



CO-ORDINATOR

THE LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUT BULLETIN

Merry Christmas



1st Baldock
Ashwell



2nd Baldock
Weston



7th Letchworth



1st 3rd Letchworth



8th Letchworth



4th Letchworth



11th Letchworth
Bacchus

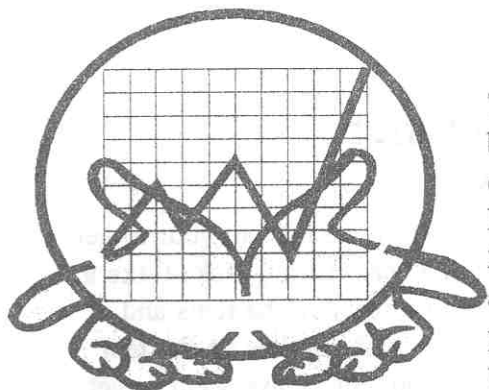


5th Letchworth



12th Letchworth

Beech Springs Venture Scout Unit - Open Evening



The open evening provided Scouts with a chance to talk to Unit Members and Leaders and find out what goes on. A video of several different events was shown, plus photographs, a camp fire and talks. Beech Springs VSU has grown from 3 members (and about to close) to 24 members plus 2 leaders in 2.5 years due to a varied programme and a happy and friendly atmosphere. The Unit are responsible for the programme and the activities and are guided by the leaders. In 1997 we went to the Ardeche in France, in 1998 we went to Anglesey in

in Wales also visiting Dublin Ireland and in 1999 we will be going to Italy on our expo for 3 weeks.

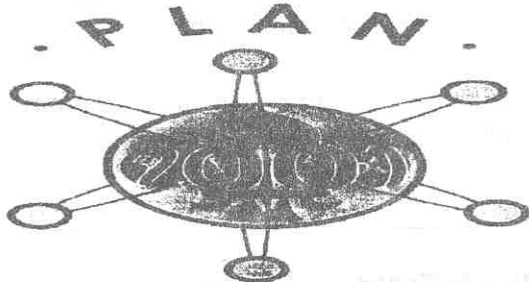
Part of our programme involves the Unit helping to put up and take down Baldock's Christmas lights along Whitehorse Street every year, selling poppies for Remembrance Day in November, helping out at the Local and General Elections, and helping at Baldock May Fair. Our evenings involve hikes, pitch and putt, bowling, balloon debates, basketball, wide games, quizzes and many more. As well as weekends away - water skiing, canoeing, caving, archery, mountaineering, etc. Other annual events include Peak Assault and the Gilwell Gathering.

From the above you can see that we are kept very busy and we believe the success of the unit is due to their enthusiasm, input and friendly nature. We would welcome anyone who is interested even if it's just to find out more about Venture Scouting

Glenn and Maggie Coiley



Telephone: 01462 642150

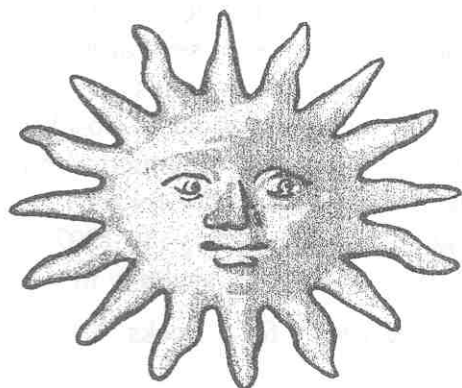


GIRLS IN SCOUTING

Girls have been able to join the Scout Section since 1991, if the Scout Troop agrees, but have we been doing enough to welcome girls in the last few years? Is your programme suitable for girls, and is there enough guidance for Scout Troops who may be thinking of becoming mixed?

These were some of the questions looked at by the Girls in the Scout Troop working Group. New guidelines will be published looking at the practicalities of mixed Scouting and offering up-to-date support on important issues.

Other support will be given to Training Teams and adults in the Section to build up a full appreciation of mixed Scouting and how Scouting can encourage young people to recognise their gender roles in society. This is vital if we are to achieve our aim in scouting of shaping responsible citizens for tomorrow.



Memories of Summer Tolmers '98

My dad (Terry) drove us to Tolmers. It took us half an hour to get there. When we got there all of us got a scarf which looked like a tea towel. We drove on to the field and unpacked the tents and bags. Then we tried to put the tents up but the spikes on the tent poles would not go through the hole in the tent. Dave went to get a pole the right width. Then he sawed the pole down to the right length and we finally got the tents up.

