



No: 669
May 2019

Letchworth and Baldock District Scout St George's Day and Parade

This year's St George's Day Parade and Service was organised by 7th Letchworth Scout Group. The parade assembled at Howards Park and made it's way to St George's Church in Norton Way North. We welcomed County Chairman, Mike Shurety, who represented the County. Over two hundred and fifty young people plus adults took part in the parade. The service was led by Revd. Barry Pate. The service included the story of Saint George performed by 7th Letchworth Beaver, Cubs and Scouts and led by Barry Goodman.

After the service the parade was dismissed by Chris King, DESC in the church car park.

Refreshments were on offer in the Church all catered for by the Letchworth and Baldock Scout Active Support Unit.

Thank you to 7th Letchworth Scout Group for organising the day for to St George's Church for hosting the event.

This year's collection will go to Herts Young Homeless.









Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit Peak District Walking Weekend

The first weekend of the Easter holidays found nine Explorers on their way to Glenbrook in the Hope Valley. Along for the fun were a bunch from Balin Network, some smiley Scouts and a top Leader team.

There were two groups of Explorers for walking ably led by Alex and George and assisted by David, Nick, Spike and Flint. A big day out on Saturday walking from Lady Bower. Lots of navigation work, big hills to climb and lovely weather.

Network were out on manoeuvres too. A good long walk finishing at the famous sweet shop in Castleton

Goodie, CK1 and Phil led to the Scout groups and introduced them to hills and maps. Ice cream was essential and they all had a fun time.

After dinner adults and youngsters were all struggling to stay awake after 8,30. After some route planning and a game of twister it was bed time.

Sunday morning they were off again. Stannage for Scouts and Network and Edale for the Explorers. It was a day for micro nav, badge work and bobble hats.

The trip was fantastically supported by Glenn and Apryl. Superb catering and our every need was anticipated.

Thanks to all those who came along and joined in the fun

Glenbrook Outdoor Activity Centre is located in the beautiful Derbyshire Peak District between the villages of Hope and Hathersage.



5th Letchworth Scouts Night Hike

Excerpts from 5th Letchworth's February Night Hike – organised by Geoff Smith

Over the half term we went on 12 mile night hike. The journey took us about 5 hours (I know right, shocking, I can just hear you gasping) then 5 miles the next day. But still, luckily at the end of it, no legs were lost and nobody had fallen off an unexpected cliff, whoopee! **Toby**

I really enjoyed the walk. The good parts were dinner, and then the porridge. Highlights – Sam had a mouldy bread sandwich – so someone else ate it The bad bit? When I thought I had run out of food – then found two choc bars and crisps in my bag. **Olivia**

We met at Letchworth to catch the train to Watton at Stone. We walked the routes we had planned, arriving back at Chells Scout Hut in the dark. We ate homemade dinner. Geoff's shepherds pie, and Helen's apple crumble, and a lovely cooked breakfast from Geoff on the Sunday. We saw some amazing wild deer as we crossed fields. The best thing, the walking and map navigation. **Fraser**

We set out, spirits high. We trekked for 20km through the wild and rugged woods of Hertfordshire. Finally we glimpsed our destination - a scout hut in the hinterlands of Stevenage. The local scout group we met couldn't believe how far we'd hiked; neither could my feet. Several helpings of Geoff's hearty cuisine later, we were all revived.

"In the morning I awake. My arms, my legs, my body ache. And so begins another weary day" - as Madness would say! **Toby C**

Team 5th

Watton-at-Stone is a village in the English county of Hertfordshire, situated midway between the towns of Stevenage and Hertford in the valley of the River Beane.



The Chells Scout Group is the largest Scout Group in Stevenage. Members of the Chells Scout Group wear a white scarf/neckerchief.





