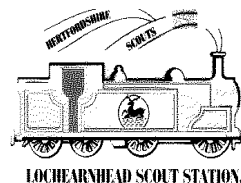


Co-ordinator



Lochearnhead 4 - 18 August 2001 District Expedition Contingent

Danielle Butterworth	1st Ashwell	Stuart Johnson	5th Letchworth
Tasmin Cross	1st Ashwell	Stuart Lawrence	5th Letchworth
Marcus Farnfield	1st Ashwell	Daniel Lovelock	5th Letchworth
Ellie Shann	1st Ashwell	Frank Maddison	5th Letchworth
Nicky Blenkin	1st Baldock	Sam Marsh	5th Letchworth
Robin Brough	1st Baldock	Paul Murphy	5th Letchworth
Lewis Cowell	1st Baldock	Thomas Parry	5th Letchworth
Chris Ellis	1st Baldock	Jamie Trott	5th Letchworth
Robert Hatchett	1st Baldock	Matthew Trott	5th Letchworth
David Hull	1st Baldock	Jake Verbaten	5th Letchworth
Gerpreet Singh Liddar	1st Baldock	Sam Williams	5th Letchworth
Daniel Loriot	1st Baldock	Sarm Watts	5th Letchworth
Richard McVeigh	1st Baldock	Yasmin Watts	5th Letchworth
Andrew Spencer	1st Baldock	Alex Wilcox	5th Letchworth
James Willoughby	1st Baldock	James Breeze	7th Letchworth
James Wiltshire	1st Baldock	Aaron O'Donnell	7th Letchworth
Andrew Battison	2nd Baldock	Michael Strong	7th Letchworth
Richard Betts	2nd Baldock	Gareth Evans	8th Letchworth
Eamon Brennan	2nd Baldock	Peter Kirby	8th Letchworth
Michael Cambourne-Paynter	2nd Baldock	Nicholas Howell	11th Letchworth
Robert Corr	2nd Baldock	Philip Brown	12th Letchworth
Marcus Fryer	2nd Baldock	Matthew Hart	12th Letchworth
Emma Gwilt	2nd Baldock	Paul Wallis	12th Letchworth
Scott Ibbotson	2nd Baldock	Nick Brown	Beech Springs
Gregory Neath	2nd Baldock	Richard Matheson	Beech Springs
Chris Amoss	2nd Weston	Oliver Smith	Beech Springs
Matthew Anderson	2nd Weston	Tom Smith	Beech Springs
Iain Brook	2nd Weston	Daniel Staines	Beech Springs
Alexander Pitt	1st 3rd Letchworth	Andrew Walsh	Beech Springs
Phillip Pitt	1st 3rd Letchworth	Steven Woolmer	Beech Springs
Michael Sweetman	1st 3rd Letchworth		
Iain Ness	4th Letchworth		
Jesse Struthers	4th Letchworth		
Ben Whitaker	4th Letchworth		
Ross Bottazzi	5th Letchworth		
Joe Byrne	5th Letchworth		
Tom Byrne	5th Letchworth		
Stewart Duncan	5th Letchworth		
Rory Farmer	5th Letchworth		
Daryl Hawkins	5th Letchworth		



Winter in the Highlands of Scotland Summer in the Highlands

LEADERS

Bob Williams
Chris King
Nick Farmer
Sue Lovelock
Gareth Howell
Phil Bodsworth
Ruth Bodsworth
Paul Stretch
Dean Lovelock
Geoff Smith
Stephanie Williams
Graham Hopkins
Lesley Gwilt
Fiona Potts
Simon Tierney
Wayne Lovelock
Neil Breeze
Jim Martin
Carol Parker
Lesley Farmer
Ann Martin
Wendy Tierney
Deb Dilley
Kimberley Hawkins
Lorraine Robson
Dave Strong
Jane Shann
Mike Miles
Anthony Whitaker
Mandy Woolmer
Wendy Neath

Station Master DC
Assistant Station Master ADC (Scouts)
Expedition Leader - 5th Letchworth
Head Chef - 5th Letchworth CSL
Activity Adviser
Activity Adviser
Activity Adviser
Activity Adviser
5th Letchworth ASL
5th Letchworth ASL
5th Letchworth SL
8th Letchworth SL
2nd Baldock ASL
1st Baldock CSL
2nd Weston CSL
Helper - 5th Letchworth
Helper - 7th Letchworth
Catering/Tuck Shop/Bank
Catering - 5th Letchworth BSL
Catering - Helper 5th Letchworth
Catering - 11th Letchworth CSL
Catering - 2nd Weston GSL
Catering - ADC (Beavers)
Catering - Helper 2nd Baldock
4th Letchworth ASL
7th Letchworth SL
1st Ashwell SL
Helper - Fellowship
Helper - 4th Letchworth
Catering - 7th Letchworth ACSL
Catering—2nd Baldock BSL

Visitors

Dave Hawkins
Rita Hawkins
Abbie Lovelock
Fred Lovelock
Allan Patterson
Valerie Patterson
Brian Rosendale
Sue Rosendale
Janet Sands
Roger Sands
Rita Smith + Guest
Ashley Tierney
Ross Tierney
Edmond Tickner
Sheila Tickner
Deirdre Williams

STOP PRESS

Blackbeard and Goggles kidnap McTavish

Dear Uncle Nick,

I am so sorry that I couldn't be there to wave the Scouts goodbye on their way home. Unfortunately the evil Blackbeard and his side-kick Goggles managed to lure me from my safe hiding place, plied me with apple juice and promised me wealth untold if I joined their band of cut-throats.