The adults got the easy job of putting up the dining shelter. We had some dinner then we went to flag down. At the end of flag down we played a wide game. After about two minutes, Ben and Michael Cheah were stung by a lot of wasps. I ran to get some help. They went to first aid.

The next day we did lots of activities e.g. Rifle shooting, Archery, Jump mat, Climbing and Abseiling, BMX and a lot more. When the activities had finished we all went to the lake. As you know Craig is the wimp of the week. We got Craig to sit on a raft, then we all pushed him into the middle of the lake with no paddles, so he started to paddle with his hands. He was not getting anywhere so he cried and we just left him.

We went back to get some dinner and pudding. When we finished our dinner we went to see Craig. He was still paddling away. Later the canoeist came and told him off for using a raft. Craig came back and had some dinner. While he was eating we wrote to "come on drown" and asked them to soak him for being such a wimp and that night he was soaked.

The next days were just the same except for Wednesday and Saturday because on Wednesday we did an incident hike. We had three teams Team 14 was Adam May's team, 15 was Lawrence's and 16 was my team. Lawrence's team came in 14th, Adam's team came 17th and my team came 16th.

On Saturday, we played IT'S A KNOCK OUT. Adam May's team came 22nd and our team came joint 2nd. At the end of the day there was a disco. Next morning we packed up and went home

Shane May 1st 3rd Letchworth



TREE FELLING AND HEDGE PLANTING AT NORTON BURY SCOUT AND GUIDE ACTIVITY CENTRE

Saturday December 12th 10:00 to 12:00 hrs

Help wanted to improve wildlife habitat and enhance the camping field by felling dead trees and replanting native hedgework shrubs of Hazel, Hawthorn Blackthorn and Wayfaring.

This must be an activity that Scouts should be undertaking as part of their commitment to the environment. So come and join me. You will need to wear warm working clothes and boots or wellingtons. All tools will be provided. The shrubs are supplied by Country Management Service who provide a service to support self help environment improvements.

Please register with Peter Deary on Letchworth 686859

Programme of Training Opportunities for - GSL's
Commissioners
Administrators

UNIT	SUBJECT	DATE
10	Developing Scouting	31st January
8	Scouting in the Community part 1	27 February am
11	Extending Scouting	27 February pm
3	Managing Safety	28 February
2	Supporting Leaders	20 March
5	Working with People	21 March
7	Training Responsibility	27 March
8**	Scouting in the Community Part 1	20 April evening
9**	Communicating with the Public	18 May evening
4	Administration and Support	26 September
8	Scouting in the Community Part 2	23 October
6	Managing a Team of Adults	30/31 October
3	Managing Safety	6 November
11	Extending Scouting	7 November am
9	Communicating with the Public	7 November pm
1	The Aim & Method of Scouting	27 November

** Not at Well End Centre

For further information ring John or Stella Christie on
01707 328630

District Cub Quiz

8th Letchworth Headquarters 20th November 1998



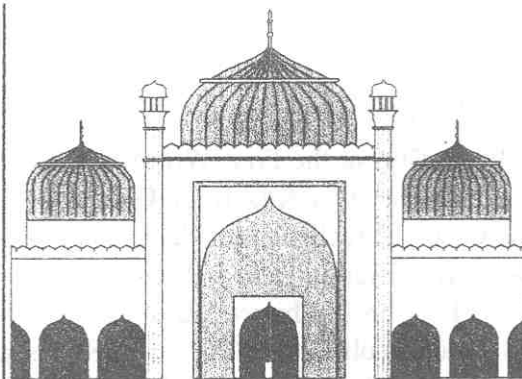
Friday saw the brains of Letchworth & Baldock District Cubs meet for the annual Cub Quiz Competition. The competition was held at the 8th Letchworth Headquarters. The quiz was organised and run by last years winners, 4th Letchworth.

Eight Packs entered teams of 3 Cubs who tested their knowledge of Scouting, Countries, General Knowledge and Sports. It was a closely fought competition and up to the last round anyone of three teams could have won.

The quiz was won by 1st Baldock (Templars), Scott Ibbotson, Daniel Lorient and Tom Herring, closely followed by 8th Letchworth, Daniel Eve, Oliver Crampton and Alex Mabbott. In third place 4th Letchworth, Mathew Wiggington, Timothy Goodwyn and Ben Whitaker.

