

January 2021

No: 688

## **New Year Message from the District Commissioner**

What a year this has been. Covid-19 certainly put us all through some challenging times. Let's hope 2021 will be better with the aid of the vaccine coming our way. I hope you have all enjoyed your time over Christmas even though it might not have been what you had planned, I know mine wasn't but I did get to see my grandchildren open their presents on facetime.

As with a lot of families we will have a big get together when we are able.

I hope you are now rested and will be ready to go again in the New Year whatever that might be. You all did a good job keeping the Young People Scouting and I am sure you have more exciting things planned for them to join in with in 2021.

Here's hoping 2021 will be a better year and we can get on with more face to face meetings. One thing we have to look forward to is going to Lochearnhead in the summer. Plans are going ahead. We still have 100 Young People booked to go, as well as the Leadership team.

Congratulations to all that received awards before Christmas. Sorry they were not presented as we would normally do but I did get to see most of you as I came round. Dave Jordan presented some of them too, thank you for your help, as there were a few to do and I wanted to get them to you before Christmas.

Hopefully we will be able to do something later in the year to recognise all those that have received awards.

So for now wishing you all a safe and Happy New Year.

**Wendy Tierney**  
DC





## 2nd Baldock Baldock Tree Festival



2nd Baldock Beaver Tree



2nd Baldock Cub Tree



# 8th Letchworth Scouts

## Cambridge Escape Room Outing

We met at 4:45 at the train station and caught the train at 5:11 to Cambridge.

After that, we went to the Guildhall and split up into 3 groups. Once we had split up my group went to McDonalds to have some food for 30 minutes. Next, we started our outdoor escape room where we had to go on a website and start the escape room.

Once on the website we had to go back to the Guildhall solve a puzzle and put the answer we got into the website and then if you got it correct you were told to go to other places and this repeated 10 times. As an example of one puzzle there were shields on a building and the website showed the outline of the shields. We had to figure out which shields matched the ones on the website which gave letters and we had to work out the word.

There were 5 people in my group and we all helped each other to solve the puzzles. We had a lot of fun doing this and would recommend it to others.

### Callum Philbey - 8th Letchworth Scout

It started when we met up at the train station and then went on the train. When we got to Cambridge we had a amazing McDonalds dinner and after that I accidentally forgot my bag! (But luckily remembered it very shortly after.) After that we started our Escape Room adventure, using a special app. The object of the game was to find our way around Cambridge



and then eventually we got back to where we had started. The clues and riddles were very creative and well thought out. Some took quite a while, especially the one in the park with the roman numerals and sundial. After we had finished we then caught the train home, so by then it was quite late!

### Ben Colbon - 8th Letchworth Scout



# Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit

For our last meeting of the year we split into two groups. A small number of Explorer Scouts assisted the Round Table with packing food parcels while the rest of the Unit tried their hand at Christmas craft. We also did a mass investiture on Zoom.



## Scout Network - BaLin



Wow what a competition! Thank you to all 70 teams that took part and those who supported them in Hertfordshire Monopoly Challenge 2020. Without your support the event wouldn't take place!

Seeing so many teams take part, the quality of the answers and fantastic video submissions, really made us as the organising team, feel all warm and fuzzy! We loved watching you all have so much fun! (extract from Herts Monopoly Facebook page ).



Congratulations to Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Network (BaLin) for taking part and winning the competition .





## Length of Service Awards

# Achievements



Russell Blythe	7th Letchworth Executive
Silke Bombe-Endacott	1st Ashwell Executive
Benjamin Constable	1st Ashwell Cubs
Jennifer Grocott	1st Baldock Executive
Sarah Hayward	5th Letchworth Beavers
Dianne Langford	5th Letchworth Executive
Philip Lown	8th Letchworth Cubs
Paula Middleton	7th Letchworth Executive
Maria Proctor	1st Baldock Beavers
Edyta Sedzimir	4th Letchworth Executive
Geraldine Ward	7th Letchworth OH
Emma Whinray-Edwards	1st Baldock Network
Louise Young	1st Ashwell Beavers
Richard Young	1st Ashwell Scouts



Margaret Durrant	Active Support Unit
Helen Gray	7th Letchworth Beavers
Ian Taplin	8th Letchworth Cubs
Claire Winchester	12th Letchworth Scouts



Lesley Gwilt	ADC Scouts
Christopher Lewis	1st Baldock Scouts



Nora Hitcham	The Scout and Guide Shop Manager
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Dave Hawkins	Badge Secretary
Rita Hawkins	Editor - Newsletter
Edmond Tickner	Active Support Unit
Shelia Tickner	Active Support Unit

# Achievements



Diana Marshall	2nd Baldock	Cubs
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The following Leaders have gained their Wood Badge



Vicki Gage	ADC Beavers	
Claire Greener	ADC Scouts	
Daniel Grocott	1st Baldock	Cubs
Ann Hodge	12th Letchworth	Cubs
Alan Mann	4th Letchworth	Beavers
Graeme Price	2nd Baldock	Scouts

**Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service is given in respect of not less than 5 years good service, which stands out.**



Catherine Ashelby	1st Baldock	Beavers
Diana Cornell	Active Support Unit	
Ted Cornell	Active Support Unit	
Susannah Goward	1st Baldock	Admin
Kelly Grant	4th Letchworth	Cubs
Julie Hobbs	7th Letchworth	Scouts
Philip Hobbs	7th Letchworth	Scouts
Danny Ryall	8th Letchworth	Cubs
Joni Trulock	5th Letchworth	Cubs
Russell Wake	4th Letchworth	Cubs

# Achievements



**The Award for Merit** is given for outstanding service. It implies keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service over a sustained period, of at least 12 years duration (exceptionally 10)

Darren Greener	8th Letchworth	Cubs
Nick Howell	5th Letchworth	Scouts



**The Bar to the Award for Merit** awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

Fiona Potts	1st Baldock	Cubs
Amanda Woolmer ADC		Cubs

## Chief Scout's Bronze Award



Raymond Bruce	2nd Baldock
Stefan Centala	2nd Baldock
Rogan Hodgson	5th Letchworth
Alex Johnson	5th Letchworth
Maximilian Kilby	2nd Baldock
James King	5th Letchworth
Reuben Moore	5th Letchworth
Tyler Palmer	5th Letchworth
Daniel Rook	5th Letchworth
Isaac Shinh	2nd Baldock
Xaiveon Smith	5th Letchworth
Oliver Sutton	2nd Baldock
Lewis Walkinshaw	5th Letchworth
Sidney Walkinshaw	5th Letchworth

# Achievements



## Chief Scout's Silver Award

Jan Kazubek  
Eleanor Roberts

1st Baldock (Knights)  
1st Baldock (Knights)



## Chief Scout's Gold Award

Maddison Harper

8th Letchworth

Brecon Bear, 8th Letchworth Scout Mascot celebrated his birthday on 25th December 2020. During his 10 years with 8th Letchworth Scout Troop he has been on many adventurous expeditions, camps and activities. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



## 2nd Baldock

2nd Baldock Scout Group celebrated their 67th Anniversary on Christmas eve 24th December. The Group was registered in 1953. Congratulations - looking forward to many more years.

It is with sadness to report the death of Robert (Bob) Hitcham, aged 91, on 10th December 2020. Loving husband of Nora Hitcham, Scout and Guide Shop Manager. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this time.

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