

July 2020

No: 682

Message from Wendy Tierney
District Commissioner



I would firstly like to say a big thank you to all the Leaders who are running Scouting on Zoom. Some of the things you have come up with are fantastic. Lots of badges being earned. Lots of camps and challenges too. I know it can't be easy running meetings this way but until face to face meetings can go ahead keep up the good work and keep the interest going for the young people.

In the District we have had a lot of awards for Leaders.

These would normally be presented at the Groups AGM's but as this couldn't happen we hope to put something on later in the year. Congratulations to everyone who has gained an award.

Congratulation also to all the young people who have gained their Chief Scout Awards.

The Scout Shop will not be open until maybe September. This will be reviewed as time goes on but you can still get badges from Dave Hawkins.

Any one who was on the all members' meeting will know that there are some changes to the training programme mainly with regard to Safety and Safeguarding. It is very important that these are kept up to date. As from September all mandatory training will be moving to every three years. If you need First Aid, there are some County Courses which will be available online and then you will have to validate the hands on bit (CPR) when face to face meetings can go ahead. No DBSs can be completed for the time being, so if you get an email to say that yours has run out and you will be suspended just ignore it as you will have 90 days to get it completed when we are back Scouting face to face. This is a good chance for everyone to look at their training and if you still have modules to do then look online for what you need to do. I am sure that the training advisers will only be too pleased to talk them over with you.

Cont'd overleaf

NAN forms have changed. They now include a risk assessment to be done. An updated form plus a statement from District to go with it will be sent out shortly. District also have a generic health form. It would be good if every Group uses it as there are so many different ones out there.

You may have heard on the news that campsites are going to be opened from the 4th July. This **DOES NOT apply to Scouting Campsites**. These will not be open until face to face Scouting takes place but even then there will be restrictions in place. No face to face Scouting can take place until The Scout Association (TSA) say we can. A risk assessment will need to be completed for each Group and signed off by District. TSA have got a traffic light system to help with the easing in for face to face Scouting. We are on red at the moment, updates are on TSA website scouts.org.uk/coronavirus. Face to face Scouting may not be until September / October time. We will keep you updated.

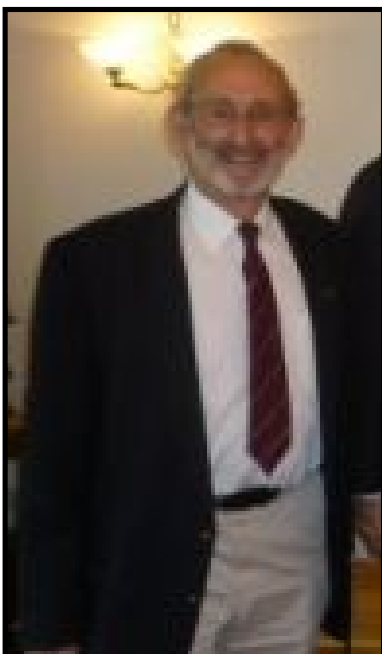
Chris and Janet are still pressing ahead with preparations for Lochearnhead 2021. We have 100 young people already signed up and also have a waiting list. We also have Leaders signed up too. If you are interested in going then please get in touch with either Chris or Janet.

Don't forget to keep sending in pictures / write ups of what your sections are doing for Co-ordinator.

Thank you once again for what you are all doing but for now take care and stay safe.

Wendy Tierney DC

Peter Norton - District Commissioner



Peter Norton was Letchworth and Baldock District Commissioner from 1976 - 1984, during which time he was responsible for the opening of the Norton Bury Scout and Guide Centre which closed in 2002 and replaced by a purpose built building and campsite - Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre. Later he was an active member of the Norton Bury Management Committee and from 1991 to 1993 was District Chairman. Peter died June 2018 in Bishop's Castle in Shropshire at the age of 86. In his estate he left £1,000 to our District for which we are very grateful for. The District Executive have yet to decide how to use the money for the benefit of the young people.

Annual General Meetings - A.G.M.

Two Scouts Groups have held their remote AGMs. Below are extracts from their AGM packs.

2nd Baldock - Beavers Learned to understand simple maps and what the 4 main compass points are, played rounders, and helped at the Children's Allotment in Letchworth planting herb seeds and potting on marigolds on look after.

