

No: 657

April 2018

Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council

GS 2018
if's fun... it is!!!



Six months of rehearsals came to fruition as Gang show 2018 hit the stage at St. Francis Theatre. Three terrific performances were rewarded with tumultuous applause from very appreciative audiences. Saturday night had an extra item as four of the crew received various awards from County representatives. The picture was taken during rehearsals when the cast were concentrating. By the final performance the smiles were as broad as the stage.

Well done Gang—Phil Ross

If you are interested in performing or helping with the Gang Show, make sure your Leader books a promo visit at the end of September (after the summer break)



Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit

Extract from a letter from the Garden Hospice

" I write to thank you on behalf of all of us at Garden Hospice care for supporting our Charlie Chick Easter Campaign by donating 100 cream eggs. A really great effort. You

must be very proud of your achievements. To date we have had a marvellous response from all part of the community with over 4000 donated so far. If you would like to visit the Hospice to see where some of the money you have helped raised is spent, I wold be honoured to show you round. " Richard Harbon—Community Fundraiser.

5th Letchworth Scouts Annual Winter Hike

Royston - Cottered - Clothall

Dozens of cars, all packed full of Scouts, approached the parking lot. The squeal of rubber tyres offended my ears as I leaned against the car, oblivious to the impending doom that the day would bring. Our troop assembled outside the fast-food chain, and - with the cold chills sweeping over the hills - we rushed inside in search of a warm rescue and a bite to eat.

Then, with our morale optimistic, our thermoses full and our map laid out confusingly, we set off for our destination nine miles south.

I quickly found that our carefully thought out route had one big flaw. For my group, and most probably others, that was the *could-not-be-straighter* road I directed us down and the charcoal grey clouds looming over us. We made a quick estimate and conceded that for one-fifth of the whole walk, we were going to travel down 'that' road.

Pessimism aside, it did lead us to some pretty

interesting finds along the way. We ended up traversing through a golf course with our heavy boot and coats, clearly baffling Sunday golfers onlooking, as well as finding a quite cool deer carcass, which, as Helen suggested, could've become part of our hut's decoration, sitting right next to a skull trophy collected from Lochearnhead.

Following a few criticisms from my group members about the stunning normality of the route, I reassured them that we still had a long way to go, and in front of us stood many miles of footpath waiting to be traversed. Sighing, they followed, as we passed through the small village of Therfield, which was when our hike began to go downhill.

Just outside of the neighbouring village, Kelshall, we had got ourselves into a muddy, cold and wet situation. A path we had been following for the previous segment of the route had been obscured by a thick of mud. Following several assumptions, we concluded

that we had no idea where we were. Helen reluctantly gave into the use of a compass, seeing as she held a reasonable distrust between herself and any compass she came across.



With our bearings set on the south, we trudged on, clay seeping up the sides of our boots and squelching around inside.

Although it seemed that we had lost ourselves, it turns out that the other groups were not far behind us, which became evident when we bumped into each other about five seconds later. Turns out we were on the correct route, however farmers had ploughed up the path, thinking sensibly, *'Who'd be walkin' around these parts at **this** time of year? Only crazy people.'* Eventually, the groups intersected at Sandon, where we stopped to enjoy some of our craved for lunch by a pleasant churchyard.

Upon departing from Sandon, our 'chief commanding leader person', also known as Nick, decided to take a volunteer few off down a longer route and called them the 'elite team'. Unsurprisingly, not many volunteered, apart from myself and a few other brave Scouts, one of which had just been invested not months before! Tears of comradeship in my eyes, I bade farewell to my team, following my new group.

As we hiked across many miles of land, taking diversions to increase the duration of the route, we eventually encountered what I'd

call the pinnacle of the whole 'mud' experience on the trip. A kilometre long, churned up, wet, muddy, ploughed over and definitely correctly placed path across a field. Our group became queasy at the sight as we began the treacherous trek across the plain. Sticky, heavy mud caked our boots as seconds seemed to turn to minutes, each step feeling as if no progress had been earned to our final destination. Finally, we had made it across, slumping on the side of a disused tractor, once again conjoining with the adjacent team, who had also experienced a few interruptions in their hike.

With my Helen's team nowhere in sight, we were able to get into our newfound shelter, the Cottered Girl Guides hut. We abandoned our waterproofs, dashing inside and set up our beds, welcomed by steaming hot chocolate and the sweet smell of success.

If only we had realised that tomorrow would welcome a plethora of walking, as well.

Oscar Trulock

Michael Trulock

Day 2 was a lot warmer, sunnier and shorter. We followed the trail until we got to a field. By then all the groups met up together and merged. Later on we stopped at a clear field open to the sun to have some delicious lunch and snacks. From there it was pretty much just following the same path. Once we had gotten to the place where we could get some shelter (under trees) we all finished our lunch. Finally it was just a few minutes later until we finished our outstanding and tiring walk at Clothall Village Hall!!



8th Letchworth Scout Group

In March 8th Letchworth Beaver Scouts held a sleepover at Wymondley Scout and Guide Centre . During their stay they helped members of the Wymondley Wood Committee to plant 105 20/60 cm variety of trees - Hazel, Crab Apple, Blackthorn and Dog Rose around the wood pile area.

