

September 2021
No: 695

Message from Wendy Tierney - District Commissioner

Welcome back to another term of Scouting. I hope you have all had a good summer break. With more Covid restrictions being lifted, hopefully, we can get back to doing even more Scouting activities. Some of the sections need extra help to get running again due to Leaders leaving so I hope you will support them.

One thing this District does well is Leaders from all sections helping each other. Let's keep this going. Also, we need to try and recruit some more volunteers to help in all sections and groups.

A reminder that when you are planning any activity or camp / day out you need to do your risk assessments.

Thank you to everyone who has been catching up on their training. There are two first aid courses booking, one in October, the other in November. If you need this please get in touch with Gill to book.

Thank you for all that you are doing for the young people of this District.

Take care and stay safe.

Wendy Tierney - DC

On Monday the 19th July Vicki Gage (ADC Beavers) and myself had an enjoyable evening with 1st Ashwell Scout Group. There was fun and game for Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, then came the bit everyone was looking forward to tucking into the burgers and sausages cooked by the groups chairperson Vicki.

There was a formal part to the evening too where 10 new Cubs were invested. Welcome to them all. Also section badges were awarded.

I presented a Commissioner's Commendation to a Cub Daniel Prowle, for his courage and help to his mum Vicki Prowle when his dad Gary Prowle (Beaver Leader) was taken ill while driving. When Gary came out of hospital Daniel was taken into hospital and needed an operation himself. Thank you Daniel for all that you have done to help your parents even when you were ill yourself.

Wendy Tierney - DC



District Scout / Explorer Scout Shooting and Archery Competition

Firstly I'd like to say a massive thank you to all who competed today, (Sunday 11 July 2021). With what we've all been through over the last 18 months through the pandemic each and every one of you were a credit to your groups. To those who didn't do so well if your Leaders plan a session into next term and I'm free I'd be glad to assist and coach you as will the other rifle instructors within District.

Chris Lewis - Organiser

Rifle Range:

Explorer Scouts Scores

Toby C:	42
Oscar W:	41
Toby W:	35
Zak Wake :	26
Terry Denyer :	9



Scouts:

Individual:

1. Lucas Ribchester	43	8th Letchworth
2. Hannah MacArthur	35	1s Baldock (A)
3. Oliver Dean	34	12th Letchworth
4. Theo Baker	31	1st Baldock (B)

Team scores:

1. 8th Letchworth	166 points
2. 1st Baldock (A)	125 points
2. 1st Baldock (B)	125 points
3. 12th Letchworth	94 points



Archery Results:

Team:

	Scores
1. 8th Letchworth	150
2. 1st Baldock (A)	144
3. 1st Baldock (B)	97
4. 12th Letchworth	75

Individual:

1. Hannah MacArthur	1st Baldock (A)	39
2. George Hardy	8th Letchworth	36
3. Theo Baker	1st Baldock (B)	34
4. Lucas Ribchester	8th Letchworth	33

Overall competition trophy :

(combined archery and rifle scores)

	Points
1. 8th Letchworth	310
2. 1st Baldock (A)	269
3. 1st Baldock (B)	222
4. 12th Letchworth	169

Explorer Scout top archer:

1. Toby Wade	45
2. Toby Collins	38
3. Oscar	20
4. Terry D	15
5. Zak Wake	5



To the District Beaver Leaders and Sectional Assistants.

After 18 months of surreal Scouting - who would have thought that we would be locked at home, unable to meet our Turquoise Ninjas in person? – we are finally returning to the sort of normality that we knew before the virus hit.

With restrictions lifted and Colonies heading back face to face for the new term, I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of our wonderful District Beaver teams for all the hard work they put in during the lockdowns; adapting programmes, learning to use Zoom and other media platforms, changing meeting places and writing risk assessments. It shows that you are all marvelously talented people, who whole-heartedly care for the young people in our District and share your #Skills for Life with them. It makes me proud to be able to support you as your ADC. Looking forward to seeing you all in person soon.

Vicki Gage – ADC (Beavers)

Introducing Pickleball to Scouts, Be Prepared!

In June 2021, coaches from North Herts Pickleball were invited to introduce the local 8th Letchworth Scouts to pickleball. The coaches, Dave, Ruth and Richard, were charged to help about twenty, 10-14 year olds achieve their Skills badge by learning pickleball for an hour a week over 4 weeks. We agreed first and considered how we would do it later. This was a smart move since we had plenty to learn along the way.

