

August 2020

No: 683

Message from Wendy Tierney
District Commissioner



Thank you all for what you have done to keep Scouting going in the District. It has been a challenging time for all.

For those who are carrying on through the summer, I hope it all goes well, for any that are not, take the time to recharge your batteries for the return in September.

Don't forget you can get your risk assessments written and approved ready for September if you are going to do face to face meetings. The District team are here to help.

As some of you may have noticed as you walk by DHQ work has start on the improvements. The outside is having all the guttering replaced and the walls repointed. Inside a new ceiling has gone up with insulation to help keep some of the heat in the building. There will also be a new floor as the subfloor needed repairing where it was all breaking up. Once everything has been done the Hall will have a lick of paint too, so if you are handy with a paintbrush please let me know as I will be grateful of the help. It will be great to have DHQ up and going again for the beginning of September.

The District would have celebrated 75yrs on the 1st August and a camp was going to be held in May, but because of the pandemic this could not go ahead so I am planning to do something at the front of DHQ (with social distancing) on Saturday 1st August.

I will have 75 cupcakes with candles so any Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer who is passing can come and claim one. I may have a few extras for Leaders too. I will be there from 10am to 12 midday so come and say hello and claim your cake.

Have a good break and see you all refreshed in September.

Jeff Robson has a Co-ordinator file which covers from the very first issue in 1959 to the current issue in July 2020. The file was created from scans of KJ's paper collection. He would like to make available copies of this file to anyone who might be interested. The file is over 1Gb so is too big to attach to an email. Anybody interested can supply him with a memory stick big enough to take the current file and collect it afterwards. There would be no charge for this.

The file is in pdf format fully searchable and with the right editing software can be kept up to date from the LBDC website if so desired.

He realises that interest might be limited to the older generation but would like to ensure that this huge record is not lost. Please email Jeff on jvrscreen@ntlworld.com



Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit had a Pirate Party recently on Zoom. Explorers and Leaders dressed up. We had a pirate quiz and told some dreadful jokes

Clair Calver - ESL

4th Letchworth Beavers lockdown update

Well! who would have thought that the first half of the year would be so perplexing? All seemed well, then the virus hit. When the severity became apparent, but before the lockdown took effect, the Leaders at 4th Letchworth Beavers put their thinking caps on and began thinking of ideas that we could use for meetings online.

The first week online, Grizzly experimented with Facebook and ran a campfire from his allotment. The firefighting explanation went well, and the Grizzlyettes did their best with leading campfire songs with no audible feedback.

After that, we switched to Zoom. Being slightly audacious, Ocelot decided to run an Experiment badge evening. This was a great opportunity to do some more 'wet' science, as the Beavers had access to a tap each, rather than sharing one tap amongst 26 young people. We created white light, watched water find its own level, bent water and poked pencils through plastic bags without getting wet! Great fun.

Since then, we have had a badge bingo night, flag quiz night, made wind chimes out of tin can and jam jar lids, covered most of the Great Indoors Stage 1 badge, had three sleepovers and made slime. The Beavers were amused by making armpit fudge, bum



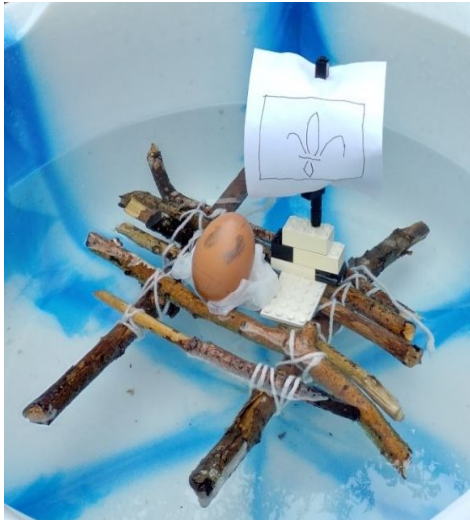
sandwiches and chocolate chip mug cakes, but the best Scouting-based evening was when the young people used clove hitches, reef knots, whipping and square lashing to make their own mini flagpoles.

Loads of thanks go to the parents, who have made the evenings possible by accessing Zoom and supporting their young people in the activities, and to Grizzly and Kestrel, who have taken turns running meetings with Ocelot. We're now looking forward to getting back to face-to-face Scouting over the summer break!

