

February 2020

No: 677

A message from the D.C.

As the New Year is well under way there are lots of activities to look forward to, The Gang Show, District Camp and the District Walking Weekend to mention but a few. All are well under way in their planning. I am sure there are more planned by groups to make programmes as exciting and enjoyable as possible including many camps, trips and competitions. Giving young people skills for life.

Please go and support the Gang Show. A lot of hard work by the young people and leaders / helpers goes into putting this show on and I am sure your support would be appreciated.

The Lochearnhead presentation to all the Scout Groups will be through February and the beginning of March. Lochearnhead is a fantastic week of adventure for all the young people to take part in and Leaders too. Leaders don't forget to put your forms in if you are interested in going.

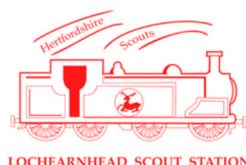
District Camp to mark the District's 75th Anniversary is well under way in its preparations. All we need are many of you from across the District to attend. There is a District Badge that all will receive to wear on your uniform or the back of your neckerchief. An additional badge will be given to all who attend the camp to make up the full badge.

St George's Day will be in Letchworth. We will meet at Howard Park and march to the Broadway Gardens. This event is being organised by the District Team.

A couple of bits of housekeeping. As the District and all Groups now have Scouting email addresses please can you make sure to use them to do with anything Scouting. Also could you go onto your Compass records and update your email address. While changing this can you check your records are correct including your training. If you have any problem logging on please get in touch with Gilwell who will assist you. For Leaders who have not yet completed their training there are lots of training courses coming up. Look out for them and book yourselves on. If you are having a problem finding what you need get in touch with either your training adviser, Gill or Chris for help. Leaders please make sure that all your mandatory modules and permits are up to date.

I look forward to visiting you all over the coming months.

Wendy Tierney DC



Lochearnhead dates

**31 July - 14 August
2021**

8th Letchworth Scouts

Norton Common - Forester Badge

On the 25th January Scouts from 8th Letchworth helped Friends of Norton Common who are a local group who preserve our local common. We helped by clearing an area of overhanging and dead branches using the tools they gave us. We used some of the branches to build habitats for the abundance of wildlife that live on the common, the rest we burned on a bonfire. We also planted some new trees as part of our Forester badge. I really enjoyed helping on the Common today. My favourite part was building the habitats using materials sourced from the Common. I also enjoyed the hot chocolate and biscuits that helped warm us up on a chilly January morning!.

Nathan - 8th Letchworth Scouts



5th Letchworth Scout Group Award Evening



Last term saw a successful Award evening, where the DC, Wendy joined 5th Scouts and presented Geoff Smith with his Award of Merit. “Successful” as the Scout Leaders had arranged for Geoff’s wife Rita, and son Tom to attend, along with Tim, ex ASL, and other key folk. Keeping Geoff busy, and with plausible excuses, Geoff never suspected why they were really there.

5th also presented a gift personal to Geoff, a copy of KJ’s Book of Letchworth, signed by the author <https://www.thecomet.net/news/tributes-to-kenneth-johnson-founder-of-lethworth-gc-society-and-scout-leader-dies-aged-87-1-5421115>. Knowledge of the existence of this book came via a clear out of paperwork, where a letter from long long ago was found, from a Scouting colleague, on holiday, who had discovered a reference to this book in the library in Washington, USA!

Geoff agreed this presentation was exactly where, and as he would have asked for, had he known.

We also obtained another copy of KJ’s book, albeit unsigned, for 5th’s presentation cupboard.

Wendy then went on to welcome and invest Samuel Nobbs and Andrew Laing, both ex 5th Scouts, now ASLs.

Wendy also presented Nick Howell with his 15 year Service Award.



**Helen Howard - GSL 5th
Letchworth**

District 75th Anniversary Camp

Venue: Boyd Field, Henlow, Bedfordshire

Date: Friday 22 May - Monday 25 May 2020

Cubs Scouts and Explorers invited from 6.00 pm Friday 22 May

Beavers invited from 9.00 am Sunday 24 May

Activities will run on Saturday and Sunday - Activities include Human Table football, climbing, spider mountain and more,

On Saturday evening there will be a Campfire.

A party to celebrate the District 75th Anniversary will be held on Sunday afternoon.

There will be a BBQ on Sunday with a Birthday cake and presentation followed by an all age disco.

All members of the District are invited to attend.

They also plan to put on displays from all Groups and parts of the District reflecting our 75 years.