Thank you to 8th Letchworth for providing the hall and half time refreshments and 4th Letchworth for the questions

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2nd Baldock Cubs

As part of the World Faiths Badge 2nd Baldock Cubs visited the Sikh Temple in Wilbury Way, Hitchin. On arrival the Cubs and Leaders had to remove their shoes, wash their hands and cover their heads. Once inside we were given an insight into the history of the Sikh religion, what happens inside the Temple and the various parts of the Temple. At the end of the talk/tour we were treated to traditional Indian sweets. Before leaving as is the custom we were fed with onion bargees, biscuits and crisps we were also given tea and coke to drink. It was a very enjoyable and enlightening evening and we would recommend it to all Pack/Troops.

Peace
For
Earth



MORE...

90 Years of Scouting in Baldock

The early history of Scouting in Baldock is mainly from newspaper cuttings and the first mention is in 1908. During the First World War Baldock Scouts met firstly in Whitehorse Street and then in the building now used by Rusbridge Garage in Football Close.

The lack of facilities for Scout meetings and fund raising to provide such facilities is a constant theme in the life of Scouting in Baldock. At the beginning of the 20's Baldock Scouts were raising money for a new H.Q. in Pesthouse Lane (new Clothall Road) which was opened in 1923. The same year the first Baldock Wolf Cub Pack met in St Joseph's Convent led by Sister Superior and such was the enthusiasm a second Baldock Wolf Cub Pack was formed the same year. As ever in Scouting, enthusiasm didn't mean financial security and in 1926 local traders agreed to cancel debts outstanding by the Scouts - the actual total of these debts is not recorded !

Although Baldock had a Scout Troop for 20 years, they were not officially registered as 1st Baldock until 1928 when the Group system was introduced - the 18th troop to do so. Finances once again appear to have been a problem because the H.Q. was sold in 1938 and meetings were subsequently held in White Horse Pavilion, Rectory Loft and Rover Den in the Manor House.

The formation of 2nd Baldock Scout Group on Christmas Eve 1953 indicates Scouting must have still been growing in Baldock as well as the rest of the world. The 1st Baldock H.Q. as we all know it was built in Park Drive at a cost of £599 during 1958.1959 using a building which had started life as a chicken shed.

The 60's seems to have been an active decade for Scouting in Baldock. In March 1965 a 3rd Baldock Scout Group was formed which met in the Methodist Church Hall and continued until 1969 when the Leaders Peter and Hannah Moules retired. International links were also starting to be made with a visit to Kandersteg International Scout Chalet in Switzerland and a meeting with an American Troop as part of the World Friendship year in 1965. The end of the decade saw 1st Baldock say goodbye to one of its stalwarts when Jim Bruce retired in 1969 and soon after went through a low patch and nearly closed through lack of support.

With Eric Woodward (Skip) taking over as Scout Leader in 1972 1st Baldock seems to have taken an up turn. The high points during the 70's seem to have included several memorable camps (memorable both for weather and camping conditions) and these reached their height in 1979 with Christmas dinner being served during August in rainy Wiltshire - Scouts should always be prepared well in advance !! The first Venture Unit called Beech Springs was started in 1977.

Beaver colonies were first introduced into Scouting in 1982 and 1st Baldock opened their first colony in 1987, with 2nd Baldock following in 1992. These colonies meant that for the first time Baldock had units which enabled boys to enjoy Scouting from age 6 to 21. The movement decided to admit girls in 1990 and at Summer Camp in Stotfold in 1994 2nd Baldock Scouts invested their first girls - something 1st Baldock has not yet been able to emulate for many reasons, not least of which is the lack of space and facilities in the H.Q.

The 90's have so far been a successful decade for Scouting in Baldock. In 1993 Baldock Scouts and Leaders joined others on the County to visit St Petersburg and the following year Russian Scouts (both boys and girls) joined in a camp at Hay-on-Wye. Contacts with the St Petersburg Scouts were strengthened when they returned to Baldock earlier this year. In 1997 Beech Springs Venture Unit reached 20 years of age and also took itself to the south of France.

Fund raising continued through the early/mid 90's and in 1997 the first brick was laid on the extension to the H.Q. with the hope that the 90th birthday celebrations would be held in the new building !! We now have walls but no roof!! A third application has been made to the National Lottery and we hope we will be successful this time but if not we will continue with the time honoured Jumble Sales, Raffles, Barn Dances, begging letters etc. and perhaps the centenary will be celebrated there ! Hopefully the next 90 years will be as successful.

