

June 2021
No: 693

District Commissioner's Letter

With the guidelines from the National Youth Agency (TSA) we have now moved into Yellow status but social distancing must still to be observed. Activities involving young people: no limit on group size but remain as only one section meeting independently of others. Indoor activities will be limited by the size of the location given social distancing remains. You must regularly review your risk assessments, not forgetting your activity risk assessments.

District Executive meetings take place every second Thursday in the month; still online at the moment.

Section representatives to the District Executive are:

Alan Mann - Beavers
Russell Wake - Cubs
Paul Tyler - Scouts
Phil Scoot - Explorer's
George Muge - Network
Michael Durrant - ASU

AGMs are going ahead remotely again this year.

Training is going well. Most Leaders are now up to date with all mandatory modules. Let's keep this going. If you need First Aid watch out for the training dates, or look on the County Website for online training.

Wi-Fi has now been installed at DHQ and also in the Scout / Guide Shop. The shop only takes cash or cheques. At the moment the Shop is open on a Thursday 6pm to 8pm.



Thursday 27th May was the launch of the campaign #GoodForYou. This is a National, County and District campaign to try and recruit new volunteers into Scouting to help give our Young People more #SkillsforLife. There is more information about this on TSA website and there are also downloadable sheets on the Brand Centre for any group wishing to recruit new volunteers.

8th Letchworth Jamboree on the Trail

Jamboree On The Trail is an annual day for the World Scout Movement to hike together. All Scouts, whatever their age and wherever they may be in the world, are invited to participate in whatever way they can. **Date for 2022 is Saturday 14 May**





8th Letchworth Jamboree on the Trail

As I woke up on the day of the JOTT I thought oh no really? It's cold, it's wet and it's 6 miles of dragging myself through muddy waterlogged fields (I really didn't want to get out of bed)! And that's exactly how it was but what I didn't expect was to have such an amazing time.

A lake had burst its banks so we have to slosh our way along the paths and where it was too deep to get through make a diversion along a roadside, but everyone listened and we made it safely back to our route. We stopped for lunch in the park and then headed on our way through a paddock where a horse decided it liked the look of us and chased us!

There was lots of jokes, fun & laughter, slow walking at times and twotrain rides to get home! It was wet, it was cold but we had the best time and I'm glad I didn't stay in bed!

Martha Davis-Dear - 8th Letchworth Cub



"Zeke couldn't have picked worse weather for a long walk! We set off in the pouring rain from the scout hut. We went through Radwell Meadows and along a river in Stotfold. At one point we had to take evasive action due to a ginormous puddle which flooded everybody's boots. We decided that we would not pre warn the Cubs, but they seemed to avoid it better than us! Once we got to Arlesey Station we didn't have to wait long for a train and got back to Letchworth station, pretty soaked, wet boots inside and out, tired, but it was good fun. Let's hope next time we do a hike that we at least see some sunshine!"

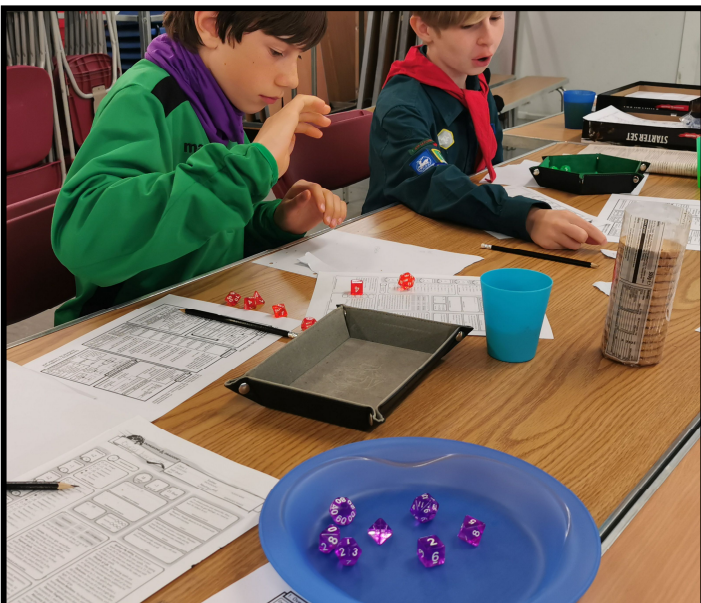
Sam Parkinson - 8th Letchworth Scout

8th Letchworth Scouts and the Lost Mines of Phandelver

Dungeons and Dragons was great fun because it was a team building game and it was fun working out the best ways to move out and around and the best way everyone's abilities worked to help us move around. Also funny when Cameron repeatedly rolled ones and we had to save him. It was quite funny when I scared everyone by almost doing an area attack in which it could have damaged Dylan. The game was based on luck and the character you chose.

