

December 2020

No: 687

Message from the District Commissioner

Well here we are at the beginning of December and Christmas is fast approaching, where has the year gone. It does not seem any time since we were going into lockdown at the end of March and here we are just coming out of lockdown 2 in time for Christmas. Scouting has not been the same without face to face meetings but with technology Leaders have risen to the challenge and taken their programme and delivered it on Zoom, with camping, gadget making, cooking, walking to the moon and lots more exciting activities. From the pictures I have seen all have had fun taking part, Leaders as well as the Young People. We did have a few weeks where face to face meetings could take place with limited numbers. A lot of these meetings were held at Wymondley Wood. I would like to thank all the Wymondley Wood team for making this a safe place for the Young People and Leaders to meet, and hope it will not be long before it is being used again. I hope in the New Year we will be meeting face to face again but for now keep up the good work you are all doing. Thank you all for keeping Scouting going in the District and still making it fun for all the Young People.

There was no Remembrance Day parade because of social distancing but we did "remember them" as three wreaths were laid on behalf of the District at Baldock, Letchworth and Ashwell.

Over the past few weeks Dave Jordan and I have been delivering Long Service awards plus other awards to Leaders within the District. These awards would normally be presented at Group AGMs or at other events across the District but with not being able to meet I decided that Leaders deserved to have them now as I didn't know how long it would be before we could all get together. I am sorry to do it this way as I think they should be presented properly to recognise what achievements Leaders have made. Sometime next year I am hoping to organise an event where the District can celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to all Leaders and Executive members who have gained an award this year.

On behalf of the District Executive I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

Take care and stay safe.
Wendy Tierney DC

**Wishing you all
a Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**



Membership Cost 2021

As you will no doubt have seen and read, The Scout Association which is struggling financially is putting up its membership fee next year as part of the process to begin to recover some of the monies lost due to the pandemic.

At last weekend's County AGM it was announced that the County levy would be set at £13.50 which is identical to last year.

The District Executive Committee met last week to look at the financial side of the District and agree a budget and levy for our members. We decided that to assist in offsetting the dramatic rise in The Scout Association fee to the Groups, we would reduce next year's fee as far as we considered it safe to do so whilst still retaining enough reserves to enable us to provide support as and when needed anywhere within the District. It was also agreed that we would remove the International Levy this year as there is no prospect of our Young People travelling abroad within the next 12 months.

Therefore the breakdown for the payment due for next year's census will be as follows;

Scout Association	£36.50 (this includes a 50p discount for early payment)
County Levy	£13.50
District Levy	£ 1.50

Total due £51.50 per head for ALL Young People recorded on the Census.

Details of the Census, all relevant dates and login information will be circulated as soon as we receive it.

Yours in Scouting

Chris King

District Explorer Scout Commissioner / LTM

Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell Scouts

Recovery Fund

The Scout Association are currently working on a recovery fund to support those groups who have been hit hard by Covid-19. The application process will be part of the upcoming Census. They'll share more information soon.

1st Baldock Templars Cubs

Since September we have done lots of fun things. First we went to the KTS sports field and did some athletics in our bubbles. I liked the long jump best. On our night hike around Wallington, we could see the stars and it was lovely. In one of our meetings Akela gave me some badges and there was a certificate that said 'Congratulations on becoming a Sixer!'. It made my day!

At Wymondley Wood we did fire lighting and marshmallow toasting. It was so much fun! I helped invest a new Cub by introducing them and we all had fun walking around Baldock twice. For my Personal Challenge I cycled the Greenway and I was very proud of what I had done.

When the second lockdown came we had to go to Zoom meetings but it was still really great. We did a Pack Forum on remembrance and wellbeing. For remembrance we talked about why we remember the 11th November and drew poppies, and for wellbeing we talked about what makes people happy. We also did a scavenger hunt and we had to find things like a rucksack and a torch. For my Outdoors badge I cooked sausages and rice on our camping stove. I am not sure what will happen at Cubs in the future but I am sure it will be fun!

Izzy Dunstan - 1st Baldock Templars Cub





Chris Lewis, 1st Baldock ASL raised £60. for the Baldock branch of the Royal British Legion by selling the paracord poppies he made.



Wendy Tierney DC laying wreaths on behalf of the District at Ashwell and Letchworth .



Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre



Dark clouds have loomed in the form of lockdown and once again we have had to close our gate to Guiding /Scouting units.