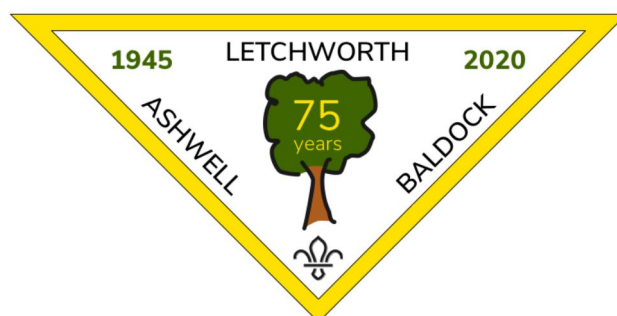
District 75th Anniversary Badge competition

You may remember, back in October, we held a badge design competition to come up with a design for our District's 75th anniversary badge.

We had a good number of entries, from a range of ages and Groups. The District Team had a tough job choosing a winner, but they finally chose the design drawn by Fintan from 7th Letchworth Beavers. We loved his use of the District's colours and the clear, simple design.

Congratulations also go to Charlie from 5th Letchworth Cubs. We liked his use of the Scout logo and the border so we have incorporated those into the design too.

The badges have been ordered and will be sent out to all Groups as soon as they arrive, so you can wear your Anniversary badges on your scarves with pride.



Scout and Guide Shop

A reminder to all Leaders to inform parents / carers that the Shop does not accept cards only cash or cheques. (Parents are having to go to Morrisons Cash Point Machine to withdraw cash and having to come back to buy their purchase)

8th Letchworth and 11th Letchworth Scouts Scuba Diving

The scuba diving was a very interesting and fun experience. First of all we learnt some of the vital signs to use while scuba diving. Then we were put into groups of five and we were taught how to use the equipment and then we began doing laps around the pool. Occasionally during the laps we were pulled down towards the bottom and we had to unpop our ears. Then we swam back up to the surface. I had a great time and I would love to do it again.

Connor - 8th Letchworth Scout





Winter Camp 2020—Gilwell

I loved winter camp due to the friendliness of the staff and scouts. All the activities were great fun, and my favourites were Quad bikes, tank driving, Laser tag and climbing.

It had such a good vibe especially at the “Lid”. UV games in the day and disco at night! The disco was another first for me, I couldn’t get enough of the mosh pit!

The camp site was huge, with so much to do, it was great to have so much freedom, and it felt like a mini festival.

The food stalls were yummy. I especially enjoyed the Beef Chow Mein, washed down with a slushy!

I would recommend Winter Camp 2021 to anyone who likes mud and trying out new things. I am already looking forward to next year’s camp, and fingers crossed I get lucky to be picked for the White Water rafting.

Yours in Scouting

Oli Burgess - 2nd Baldock



In January, 2nd Baldock Scouts and Young Leaders joined up with 1st Baldock and 11th Letchworth and attended Winter Camp at Gilwell Park. In total we took twenty Scouts and five Explorers.



Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Benjamin Burrows
Rhys Overton

5th Letchworth
5th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Rosalind Hartley

Oak Eagle ESU



The following Leaders have gained their Wood Beads

James Tiplady	1st Baldock	ABSL
Russell Wake	4th Letchworth	ACSL
Phil Scoot	Oak Eagle ESU	AESL



As we are all aware Australia is going through a terrible time at the moment. In order to raise money for the relief effort the Australia Scout Association have developed a badge that is now for sale. 100% of the sales of this badge will be donated to the bushfire recovery and rebuilding effort, specifically for Scout Groups and Scouting families across all bushfire affected areas across Australia.

As of Jan. 16, 2020, Scouts Australia has sold 19,500 badges and raised AU\$97,500 — about £50,900.



5 Year Service Award to
Joni Trulock
5th Letchworth CSL



Welcome to

Dariusz Kazubek (Darek)

1st Baldock (Knights) ACSL

Diary Dates 2020

February

- 9 District Scout Cooking Competition
- 13 District Executive Meeting
- 17 - 21 Half Term - Scout Shop closed
- 22 County Beavers Builder Badge Day
- 22 Founder's Day
- 25 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting

March

- 1 County Scout Cooking Competition
- 4 Scout Shop reopens
- 7 - 8 County Chiltern Challenge
- 9 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 10 District Team Meeting
- 12 District Executive Meeting
- 14 District First Aid Course
- 14 - 15 Mid Herts Night Hike
- 21 District Beaver Challenge
- 21 County Cubs Bushcraft Day
- 22 Mother's Day
- 24 District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 27 - 28 District Gang Show - St Francis Theatre
- 31 Scout Shop closes

April

- 9 District Executive Meeting
- 14 Wymondley Wood AGM
- 19 St George's Day Parade



Andrew Laing in 2010 (ten years ago as a Scout dressed as Margaret Thatcher) now an Assistant Scout Leader at 5th Letchworth

TEAMWORK

Nobody is too small to do a good turn even if it is only to smile.

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