After a 10 hour journey locked in their caravan, they finally let me out and fed me (an Indian take-away because they were too knackered to cook!). They have promised to treat me well and return me unharmed at the post camp meeting, but have told me to warn you that any rescue attempt is bound to be unsuccessful as you would be recognized immediately. You being not fat enough to impersonate Blackbeard - at least according to Chris Ellis!

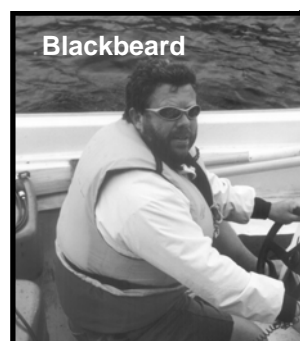
Blackbeard has given me my own email address so that I can communicate with you and send you photos of my adventures as soon as he gets them developed.

I miss you and all my friends and look forward to being re-united with you soon.

Your ever loving nephew



E-fit of MacTavish
drawn from memory



Wanted for kidnapping and piracy

Any information as to his whereabouts please contact
Crime Busters (Batman
and Robin)
01462 643432 or
01462 686727

Lochearnhead

It seems so long ago that I first raised the subject of a District Expedition to Scotland with Bob (You know Bob... Bob Williams the old DC, What forgotten already!)

It was back in 1997 that I first mentioned the idea to him. We settled on 2001 and August, as this would be his 'Swan Song' and what a way to bow out. The two weeks separated by a joint coming together of the Expedition members, a party to celebrate the reign of Bob, the hand over to Dave (Dave Hawkins your new District Commissioner, 'Dave Who? ...Him wot did Cubs?' Yes, that's him!)

There were times when I felt, 'Can we do this?, have we the right people to carry this off? my mind was at times filled with doubt. However, I am pleased to say that all my fears were unfounded. The foot & mouth epidemic, left us short of a few qualified mountaineers, but we found help from within the family of Scouting in the form of Paul Stretch, and thanks to Phil and Ruth Bodsworth for their help with the sailing.

Well; the first and second week saw a few showers, some heavier than others, but everybody attempted all of the activities set to challenge them, most rose to the challenge and conquered its might. A few found it a bit daunting, not that it was beyond them; but more a case of them lacking in their own self confidence. Most reached the top of a Mountain, some higher than others.

But is size important? Not when achievement counts!

Many fears and phobias were overcome, not only by Scouts but also by Leaders, Venture Scouts and Helpers alike. We went from...

"I can't do that" to "Can I do it again?"

I have said it before, and I'll say it now, and know doubt I'll say it again!

My thanks to all the Scouts who attended, Leaders, Venture Scouts and Helpers THANK YOU and WELL DONE! My thanks to all of the visitors, to Roger Sands (County Commissioner) and his wife Janet, who used some of their valuable holiday to join us.

I do, however, have to report some very un-Scouting behavior.

My pet Haggis 'MacTavish' was kidnapped on no fewer than SIX occasions, one time being right from under my nose at the end of Expedition Dinner. He was, however, returned to me in the ceremony of 'The Clapping in of the Haggis'. This followed the 'Piping in of the Haggis' for the start of the final dinner. (MacTavish joined us after this event as he found it a bit distressing knowing one of his relatives was about to become a starter) I was not going to let him out of my sight again, and located him in the position of the Honored Sporrán. But alas a Judas or should I say a Judyas was to separate MacTavish and I again. It was my own wife who came between Haggis and Keeper. I was still unaware of the treachery afoot until I asked for him to wave good bye to the second weekers, when I was handed another ransom note. "The Evil Black Beard from deepest Essex (the afore praised Phil Bodsworth) had once again separated us, a demand of a 'Reunion Invitation' was the ransom. A demand out of my control... So I ask all of you who attended Lochearnhead 2001, Please attend the reunion (date and location to be advised) so that the reunion of MacTavish and myself can be achieved.