Cubs - Went to Ampthill and Woburn Scout Camp for their annual camp. Undertook litter pick at the back of Tesco's car park and collected 12 sacks of rubbish, sailing and canoeing at Fairlands Valley and a visit to Sainsburys for healthy eating.

Scouts - Were offered 9 camps totalling 23 nights away. Trip to the Fire Station, orienteering in Weston Woods and the Barton Challenge, Expedition camp to Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire.

4th Letchworth - Beavers Harry Potter sleepover, made water filters from plastic bottles, went to the English Falconry Centre, at Herrings Green Farm. Learnt about the solar system.

Cubs - A trip to the Letchworth Police Station. Rafting at Boyd field, Henlow. Camped at Cottered Guide Centre as well as an awesome session of ice skating at the local temporary rink with the rest of the group.

Scouts - Met other Groups on Norton Common for a sports evening and went cycling. Took part in the District shooting and archery competitions, Cooking Competition and County Green Beret Competition.

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts are set to benefit for NHDC's Community Facilities Capital Grant Funding Scheme

(extract taken from The Comet Thursday 18 June 2020)

A number of community buildings in Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Royston are set to receive their share of more than £320,000 worth of North Hertfordshire District Council funding.

The money which will go to 10 not for profit groups, was awarded as part of NHDC's Community Facilities Capital Grant Funding Scheme. Groups such as the Royston Royal British Legion (£49,431) Baldock Community Association (£50,000) and Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts (£26,284) are all set to see their facilities or buildings benefit from the grant.

Cubs... 40 years on!



Diana Marshall
2nd Baldock Cub Scout Leader (Akela)

Having just completed 40 years as Akela at 2nd Baldock I have been asked to reflect on the changes that have taken place over those years.

Back then, the Cub meeting started with Grand Howl and Flag Break. These have never changed, however, the little book to record attendance and weekly cash subs payment has long gone. The (almost) weekly newsletter, initially handwritten and later typed, is now replaced with an email all delivered at the touch of a button.

After the starting ceremonies, there would be an inspection. The Cubs would be expected to carry a notepad and pencil, and a 10 pence coin for emergency telephone calls to be made from a telephone box (it wouldn't be much use now!) They would also have their hands and fingernails checked to see if they were clean and unbitten! (and encouraged not to bite them if they did!) Finally, the sixer would check that they had the correct uniform on, that they were smart and tidy and stood smartly to attention – generally Cubs had less problem standing still! Then the evenings activities could commence.

In June 1989, the Cub uniform was changed, the biggest changes being no cap and no long socks with garters to keep them up! I'm sure I still have my son Jonathan's garters and his cap is probably still in a drawer somewhere, alongside his little certificate sheets from the badges he gained.

In 1990, girls were allowed to join Scouting. At 2nd Baldock it took quite a while before we were even asked if a girl could join us but eventually they did. Interestingly, we had more girls in Scouts than in Cubs and Beavers and this remains the case. We have a lot of girls who come to us and go straight into the Scouting section.

The addition of Beaver Colonies slowly added to our numbers and helped Cubs to maintain the flow through to Scouts.

The top awards for Cubs have changed through the years, moving through Gold, Silver and Bronze Arrows to become the Cub Scout, Adventure, and Adventure Crest Awards. In 2003 it changed again to become the Chief Scout's Silver Award (Bronze for Beavers and Gold for Scouts), but often the challenges to reach these top awards are much the same. Our love of outdoor activities is stronger than ever.

For Leaders, First Aid and Child Protection courses are now compulsory and a lot of the modules can now be done online. As the courses I did were always away from home, it took longer to complete the Wood Badge.

The arrival of OSM made record keeping of attendance, badge work, notifications and communications through to payments and their records much easier once the process of navigating through the software was achieved.

Cont'd.....overleaf

Over the last three months we have seen even bigger changes and challenges. Who would have thought that such a thing called Zoom would become an almost daily occurrence for some Scout Groups, both for Leaders' meetings, Scout/Cub/Beaver meetings? Virtual Camps and Webinars from HQ/County and District keep us all informed.

As we move on to a world which will still have corona virus circulating for some time, I'm sure that the online meetings will now be part of our everyday life but being together in the great outdoors will be more important than ever. 40 years on some things don't change!



Top Right: 2011 St Georges Day Parade

Bottom: 2010 AGM - Wrayfield Farm

Left: 2012 AGM Harmer Green



Few people will know Diana had a longer involvement in the Scout and Guide Movement.