Joseph Gribben -

8th Letchworth Scout



In our Dungeons and Dragons evening we played about half of part 1 of The Lost Mine Of Phandelver, and it was quite good but not for some people. First we had to introduce our charac-

ters and their background. Everyone's name was unique, except for Cameron's, yet everyone's background was that at least one of their parents died and they wanted to find who did it and kill them. I didn't have to do this because I was the Dungeon Master, which is the narrator and the person that controls the enemies in the story. One extra thing that I want to say is that I feel sorry for Cameron because he keeps on rolling low numbers and I rolled a 20, which was a critical attack which can't be blocked, and he nearly died.

Harrison Pill-8th Letchworth Scout

Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit

What3Words: does it actually work?

What3Words is an app that divides the entire world into 3 by 3m squares, giving them three words in order to find exact locations. We decided to test out this app during our DofE expedition to see how useful it really is (as well as creating a resource to help cubs learn how to use it). Originally our plan was to give instructions to stand in a specific spot and use the app to find what that spot's three word code was. However, we found that the square the app placed you in varied from phone to phone given the small area of each box. The GPS aspect of the map also seemed to be not so reliable as it would often show you moving on screen to an area several boxes away - including way over the other side of the road - and wouldn't stay still for very often.

Instead, we tried to set up our activity to be completed the other way round so that the code would be used to find the place you needed to be, which proved to be a lot more effective. As moving even one square to the side will give you a completely different set of words, this way the app would still take you to more or less the same place. The app allows you to search for places as well as by code, so in the end it still did what it needed to even if it wasn't always the most accurate. The boxes would usually be only one or two away from the one originally meant, but the 3m² areas meant that you would also be able to see in front of you where exactly you were trying to be anyways (eg. When looking for a particular entrance to a building, the app may take you to a box 3 or 6m away but you can still easily find the entrance from that position). In the end, even though it wasn't quite as accurate as we hoped it would be, What3words was quite useful in finding places and accurate enough to be used without too much trouble although it is much better for finding places than finding specific codes for places.

Sophie Malone, Ellie Hill, Miles Brewis and Toby Wade, Oak Eagle ESU



There are two big moments for Scouts to take part in:

1. Host a BB-Thank-Q
2. Say Cheers for Volunteers at 5pm

For more information visit

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/help-others/thank-you-day/>

1st Baldock Cubs Day Camp

The day started in the pouring rain, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Cubs, here are some quotes from their feedback.

- ◆ First we went adventuring into the woods to find dry wood.
- ◆ First we tried to light a fire and toasted and cooked many things like waffles, bananas, noodles, wraps with cinnamon. After that we went on an obstacle course and put up tents. King Louie made a massive fire.
- ◆ On Saturday we went to Boyd field. Overall it was good to be back at camp even if it was for one day.
- ◆ The Cub camp was amazing. We learnt how to make fires. We collected wood and ate food all day. We did loads of fun activities and sang songs around the bonfire.



1st Baldock Cubs Day Camp

- ◆ We cooked eggs and dough to eat with jam and chocolate spread. we saw baby geese and played manhunt.
- ◆ Bagheera made Thai green curry.
- ◆ We did not like having lots of smoke in our eyes, the weather was terrible but it cleared up.
- ◆ We played manhunt and had a delicious dinner of hotdogs.
- ◆ We liked hanging out with our friends and the young leaders were very helpful especially Libby and Isaac. I think it was grate and I want to do it again.



Finally we gathered around the colossal campfire and sang entertaining songs. It was a brilliant day.





Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

At the end of last year Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT) launched their own challenge badge to raise awareness of their charity. 19 Groups within Hertfordshire signed up and were joined by a member of the EHAAT team for a fun and interactive virtual presentation. The presentation highlighted how the charity operates on a day to day basis, the types of incidents they attend, the job roles of their crew and how they keep going. 8 Groups (8th Letchworth being one of the Groups) signed up to fundraise. So far the groups have raised over £1,200! Well done to all involved! If you would like to get involved in EHAAT's Challenge badge please visit their website.

Diary Dates 2021

JUNE

- 10 District Executive Meeting
- 13 County Cub Water Activity Day - EESA, Waltham Abbey
- 26 County AGM

JULY

- 4 Thank You Day
- 4 District Scout Shooting and Archery Competition
- 6 District Beaver Leader's meeting (virtual @ 8.00 pm)
- 8 District Executive Meeting

OCTOBER

- 10 County Cub Cyclocross Well End



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