Thank you the Woodland Trust for donating the sapling, to Ian Buck who organised the event and to Mick Balls who give a short talk to the Beavers on how to plant the saplings.

By the time the Beavers reach Explorer Scout age (14—18 years) the saplings will have

grown into a mature hedge. We look forward to seeing them grow over the years (this includes the Beavers as well)



8th Letchworth Cubs

8th Letchworth Cubs had a very interesting evening tasting 16 different exotic fruits. The Cubs had to guess what they were and where they came from.

I thought you might like to see some of the answers we got I especially like the poison fruit, and polygranny!

Papaya – pumpkin, flat orange (no-one identified this)

Physalis (Cape Gooseberry) – Golden snitch, apricot, tomanini (no-one identified this)

Passion fruit – black eggs, poison fruit

Coconut – yam, saltnut

Pomegranate – Polygranny, poppy seeds,

Grapefruit – Lemon, lime (no-one identified this)

Sanata Claus Melon – hello melon, honey melon

Blueberries – blue grapes

Dried Goji Berries – Seeds, dry raspberries, pink raisins (no-one identified this)

Thank you to Tycho who bought some lovely homemade Swedish Chocolate balls.



Gill ACSL 8th Letchworth Cubs

8th Letchworth Scouts at Wendover Woods - Saturday 24 March 2018
investing two of their newest Scouts.



8th Letchworth Scouts have been working towards their fundraiser badge and at the Group's AGM raised £42.16 making and selling cakes.

The money raised will be used to buy items from Kimpton Blue Cross Amazon wish list as a thank you for visiting and talking to the Scouts earlier this term. Well done to all those who took part

CENSUS FIGURES

Letchworth & Baldock District
31st January 2018

Young person totals	GROUP	Beavers		Cubs		Scouts		Explorers		Leaders		Assistants		Others		Group Totals		2017		2016		2015	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			was		was		was	
78	1st Ashwell	16	8	27	7	15	5	7	6	11	10				1	92		96		103		94	
125	1st Baldock	31	9	37	11	24	13						1			147		155		163		153	
50	2nd Baldock	14	3	14	2	16	1			2	4	1				57		59		58		56	
61	4th Letchworth	16	6	21	2	9	7			5	3	2		1		72		79		77		73	
68	5th Letchworth	15	4	18	4	18	9			5	6		2			81		72		72		70	
52	7th Letchworth	17	6	20	3	5	1			5	3	1	1			62		78		78		81	
75	8th Letchworth	18	13	19	5	8	12	10	9			2				96		99		106		98	
38	11th Letchworth	7		8	5	11	5	3	3					1		42		65		53		55	
70	12th Letchworth	17	4	17	9	16	7			3	8				1	83		92		84		73	
48	Oak Eagle Explorers Network							33	15	4	1			1	1	20		51		60		65	
														12	8			17		4		11	
663	TOTALS	151	53	181	48	122	60	33	15	55	53	6	4	14	12	807		863		858		829	
	Active Support District Personnel													14	16	30		29		31		29	
														8	3	11		14		14		14	
																848		906		903		872	



Well done and congratulations to Lesley Gwilt

Assistant District Commissioner Scout on being awarded her Wood Badge.



Well done to Josh Gooch who was awarded his Young Leader belt on 26/02/18

Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Deaglan Eccles	2nd Baldock
Evan Landucci	5th Letchworth
Oliver Parkhouse Gentry	5th Letchworth
Keane Rusbridge	2nd Baldock
Max Sayer	5th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Christopher Wing	2nd Baldock
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Chief Scout's Gold Award

Ellie Hill	8th Letchworth
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Service Award

Susan Platten	8th Letchworth Chair
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A warm welcome to

Nick Denham ACSL 1st Ashwell

Diary Dates 2018

April

- 2 Easter Monday
- 14 Race Night - 8th Letchworth HQ
- 14 - 15 Sixers & Seconders Weekend
- 17 District Scout & Guide Shop reopens
- 17 5th Letchworth AGM
- 19 District Executive Meeting
- 22 St George's Day Parade and Service
- 24 Wymondley Wood AGM
- 28 Guide Quiz
- 29 District Scout Shooting and Archery Competition

May

- 1 District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 10 District AGM
- 11 - 13 District Scout / Explorer Walking Weekend
- 18 4th Letchworth AGM
- 20 Rotary Greenway Walk
- 26 - 2 June County Sailing Weekend

June

- 9 District Beaver Day Out - Duxford
- 15 - 17 County Bring a Leader
- 16 - 17 County Beavers in Tents
- 24 7th Letchworth AGM - Wymondley Wood

July

- 8 District Barton Challenge

August

September

- 28 - 30 County Born2B Challenged

October

- 19 - 21 Peak Assault

November

- 11 Remembrance Sunday



Editor:
Rita Hawkins
1 South Close
Baldock
Hertfordshire
SG7 6DS

Tele: 01462 643432
e-mail editor.co-
ordinator@virginmedia.com

**Printed by: Print Factory,
32 Whitehorse Street
Baldock SG7 6QQ
Printfactory@tesco.net
01462 896289**