scout my favourite thing I did was cooking sausages. We used sticks to cook them with over a fire. One of the cubs cooked his piece of bread. I made a sandwich with mine. We cooked them at Willesley and it was pouring down with rain. We had trouble lighting the fire because the rain kept putting it out. Eventually we abandoned the evening as the rain was so bad, but I had enjoyed myself and will always remember the night we cooked sausages at Willesley.

by Adrian Worley.

"The best thing I like about cubs has been the sponsored walk. The circuit was $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. I did 9 miles, which I must admit is not very good."

by Chris Youles.

As well as these activities the pack has been on outings, including a fire station and Chester Zoo, and has done well in the district football tournament. They have had parties at Christmas and Halloween, and a disco just for the sake of having some fun (the latter also raised some money for the building fund). Many of these, and other activities have been inspired by the arrival of two new Scouters: Graham Walker and Glyn Davies.

SCOUT TROOP.

As our troop runs on the patrol system, as B.P. intended, the emphasis is put on the Scout Standard and the Advanced Scout Standard and not on proficiency badges — although many of these are also gained. Two or three Advanced Standards have been awarded this past year or so, and several more are due soon. Our third Chief Scout's Award was gained a year ago, and three more have recently been awarded.

Most of the lads have made good progress and so we should see more Standards and Advanced Standards this year. Their progress is due to the intense training given by their Patrol Leaders, with some help from the talks given by the Scouters.

As well as these Scouting standards, a number of proficiency badges have also been awarded. 18 interest badges — mainly intended for the younger scouts, ranging from Athletics to Model Makers; 8 pursuit badges — harder ones for the older scouts, ranging from Explorer to Master-at-arms; and 12 service badges. These are the hardest to get and the ones awarded were mainly Ambulance badges.

The St. John's Ambulance Association have been giving talks and demonstrations during Scout evenings. (Thanks go to them.) At the end of the 10 week course was an exam. This qualified those who passed (8/11) for their St. John's 'Essentials of first-aid' certificate and also for their Scout Ambulance badge.

Swimming at Ashby baths the last two summers was appreciated by all, and Falcons patrol did well to win the troop swimming gala. This activity is being repeated this year (7p.m. Tuesdays). There was also a trip to Swadlincote baths during the winter which was warm and wet.

SCOUT TROOP (contd.)

The troop has taken part in several District activities including the sports day, a Patrol Leaders training course, first-aid competitions, a home safety competition, a swimming gala, various wide games and a football match against Donisthorpe.

A very successful summer camp was held at Gilwell Park in 1979, when we were awarded the Gilwell Camping Standard — the toughest standard in the world. An equally good camp was had last summer by all who went to Charnwood '80. This time we are hoping to go to Gradbach (Buxton's district camp site).

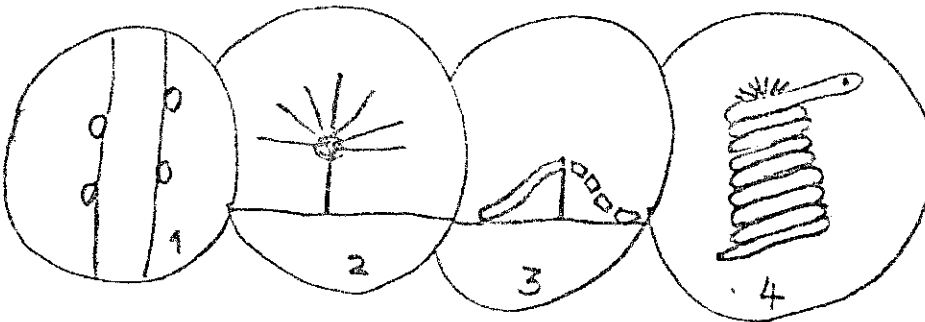
In 1978 and '79 Albert Steele (Bosun) organized camps aswell as many other activities, so we were all sorry to see him leave the troop. Then at Whit last year, John Whiten (Skip) had to leave us. It was John who, way back in 1976, restarted Scouts in Ashby, and put a very large amount of work into producing a very successful and happy troop. Tomy Logan then also had to leave us at Whit this year. Our sincere thanks and good wishes go to all three.

January saw the arrival of a new Scouter, Kevin Pearce, who we are very glad to have. We hope he will stay with us for a long time to come. Because of our Scouter shortage, Glyn Davies has joined us from the Cub section.

The forthcoming year will be full of activity, with camps, hikes, sports and competitions, producing fun for all, and, hopefully, many more badges to make those left sleeves and right pockets less barren.

DROODLES.

Identify the following:



Answers: 1/ A bear climbing up the other side of a tree. 2/ A spider doing a handstand. 3/ A worm crawling over a razor blade. 4/ An inexperienced snake charmer.

VENTURE SCOUT UNIT.

This last year has been reasonably busy for the Ventures, but we still did not achieve all we had hoped. Membership increased after Easter '79 and leveled off at about six. Most of our members have joined in with the majority of activities undertaken during the year, some of which are as follows:

Walking in the Forest of Bowland — three days of enjoyable plodding in a warm July;

Conservation projects — restoration of a watermill and maintaining an area of woodland;

A hike in pouring rain — around Ashby through a cold winter's night;

A successful, trophy-winning weekend's camp at MidVENT '80;

Attempting to produce the culinary delights of other countries. All these activities are covered by separate articles. (Recipes are included in the Foreign Cookery section.)

In November '79, at Remembrance Day parade, the Ventures made one of their first public appearances. Then in mid February the first issue of the Unit's magazine "Cover Plus" came out — only about nine months late!

Progress with the award scheme is only a little slower than it should be. The first investitures were in August '79 — these had been awaited for well over a year. Since then there have been three other groups of investitures.

There should be one or two Venture Awards held within a few months of this magazine coming out. Some of the Ventures are also on the way to their Queen's Scout Award.

Late last summer attempts were made at going mixed (ie. accepting girls between 16 and 20 as well as boys). Unfortunately however, we have managed to get interested only one 17 year old female. So if you know of anybody (male or female) who may be 'that way inclined', please put them in touch with any Executive Committee member (see inside front cover).

This summer we are planning to go to Buxton with the Scout Troop and then go off walking for a few days in the Peak District.

Other future events include: various fund raising projects; a Wild West evening and the continuation of our international cooking theme — the next possible areas are Hungarian and Indian.

We look forward to an eventful year ahead, and remember, new members are always welcome.

CONSERVATION.

The Ventures' first conservation project was to restore an old watermill at Hartshorne. This old mill had once been used to make screws, and saw wood, but was then left idle and neglected for years.