We have been open for 9 weeks and welcomed 64 groups in that time. That equated to over a thousand young people even bearing in mind the reduced numbers allowed.

Sadly I have had to turn away so many. We have been full to capacity,

The Leaders have been brilliant, keeping to the rules, controlling the parking and producing real scouting the guiding after so many months of Zoom or nothing,

I have not seen or had reported any breaking of the rules.

There have been many evenings when Leaders have managed up to 50 children, keeping the groups 25 metres apart and staggering arrival and departure times.

We have been so impressed by the determination to give the children some fun after the gloomy weeks of no contact. I take my hat off to those Leaders both Guide and Scout.

It was wonderful to see the joy on the faces of the children who were so happy to get out again.

There have been lots of fires, lots of cooking, lots of eating, pioneering (poles allowed to be used every 3 days to kill off any germs) and all sorts of other activities.

To the 9 wardens who have worked so hard and without complaint we say a huge thank you. It is you who have enabled these children to have so much fun. You have been up there at all times from mid afternoon, early evening and up to 10o'clock at nights. Saturdays too!!

You are always appreciated but never more than at present. There have been beautiful evenings, wet evenings, really soggy evenings, definitely muddy evenings and a mixture of all of these.

You have driven up and down that dusty, then wet, and now muddy path without complaint as many as 16 times in the week you were on duty. It has been a real team effort. No team could have worked harder and smoothed the way seemingly effortlessly. You were brilliant!

Maureen Kell
Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre Booking Secretary

4th Letchworth Cubs

We were lucky to meet face to face socially distanced after COVID-19 lockdown. Our Leaders put together some events such as:

Rounders, where we split into 2 teams and then played. Even though we did not keep score I am definitely sure that our team won!!! It was also nice seeing everybody too.

We also had a fire and I got to light mine first. 😊😊 the bad part was that when I got home, I stank of smoke, I could not watch a film 😞😞

Next, we had a puzzle night when we had to answer loads of riddles, puzzles word searches and codes then we had to make candles out of baby bell wax. I was astonished when it worked.

On our final night we went on a hike I found a golf ball after that we found ourselves at Wymondley Wood where we played our final game of hide and seek. Now we have to go into lock down again which is sad because I love going to Cubs.

Sam Chase - 8th Letchworth Cub



District Cub Quiz

20 November 2020

We have just held the Annual District Cub Quiz in a very different way this year. Because of the restriction of the Corona Virus we couldn't meet as we usually do, so we held it virtually on Zoom and with Kahoots quiz platform.

There were eight teams in total this year. The questions were set by the team that came 2nd last year. Thank you to Jacob and his technical team. The Cubs really enjoy the quiz of lots of General knowledge and some Scouting questions, we had the traditional picture round as well.

The winning team of the first District Letchworth, Baldock & Ashwell virtual Cub Quiz! 2nd Baldock with a total score of 92 points. Well Done to the three Cubs who represented their Pack.

Traditionally the winning team set the questions for next year quiz.

The scores are as follows:

1 st	2 nd Baldock	92 points
2 nd	8 th Letchworth	85 points
3 rd	1 st Baldock Knights	84 points
4 th	1 st Baldock Templars	83 points
5 th	4 th Letchworth	81 points
6 th	7 th Letchworth	74 points
7 th	5 th Letchworth	70 points
8 th	12 th Letchworth	65 points

Well done everyone **Amanda Woolmer - ADC Cubs**

2nd Baldock Cubs Quiz Team

I would like to say that the quiz was fun, and it was my first ever quiz on online so I wasn't sure what to expect. When we came 1st from our small 2nd Baldock Scout Group, it was fantastic. My family were dying to join in and play along with me, but I wanted to prove my knowledge. I got to show my car interest and put it into action when it came to naming the car logos.

Thank you for making our second lockdown interesting.

Elliott B. 2nd Baldock

I'm Freya and I was the 9 year old on the 2nd Baldock quiz team. I really enjoyed being part of the team with Elliot and Felix. I was a bit nervous at first because I had to answer some questions on my own, but I really liked the Kahoot app we used and so it didn't seem so scary. There were some really tough questions but I was pleased with how many I got right.

For the second part of the quiz we got to work together as a team to answer some picture questions. Elliot was amazing at recognising the car badges!

It was a really fun evening and I'm very proud we won.

Freya B. 2nd Baldock

When I was asked to be in the quiz I felt excited and nervous. On the day of the quiz I was still nervous and ready. We set up a computer and the Kahoot! App so that I could answer questions.