2nd Baldock Scout Spring Patrol Camp Tolmers Scout Camp and Activity Centre

Overview from Ed Hartley - Scout Leader

In Spring Term our Scouts worked in Patrols to plan their weekend camp including location, activities, menus, shopping lists and all their equipment. Then the plan was put into action at Tolmers. One of the activities was trading post where Scouts could work towards badges and in return earn our virtual currency 'REX'. Which could then be spent on purchasing kit and food they forgot to put on their list.

When we got to camp we put up our tents and started a bonfire and did some wide games. We had a point system to get food. If you are doing something you are not supposed to your team loses. There were two teams one older one younger. Then we made dinner (hot dogs) . In the morning we made rafts and did challenges / races to get points for our team then we made lunch before going to archery. We made a fire each in our teams to cook our dinner and in between all of this we did axe chopping and sawing and collecting wood for the fire.

Ethan - Patrol Leader

My name is Molly and I joined the 2nd Baldock Scouts in January 2019. As I hadn't been to Beavers or Cubs I knew hardly anyone there. Going along for the first meeting was nerve wrecking but that feeling soon passed as I got such a warm welcome from the Leaders and Scouts. I was told all about Scouts and what we would be doing over the course of the term. Over the next two months activities were full on and thrilling. I loved going go-karting and I got better and faster with every lap! I also loved playing fun games, both indoor and outdoor. Every week was action packed and really fun.

In March, I went on my first camp as a Scout to Tolmers for two nights. I was able to use my initiative and work as a team. I particularly loved rafting as I got soaked! Some of my other highlights were archery and building a campfire with my patrol. I had so much freedom and responsibility, like cooking meals and pitching my tent. My favourite part was playing games in the dark and running through the woods. In the evening we toasted marshmallows around the campfire and talked until we got too tired and went to bed (11:30pm). Overall, Scouts is a great place to be and I am ready to face any challenge or adventure thrown my way

Molly - Scout



Gang Show 2019



On the 29 and 30 March this year, I had the pleasure of performing in the Letchworth and Baldock District Gang Show 2019. The Gang Show is essentially a variety show, but with a noticeably large pantomime vibe that, to my knowledge, is absent from most normal variety shows.

There was a very small cast this year. There were only 24 people in the main cast (compared to over 60 when I started in 2015), although over-18s and ex-cast members who wanted to help with the show did appear onstage occasionally during the opening, finale, and as understudies. In my opinion, this small cast has benefitted the show in some way, as individual talent has been allowed to shine through a lot more. According to the crew during earlier rehearsals, we were one of the loudest casts in a long time, and I have been told by family members that this was the best Gang Show that I have ever performed in.

The multiple musical sections were a big part of the show. Traditionally, each section contains four songs (that are shortened due to time constraints and so that every song gets roughly an equal amount of time being performed) that are connected via some sort of theme or musical style. There were four whole-cast sections, two for the older cast (Scouts, Guides, and Explorers), and two for the younger cast (Cubs and Brownies).

These sections included Sitcoms (the opening section after Make Your Own Kind of Music), Party (one section before the Interval and one after it), and Caribbean/USA (a younger cast section that transitioned into an older cast section).

The sketches were also a big part of the show. The sketches are, for a lot of people, the most fun part of the show, as there is generally a lot more freedom in performing them. These sketches included a Yes-No Game, a misunderstanding about a café's wi-fi password, and a misunderstanding about a newspaper's name (this particular sketch was the favourite of many people I asked). There was also a sketch made specifically for the over-18 crew members, in which they dressed up as flight attendants and sung Flying The Flag (For You), and a rematch of the Yes-No Game written at the very last minute for the oldest main under-18 cast members (myself and the two Explorers) to perform.

I was lucky enough to be chosen for the role of the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for this year's show, a role that only a very small handful of cast members ever get to experience performing, and it was certainly a privilege.