The Ventures had been asked to help by laying bricks to strengthen the old sagging walls. After a few Sundays' work and a closer inspection of the building's main supports it was decided that the restoration would involve a major building job and professional builders would have to be called in.

Soon after this disappointing start we embarked on another project: coppicing at Carvers Rocks. The wood at Carvers Rocks is a man-made one, and therefore needs management. This involves the clearing of dead wood on the ground and the thinning out of Hazelwood trees to encourage plant growth on the floor of the wood.

Interest in this project has since dwindled (mainly due to its inconvenient position). We are now thinking of other possible areas of conservation. One idea which has been suggested, is the maintenance of the Scout grounds. This project could last indefinitely, due to the locality of the Scout H.Q.

WHIT CAMP 1979.

The scouts met at the H.Q. at 7p.m. on the Friday evening. Lifts to Willesley were arranged for the older scouts and the equipment, whilst the younger scouts set off on foot to complete their six mile hike towards their Scout Standard.

On arrival at the campsite we hurriedly pitched our tents as the clear blue sky was rapidly clouding over. Sure enough, as soon as the tents were up it started to rain, but thankfully it was only a shower — one of many that night.

Our stomachs told us that it was time to eat, so we soon had a fire going for bangers and cocoa.

Saturday morning comprised mainly of finishing off, including roping off the site, kitchen and chopping areas.

The obstacle course took place after lunch and involved: crawling under a tarpaulin, climbing a hanging rope net, squeezing through 'mini' tyres and balancing across two sheer lashed planks over the swimming pool. Our team did very well in this. From then on it rained, and rained, and rained (Crafnant all over again).

As it was wet, the scouters decided to give the scouts an inter-patrol quiz. This started on the subject of scouting but ended up on topics like rugby and football.

Sunday though was not so wet. The Scouts' Own service was even held out in the open. After this we entered our team for the football tournament, and also entered the cooking competition.

The kitchen was cleaned up, and the fire stoked ready to prepare our cuisine for the competition. Our menu was to be as follows:

Vegetable soup

followed by

Lamb chops (fried in breadcrumbs),

Buttered, boiled potatoes,

Peas,

Gravey

followed by

Assorted fruit and custard.

But we had a problem; the chops had not been completely chopped. Whilst hacking away at these to separate them, one of the lads sliced his thumb with his new six inch sheath knife which he had been showing off — he has not been seen with it since. Because of the trouble with the chops, we were not ready when the judges came round, and so we did not win. (Better luck next time.)

When lunch was cleared away we all went down for the 5-a-side football competition. Like the year before, we were knocked out on penalties after drawing in the semi-finals.

Shooting took place later on in the wooden hut, and one of our number managed to gain his Master-at-arms badge.

Sunday night was the campfire at which we did our notorious slow-motion cricket sketch, which as usual went down very well.

Monday morning — Ashby Carnival day — we struck camp in the dry and then had breakfast. As we left it started raining and we felt sorry for the other troops who had to pack up in the wet.

SUMMER CAMP '79 — GILWELL PARK.

The site for the Scouts' summer camp of 1979 was the international Scout camp site at Gilwell Park in the Epping Forest. The week started with the usual chaotic assembling of equipment which has been the cause of many delays to the start of other scout camps.

Transport that year was a 40 seater coach — this made the loading easy as only about 20 scouts went to camp. Once the bus was loaded and everyone aboard we set off....ON TIME! — an almost unique occurrence. It was a very fast journey and we arrived at Gilwell in the early afternoon, just after lunch. Our site was soon set up and the boys had a chance to explore the site before the evening meal.

Gilwell Park, the U.K.'s main Scout training centre, contains a large administration block as well as its many facilities which include: a special cub camping area, an international centre, two swimming pools, canoes, pioneering equipment, a medical centre, various churches, temples and a synagogue; and, believe it or not, a radio station. The camping areas are arranged in several large fields separated from each other by wooded areas.

When set up, our site consisted of three patrol tents, two leaders' tents, the S.P.L.'s tent, a supply tent, a first-aid tent and a dining shelter.

The site allocated to our troop was in a slightly sloping field adjacent to the ablution block, the wardens office and the shop. The main swimming pool also bordered our field. The limits of our site were marked by a few young trees and contained two concreted fire areas.

On this occasion, the troop was divided into three patrols — different from those used during the rest of the year. The patrols named themselves Snails, Maggots and Worms and were to compete against each other in many activities during the course of the week.

Camp routine was soon underway — the day started off for the majority with an exercise session and a swim (run by a young Venture with, I feel, a little too much enthusiasm). Following this a shower and breakfast. The meals were cooked by the duty patrol for the day, usually under the watchful eye of a Leader or Venture Scout. The cooking was generally of high quality, and must have been appreciated as there were always plenty of mouths eager to make as much food disappear as soon as possible.

After breakfast came inspection, by either one of the leaders or a representative of the camp warden. This representative would make a very thorough inspection, and if the site was of a high enough standard the troop would be awarded with a certificate. If three of these are gained (ie. not one inspection is failed) in the course of a week the troop is presented with the Gilwell Camping Standard Pennant. This is the highest award of its kind in Europe and probably the world. The Ashby Hastings troop managed to gain a pennant despite the disadvantage of having old, much repaired equipment (although new flysheets have since been bought).

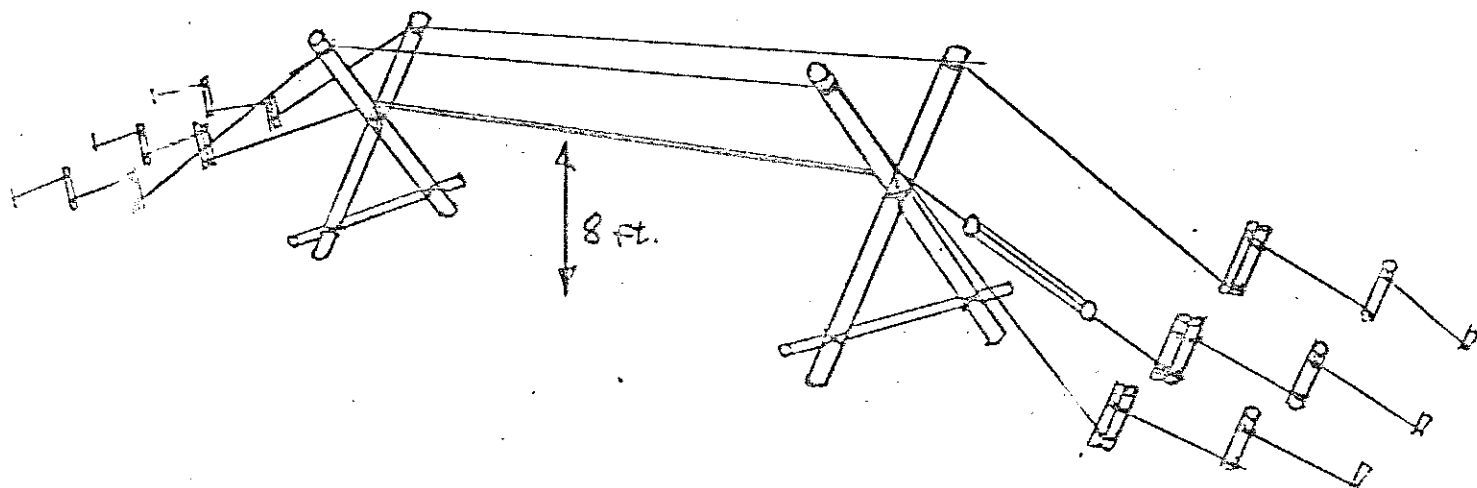
During the day, various activities were undertaken including: pioneering, hiking, badge work, a 'klondike competition', swimming, orienteering, and a much looked forward to visit to London.

