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100th anniversary of scouting marked by World Scout Jamboree

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'People say it's a life changing experience and after seeing that many people in one place I agree' – Ray Dennis

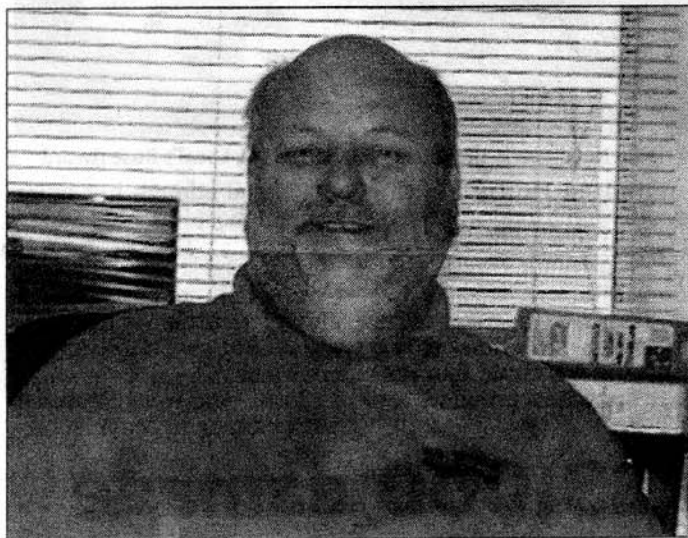
The 100th anniversary of scouting was marked by the 21st World Scout Jamboree held in Essex which finished last week – and Bourne was well represented.

Deputy county commissioner for scouting Ray Dennis (57) embarked on his first world jamboree this year, an amazing get-together with 40,000 scouts from 180 countries at the event in Chelmsford.

Ray joined the scouts when he was ten years old in Romford, giving him his first taster for the organisation which he has never really left.

His previous roles included cub leader, assistant scout leader, venture scout leader, assistant district commissioner, district commissioner, local trainee manager and he is currently deputy county commissioner, with responsibility for training adult leaders.

The world jamboree started on July 27 and finished on August 8 and Ray



● Ray Dennis attended the World Scout Jamboree this year.

was on the international service team, working for contingency support, making sure things ran smoothly and manning the telephone.

Although it was his first world event he has been involved in the local equivalent since the early 80s called the Lincolnshire Poacher, although he said the world jamboree was "probably ten times the size of the Lincolnshire ones I've been to."

His role was to help out but

he did have free time: "We had time off where we had the chance to win an adult friendship award. We had to take part in activities which involved making new friends and finding out about scouting in the world at the Global Development Village."

There were many memorable moments, but one experience stood out: "The best thing was The Sunrise Ceremony which took place on August 1.

"Every scout in the world took their promise. We were all up before sunrise, which was very spiritual and to see it was absolutely amazing. It blew so many people away.

"People say it's a life changing experience, and after seeing that many people in one place I agree."

Ray said: "The jamboree was the epitome of scouting, where people lived and worked in a global situation by the scout law and promise.

"It was a coming together of scouts and some girl guides, where they undertook activities they wouldn't normally partake in, such as water activities and venture activities – which are all to do with the environment and involving community projects.

"The youngsters were given lots of taster activities like sailing, rock climbing, archery and much more, and had the opportunity to make new friends."

It has been 50 years since a world jamboree has been held in the UK. The next world jamboree will be held in Sweden in 2011.