Pickleball is fun

From prompt attendance to their willingness to take part in the activities and their banter and laughter it was evident that the kids found pickleball fun. They enjoyed being outdoors, they enjoyed hitting balls and they enjoyed learning new skills and a new game. It was great fun for the coaches too. We enjoyed sharing our love of pickleball. We enjoyed the exuberance of youth (theirs not ours!) and we enjoyed learning to introduce this age group to the sport. For the Leaders, it was a chance to hand over the reigns and let others lead their group for a while.

We thank the 8th Letchworth Scouts group for inviting us to introduce them to pickleball. We would gladly do it again for similar groups and we recommend it to anyone thinking of doing something similar.

Dave-North Herts Pickleball







BaLiN Network - Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Network

Friday 2 July saw members of the BaLiN Network meet up at Woolenwick Infant and Nursery School in Stevenage to run a campfire for the end of year 2 leaving do. The campfire went down very well with the parents and young people and was much appreciated. It was so successful that the school have asked if it could become an annual event.

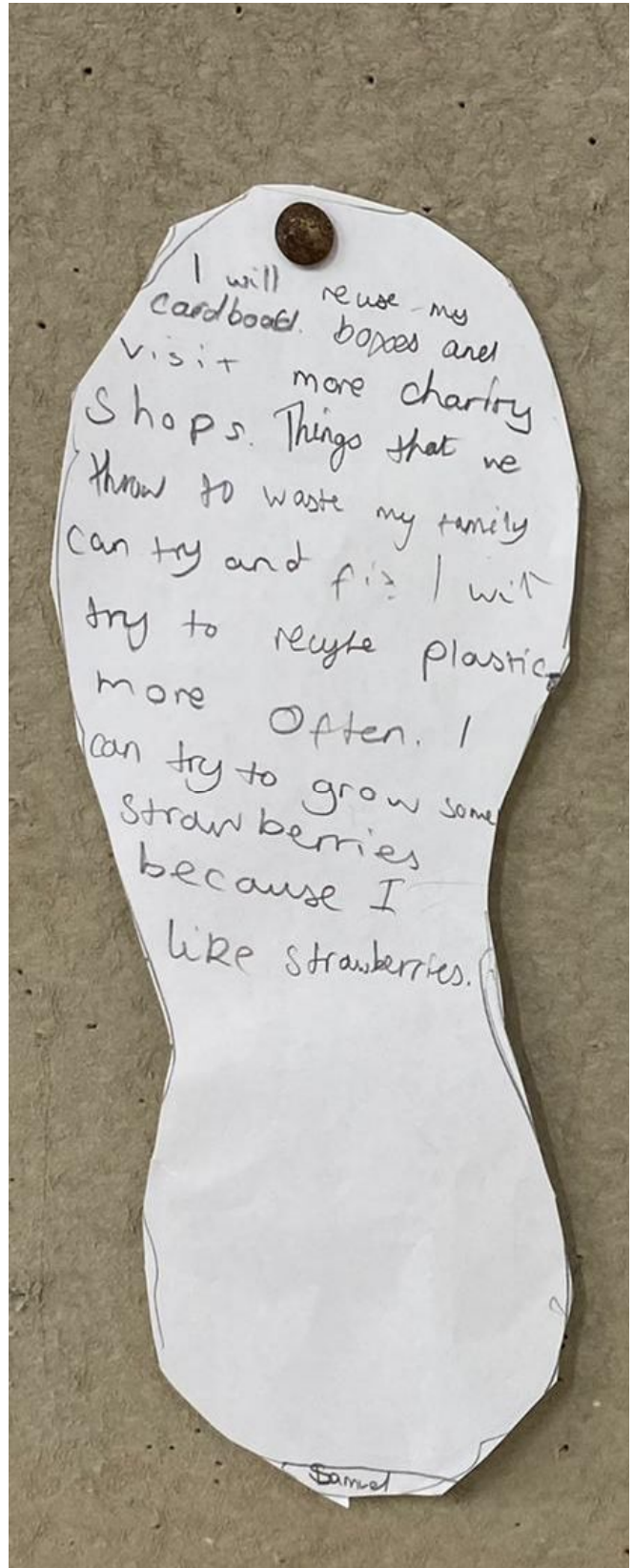
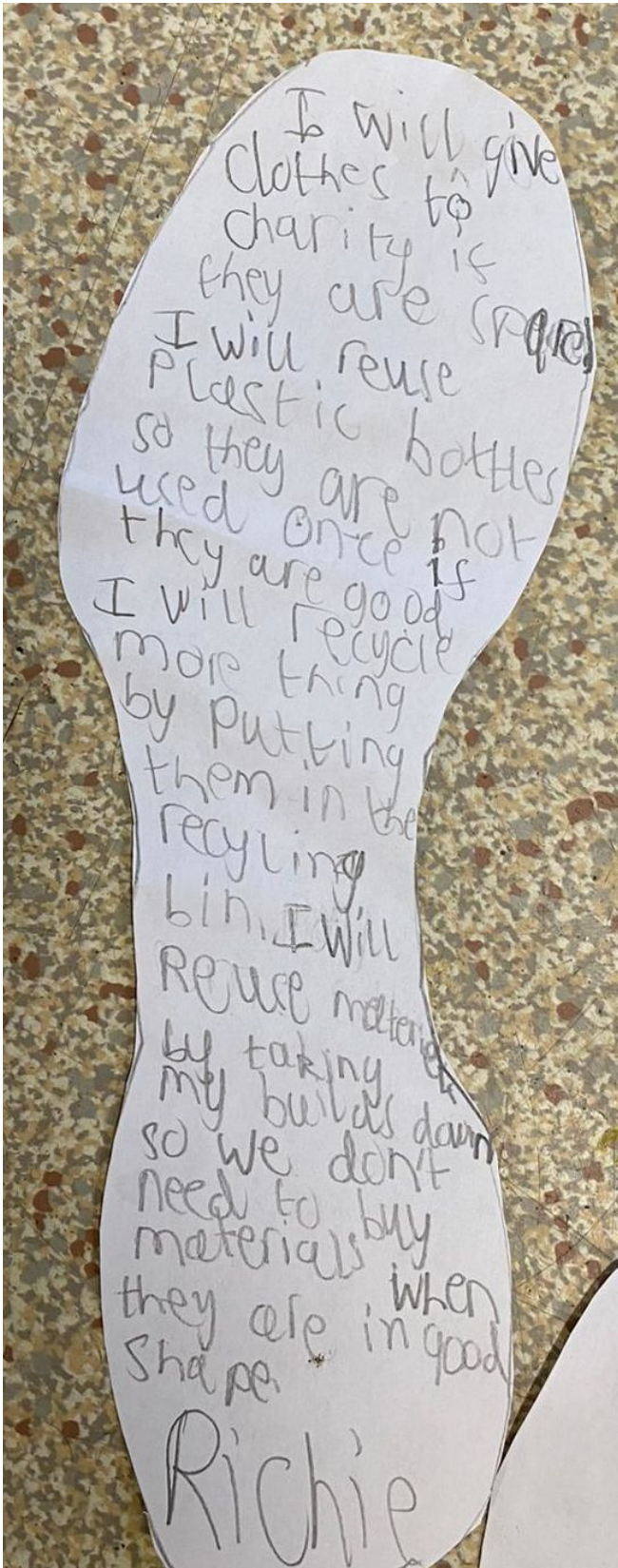
Thank you to Hayley Palmer, District Scout Network Commissioner and to the Scout Network Members and Oak Eagle Scouts who volunteered to run the event.



Woolenwick
Infant & Nursery School

1st Baldock Cubs

Last month Co-Ordinator reported that 1st Baldock Cubs have taken on the challenge of doing their part to tackle climate change. Below our photos of their commitment to tackle climate change.



2nd Baldock Scout - Summer 2021

This term eventually saw six of our Scouts manage to get out and complete their Expedition Challenge (although with 1 night 'Camp at Home') and this was the final requirement for their Chief Scout Gold Award. Half of these Scouts had only joined in the last 2 years, and spent the majority of their time in lockdown, so this was an amazing achievement, but luckily they had managed to do several camps in Autumn 2019 and the start of 2020.

In April, at our Troop Forum, Scouts were given a choice of 20 activities they could do this term and all were given 10 votes each to choose their favourite areas. The results of this set the programme for the rest of the Term, which would be based around the Scouts Survival Skills Activity Badge.