Diana was born and grew up in Blackpool. As a young girl she joined Brownies and moved on to Guides, becoming a Patrol Leader (Kingfisher Patrol).

I have heard her tell of taking her Patrol on a hike near Garstang (north-east of Blackpool) and crossing over the M6 which was being built at that time!

From Patrol Leader she became a Lieutenant in her Guide company (25th Blackpool), later becoming Guide Captain when her friend, the then Captain, tragically died in a car accident.

Another 18 months on we got married and moved to Germany for 5 years before coming back to Letchworth and Baldock. A lot of the rest you already know!!

Jon Marshall - Husband of Diana



1st Ashwell Scouts – Virtual Investment 18th May 2020

Scouts

As the world is facing the Coronavirus - Covid19 pandemic declared by the WHO on 11th March 2020, we have been in lockdown for over 2 months and have been unable to socialise with anyone outside of our household. We have been running Virtual Scouts via Zoom.us and this is the first time in our history that Scouts have been invested remotely. Here are a few photos to capture this moment for our Coronavirus Time Capsule.



Cubs in lock down!

1st Baldock Knight's Cubs

Sadly, **1st Baldock Knight's Cubs** have not been able to go to a meeting due to covid-19 but the Cubs have not let that stop them on their Scout journey and so between them they have done a lot of badges at home - including "Nights Away" where Cubs camped in their garden or made a den in their living room.

One Cub, Ilena, for example, achieved her Astronomer badge. **She enjoyed all of the steps for the badge but best bit was making the model. Even though it was quite challenging, as it was quite hard for her to find the materials. However, she enjoyed it because it was fun to create it with scrap found around her house and also fun to mix the colours.**

Another Cub, Hannah, gained her Animal Carer badge. **The reason she enjoyed doing it was because she got to spend more time with her guinea pigs and got to find out more about other animals and how to care for them.**

A different Cub, Samuel, gained his Air Activities Badge. **His favourite part was making the paper model and he also enjoyed making the plans for it.**

During lockdown Cubs have gained many badges including Snow Sports! Home Help; Artist; Digital Maker; Photographer; Animal Carer; Gardener; Cyclist; Collector; Environmental Conservation; Naturalist; Pioneer; Backwoods Cook; Communicator; Astronomer; Personal Safety; Chef as well as work towards Team Leader Challenge and Personal Challenge Badges.

8th Letchworth Cubs

8th Letchworth Cubs had 30 minutes at our online meeting to use any recycled items they had at home to create an animal model. They were allowed to collect the items and plan what they were going to make during the week. At the meeting the Cubs created an amazing variety of different animals, it was great to watch them come together. Dogs, Giraffes, Elephant, Hippo, Penguin, Otter, Ant and a Turtle. Great fun was had by all. (see opposite)

8th Letchworth Cubs Recycled animal models





TASKMASTER Challenge

Last week we did quite a few things with some Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We had to do some tasks for the Taskmaster badge.

The tasks were:

making a reef knot behind our backs,
spell our names in finger sign language,
make the best paper aeroplane and throw it the furthest,
put 3 unusual yellow things in a cup,
drink water from the wrong side of the cup,
get a piece of clothing for each letter of the alphabet.

We also had a special guest, Elisabeth the goat.



After we completed the taskmaster meeting the Beavers and Cubs left so the Scouts could carry on with our weekly meeting. We made some popfold figures of Darth Vader.

My favourite thing we did was the popfold figures. Even though it was a pain in the butt trying to stick it together I had a lot of fun and it made me want to do more.