Nick L Farmer, Expedition Leader
(Keeper / Looser of the Haggis)



Left to right

"Him wot did Cubs" - Dave Hawkins
District Commissioner

Ex - District Commissioner - Bob Williams

County Commissioner - Roger Sands

"When in doubt say nowt"

POET's CORNER

Hiking

To Lochearnhead I said I'd go
But to all hiking I said 'No'
I have this fear of heights you see
But no-one seemed to listen to me

For on the first day I was sent
To accompany Geoff, a perfect gent,
On a days hike to God knows where
Chris and Dave laughed and said 'we'll see you there'

As we left the other group I found
That our hike went up, while theirs went down
We climbed on and up, and up and on
The old heart was pumping, the legs had gone

The rain poured down, we did not stop
Until we'd reached the very top
A kiss from Geoff didn't stop my frown
For I'd just realised what goes up, must come down

And so the boys saw the unladylike sight
Of a female leader, on her rear end, from height
Sliding through greenery, mud and water deep
Whilst trying to avoid the droppings of sheep

Blistered, bruised, tired and wet
How much worse could this trip get ?
'Just down that path', I heard them say
To meet the bus and then on our way

But the path was long with corners many
With no chance at all to 'spend a penny'
Till finally the mirage came
The ex DC to meet the lame

And the moral of this little tale
Is next time, that I MUST NOT FAIL
When asked to go and take a hike
I must stand my ground and say 'on your bike'

But then cycling's another story where I'm
concerned !!!

Lorraine Robson
4th Letchworth ASL

Living life to the full
Overnight hikes in the rain
Climbing till your arms ache
Hills beckon again and again

Eager faces every morning!
Aches from the day before
Rest while you have your breakfast
Next you're ready to do more

Home is here at the station
Eating is second to none
Activities fill all our moments
Days of fun to tell mum

Letter Home

Hello Mother Hello Father here we are at
Lochearn Station

Things are very entertaining they say this if it
only stop raining

Take us home O Mother Father

Take us home we hate this station

Don't leave us out where we might get eaten
by a haggis.

Wait a minute it's stopped raining Scouts are
climbing Scouts are sailing playing football

Ouch that's better Mother Father kindly
disregard this letter

Catering Crew



' Funny how they follow each other,
just likeum.....'

Editors Note - it is rumoured that the Lochearnhead
poets will be set reading for 'A' level in 2002.

The Ghost of Lochearnhead

Thursday 9th August 1934.

It was a dark stormy night and the wind howled through the Highlands. The lightning flashed across the valleys and the clouds rolled, it was a normal Scottish night. The 10:15 from Glasgow not knowing about the unknown danger which it approached hurtled towards the viaduct. The hail and rain had caused a rock slide which tumbled and struck the viaduct. The base cracked, the supports crumbled and the rails splintered. The innocent train ploughed into the viaduct and crashed into the valley below.

Back at the station the Station Master heard the rumble of explosions and the crunching of debris. He walked down the platform and could see fire in the distance. He guided himself by the candle light of his lantern to the horror that awaited him. As he peered over the mangled viaduct he slipped and fell to his doom!

Some say you can still see the Station Master walking along the platform at night on Thursday the 9th of August with his lantern and hear the whistling of the train. So if you hear or see something weird tonight you know what it is!

Mwa-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!

*By Paul Wallis 12th Letchworth
and Nick Howell 11th Letchworth
9th August 2001*

Ben Nevis Insanity and Beyond

Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in the United Kingdom and we did it, we got to the very top. But not only did we get to the top we took the hardest route humanly possibly, not through choice just by pure coincidence.

We left on Friday night and camped at a campsite, this was going to be a proper expedition. We packed up camp at 06:30 and set off for the bottom. After a few minor parking problems we locked the car and started our ascent for the top. We started at 30 metres above sea level and we were about to climb 1315 meters to get to the top of the 1345 metre mountain. The first stretch was reasonably tolerable but then the weather kicked in and we could only see 3 feet in front of us. This meant that the rope came out and the pace slowed down to a minimum. After a couple of kilometres we stopped walking and started to climb, this came just as the wind and hale started to pick up. The rest of the way the weather just got worse. The hale was horizontal and the wind was unbearable.

We stopped half way up the climb and Dean Lovelock had a major stress at Nick Brown the team leader about the weather conditions and the fact that his leg felt like it had fallen off due to the weather. After deciding that if we tried to go back down we would have probably been safer to jump, we pushed on to the top. The top didn't appear very quickly and it seemed like my watch was beeping ever five minutes. The weather did not want us to make it to the top but morale was still high, every body wanted to make it to the top. The top appeared and we all huddled together in a shelter to try and get some photographs taken so we had proof that we actually got to the top. The descent got off to a bad start because we took the wrong path down. We got back to the top and celebrated again before taking the tourist route to the bottom. We had a good day and we are now a bit tender.

(The Party: Graham Hopkins, Dean Lovelock, Steven Woolmer and team leader Nick Brown)

Lochearnhead Yesteryear

Hike Leader's Training Course Easter 1963 Hertfordshire Express

Training in mountains in spite of weather. Thirty Five Rovers and Scouts from Hertfordshire and adjoining counties are this week (19 April 1963) giving their own Highland Headquarters biggest operation running so far.

The station at Lochearnhead, Perthshire was opened last August as a Hertfordshire Scout Centre for Sailing and Mountaineering instruction. The first of the hike leaders' and sailing training courses are running simultaneously under the most eagle of all eyes, those of County Commissioner Melville Balsillie, of whose dream the place is a realisation.