Cont'd

As the MC, I had quite a few necessary interactions with the audience, including the shout-outs, introducing the Interval, and giving the goodbye speech right before the encore. As part of the MC role, I also hosted both of the Yes-No Games, and I even got to perform The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air as a complete solo (and I got a very comfortable throne). But that was not all that I did; I also partook in every whole-cast and older-cast section, as well as having a few solos. The entire experience was fantastic and I had great fun performing in all 3 shows, and I'm sure that everyone else did as well.

A fellow cast member and good friend of mine said that he found it a lot of fun, and that he had made a lot of friends. Another friend of mine, who was working backstage, said that he thought the show was on-par with, if not better than, the recent shows, as he had been watching them since 2012, and he hopes that next year's show lives up to this year's.

Gang Show 2019, like every year, was a fantastic experience, and I doubt that I'll be ending my time in Gang Show any time soon.

Oliver Peacock

1st Baldock Scout Group AGM

The second of the Group AGMs took place at the end of March. The evening started with the Beaver Section entertaining those present with a song about rail safety.

- The Templars Cub Pack over the year held six camps totalling eleven nights away.
- They held afternoon tea which raised over £160 for the Air Ambulance.
- Knights Cubs ended the evening with wooden car races (with cars they had made themselves).
- The Scouts reported that 350 badges were presented over the year.

Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre AGM

The Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre AGM took place in early April. We were all pleased to see Bob Williams chairing the meeting after recovering from his illness.

Bob welcomed members of the District Team, wardens and committee members.

The treasurer (Doug Kell) reported that the Centre had a good year and was in a sound financial position.

Bob went on the say

"The quality of the Centre and the attractions of the surrounding countryside make it a very popular venue. Since the Centre was opened fifteen years ago over 75,000 young people have visited the Centre and enjoyed the safe environment which it provides for the adventurous and exciting activities undertaken by the Guide and Scout Associations ranging from camping, to pioneering and night hikes etc. and all this is made possible by the dedication of volunteers who give up their spare time to the development and welfare of young people."

After the meeting people stayed for a chat and refreshments.



James Tiplady
Michelle Wisdom
Katie Goodwin

1st Baldock
1st Baldock
District



Simon Goodwin

District



Wood Beads were presented by Wendy Tierney,
District Commissioner, to the following Leaders.

Robert Coldrey	1st Baldock
Jacqui Wakefield	1st Baldock
Michelle Wisdom	1st Baldock
Gillian Palmer	8th Letchworth



District Commissioner's Commendation

Fran Lewis	Gang Show
Gavin Sharp	Gang Show



A warm welcome to

Daniel Allen	ACSL	5th Letchworth
Gary Prowle	ABSL	1st Ashwell

Achievements



Chief Scout's Diamond Award

Josh Hayward

Oak Eagle Explorer Unit



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Freddie Hartley

2nd Baldock

Samuel Tiplady

1st Baldock

George Wakefield

1st Baldock



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Theo Baker

1st Baldock (Knights)

Thomas Ironmonger

1st Baldock (Knights)

Samuel Johal

1st Baldock (Knights)

Julian Piastka

1st Baldock (Knights)



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Kyron Quinn

8th Letchworth

Diary Dates 2019

May

- 8 5th Letchworth AGM
- 9 District A.G.M.
- 10 4th Letchworth AGM
- 13 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 19 Rotary Greenway Walk
- 20 1st Ashwell AGM
- 21 District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 28 Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 28 Scout & Guide Shop closed

June

- 4 Scout & Guide Shop reopens
- 9 District Scout Shooting and Archery Competition
- 9 County Cub Water Activity Day
- 14 - 16 County Patrol Leader (PL) Training
- 25 Wymondley Wood Meeting

July

- 7 District Scout Barton Challenge
- 15 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 18 Scout and Guide Shop closes 8.00 pm
For the summer
- 30 Wymondley Wood Meeting

September

- 5 Scout & Guide Shop reopens
- 9 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 24 District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 27 - 29 County Scout Born 2B Challenged



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