Before and after the evening meal there were various wide games and other activities including: volley ball, tug o' war and a fairly rough game of rugby where one leader lost his shirt!

The troop attended three campfires while at Gilwell. Two of these were as the guests of other troops. They were, I believe, greatly enjoyed by all, and our sketches went down well with the others. The final item on the agenda was cocoa and bed.

P.T.C.

The main pioneering project was the building of a monkey bridge which, in this case had no practical use (apart from being a lot of fun) but was a good exercise in knotting, lashing and anchoring. As there were no suitable trees available, the bridge was strung between a pair of 'A' shaped structures, constructed from three large poles about 15' long. The 'A's were pulled upright and the bridge strung between them. Finally the slack was taken up, the ropes tensioned, and anchored to the ground.



The major hike of the camp was an afternoon excursion through the Epping Forest, completing a half circuit of the camp site. The route was guided by a leader and a venture scout. The three patrols followed the route on a map and made notes on route followed, bearings taken, and the surrounding area. Later, patrols provided detailed reports on the hike, the best of which was rewarded with a prize at the end of the week.

All three patrols proved to be very good at orienteering, and surprised the camp warden by the speed with which they completed all three of the site's set courses.

The visit to London took up a day in midweek. There was a hike to the local station from where we travelled into London by train. We then took the tube to Kensington. Once there we made a brief visit to B.P. House, followed by a packed lunch in the grounds of the British (Natural History) Museum. The troop then split into two groups to wander round the Science and Natural History museums. Everyone met back at B.P. House where there was a display about B.P.'s life and also a collection of his staffs and medals. From here we made our way back to Gilwell.

On the last day, we had the equipment packed away in almost record time. There was a final wander around the site then all climbed aboard for another quick journey home, with a brief stop for a fish 'n' chip lunch.

Generally this was a good camp and most of those that went thoroughly enjoyed it. The site was less wild than the previous two years which drastically changed the style of camping. One main disadvantage of the site's position (discovered by the leaders) — nearest pub, 4 miles; a very dry week!

WHIT CAMP 1980.

The camp started on the Friday evening and finished on the Monday morning. The Scouts from Ashby arrived on the site at about 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, already having sorted out the equipment the night before.

As there were just a few who went, only one patrol could be made. This patrol slept in the big, 14ft tent, while the leader and S.P.L. slept in an Icelandic with one of the new flysheets.

As Whit camp is to train the Scouts for their summer camp, all the patrol had a chance at cooking on the open fire, as well as washing dixies and all the other activities which help to run a camp smoothly.

To make the camp even more exciting, inter-troop activities had been organized. These included night wide games, shooting, five-a-side football, and an assault course. As two of our wide game team came back two hours after it had finished, we were declared last. We did better in the assault course though, coming second.

As well as these activities, we organized our own championship for volleyball and also a game which was a cross between football and cricket.

These games filled in our spare time, giving everyone who went to Whit camp a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

SUMMER CAMP 1980.

Why are a few thousand Scouts and Guides situated a few hundred yards off the A.50 outside Bardon?

The answer: CHARNWOOD '80.

Amongst this conglomeration of youngsters, 20 members of Ashby Hastings Scout Troop are attempting to find Pluto No. 54. "Why are we looking for Mickey Mouse's dog?", we ask ourselves. Oh! It's raining. What a surprise! Lovely this Leicestershire weather isn't it? Oh! Pluto's a planet; well someone could have told us.

As soon as we put up our tents it stopped raining. That's fairly typical. Hold on; we are camping between two Guide Troops. Things are starting to look up already.

What? We should be at the opening ceremony! Come on, let's go. Well that's that over with. I think the reason the Chief Scout was late wasn't that his car broke down, but that he'd got lost.

I'm starving. What's to eat? Spam! Wish I hadn't asked.

It's still raining. Never mind; it means we don't have to wash.

Sunday; our day of rest? Not likely! Still, it's stopped raining. No, it's started again.

That Scouts' Own was good; we caught up on some sleep during the sermon.

We gained our first black mark for a mud fight. Still, we attracted a fair size audience at least.

Great! We are going swimming today. At least we will have a good wash. Badminton, football and cricket were also available, but we needed the wash.

Fencing was the main attraction for us Plutonians, but some of us who were not so inclined went international dancing — much to the amusement of the 'he men' of the troop who went flower collecting on a nature trail.

That evening, at Pluto's campfire with Mars, the delightful voices of Ashby could be heard singing French, American and Greek songs. (What we sang in Greek we don't know, but it sounded like "We need money; you got money; you give us money"?).

P.T.O.

SUMMER CAMP 1980 (contd.)

Tuesday was the day of our big outing. You could go to Stratford, Coventry, Dove Dale, Oakham and Rutland Water, or Ironbridge. Luckily the sun shone in most of the places, except in Dove Dale, where the fog was so low they couldn't see anything.

The open day was on Wednesday, and in the afternoon thousands of visitors flocked into the site. Several special events were put on for them in the main arena. Also there were smaller side events, one of which was 'Brian the Shrew'.

Unfortunately we were disqualified from the 'It's a Knockout' after one of the officials walked into a bucket of water (or so the offender claimed).

In the afternoon, at the handicraft session, we did wood carving, dyeing, basketweaving, candle making and music making. The results of this afternoon were different to say the least, and reflected the amount of effort used.

The older Scouts on Friday went parascending, whilst the younger ones did less 'dangerous' activities: canoeing, ice skating, horse riding, rafting and orienteering.

The closing ceremony was highlighted by the performance of the Leicester Scout Band. Singing was lead by the County Commissioner for Scouts and the Guide Commissioner.