Scotland's worst Easter weather for many years was never permitted to deter the prospective leaders. Some received on Good Friday their initiation into the use of ice axes during an elementary hill walk to 2,400 feet in a blizzard.

"Lift up your eyes" is the motto of Lochearnhead inspiring these young men - returning to Hertfordshire tomorrow (Saturday) night - to start making plans to lead Scouts, and Senior Scouts of the County in more adventure expeditions.

MENU

19th April 1963

Scots Faring

Broth O' Herbs

Haggis, the great Chieftain of the
Pudding race

Neeps

Champit Tatties

Fruits Frae Tropic Climes

A bite O' the Kebbuck

Clan McGregor

Arthur Smith, Alex Bell (Borehamwood), Neil Baglin (Hatfield), John Bowyer (Luton), Ken Johnson (Letchworth)

Easter Sunday 14 April 1963

It rained all night and half way through the morning; but the sun shone as the clans Maclean and Macgregor steamed slowly out of the station, carrying the high camp on their backs in order to set it up near Lochan an Eireannach. Gay bright sunshine covered Balquidder, and Loch Voil was indigo with white spots.

High up the Kirkton Glen glowing with fitness, heroism, perspiration and adventure we rested our rucsacs in the snow, took photographs and tried not to be annoyed by the number of family picnic parties and old ladies with shopping baskets.....

Beyond the 1000 foot contour, however, we were on our own, and terribly brave. At the end of the tress a sleety snow began to fall. The last quarter mile in real snow was steep and slippery and ice axes were invaluable.

We set up camp at about 1950 feet; clearing the snow to pitch the tents and heaping the snow on the base flaps to hold them down in any wind. There was no wind.

We lunched there, like an expedition, on corned beef sandwiched in Ryvita, and dates and some of John Bowyer's fruit cake.

Easter Monday 15 April 1963

Frozen breath starched the inside of the tents so that they crackled in the breeze. The snow was crisp and hard underfoot.

Editors note: Can any body tell me what is the "eleventh Scout Law"

My Hill Walking Experience.

By

Paul Wallis (12th Letchworth)

I can barely feel my legs, my feet hurt like mad, my boots are muddier than Napoleon's war clothes and I am more exhausted than a turtle who has just walked from 'Timbuktu' to 'Poland'.

I am very tired due to the fact that I have just been hauled over a huge mountain, by a very loony and obsessed Venture Scout mountaineer, in gale force winds and terrible rain. On the way back I fell over so many times I spent more time on the floor, in the heather, in the ferns and in boggy old mud patches, than actually walking.

Our expedition was led by 'Nasty Nick', who is a Venture Scout. He is a very good and experienced walker and climber, but has the knack for pushing us on through all. Nick pushed us all on like some kind of robust robot and all that came to mind were the words 'Exterminate, exterminate'.

This is my very first trip to Scotland and so far I love it here. The people are friendly and the scenery is just spectacular. Now all I have to do is prepare for the next thing. At least I can safely say that I will sleep well tonight.

More wildlife

We captured frogs and tadpoles, also a short-tailed vole. We saw buzzards, kestrels and a peregrine falcon, also wheatear, and other little brown jobs ! Horse tails, ladies mantle, orchids and plenty of ling and hare-bells. We ate raspberries, blackberries, bilberries and tays!

MENU

Friday 10 August 2001

Scotch Broth or Haggis

Roast Turkey & Seasoning

Roast Potatoes

Broccoli Spears

Sweetcorn

Apple Pie or

Trifle

with cream or

Custard Sauce

The C's Night Hike

Right now all the C's are in the boys room "trying", I repeat, "trying" to think of something to do for Friday night's show. And one of the things we are thinking of doing is re-enacting the hike, but in case we don't I'd better tell you about it. As we set off everybody was really excited and we were ready to go. But as we started up the first mountain everyone began to feel a little less sure about the hike.

We travelled up Ben Lawers steadily, stopping for rests regularly. As we reached the first sort of ledgy thing we saw another one. Ellie said to me "That's the top, right?" and Dani said: "No you see that big thing in the mist? That's the top!" Ellie just groaned and carried on walking.

We finally reached the top of Ben Lawers, I was wet, cold and nearly being blown away, as the wind was so strong we had to be roped up.

Once we were over the peak the wind wasn't too bad, but I wasn't worried about it any more, I had another problem, DANI!

Dani is the most co-ordinated person in the world, NOT! If you stood Dani on the flattest place in the world and told her to stand still she'd fall over! And guess what? I was tied to her! It was actually quite funny as every time Dani fell over everyone went like dominos and fell over as well. In the end we had fallen over about a bazillion times!

When we got to the campsite we did a lot of things which are boring to go into so I won't tell you about them. But when I came to dinner (making dinner that is) that was funny the capital Cs managed to burn everything, even their hot chocolate, where as the little Cs cooked everything perfectly. Of course, because that was the group I was in!