Harrison Pill - 8th Letchworth Scout



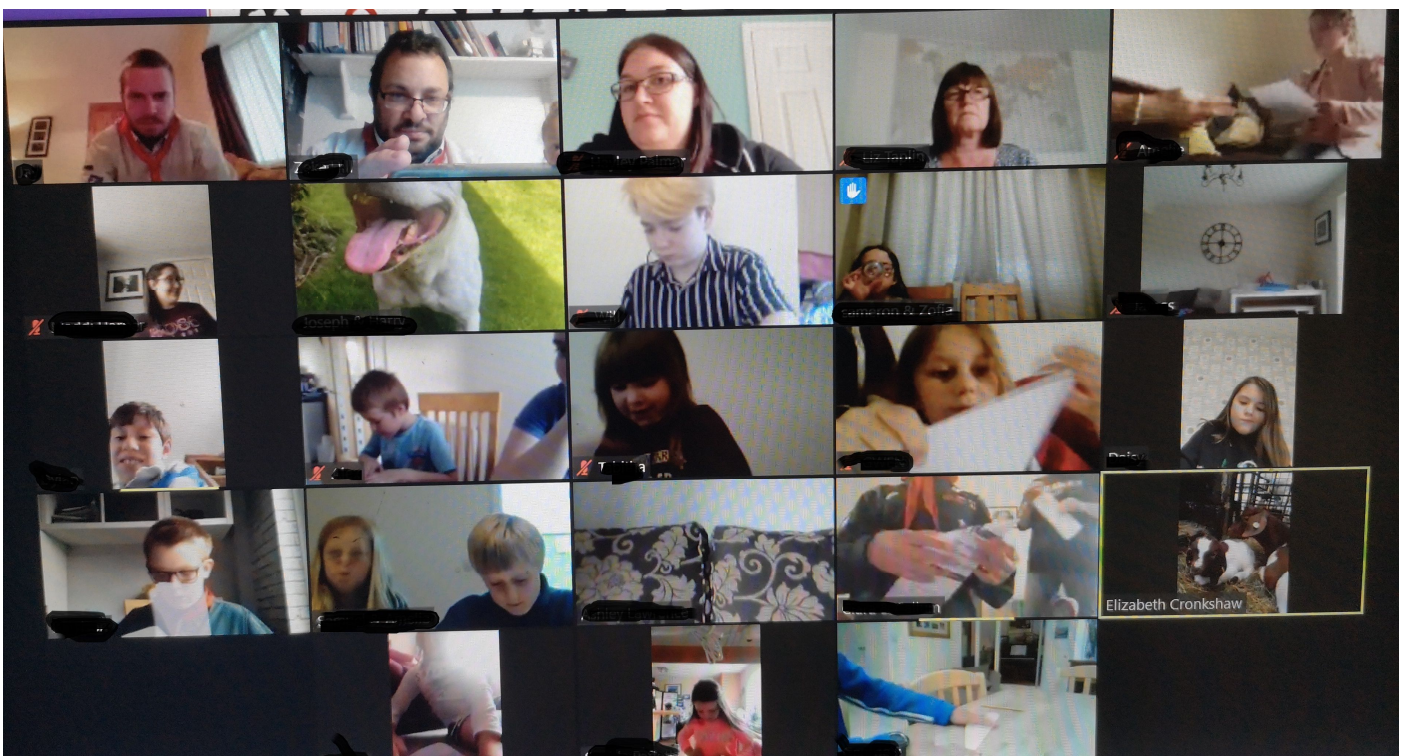
The first thing we did was tie a reef knot. Then we made paper aeroplanes and flew them to see how far they went.

Everyone had a nice surprise in the middle of the Zoom call, a real goat called Elizabeth joined us for a couple of minutes. Elizabeth had just had a baby.

Then we got a glass and the challenge was to put 5 items or over into the glass. Then finally we had to get an item of clothing for each letter of the alphabet.

I really enjoyed the call with the Scouts and Beavers. My favourite part was seeing the goat.

Amelia Biggs - 8th Letchworth Cub Scout



Last night I had a zoom chat with Scouts and we all had to do 7 tasks. First we had to tie a reef knot in some string. The second task was spelling our name with finger spelling sign language. Then for the third task we had to iron our neckers. We then had to make a paper aeroplane and see how far it would fly; mine went about a metre. For the fifth task we had to find 3 yellow objects and put them in a cup. I found a banana, a hair band and a bath toy. For the sixth task we had to run around the house finding clothing to spell Letchworth. The last task was my favourite and we had to drink water from the wrong side of a cup and I didn't spill any!

Stay safe

Tabitha Wandless - 8th Letchworth Beaver Scout

Achievements



Lisa Tassell, 11th
Letchworth ASL being
invested over zoom—by
Claire Greener ADC
(Scouts) on Thursday
25th June 2020.



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Jess Ball

1st Baldock Cubs (Knights)

Lucas Robinson

1st Baldock Cubs (Knights)

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**CARRY
ON
SCOUTING**

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