On Saturday we came home, sad that camp had ended, just as it had started to get going.

ASHBY CARNIVAL 1980.

At Ashby Carnival last year, Hastings Group helped raise a significant amount of money for local youth organizations.

Our stall had a golfing theme. The idea was to hit a golf ball to land on a £1 note. If you were successful the pound was yours. The Venture Unit helped out the Lion's Club by manning some of their side-stalls. These mainly consisted of throwing darts into playing cards to win a pair of plastic singing budgies.

The weather for the Carnival was very good indeed, and everybody who went had a wonderful time. Apart from the side stalls, there were many displays in the arena, including a marching band, an escape artist, and a team of stunt motorcyclists.

We were all very pleased when we received a late Christmas present from the Carnival Committee; £75 for the Group, and £25 for the Venture Unit.

SWIMMING.

In the summer period of the last two years, as you may know, the Ashby Hastings Scout Group hired Ashby swimming pool for an hour each Tuesday evening. This was a very popular venture enjoyed by members of the Group and their families and friends. I think we all owe a big thankyou to all the people who forfeited their swimming session to perform life saving duties.

This was not intended to be a fund raising project (initially we charged people a mere 5p to cover our costs,) but due to its popularity, we made ourselves a nice profit into the bargain.

Finally, in 1979, to cap the fine season of swimming, we organized a swimming gala. The Cubs and Scouts had races — well done to all who entered — and the Venture Scouts entertained us with a 'beauty contest'.

So all said and done this was a very successful venture, and the Group Council have hired the baths again for this summer. (7p.m. Tues.) Once again, many thanks to all who helped during the weekly sessions and at the gala — we hope to see you all again this year.

DISTRICT SPORTS.

In 1979, the District Sports Day was held at Ravenstone. A large contingent of Ashby Hastings Group went and competed in many events. Unfortunately the cubs did not get any placings, but they succeeded in fielding a full team for every event — well done lads.

The scouts faired better, with Julian Barnsley second to none in the under 14's staff throwing, and Charlie Smith winning the under 16's. Richard White came second in the under 14's 200m and Simon Barnsley second in the under 16's 400m.

In the relay, one member of the team, who shall remain nameless, always managed to drop the baton, but we still did not finish last, so we forgave him!

A special mention must be made of our Tug o' War team who beat everyone and anyone who dared to challenge us. After beating Coalville one lady Scouter sarcastically asked both our anchor man and the man immediately in front of him if they were married. Then without turning a hair, they replied, "Yes — to eachother!"

Ashby Hastings had won a trophy, and we all swore we would retain it next time.

Sports Day last year was held at Donisthorpe on a wet and windy day.

We got to the final of the Tug o' War but were then beaten by two pulls to one (the other team had choice of ends).

In the relay this time, we managed to hang on to the baton and came in a respectable second.

Staff throwing this time was not too successful though, mainly because the staffs were much too light.

On overall points we came fourth.

SHOOTING.

The shooting started after 2nd November 1979, when Skip arranged a visit from a gun club. They talked about the different types of guns and safety precautions to take. The Scouts were able to handle, most for the first time, shot guns, smooth barreled rifles, pistols, flintlocks, and air rifles. A demonstration was given to show how dangerous shot guns are — the holes still remain in the end of the Scout Hut — and just how lethal a bow and arrow can be.

The following Wednesday air rifle shooting started at the hut, under the supervision of Dick Lander. He not only kept an eye on the lads but also showed them how to shoot properly. Under his guidance several Scouts gained their Master-at-arms badge.

The 1st Donisthorpe troop were invited over for a 'shoot out', but because of the difference in standards, they just practiced and learnt from Dick and our lads. Thanks to Dick who made this activity possible.

CANOEING.

In the late summer of 1979 for several weeks we were able to canoe with Ivanhoe Canoe Club at Staunton Harold Lake. This was an ideal place for learning the basics of this rapidly growing sport.

Thanks must go to Brian, Mick and Taff, and also to John Whiten and Tom Logan for ferrying the lads out there.

This was a very popular event with all the boys and is being repeated this year.

FOREST OF BOWLAND WALKING TRIP, JULY 1979.

On a cold Friday morning in July, a train pulled out of Derby station en route for Long Preston in West Yorkshire, containing four Venture Scouts — us!

A couple of hours later we arrived at Long Preston Halt, which, in itself was a miracle, for if we had blinked we would have missed it! We then set off in brilliant sunshine on a 16 mile walk across the fells to a simple but cosy Youth Hostel at Slaidburn.

After getting cleaned up and having had a fine meal, we walked the 50 yards to the local hostility — The Hark To Bounty — to sample the local 'lemonade' (the Thwaites isn't bad though!). We then walked back to the Hostel to fall asleep amid groans of the water cistern which was right above our heads.

The next morning the weather was rather wet and miserable, but nevertheless we embarked on a 12 mile hike in the clouds, over the fells of the Forest of Bowland. Lunch of soggy sandwiches and stream-water was taken in a small hut we conveniently found in the middle of nowhere.

After lunch the weather improved and we walked back from Dunsop Bridge in sunshine. This is where our new member, 'Benny', was adopted and recruited.

That evening we again visited 'The-place-we-went-to-the-night-before'. Then we played a sort of football on the village common with Benny, in-between sessions of Lancashire hedgehog chasing.

The last day we followed the course of the river Hodder. We walked the 12 miles back to Long Preston to have a lunch of Mr. Kiplings' delicacies whilst waiting for the only train in about six hours.

We arrived back at Derby at about 5 o'clock after a few of the inevitable British Rail delays; and the conclusion of the trip after learning to 'crack Lancashire' was 'Eeee, great,' and 'Champion!'

NIGHT HIKE, AUTUMN 1979.

The Ventures' night hike in October '79 proved to be a very memorable event — mainly because of the weather. The whole Unit (at that time consisting of Clive, Nick, Georges, Rodney, David and Benny) took part in this exercise. The 12 mile route took in the local beauty spots of Willesley Lake and golf course; Ye old thatched cottages of Packington; the village of Normanton le Heath; and the rolling countryside around Ashby and Packington sewage works. (If it wasn't so foggy we might have seen some of these!)

The fact that it was dark which patches of fog presented some interesting problems in navigation. On most footpaths it was necessary to use a compass, taking bearings from a map of the locality. The footpaths often cut across large fields and we surprised even ourselves by the accuracy with which we walked on compass bearings — we almost walked into footpath signs which could only be seen from about 10 yards at times.

The persistent rain made the going very heavy and by the end of the hike we were all wet through despite having worn 'waterproofs'.