In the morning after we had had breakfast and stuff, we set off again. Again Dani fell over loads. In the mud, moss and river, yes, river! We went through a farm and then we saw Bob, and the minibus. Heaven!

I want to say thank-you to all the leaders who came on the hike.

Tasmin Cross- 1st Ashwell

Sailing

Monday 13 groups B and little B went on a sailing trip on Loch Earn. We all enjoyed it despite the rain. Some of us already knew how to sail. It was raining on us but if you looked across the Loch it was brilliant sun shine. Ten people crammed into some small boats and the rescue crew got into their motor boat. We made a fire so that when we got out we could warm ourselves up. We also had a shelter to put all our stuff under so it did not get wet like us. When we weren't operating the rudder, jib or main sail we were bailing all the water out which was coming in as quickly as we bailed it out. When we got there as soon as Mike got out of the minibus he went head over heels down the embankment.

Rock Climbing

Today Emma, Rory, Wayne, Nick, Nick, Nicky, James, Matthew, Robin and me (Yaz) went rock climbing. I was really scared at first, but when I saw it I was the first person up. I found it really fun so I had another go on Rory's rope and another, and another.

Soon it was Matthew's go and he realised he was scared of heights. Nick then moved the rope across and Matthew went up again, he got to the top and was stuck there for half an hour. Soon Nick and Wayne talked him into letting go of the rocks and got him down. I had two more goes then Emma tried, she was a bit nervous at first, but managed to climb to the top, with encouragement from Nick and Wayne. And I climbed with her and at the top Wayne took a picture of Emma and me.

Yasmin Watts

Day Hike

Today we went for a day hike up - BEN LEDI. A Saturday group of hikers (me, Joe Burns, Stuart and of course Jake.) There were no injuries. There was an accident though. I tumbled down a grassy slope as I found a family of hidden ditches. We made it up to the peak after 2 hours and 20 minutes of climbing. It was North Pole freezing and we were in our shorts and T-shirt, it seemed like the time to get every layer of clothes we had with us on. We had to climb 879 mtrs (880 if you climbed to the top of the trig point). The winds were a blowing and all my rubbish was on the verge of flying away, but all the views were great and we made it down in one piece.

Robert Corr

Cycling

When we went cycling we decided to explore an old derelict house. Steff, Scott, Andrew, Eamon and I ventured down a steep path where a caravan has been abandoned. We had a look inside. The floor was muddy and unstable and there was old food stuff everywhere. There were two rooms and a toilet. Then we looked around the house. Most of it had been knocked down. It was probably Victorian. We looked around and picked some gooseberries and raspberries. We found that some of the house had been done-up recently. We reckoned somebody had tried to turn the house into a summer home or house but had given up. And.... (Don't read this bit if you get scared easily) we found a place where a DEAD BODY was hidden

Kayaking

Yesterday we went Kayaking on lake something or other. We were the unlucky ones. We went Kayaking first when it was cold, raining and cloudy. While the other group big C were cycling up a great big steep hill which was kind of bad for them, as we rode down it. But they came kayaking in to great warm sun. We made a fire, not particularly big, but we did. The kayaks we went through some weeds. We left the area and thought Daniel Staines had disappeared, but he was just laying down. After we started to freeze, we got out and swapped with cyclists.

Overnight Hike

We went on a night hike, we managed to walk up two mountains which were Ben Lawers and Creag an Fhithich and walked around Beinn Ghlas. Whilst we were camping Alex and his amazing bladder managed to go to the loo six times in the night, and Steff went missing so the leaders sent a search party out and three-quarters of the way up the mountain we got sent straight back down. Steff managed to use up two rolls of film on the beautiful views of Scotland and still managed to give the troop a very detailed description of the sights, even without the pictures. And whilst this was happening Daryl, Stuart and Tom went river sliding and got drenched and the next day they were in agony walking in wet shoes and socks.



Tea Break—again



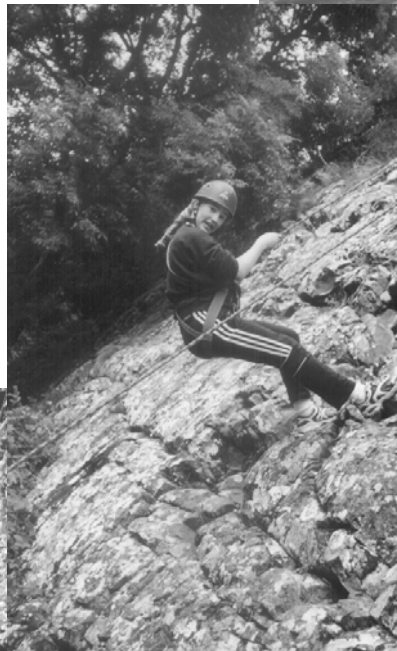
Gumby with MacTavish



On top of the World



Lunchtime at the Station



“Look Mum I’m steering”



Space Camp 2001 – Phasels Wood

Well a good but slightly damp week was spent at Phasels Wood with about 450 cubs from all over Region 3 during the first week of August.


