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19th March 2024

Dear Cubs / Scouts / Explorers and Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the **75th Harpenden & Wheathampstead District Scout Gang Show!**

Three-quarters of a century! That's some milestone! You just know that you want to be part of the celebrations, which are happening from **Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th January 2025** at Harpenden's Eric Morecambe Centre.

The Creative Team, after a two-month break, has already met this week to start putting the new show together. Great ideas – including some of yours – are flowing already. We can't wait to share them with you soon.

There is some important information on the following pages. With so many people wanting to be in the show (a waiting list of over 50 last year) and with having to slightly reduce cast size for theatre licensing reasons at the EMC, we may not have enough room for everyone who applies – nobody's place is guaranteed, not even those who have been in the show before, and we usually have a long waiting list. In order to have a chance this year, and to ensure a better chance next time, please get your name down. If you would rather work backstage or front-of-house if (a) you don't end up on-stage or (b) you're not one for being in the spotlight – just let us know.

Before you apply, please **read the next two pages very carefully indeed!**

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Yours in Scouting and 'Gang Show'-ing,

*Ewan, Becca, Charlie, Emma, Fiona, Jemma,
Jeremy, Kat, Kathy, Robin, Russell & Wendy*

The Creative Team

75th Gang Show 2025 – rehearsals, criteria & applications

Auditions: We don't audition, rather we deal with applications via tried and tested admissions criteria explained on the next page.

Is it for you? Sometimes it is clear at rehearsal that certain cast members would rather be elsewhere! Also, while the show benefits from having older cast members on stage, if 2025 is going to be a big exam year, please consider your application very carefully, due to the commitment required to be in Gang Show. Thank you for your understanding on both counts.

Discipline: Gang show is hard work but great fun. We expect all to behave appropriately at all times - we are Scouts after all, and the leadership team are volunteers. We therefore need a process to manage those occasions when behaviour of individuals impacts on cast and/or crew at rehearsals and/or performances. Disruption, 'attitude', rudeness and excessive talking will not be tolerated. Offenders will be given a first warning and their parents will be contacted. There will be a second (final) warning if deemed necessary, but on a third transgression the offender will be required to leave the Gang. By applying to be in Gang Show, you accept this requirement and process.

Rehearsals: These start on the first Tuesday in September and continue weekly on Tuesdays (not half-term). Senior Gang switches to Sunday rehearsals in October (excepting the first Sunday of half-term). There are rehearsals between Christmas and New Year. Bank Holiday rehearsals are re-arranged on a suitable day.

There are some Sundays when Junior Gang are needed and some Tuesdays when Senior Gang are needed, and some days when Minis, Juniors and Seniors all rehearse together. A full rehearsal schedule will be confirmed soon after cast selection, but key dates are:

- Monday 6th May at 5pm – applications close
- Tue 3rd Sep – Show preview for Senior/Junior Gangs
- Tue 10th Sep – Rehearsals proper start for Senior / Junioir / Mini Gang
- Sun 6th Oct – First Sunday afternoon rehearsal for Senior Gang
- **Sun 24th Nov – Harpenden Lights Up (Senior Gang only)**
- **Tue 26th Nov 2023**
- **All rehearsals after Friday 3rd January are compulsory.**
- **Sat 11th Jan – Technical Rehearsal**
- **Sun 12th Jan – Dress Rehearsal**
- **Tue 14th - Sat 18th Jan – Shows 7:15-9:45pm, + Saturday Matinee 2:15-4:45pm**

There are certain compulsory dates (including those marked in bold above). If you can't do these dates, then we're afraid you can't be in the Gang!

Every effort **must** be made to attend **all** rehearsals. You can miss up to two (or three if two are due to Scouting activities). These **cannot be consecutive**, and you must inform us as far in advance as possible using the form to be issued prior to the start of rehearsals. Any more absences and your place in the Show may be forfeited. (Of course, any extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration.)

NB: If at any stage you feel that Gang Show is not for you, then please talk to a member of the Creative Team. We can then either sort out any issues or offer the place to an eager person on the waiting list.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA for Gang Show 2025

- **Priority is given to past performers and last show's waiting list** equally, then 'first-timers'. It is possible that some, including performers and waiting list from previous shows, will not get in the 2025 Gang. You must apply, however, if you wish to be (a) on the waiting list for this Show and (b) considered as a priority for the next Show.
- You must be an invested, paid-up, active, regularly-attending and well-behaved member of an ESU/Troop/Pack in the District and recommended to the Creative Team by your ESL/SL/CSL as being all of those things. By signing up for Gang Show you also agree that you will continue with your regular Scouting activities. Gang Show is part of, not instead of, Scouting.

Senior Gang (52 max – 26 boys and 26 girls) – Explorers and older Scouts

- In school years 10 to 13 as of September 2024 (i.e. born between 1/9/06 & 31/8/10)
 - We start with Y13. If > 26 boys / 26 girls, we draw lots; if < 26, we add Y12.
 - If total > 26, we draw lots from Y12; if < 26, we add in Y11.
 - If total > 26, we draw lots from Y11; if < 26, we add in Y10.
 - If total > 26, we draw lots from Y10; if < 26, we add in 'first timers', starting again start with Y13 as above and work down.
 - If still below 26, then we add the oldest of the Junior Gang.

Junior Gang (56 max – 28 boys and 28 girls) - Scouts

- In school years 7 to 9 as of September 2024 (i.e. born between 1/9/10 & 31/8/13)
 - We start with Y9. If > 28 boys / 28 girls, we draw lots; if < 26, we add Y8.
 - If total > 28, we draw lots from Y8; if < 28, we add in Y7.
 - If total > 28, we draw lots from Y7; if < 28, we add in 'first timers'
 - We again start with Y9 as above and work down.
 - If still below 64, then we add the oldest of the Mini Gang.

Mini Gang (35 max) – younger Scouts and older Cubs

- In school years 5 and 6 as of September 2024 (i.e. born between 1/9/13 & 31/8/15)
 - We start with Y6. If > 36, we draw lots; if < 36, we add in Y5.
 - If the total > 36, we draw lots from Y5 up to the maximum of 36.

Waiting List

- Those not selected are put on the waiting list in the same age group order as above. If anyone drops out or has to be removed from the Gang for any reason, then a name or names will be drawn from a hat as a substitute.

To apply, click on <https://forms.gle/K7hRMCFuF2fqHD7QA>
Fill in the form and then submit **before 5pm on Monday, 6th May 2024**
By doing so you agree to all the above.

Late applications are only considered if numbers are below the maximum. Otherwise they will go on the waiting list. We accommodate as many people as possible, but nobody's place is guaranteed.