The hike lasted about 3½ hours, and the Unit slept the rest of the night in sleeping bags at the Venture H.Q.. Breakfast was eagerly cooked the next morning. It was generally agreed that the hike was a successful activity, and that the breakfast should not be repeated.

MIDVENT '80.

May Day bank holiday weekend last year, Ashby V.S.U. really made itself known to the District and to the County.

Walesby was the venue for MidVENT '80, the gathering of all the Units in the whole of the Midlands. Our Unit was represented by only three members: David Grose, Charlie Smith, and Clive Smith.

A very successful camp was held at an excellent site which covered several acres. Divided by woods and bracken, it made many perfectly isolated sites with an ablution block at the centre of each. Marquees had also been set up on each site to provide hot drinks and hot-dogs. At the entrance to the camp was a large hall used for various activities (including a disco on the Saturday night); an open air swimming pool; a camp shop; and a Scouters' bar.

Many activities were specially organized for the weekend: fencing and judo in the hall; swimming and snorkelling in the pool; and also orienteering, pioneering, shooting, archery, karting, amateur radio, and It's a Knockout. Off-site activities included canoeing, sailing, parascending and pony trekking.

We came first in the orienteering (over the whole of the Midlands!!) won the shooting (with 99pts.), and with a few hands from a Leicester Unit, came third in the It's a K.O. (for the County). We also did well in the night hike (12 miles across pitch-black, unfamiliar countryside). Each Unit set out at 10 minute intervals. We were team No. 5 and were the second to return to base. So we thought we had a good chance of winning, but later on found out that we were third.

All in all then, it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile weekend, with good weather, good fortune, and plenty of good food.

COUNTY NIGHT ACTIVITY, OCTOBER 1980.

Ashby Hastings V.S.U. team (Rodney Exton, Charles Smith, Paul Wilkinson, and Gregory Holmes) set out at 9.40p.m. from the Thurmaston Scout H.Q.. Told that we were escaped convicts, we had to make sure that we were not seen. First we had to make our way along a canal footpath until we reached the B 5328. The next instruction was to get to a map reference, which was a road junction. Later we found out that this was a speed section. We had by now overtaken three other teams and were getting a lot of practice at diving into thorny hedges — there were a lot of cars about.

A certain member of our team — who shall remain anonymous, although his first name begins with R — noticed a large hole in the side of the road. It was clearly marked with beacons and some rope. He warned us that it was there, and then pointed it out by falling into it.

Later we reached a crossroads. At first it looked fairly quiet, so we crossed over. Then we saw a car coming so we each hid behind a tree. The trees were spaced out on an open piece of ground on one of the corners. So, when cars started coming from all directions we had to try and do the impossible by hiding on four sides of a tree at the same time. We were lucky none of them was a patrol car.

When we arrived at the next checkpoint we were each given a balloon which we had to get to the finish unburst. We were then taken up a hill and blindfolded. There was a rope trail which we had to follow round trees and through hawthorn bushes. Eventually we got through the ordeal. Our hands were torn but our balloons remained undamaged.

COUNTY NIGHT ACTIVITY (contd.)

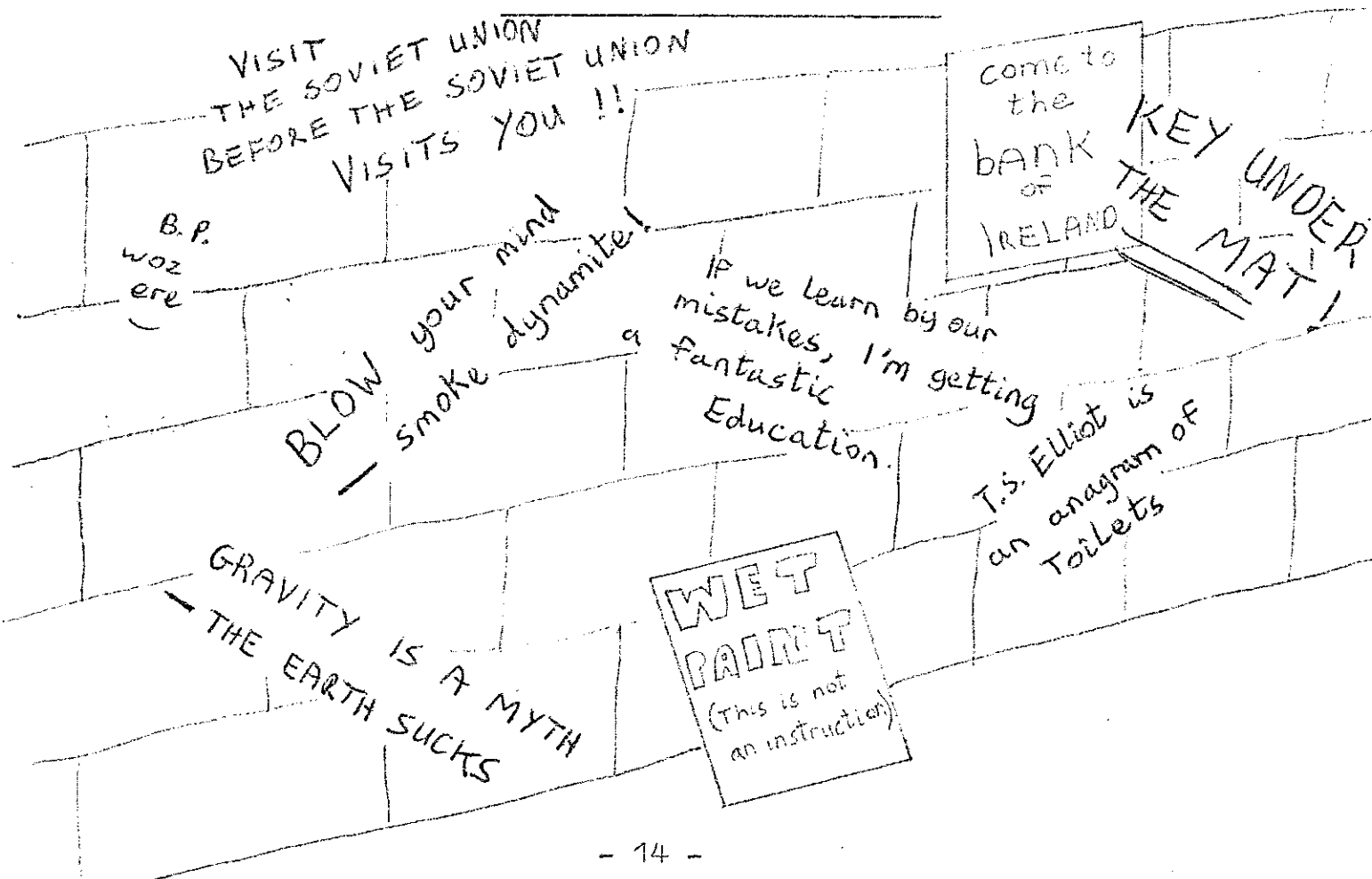
Our next instruction was to proceed to the memorial in the middle of Bradgate Park. On the way we managed to dodge a police car without raising too much suspicion. As another car came, we all went back into the hedge and Charlie went right over backwards into a ditch full of thornbushes. When the car had gone he had to be pulled out and alas his balloon had burst.