Lots of activities were organised including a day trip to Whipsnade Wild Animal Park – the encore of the sealion display caught a couple of children unawares! ; a day trip to Duxford Air Museum – we were the largest group of cubs & leaders they had entertained in one go, so there was a celebratory photoshoot by the spitfire; a day trip to Greenwich Maritime Museum – very wet and windy, made us feel as if we really were at sea; Carrots Disco (Herts Beaver Roadshow); “Toy Story 2” on our own Cinema Screen; a treasure hunt, crafts, campfire sing-song as well as pot-holing, climbing, abseiling, archery, shooting and pedal cars.

There was plenty of food to go around (even if they were giving us our food supplies at the time the cubs wanted to eat, thus having to fend off hungry mouths whilst trying to cook dinner!) needless to say we adapted the suggested menu as the week went on and I think we were fairly creative – the cubs didn’t go hungry!

Many thanks must go to Mick Dilley for transporting all the kit to and from Phasels Wood; 1st Baldock for the loan of crockery/cutlery; 2nd Baldock for the loan of their marquee and cooking pots; 4th Letchworth for the loan of the sleeping tents and 7th Letchworth for the loan of their gas rings.



Finally a big thank you to Dave Hawkins (ADC – Cubs), Anne Gutteridge (4th Letchworth CSL), Sian Moss (parent and committee member – 4th Letchworth) and Andrea Soulsby (Fellowship) for giving up their time to take the cubs from 1st Baldock, 4th Letchworth and 5th Letchworth on this great adventure.



Join us at the Scout Association exclusive weekend 2001

Following on from last year’s highly successful weekend at LEGOLAND Windsor, we are pleased to announce the 2001 event details:

- Saturday and Sunday 24 - 25 November 2001
- The option of both one and two day tickets
- Competitions to win exclusive prizes
- Participation in a variety of Activity Badge work
- Early booking Goodie Bag - to secure book before 19 October



“For every 10 tickets ordered you get one free !”

For booking form and more details go to www.scout.base.org.uk or write to LEGOLAND Windsor Park Limited, Winkfield Row, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 4AY or telephone: 01753 626100 for group bookings

Beavers Bangers & Bash

Dear Sonja

Peter enjoyed last Tuesday's District Bash because the disco was such fun. The prizes given out were absolutely fabulous.

Peter won three things, a carrot badge he gave to his friend Alex, Rug Rats pencils and a Mew 2 T Shirt which he gave to his brother.

Everyone had such a good time, the atmosphere was superb. The food was good but second helpings for all would have been even better.

Even though it rained, the barn was brilliant as it enabled the event to go on.

Both Peter and Robert (Scout helper) were bubbling with enjoyment when I picked them up.

Beth Wheeler
1st Baldock Beaver Mum

Editors note: Nice to see hear from parents about their views on District events.

Oh no not again. This can not be happening !

Why do Beaver events seem to attract such awful weather ?

And this year we had invited Hitchin District to join us.

Anyway thanks to Mick Dilley and a few phone calls we had a marquee ready to be put up and the option of the use of the lean-to barn in the stable yard at Norton Bury.

Phil Atkinson and his Carrots Roadshow arrived and the decision was made to use the lean-to (thankfully).

The Beavers had a great time dancing to the music and taking part in competitions.... Every Beaver went home with a gift from the Roadshow.

Heard at the end Mother saying how dreadful the weather was Son replying "Don't be a wimp it's only water..... I had a great time." And that is why we carried on with the event The Beavers' enjoyment is paramount where there's a will there's a way and we found that way

Deb Dilley ADC (Beavers)

Cubs

5th Letchworth represent the District at Stevenages It's A Knockout Competition

Steve Hall ADC (Cub Scouts) invited our District to their own It's a Knockout Competition. 5th Letchworth kindly offered to take up the challenge. Teams consisted of 25 Cubs and 8 adults who took part in various events, most of which included getting wet. The adults and the Cubs had a very enjoyable day and eventually finished a close second to eventual winners Ware District.

Thank you to Sue Lovelock, her willing set of parents, grandparents and Cubs for flying the Letchworth & Baldock flag.

V.S.U

Beech Sprigs VSU Thank You to all

Over a weekend in July members of the Beech Springs Venture Scout Unit gave up their normal pursuits and pitched their tents at Norton Bury. All the It's A Knock Out equipment was taken from its storage place and given a new lease of life.

As a result of their efforts the equipment looks like new and the storage shed has been tidied so that it can be easily accessed.

Colin Phillips would have been proud of their efforts and pleased to know that his games are still giving pleasure to so many youngsters.

18 July - Trip to the Houses of Parliament

On Wednesday 18 July Joel Miller and myself were invited to the Houses of Parliament to meet with our local MP, Oliver Heald and have afternoon tea with the Speaker of the House. We entered the Houses of Parliament via St Stephen's gate and proceeded into the lobby. We notified the man at the desk that we were waiting for our local MP, Oliver Heald. He greeted us and took us both to where we were going to meet the Speaker of the House.