Vicki Gage - 4th Letchworth BSL



2nd Baldock Beavers - first virtual camp



At the beginning of July 2nd Baldock Beavers joined with the rest of the Group for their first virtual camp. Everyone had received a booklet with lots of activities they could do over the weekend and they all had a focus on water. The main activities were doing the water challenge (which would become part of the Group water Challenge video), making a raft that would hold an egg and making a paddleboat. Other activities included Duck Bombs, water table football, Wacky bubbles and bridge building.

On the Friday evening everyone came together in a big Zoom call to understand how things would work over the weekend and know the rules of the calls. Then we went into different breakout rooms to play

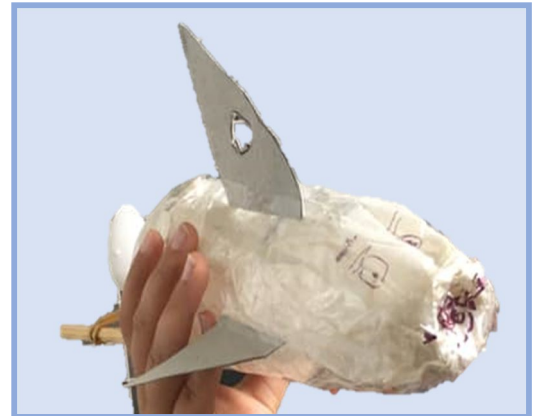
games. In the Beaver room we played Pictionary and did a scavenger hunt before the Beavers headed to their dens or tents to sleep.

On Saturday we went on a Zoom call tour to a farm with a big difference where we saw camels, llamas, reindeer,



ostriches, giant tortoises and a few other animals we weren't expecting. It was great. Afterwards we went

to make our egg rafts before joining another Zoom call with the Group to launch them. There were some awesome rafts.



After lunch we made our paddleboats and again came together on a Group call to launch them.

Design was a bit more tricky on this task but the

Beavers rose to it well. The Shark decorated boat was very creative. During the afternoon one Beaver had gone the extra mile to create an amazing bridge that spanned the kitchen sink! After the Beavers had helped cook dinner with their parents we did a Group call campfire and then went in our breakout rooms again to play more games. This time we played Ocelot Says and Kim's Game before heading to bed.

On Sunday we had our closing Zoom call where we presented 2 of the 4 Bronze awards that had been earned during lockdown.

We are very proud of how our Beavers joined in with all the activities and they had a lot of fun.

Ros Wing - 2nd Baldock

2nd Baldock Scouts - virtual camp

On the 3rd of July I did a virtual camp with the rest of the 2nd Baldock Scouts and it was actually very good, but very different. One of the biggest differences was the cooking, as I didn't cook over a fire and instead used an oven. For dinner I cooked meatballs, made instant mash and heated up a Tesco finest gravy packet. To my surprise it tasted really good as I usually hate instant mash. It also took a lot less time.

The camping was similar apart for the fact that there was no one else in the tent and a lot less noise and the tent was easier to put up for some reason, even though there were no other Scouts with me.

The Leaders still provided a lot of activities to do like cooking marshmallows over a Zoom call, raft building for eggs and making a video where it looked like we were chucking water on each other.

Overall, it was pretty fun.

Taylor - 2nd Baldock Scouts

On the 3rd of July I attended on a virtual camp. I slept on a camp bed and woke up and made my own breakfast which was sausages. Then I attended a 30-minute zoom call with Scouts. After we built rafts which should have floated but mine sunk. We attached eggs but again it sunk. Then I had lunch and had another zoom call. Then I relaxed for a bit and then had dinner and went to bed.

This was my experience of a virtual camp. 😊😞😊😞😊😞

Felix - 2nd Baldock Cubs

The 2nd Baldock Scouts virtual camp was a water based activity camp which was three nights long.

The camp was recurring meetings on zoom which were done throughout the days with specific meetings for specific activities

We did a many things, the highlights was the rubber band propelled boats, egg rafts and our parents throwing water at us so the Scouts could make a video where it looked like we were throwing water at the each other.

My favourite part was the rubber band propelled boats since I very much enjoyed making them.

We also invested 6 new Scouts on the Sunday and had a virtual tour of a farm on the final day.

I really enjoyed the camp even though we were apart from each other.

James - 2nd Baldock Scouts

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