Letchworth and District Football League

League standing as at 31st July 1998

OVER 12's

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Extra Points	Points
1st Baldock 'A'	4	3	0	1	17	12		9
4th Letchworth	5	3	0	2	25	28		9
2nd Baldock	2	2	0	0	36	5		6
7th Letchworth	3	2	0	1	15	9		6
1st Baldock 'B'	3	0	0	2*	5	9	1	1
1st 3rd Letchworth	3	0	0	3	2	37		0
8th Letchworth	0	0	0	0	0	0		0

* Conceded match

UNDER 12's

4th Letchworth	3	3	0	0	29	4		9
1st Baldock	2	1	0	1	8	9		3
2nd Baldock	2	1	0	1	4	10		3
8th Letchworth	0	0	0	0	0	0		0

GRANTS

NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD

Small Grants Programme - This programme is now available across the whole country and offers grants of between £500 and £5,000 for organisations with an annual income of less than £15,000.

Application Packs are available by telephoning 0345 458 458

For more details or advice please phone the Scout Lottery Line 0171 590 5123

The Scout Foundation have agreed a request from the Community Development subcommittee that £50.00 grants (in Scout Shop Ltd vouchers) are available to Groups opening new Sections.



The grants will be issued on a first come first served basis and we have up to £5,000 to award - supporting 100 new sections. Groups do not need matched funding to apply. They just need to complete a form (contact DC for application form), and of course open the new Section. A month after the anticipated start date listed on the form each successful bid needs to send us a short report of what they did with the money and the numbers of new young people and adults involved.



A SPOT OF HISTORY

Our Scout Group Headquarters (and don't let me hear anybody insulting it as "the hut"!) was opened on 8th January 1928 as the Westbury Mission, with Evangelistic services conducted by Miss Dorothy Phillips. Fifth Letchworth Wolf Cubs and Boy Scouts, wearing orange scarves, met there from 1929 to 1935, led by Letchworth's curate the Reverend Philip Greville.

Renamed St Gabriel's Church, the building gradually crumbled until Mr Horace Plinston, as secretary of Letchworth Garden City Corporation and Scout District President, formally handed it into the care of the new Fifth Letchworth group (the purple and grey) on 29th April 1969.

At some time in the thirties, St Gabriel's was also used as temporary classrooms while Westbury School was being extended. I learned this from Eric Woodward ("Skip" of First Baldock, District Scout Fellowship Treasurer and former Westbury pupil) on the grand historic occasion in November 1998 when Fifth HQ was chosen to host the Letchworth & Baldock District Scouts' knowledge quiz.

Eight teams crowded the hall at the start representing both the Baldock troops and Fourth, Seventh, and Eighth Letchworth. More tables had to be brought in when First-Third Letchworth arrived in force, twenty minutes late.

As a neutral observer invited by the DC, I was disappointed to see the home team seriously under strength, as most of the Scouts who said they would play had somehow forgotten to turn up. The honour of the Fifth thus lay entirely with Jack Stevens and Stuart Duncan, partly assisted by two spare Seventh lads who mistook it for the annual art competition and fervently drew cartoons the whole time.

Sixty questions ranging from Science and Music to Quotations and Current Events all needed written answers, plus a "Marathon" sheet of misleading words to match with cryptic clues. Jack and Stuart did very well, finishing in equal fourth place with 45 points. First Baldock scored 57, but with 65 points the District trophy this year happily went to our colleagues from the summer expedition, Eighth Letchworth Scouts. Altogether, it was good family get-together, fuelled by Pepsi-Cola, chocolate biscuits and crisps. Personally I regretted the need for the microphone and loudspeaker used by Bob Williams as question master, but even that was hard to hear above the excited chatter which some old fogeys like me and the ghost of Miss Dorothy Phillips might have thought rather discourteous to our ever patient District Commissioner.

KJ, Fifth Letchworth Scout Fellowship

CHIEF SCOUTS CHALLENGE EXPEDITION



This year at Summer Camp we (Robert, Jamie, David, Matt and James - 'The Dynamic Bunch') completed the expedition section of the Chief Scout Challenge. This award requires a group of Scouts to set out on a three-day expedition, over 40 miles in unfamiliar

surroundings, and on our travels to study something in depth so that when we return we can present our

findings in a presentation to the rest of the Troop. We decided to study 'The effect of height on the amount of erosion in rivers'. The information we decided to base our investigation on was the width and length of 10 pebbles from the centre of the river. Also using a piece of marked string we measured the depth of the river, again as near as we could get to the middle. We also gathered information to tell us how fast the river was flowing by using sticks flowing down the centre of the river along a certain length. We hoped our information we gathered would give us a clear indication of how rivers gets faster, wider and the stones get smaller, the further downstream we go. Well, apart from a few unexpected results, we thought the experiment had worked reasonably well.