On the way to the Speaker's quarters we explained to Mr Heald that we had been chosen to represent our District at the World Jamboree in Thailand in 2002.

On arrival at the Speaker's State Rooms we met with the Chief Scout in the crimson drawing room. We moved into the State Dining Room where we had afternoon tea. We then proceeded into the corner drawing room where we listened to Rt. Hon. Michael Martin MP express his feelings about Scouting. Shortly after we moved back into the crimson drawing room where we had photos taken with our MP's and the Speaker of the House.

Mr Heald then took us into the House of Commons where we witnessed a debate about European Communities.

We listened for a while then Mr Heald had to attend a meeting so left us to listen for a bit longer.

We had an interesting visit to the Houses of Parliament and recommend it to anyone who gets the chance to go.

Steven Woolmer
Venture Scout

Patrol Leaders Forum & Water Activities Morning

Date: 30 September 2001

Venue: Fairlands Lake, Stevenage

Time: 10.30 - 14:00

Canoeing / Dragon Boating

PRI Update / Discussion on County

Activities.

If you would like to attend, please call 01727 873961

Email cplc@herts-scouts.net

www.herts-scouts.net/splosh/cplc0901.htm

Kon Tiki 2001

Saturday afternoon 7 July and ten intrepid teams arrive at Boyd Field with an assortment of equipment ready to take on the fifteen hour raft survival challenge. Teams came from 2nd Baldock, 1st/3rd, 4th, 7th & 11th/12th Letchworth.

The competition got under way at 3.00 pm with the raft building, two hours was allowed for assembly with an hour allotted for safety and flotation testing and marking. 6.00 pm was launch time with much noise and cheering the assorted craft were launched one at a time onto the lake. Only one required early attention to the floats and all were soon floating gently in the water, all were tethered to the bank for safety.

The competition was structured to give forty five minutes in every hour on the water with change of one crewmember during the remaining fifteen minutes. There were two, one hour long breaks during the night for food and a nap.

We set numerous challenges and tasks during the night to keep the fun alive, have you ever tried doing push-ups and sit-ups on a partially submerged raft at 11 o'clock at night?. By 3.00 am we began losing teams through cold and tiredness, but they had all done brilliantly well to last that long.

After the 5.00 – 6.00 am break we were amazed to get 3 full and one partial team back on the water. It was pouring with rain, not quite light but they were there, battling for the honours in relay and sprint races around the lake, determined to get to the end.

The competition was supposed to finish at 10.00 am but by 8.00 am we had only two teams left so decided to complete at 9.00 am. The remaining two crews from 2nd Baldock and 11th/12th Letchworth decided to round off the competition by swimming around in the lake.

Throughout the competition we were superbly supported by Beech Springs Venture Scout's who had a safety boat on the water at all times and helped set tasks and in general keep everybody's spirits up, a big, big thank you to them.

After all the rain, the tasks and the cold, who could fault any of the Scouts who took part, not me, they had some great fun and hopefully a night to remember. Eventual winners were 11th/12th Letchworth with the two teams from 2nd Baldock coming 2nd and 3rd. All the rafts remained afloat till the end, some better than others but they all survived, well done to all those who took part and roll on next year!

Chris King ADC (Scouts)

A WEEK END IN THE LIFE OF A BUSY SCOUT LEADER

I know I like to be busy. But sometimes in Scouting several events come at once. And busy can turn crazy.

I ran Friday evening Scouts from work the other day. Three patrol hikes running from different start points. Newnham, Arlesey and Pirton. Each one due to finish at exactly 9.30 at the Hall. Pace yourselves I told them. I paced up and down at work for two hours while they walked. Checked they were OK and organised, even had to book a taxi for one group when their lift let them down. Mobile phones are great for talking and for finding out if patrols are lost. Where are you now? I asked Shane. In a field. Where? Near pylons. Where? On the moon. ha ha. Cheers Shane. The evening dragged. I left work at just after 9 o'clock to be at the Hall in time for their return and to give them a de-briefing. Two patrols arrived duly dead on 9.30 from different directions. The other at 9.40. Not a bad effort at all. But they enjoyed themselves. I did not. Not from work, never again.

I was up at 6.30 am on Saturday. Getting ready for a busy weekend. 8 am at Kennedy Gardens helping to unload and set up the 7th Letchworth hot dog and hamburger stall, regularly our biggest fund raising event of the year. Great fun. The usual group of people, Cub Leaders, Committee members and various families. Went really well. As well as selling hundreds of hamburgers we managed to sell Scouting to a seven year old and an eleven year old. Hopefully they start in September. We made over five hundred pounds profit on the day. I passed on my burger selling hat to two parent helpers at 1.30 pm to dash to Henlow for KonTiki...