After climbing the odd barbed wire fence and eight foot wall we arrived at the memorial. Here we were told to go to the 73rd Leicester Scout H.Q.

Out of Bradgate Park we took a 'short'cut. After a few hundred yards we came upon a ten yard thick strip of overgrown vegetation. We managed to find a way into it, and on the way Charlie disappeared down a five foot trench. Our team leader, Rodney, soon managed to do the same after Greg had pointed it out to him — he seems to be attracted to holes in the ground.

Once past this obstacle we soon came to another dead-end; what appeared to be a twelve foot high hedge. One of our number — who shall also remain anonymous — full of confidence, started climbing up it saying, "It's as solid as a Guinness bottle, begorrah", as he started to sink in. However, we all managed to scramble up it onto the bank that it was up against, and from here up onto the A 50. Then it was just a matter of finding the H.Q.. We arrived at about 3.15a.m. thinking we had finished. No such luck! Led into a room we found a first-aid incident with which we had to deal. A lad had fallen off a ladder — what he was doing up a ladder at 3.15 in the morning, I do not know!

After patching him up we went and struggled through some almost solid 'soup', found our kit, pitched our tents, and went to sleep for four hours. Later that morning we found out that we had not won. We therefore came to the conclusion that it must have been fixed. We came fourth with 79pts. The winners had 84pts. But, to our amazement we had won the first-aid section (jointly with Coalville) with 18pts. out of 20. This activity was greatly enjoyed by all who went.



FOREIGN COOKERY.

During the former part of last year, us Ventures started indulging in sampling the culinary delights of other countries, and of course, the appropriate alcoholic accompaniments.

The first was French. M. André Botin (or however you spell it) and his wife Christine, gave us a splendid demonstration of the French style of cooking and eating, at our leader's house. For those gormets among you, the menu was as follows: French onion soup, Tomato omlette, Ratatouille, and a home made apple pie with Camembert cheese and plenty of French plonk.

The second time it was our turn to do the cooking. We chose Italian dishes, the recipies of which are below. Apart from the near disaster with the pressure cooker, it was enjoyed by all in attendance, especially Giselle.

In the later part of last year we had a German cook-up. We started with a not too popular Beer-soup. Following this was 'Weiss-kohl Mit Worst' (white cabbage, surrounded by sliced sausage and a poached egg on top). For sweet was an unusual sort of apple tart. This was all washed down with plenty of 'German' lager, (brewed in Burton-on-Trent).

Early this year we ventured out across the Atlantic to America — land of hamburgers, peanuts, and Colt 45. An 'interesting' meal consisting of the above mentioned hamburgers; a sweet omlette full of raisins; iced tea; and some home made ice cream packed full of fruit.

So it only remains for me to thank M. and Mrs. Botin for sharing their cooking expertise with us, and the Bowers', the Smiths, the Groses and the Holmes' for letting us loose in their kitchens.

MINESTRONE SOUP.

1 lb bacon,
6 pts stock,
1 lb broad beans,
1 lb peas,
2 small chopped bread celery,
2 onions,(sliced),
1 lb spinach,
4 carrots,(sliced),
1 lb tomatoes,(peeled),
8 oz patna rice,
8 oz grated parmesan cheese,
salt, pepper and parsley.

Cut the bacon into 1" squares.
Put into boiling stock with veg.
and rice. Season, simmer for 1
hour. Sprinkle on cheese before
serving.

Serves about ten thousand.

SPAGHETTI A LA CARBANARI.

2½ lb spaghetti,
8 eggs,
top of milk,
onions,(chopped),
1 lb bacon,(meaty).

As per Clive Smith's top secret
method!

CASSATA (Rich tutti-frutti ice cream).

1 pt single cream,
8 oz caster sugar,
4 oz cherries(glace), angelica,
candied peel, finely chopped
walnuts,
8 egg yolks,
1 strip lemon peel.

Put beaten egg yolks into double
saucepan with cream, and cook
VERY SLOWLY, stirring constantly
until it thickens. Add the sugar.
Add chopped lemon peel whilst
cooking, and other ingredients
when cool. Freeze, stirring
thoroughly every ½ hour.

Serves about eight.

PROBLEM PAGE.

Dear Ed.,

Last summer camp I discovered this embarrassing problem. After four days I hadn't been to the lavatory once. Everyone else seemed to go happily and I was left out. Will I improve my technique after this first experience, or will I always have this trouble?

A.T.

The Editor replies:-

I had this problem once but do not fret. Take a tin of prunes and eat them the first night. This will soon cure your rather embarrassing problem. (I would advise you take several rolls of Dixel and invest in a pair of rubber underwear, just in case.)

Dear Ed.,

Would Skip mind if I took my teddy to camp with me, as I love to cuddle up with him last thing at night?

Russel L.

The Editor replies:-

Don't worry Russel, Skip won't mind one bit. You will be going to Ventures soon and they take dolls to camp with them, so you are fretting unnecessarily.

QUICKIES.

A man is getting knocked down on Britains roads every 20 minutes, and he's getting rather peeved about it.

* * *

-What do you call an Irishman under a wheelbarrow?

-A mechanic.

* * *

-How do you catch a rabbit?

-Go behind a tree and make a noise like a lettuce.

* * *

MAN: Waiter! What's this animal doing singing hymns on my plate?

WAITER: You asked for a Welsh rabbit, sir.

* * *

A policeman on speed trap duty on the M1 saw this car flying up the centre of the road at 125 mph. When he finally caught up with the car and managed to wave it down, he found to his dismay that it was an Irish driver.

-Do you realise, sir, that you were doing 125 mph?

-Oh yes officer. But you can't charge me, because my licence says it's O.K.

-Really sir, may I see your licence?

-Yes, look at the bottom. 'Tear along dotted line'.

* * *

Heard about the Irishman who had a leg transplant?.....His welly rejected it!

* * *

-The defendant tried to pass off this £1 note.

-Counterfeit?

-Yes m'lud, she had two.

* * *

Irish Herald Prize Crossword.....First prize — £25 (or if you're only doing it for fun, answers on page 22).