Scouts spent several weeks, doing the background work and we are extremely grateful to the following instructors who gave up their time to volunteer and support 2nd Baldock.

- ♦ Paul MacArthur who spent 2 evenings teaching Survival First Aid Skills
- ♦ Jason Kingwell from Mid Herts Scouts, who spent 2 evenings teaching Knife Safety and teaching the Scouts how to whittle their own Woggles and Bullroarers



Scout Survival Weekend Camp

On Friday 9th July, we went away for a camp at Danemead in Broxbourne for the weekend. When we got there, we set up the tents, played wide games and cooked smores on the fire. We went to bed quite late but were awake in the morning very early as we were all woken up early by some very excited Scouts who were happy to be back camping. By breakfast, it felt like lunchtime!!!!

In the morning we collected wood to make fires for the evening and to make dens.

In our camp patrols, we then completed some pioneering by building free-standing flagpoles in our camp patrols, the incentive being the sooner we completed our flagpole, the sooner we would get lunch.

In the afternoon we played a wide game where we needed to collect tokens from the different leaders and each token could be exchanged for food, and we built our dens in the wood.

We then prepared and lit the fires we would be using to cook dinner and completed a string burning competition, whoever could burn their string first would win marshmallows. For dinner, we had chicken, salmon cooked in a newspaper, jacket potatoes and vegetables and for dessert, we had apples filled with mixed berries.

After dinner we could decide if we wanted to sleep in our shelters overnight to complete our Survival Skills Activity badge, a number of the Scouts did, but I slept in my tent. On Sunday morning we went for a walk and played capture the flag before taking our tents down and tidying up the site. It was a great weekend, but very tired by the time we got home.

Samuel Murphy, 2nd Baldock Scouts





Aqua Park Trip

On Friday the 16th of July, 2nd Baldock Scouts went to Box End park to do aqua fun. When we got there, we first had to put on our wet suits. We went over the rules and then we put our life jacket on.

In the water there were 2 parts to the course and we switched after 30 minutes. There were slides, monkey bars and ladders. There was also a cushion where you could be catapulted into the air and land in the water - great fun. It was really fun and the sun was shining. When the time was up the staff blew the whistle and we got out. Getting the wet suits and turning them around was hard. I was tired and ready to go home.

Alfred Pedersen, 2nd Baldock Scouts





The next World Scout Jamboree will be held in South Korea 2 - 12 August 2023. Watch for date(s) from the District for the selection of candidates to represent Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell. Candidates will need to be over 14 and under 18 on the day the Jamboree starts in 2023. So will be aged 12 - 15 this summer to be eligible for selection.

District Scout and Guide Shop

The Shop will reopen for the Autumn term on Thursday 9 September (6.00 pm - 8.00 pm). Going forward The Shop will be open Thursdays during School term time only.



A reminder that we cannot process debit or credit cards - cash and cheques only.

We ask that you remind your parents / carers to continue using the Shop as all surplus monies are re invested in the young people.



The Scout Association is pleased to say they will be reducing next year's UK HQ membership fee from £36 to £34.50 per youth member. Members will receive a 50p prompt payment discount per young person if the UK HQ membership fee is paid by 23 April 2022. This fee covers the essential ongoing costs to support the movement, such as helping to cover increasing operating costs to manage safety and safeguarding.

This cost is just the UK HQ part of the membership fee. Every County/Area/Region, District and Group will be reviewing their own financial situation to set their own additions to this membership fee to cover the cost of running Scouts at each local level.

8th Letchworth Scouts - Paddle Boarding

I arrived at Fairlands Valley park early. Once everyone else arrived, we were taken over to where they stored buoyancy aids and given one each. We then walked to the shed where the paddle boards, which were much bigger than I realised, were kept and everyone grabbed one and a paddle, before walking to a platform hanging over the water. We put our boards on the edge of the platform strapped the leads (which were attached to the boards to stop them drifting away) around our ankles. We then spent a minute or so learning the technique for going forwards, backwards and turning, before pushing the boards into the water and getting on them.

At first, we were told to only paddle sitting to the green buoy and stop, but somehow, I managed to paddle in a full circle around it. Then we started trying to paddle standing up. At which point I told myself I wouldn't be the first to fall in, and paddled standing up for two or three minutes, before losing my balance twice and ending up in the water both times. Before anyone else. Embarrassing. After that I managed to get the hang of it and paddled around the lake quite quickly.