We found the expedition hard work, but extremely fun. The hike was a real test of our mental and physical strengths in actually keeping going until we got to the designated farm we were going to use as our campsite. When we eventually reached the end of the hike we looked back on how hard it actually was, but were pleased with how we managed to get through it all, and come back with our sanity.

GREEN BERET

Between Friday 13th and Sunday 15th of November, 9 members of the 1st Baldock Scout Troop (6 in a competitive team and 3 in a non-competitive team) competed in the Hertfordshire County Green Beret competition. On Friday, Chris Page took the full team down to Tolmers in the minibus, and at 9p.m.



we finally got there. At roughly 10 p.m. we pitched the tents in pitch black and at about midnight we all went to sleep. During the night Paul's sleeping bag got completely soaked because the rain ran into the tent and unluckily Paul was in the way! In the morning David and Paul woke up and cooked breakfast. Our first activity was orienteering. We all did very well especially Shaun and Robert who hadn't done it before. After the orienteering we went and did some bases for the day exercise, which included "It's a Knockout" and a rope trail. Then we had lunch during which we had a visit from our D.C. (Bob Williams), but he was too late for the hot-dogs! After that we did the assault course in which I fell waist deep into a lake. Then we did some more bases for the day exercise, our favourite base was the pioneering base in which we had to get a tennis ball to roll as far as possible without it touching the floor. After that we had dinner, which my mum came down and cooked for us. At 7 o'clock we went and did the bases

for the night exercise, the best one was where we had to make shapes out of rope. We did really well in the night exercises and came 4th in this part. After that we went to sleep, because Paul's sleeping bag was wet through he had to wear as much clothes as possible and he used my sleeping bag inner and my blanket. It was so cold in the morning we could not get the gaz cooker to work and we had to use the tiny gaz cooker. We eventually got the big cooker to work and at last we got the food cooked. Then came the job of taking down the tents and then we took them up to the minibus. On the way up Robert fell face first into a massive lake of mud and he got absolutely caked!!!

In the end we came 13th out of 74 competitive teams, a very good result overall. Our non competitive team of 3 came down on the Saturday, and if they were competitive they would have won the night exercise.

We all had an extremely fun weekend and I would advise you younger ones to come along next year and try it because you will love it.

Daniel Staines (age 12)

Team members:-

Team A

David Kenyon (P.L)

Paul Roberts (A.P.L)

Daniel Staines

Richard Kenyon

Robert Hatchet

Shaun Pateman

Team B

James Lacey (P.L)

Jamie Pateman (A.P.L)

David Hull

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

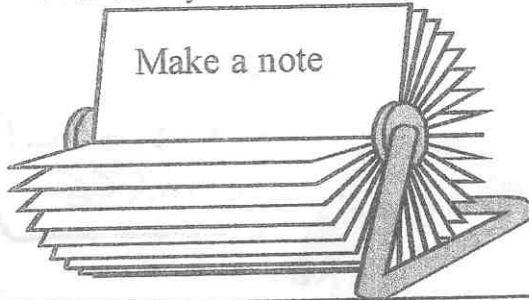
2nd Appointments Committee - Norton Bury
3rd District Scout Troop
10th District Executive Meeting
12th Tree Planting 10am - 12pm Norton Bury

23rd District Scout Cooking Competition
25th Summer Fayre Meeting
28th Scout Leaders Meeting
30th County Cub Swimming Gala

JANUARY 1999

6th Appointments Committee
7th District Scout Troop
11th Cub Leaders Meeting

Make a note



Remembrance Day



Thanks to Scouts from 5th Letchworth and 1st 3rd Letchworth for being on parade together with members of the Scout Fellowship at the War Memorial and, especially, Rory Farmer who laid the wreath on behalf of the District.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

District Directory - Update

E-Mail addressess

Glenn Coiley GCoiley@aol.com
(VSL Beech Springs)

Maggie Coiley MCoiley@AOL.com
Glenn & Maggie Coiley

New Telephone No: 01462 642150

Dave Strong david@thesstrongies.demon.co.uk
(SL 7th Letchworth)

Welcome to the following



John Austin (ACSL) 1st Baldock
5 Mercia Road
Baldock SG7 6RZ 01462 895331

Pauline Keynon (BSL) 1st Baldock
313 Wedon Way
Bygrave SG7 5QS 01462 491904

Rita Hopewell (ABSL) 1st Baldock
18 Ashtons Lane
Baldock SG7 6JJ 01462 894217

Christopher Gee (ACSL) 1st 3rd Letchworth
68 Archers Way
Letchworth SG6 4UL 01462 625167

MORE...

Distributed by:

The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council

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