* * *

WORDSEARCH.

Find the following Scouting words in the grid below. They can be found forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards, or diagonally. One example has been given.

3 LETTERS

Cub
hut
law
log

4 LETTERS

beer*
fire
~~hike~~
knot
Owls
reef

rope
subs
tent

5 LETTERS

Akela
hitch
sixer
Tawny
trust

6 LETTERS

Eagles
patrol

7 LETTERS

bivouac
bowline
camping
compass
Kestrel
lashing
service

8 LETTERS

first aid
Hastings

9 LETTERS

axe and saw

11 LETTERS

Baden Powell
God and Queen

13 LETTERS

Scout Standard

14 LETTERS

Brown-Sea Island

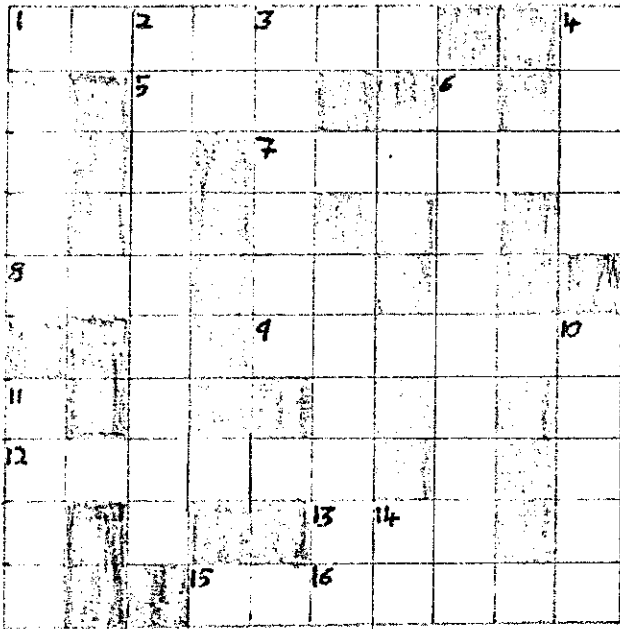
D	B	S	L	C	A	U	O	V	I	B	G	M	E
N	A	U	P	O	U	N	S	R	T	C	O	F	D
A	D	B	A	M	G	B	E	E	R	W	D	I	R
L	E	S	T	P	F	X	P	E	U	L	A	R	A
S	N	Y	R	A	I	O	E	W	S	I	N	E	D
I	P	N	O	S	R	F	A	A	T	N	D	I	N
A	O	W	L	S	S	L	U	S	G	E	Q	Z	A
E	W	A	E	P	T	Y	G	D	R	L	U	L	T
S	E	T	T	K	A	N	P	N	E	P	E	N	S
N	L	U	G	N	T	H	S	A	L	K	R	S	T
W	L	H	Q	T	D	H	J	E	A	T	N	O	U
O	K	E	S	T	R	E	L	X	K	I	N	I	O
R	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	A	E	K	A	H	C
B	H	I	T	C	H	E	E	C	I	V	R	E	S

Solution on page 21 (no peeping!)

(*NB: This word has absolutely nothing to do with Scouting! — Ed.)

CROSSWORD.

Across:



- 1. First statement under our law.(7)
- 5. Neither.(3)
- 7. Physically enthusiastic.(6)
- 8. Female swan, you write with.(3)
- 9. Where "My eyes are dim".(6)
- 12. Fire on a hill.(6)
- 13. Cloth in 'a rage'.(3)
- 15. Kin by our fourth rule.(7)

Down:

- 1. A unit of people who play "The game with an aim".(5)
- 2. The broad band goes at its top.(5,4)
- 3. Patrol leaders' job on a railway?(6)
- 4. A chart that grows into a family.(4)
- 6. Take part in a rodeo.(4,5)
- 10. Canine leader of V plus one?(5)
- 11. Table after 'tea'?(4)
- 14. Alpha, Tango.(2)

Up:

- 16. Decorative.(6)

Solution on page 21.

WANTED

NEW VENTURE SCOUTS
 FOR THE ASHBY HASTINGS UNIT.
 Come and join in walking,
 cycling, eating, drinking,
 camping, foreign cooking,
 movie making and ANY other
 activities that take your
 fancy!
 CONTACT ANY EXECUTIVE
 COMMITTEE MEMBER — phone
 numbers in front of
 magazine.

THE VENTURE TUCK SHOP
 for good value sweets
 to rot your teeth —
 seasonal special offers
 OPEN THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS.

WANTED: Articles for next
 years Cover Plus. Write up
 activities as you do them
 and submit to the Editor
 before 28th February 1982
 — get your name in print!

Information was leaked last week that revealed the shock plans to pull down the existing Scout Hut and turn it into a bingo hall. Further plans revealed that pulling it down would be a waste of money, as in a few months, with a good wind, the place would fall down anyway.

To be called the "Hastings Sport and Social Club" it will have the biggest quantity of drinks in Leicestershire. Rumour has it that the Sports and Social Club will rival all of the pubs in Ashby, including the 'Blue Bell' and the 'Plough'. It is said that the new building will encourage some of the regulars of the above mentioned to spend a little more time elsewhere.

The bingo hall will be the largest in Europe and will house just over 2000 people. Bingo sessions will be held on the third Thursday in every month, and the calling will be done in a rotation system, so any loud mouth will be able to be heard if he so wishes.

To keep the new building in line with the Scout movement, a Venture room will be built. This, it is hoped, will cover up for the drinking and gambling and provide rate rebates. It is also hoped that free trips to B.P. House and Gilwell Park will be thrown in.

But what will happen to the Cubs and Scouts? The leakage revealed that Cubs will be used to clean glasses and pick up litter, while the more responsible Scouts will collect bingo tickets; but this latter plan is unlikely to come into action due to the lack of intelligent Scouts.

The waste land at the back will be sold at a rediculously high price and turned into an open cast pit. Otherland will be used for a car park, though, according to the plans, patrons will be encouraged to park on the road outside and block the traffic. There will also be a large pit dug so that patrons wishing to dispose of unwanted 'Scoutabouts' can do so without fear of prosecution.

Plans say that at all times the building must sound and look like a Scout hut. Members will be asked to leave tents on the floor, to drop 'Cariba' cans and sweet wrappers, and dump soggy newspapers with page three missing in an inconvenient spot — just like the Scouts used to. Members will also be encouraged to chain smoke in bingo sessions, and constantly heckle eachother. Whilst drinking, they will be asked to shout, "Akela, we'll do our best", followed by a rousing chorus of "Riding along on the crest of a wave", concluded by a quick game of 'British Bulldog', where members can break their necks on slippery wet patches or by tripping over tentpoles, calor gas bottles and benches.

