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# Get moving if you want to be in their gang

**Sally Johnson** previews the district's forthcoming Gang Shows

**F**ORGET the X Factor or Pop Idol, the guides and scouts of St Albans and Harpenden will provide audiences with all the razzle dazzle they need with next year's Gang Shows.

Audiences can expect the usual thrilling, action-packed extravaganzas of song, dance and comedy sketches all enthusiastically performed by local youngsters.

Tickets are already going fast for both the St Albans and Harpenden shows, with one fan, Explorer scout Jack Hornby, camping out overnight on Saturday so he could be first in the queue when seats went on sale for the St Albans event.

Box office manager Nicola Wells said: "It's the same every year. Tickets always go quickly and audience return year after year, with some travelling from as far as Canada and the United States."

The 2005 St Albans Guide and Scout Gang Show is taking place at

the Alban Arena from Wednesday February 9 to Saturday February 12.

The Gang Show has come a long way since its wartime roots, with today's shows including chart hits and numbers from West End Shows. Now in its 26th year, the show has a cast of 125 St Albans Guides, Scouts and Explorers and is a thoroughly professional affair. The performers rehearse for a gruelling four months, learning over 40 songs and almost as many dance routines.

Performance times for the St Albans Gang Show are 7.30pm each day with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets cost from £5 to £10.50, to book telephone Nicola Wells on 01727 830397.

The Harpenden Gang Show is set to be an even bigger affair, with 40 Cubs, 70 Scouts and 48 Explorers taking part. Taking place at Harpenden Public Hall from January 12 to January 15, performances are at



**Explorer Jack Hornby.**

7.15pm each day with a Saturday matinee at 2.15pm. Tickets cost from £7 to £12, with discount prices for children – to book telephone the box office on 01582 622578.