The first round was random questions on the Kahoot! app. I was with the 8 year olds in the quiz and not my team members. I was a bit scared as I had no one helping me, but I ended up in first place. I was very proud at the end of the round as I was still in first place.

In the second round I was with my team-mates trying to figure out what certain objects, people, places, characters and car logos were. I felt better working with my team-mates. I only knew a one or two answers in the second round, but my team-mates knew a lot more than me. We were a good team and we worked very well together.

I'm very proud of all of us, and glad we won. I think I am glad we did it at home on Zoom and the Kahoot! app as I don't like standing out. I would have done if we'd been there in person.

Felix P. 2nd Baldock

(Felix's Mum said "Felix really enjoyed himself. And what a great team - they totally complemented each other with different knowledge and none of them could have done it without the other two! They were all brilliant!")



First Baldock Beavers Litter Pick Challenge

As part of 1st Baldock Beavers World Challenge Badge, they have to take part in a challenge that helps someone in their local community.

This year their biggest challenge has been to find out how they can complete this and still stay safe., work towards their badges and enjoy being back together again and having fun (This was before the second lockdown).

After a little bit of a log chew they decided they could help their local community by completing a litter pick around the park and surrounding area to their Scout HQ.

Over 2 weeks and with 20 Beavers armed with litter picking 'guns' (or lightsabres) they managed to collect 6 bin bags full of rubbish,

The Beavers were really pleased with their joint effort and wanted to show how they stayed safe in the dark, had fun and enjoyed their time at Beavers whilst we can only do outdoor activities. They also deserve a big pat on the back for picking up someone else's rubbish that didn't find its way into a bin

Well done all of you!

Jacqui Wakefield - GSL 1st Baldock Scouts

First Baldock Knights Cubs



Some photos of 1st Baldock Knight Cubs last face to face night.

They painted poppies and lit candles and used sparklers.

District Youth Commissioner

Earlier this year Robert Coldrey was appointed as our District Youth Commissioner. He hasn't yet been able to do much with having no face to face meetings to go to, but he did put out a survey to all Leaders and I hope you were able to fill it in and get it back to him. The District Youth Commissioner is a member of the District leadership team and will work in partnership with the DC and the District Chair. The role is to ensure that Young People from 6-25years are involved and engaged in every decision that shapes their Scouting experience locally and to empower Young People to share their ideas and have a meaningful voice in planning, implementing and reviewing their programme and opportunities. Robert will also work with all members of the District to ensure that the views of Young People are represented in decision making. He will be encouraging Youth Forums and any recommendations they make he will take to the District Executive and District Team for consideration and then feedback the outcome to the Youth Forum. Please welcome him when he can visit you all and give him any help that he requires. Welcome to your new Role and we look forward to working with you.

Wendy Tierney - D.C.



EXPLORERS

Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit Virtual Meetings

Explorers Scouts have had three evenings on zoom since the recent lockdown.

First was a quiz about old Scouting badges and we used Kahoot which is a fun way of doing a quiz.

Next we made our own playdough and then played a game similar to Pictionary using the playdough

This week we made Christmas cakes. Glenn is our resident chef and did the demo. Next week we will add the marzipan and icing

Also we been collecting food to donate to the local food bank. We do this every Christmas and during the year we have supported them by donating any food left over from





Welcome to

Sarah Sexton 12th Letchworth BSL
Ricky Young 1st Ashwell ASL
(moved from Beavers)

Welcome to

Barry Dickinson as a committee
member of the Wymondley Wood Scout
and Guide Centre



Heather Waters CSL 12th Letchworth Scout Group



It is with sadness that I must report that on Sunday 22nd November Heather Waters of 12th Letchworth lost her long battle with cancer. Heather had battled her illness since 2017 but she never let this stop her from carrying on with her Scouting. She would do all she could to take part in events, camps and to keep her Cub Pack on track helping where she could.

My lasting memory of Heather was when she came to the last sixers and seconders weekend up at Wymondley Wood and she was zooming around the field on her electric buggy helping out where she could and having a good time. She wanted to do what she could while she could. I think all the Leaders were amazed and appreciated what she did that weekend.

Heather will be sadly missed by all in the District. She was very well liked and respected. Thank you, Heather, for all that you have done for the young people of your group and in the District, you will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Bob and her son David. Please help and support them in any way you can.
Rest in peace Heather.

Wendy Tierney DC

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