But membership to the new club will be restricted because of high numbers. So further increases in the price of uniform to be worn will go ahead. To enrol, members will have to lie their heads off. But it will also be open to non-members, who will be encouraged to walk their dogs in the grounds to fertilize the grass. It is hoped a second hand car business will be set up, the first car having already been sold.

Entertainments will be provided including: The Muppet Show, with Miss Piggy doing the strip; Baden Powell junior junior will give a demonstration of 'how to make your own woggle'; and acrobatics will be done by the workmen, who will stand on the roof swearing and shouting at the croud below. It is also hoped to book the Danish group 'The Spiders'.

Things are looking bad for the Scout movement in Ashby, but plans are unlikely to be carried out within the next 400 years, though startling new reports tell of the grass outside the hut being cut.

By our on-the-spot news correspondant,

'Nick the Spooner'.

A BED TIME STORY FOR SPACE AGE KIDS.

Once upon a time, there were three little pigs who wanted to build themselves houses. They decided that the best way to go about this would be to go their separate ways and see what they could do. So they did.

The first came to a D.I.Y. Home Improvements Centre and saw some expanded polystyrene blocks. "They'll keep your house nice and warm," said the salesman. So the first little pig bought a couple of thousand blocks and built himself a house.

The second came to a glass merchants and he saw vacuum-sealed primary double glazing units with a built in thermal break. "They'll reduce your heating costs by 15%, reduce noise and eliminate all draughts," said the salesman. So the second little pig made himself a house of glass.

The third came to a scrap-yard and saw a few hundred tonnes of lead going cheap, so, being a rather stingy fellow, he bought it. "You don't want to make a house of lead," said the scrapmerchant. "I don't care," said the third little pig. "It's going cheap, isn't it?" (see what I mean?) So he built himself a house of lead.

The very next day the big bad wolf came to the first pigs house. "Little pig, little pig, let me in," he said. "Not by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin," replied the pig. So the wolf got out his ex US Army Vietnam issue flamethrower and the poor little pig was killed by the toxic fumes and then petrified in molten expanded polystyrene.

Smiling sadistically, the big bad wolf came to the second pigs house. "Little pig, little pig, let me in," he said. "Not by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin," replied the pig. So the wolf pointed a laser gun, that he had borrowed from NASA, at the vacuum sealed primary double glazing unit with a built in thermal break house, and the poor little pig was roasted to death. (Hee, hee; drool, drool; etc.)

So the big bad wolf came to the third pigs house. "Little pig, little pig, let me in," he said. "Not by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin," replied the pig. Unfortunately, neither the wolf nor the pig heard each other as it is impossible to hold any sort of conversation through 18" of solid lead, but nevertheless, the wolf hated little pigs, so he decided to kill this one aswell.

Poor old wolf: he did everything he could to get at the third little pig, he even did a bit of huffing and puffing, but to no avail; he just could not get at him.

At last he had an idea. He broke into a nearby nuclear power station, stole the Uranium 235 core from the main reactor, made two 3" hemispheres and held them together under pressure for half a second with the aid of a bicycle pump; then.....BOOOOOOOM!! followed by.....SPLAT!!

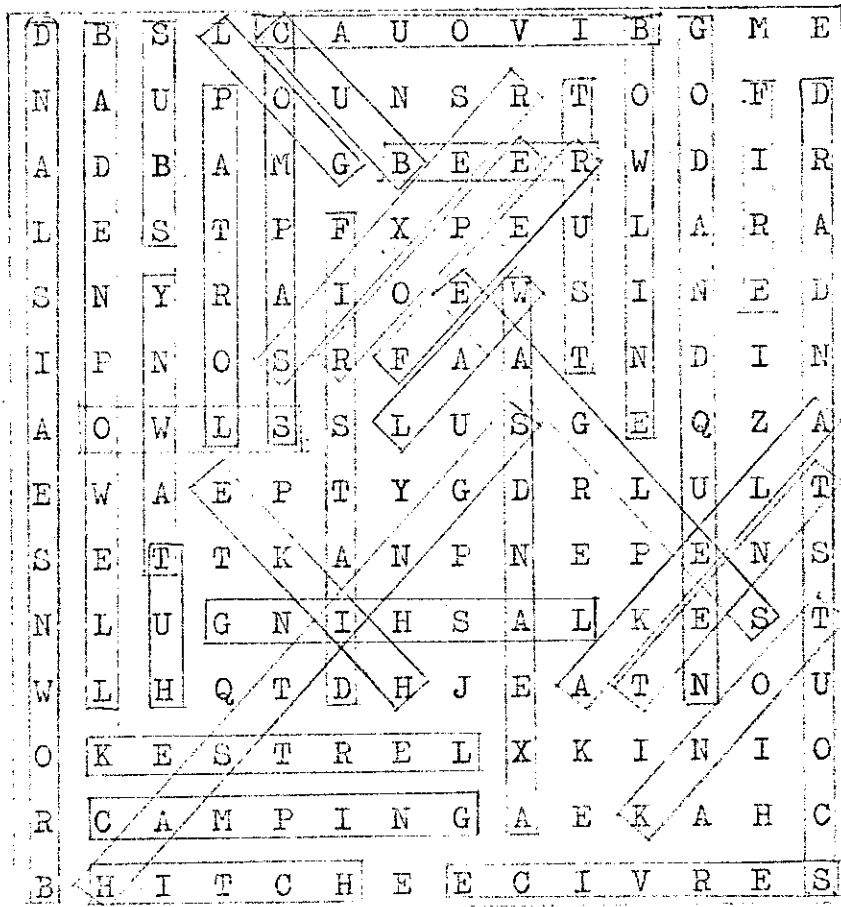
Poor old big bad wolf; he was killed instantly, but he got his revenge in the end. Although the third little pig was safe in his lead house, he came out too soon and so died a slow, painful death from radiation sickness.

Then, the small handful of people who survived the radioactive fallout — namely British politicians who hid in their Westminster shelters — lived happily ever after.

THE END.

by: ENID (Blakes 7) BLIGHTER.

Wordsearch (page 17).



* * * * *

Crossword (page 18).

- Across
1. Trusted.
 5. Nor.
 7. Active.
 8. Pen.
 9. Stores.
 12. Beacon.
 13. Rag.
 15. Brother.

- Down
1. Troop.
 2. Union Flag.
 3. Trains.
 4. Tree.
 6. Ride rough.
 10. Sixer.
 11. Able.
 14. At.

- Up
16. Ornate.

AN ANAGRAM.

eth ned

Clue: And they all lived happily ever after,.....