Next, we were told that we had to get in pairs, get on one person's board, and try and knock the other person off first by wobbling the board with our feet. My friend and I both fell in at the same time at first, he knocked me in a second before he fell the second time, and I succeeded in knocking him in the third time but fell in straight after.

Then we all paddled into one space and attempted to line our boards up for the group photo, before paddling into another space for two people to be invested. Then we ran out of time to do anything else and paddled back to the platform we started at. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Ciara McDermott - 8th Letchworth



8th Letchworth Cubs - Bell Boating

Bell-Boating was so much fun with 8th Letchworth.

We were put into 2 groups and the instructor put on some lifejackets for us.

There were 2 rows on each boat and we had to use paddles to get to the other side and back. While we were paddling we sang some songs.

The instructor asked us if we wanted to jump in. We had a decision to jump in or not.

I don't really like water that much but I was very proud of myself as I decided to be brave and sit on the end and drop in. The water was freezing but I had so much fun.

Lucy Marshall - 8th Letchworth Cub

I loved the Bell boating because I'd never done it before. It was great fun and we had to work as a team when rowing. I also enjoyed jumping in and swimming in the water which was surprisingly warm thank you 8th Letchworth for arranging it



Josh Baldry - 8th Letchworth Cub



District Young Leaders Success

Late in July we were finally able to hold a District Young Leaders event. This was a youth shaped opportunity to meet up and exchange ideas. It was supported by several Leaders from across the District, thank you to them for their input. We heard about some of the missions that had been completed showing amazing commitment that our Young Leaders (Y L) have shown over the past year. They have been busy at meetings inside and outside and online.

The only obligatory training for Young Leaders is module A , so this was delivered for some of our newer YL. This module will be available next term too for those who did not attend. Other modules were also completed and some had missions signed off. This has to be done both by the ESL YL and the Leader with whom the YL is working. Many thanks are due to those Leaders who are supporting their YL in making progress towards their YL belt.

We also thanked and celebrated our YL. They are doing a fantastic job helping so many young people at many different sections across the District. We also made and enjoyed some personalised cookies.

We are delighted to record that Rosalind Hartley and Miles Brewis have completed all sections and were presented with their Young Leader badges, certificates and belts. Many congratulations to them.

Fiona Potts - ESL YL



Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Aiden Gallagher	5th Letchworth
Henry Kell	2nd Baldock



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Charlie Bridstrup	1st Baldock (Templars)
Solomon Corney	1st Baldock (Knights)
Finn Gribble	1st Baldock (Knights)
David Melton	11th Letchworth
Jake Mullen	1st Baldock (Templars)
Charlie Peacock	5th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Kate Fearfield	2nd Baldock
Rose Holmes	2nd Baldock
Molly Latto	2nd Baldock
Taylor Pennell	2nd Baldock
Inigo Tapping	1st Baldock
Esme Wastell	2nd Baldock
Evelyn Wastell	2nd Baldock
Joshua Williams	Oak Eagle ESU



Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Sophie Mallone	Oak Eagle ESU
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Achievements



D of E Bronze Award

Oscar Wade

Oak Eagle Explorer Scout

Diary Dates 2021

SEPTEMBER

- 7 District Beaver Leaders' Meeting @ 8.00 pm The Broadway
- 9 Scout and Guide Shop reopens
- 9 District Executive Meeting
- 12 Baldock 5K (Rat Run) - BBQ provided by Letchworth & Baldock Scouts
- 13 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 20 District Team Meeting
- 21 District Scout Leaders' Meeting (Zoom)
- 21 District Beavers' Bangers and Bash @ 6.00pm Wymondley Wood

OCTOBER

- | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 3 | First Aid Course | District HQ |
| 8 - 10 | Sixers and Seconders Weekend | Wymondley Wood |
| 10 | County Cub Cyclocross | Well End |
| 14 | District Executive Meeting | |

NOVEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 8 | District Cub Leaders' Meeting | |
| 21 | First Aid Course | District HQ |

DECEMBER

- 11 Oak Eagle ESU fund raising event - swimming pool party
- 11 District Executive Meeting

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Printed by: Print Factory,
32 Whitehorse Street
Baldock SG7 6QQ
01462 896289