Raft building. Well, our two rafts were already built and designed by a parent of one of my Scouts. They were completely dismantled and transported to Henlow for the two teams to build again. Without help, well... much, anyway. Tents up, base organised, camp fire lit. 7 pm start. The teams then spent the whole evening and night on the rafts, doing various tasks, paddling, racing, exercising, getting wet in the lake, getting wet in the incessant rain, changing a team member over every hour. Exhausting stuff. There were lots of leaders about, it was incredibly well organised with floodlights, a safety dinghy constantly going around the rafts. How the kids managed to remain awake I do not know. My two teams were amazing. I invested my new boy Calum on a raft before the start of the event and he did really well, lasting till nearly two o'clock (his dad stayed on to help until then and took him home). The other two members of his team soldiered on. Considering the ages of my teams they did me proud.

I'll not forget James Breeze frantically trying to win a race against a team from 1st/3rd by himself at four in the morning. And how surprised I was when Justin Bray resurfaced from his tent after crashing out at 2.30 am to man the six o'clock paddle. 9.00 am finish.

Managed to dash into Letchworth at 7.00 pm to entertain with the Gang Show at MacFadyen Webb old folks house. Then dashed back to Henlow again. Then dashed to work the following morning (After a hot bath and half an hour snooze on the couch) D didn't manage to get to the District barbecue on Saturday evening, even though I had intended to. But then I cant do it all.

Dave Strong SL

District Barbecue—Saturday 7th July 2001

The District Barbecue was attended by over 140 friends and members of the Scouting Movement. There was a bouncy castle for the young children and free orange squash provided by MacDonald. Masses of food and drink for all. The Scout Fellowship organised a raffle and managed to raise £73.00. Thank you to all of you that attended and made it such a success and a BIG Thank You to all the Leaders, Committee Members and Parents who donated salads, their time and prizes on the day, you know who you are.

The date has been booked for next year.

Venue

Norton Bury

Date

Saturday 13 July 2002



Programme Review Implementation (PRI)

PRI – what does that mean? I hear some of you ask. Well it stands for Programme Review Implementation and is the term being used for the implementation of the new programmes for all sections due to introduced in Spring 2002.

Every District is being encouraged to appoint a Change Agent, who will be your first point of contact for PRI within your District, and I have been asked to undertake this role for Letchworth & Baldock.

Each month, via Co-Ordinator I will try to unravel some of the 'mysteries' that seem to surround PRI, and if you have any questions then please ask and I will endeavour to find out the answer for you. Information can also be found on the PRI pages of the Scoutbase website.

This month I thought it would be good to look at the age ranges and how these will change – some of these changes came into effect in February 2001 (such as the earliest age at which you can join the Beavers). The age ranges are aimed at being flexible to allow for the different needs of young people, they may not be mature enough to cope with the next section yet, there may be a group of friends who wish to move/join sections together. So the main thing is to listen to the needs of the young people concerned.

Currently the age ranges are as follows:-

Section	Earliest May Join	Core Age Range	Latest Must Leave
BEAVER Scouts	5 ¾ years	6 – 8 years	8 ½ years
CUB Scouts	8 years	8 – 10 ½ years	11 years
SCOUTS	10 years	10 ½ - 15 ½ years	16 years
VENTURE Scouts	15 years	15 ½ - 20 years	25 years

From February 2002 the age ranges will be as follows:-

Section	Earliest may Join	Core Age Range	Latest Must Leave
BEAVER Scouts	5 ¾ years	6 – 8 years	8 ½ years
CUB Scouts	8 years	8 – 10 ½ years	11 years
SCOUTS	10 years	10 – 14 years	15 years
EXPLORER Scouts	13 ½ years	14 – 18 years	18 ½ years
SCOUT NETWORK	17 ½ years	18 – 25 years	25 th Birthday

Please also remember the most important point is that PRI is not meant to be a radical change that happens overnight – there is a two year change-over period – we have until 31 December 2003 to implement these changes, so until we have set up opportunities for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network Units, please continue with the current setup, with your Scouts moving onto Venture Scouts with either Bacchus VSU or Beech Springs VSU.

Any questions/queries that you may have about any aspect of PRI then please contact me either by phone (01462-643992), snail mail (32 The Rowans, Baldock) or E-Mail (a.soulsby@ntlworld.com)

Andrea Soulsby

PRI Change Agent for Letchworth & Baldock District

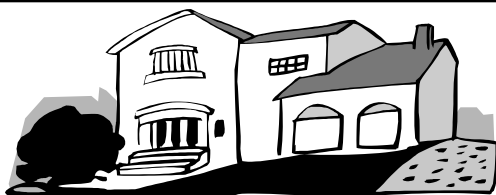
Search for Queen's Guide Award Holders

The Guide Association are planning a special event for all holders of the Queen's Guide Award to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee next year, and thus they would like to find as many award holders as possible. If you gained the Queen's Guide Award in your youth then please contact the Guide Association HQ in London – at the moment they just need your contact details and the year you gained the award.

Child Protection Procedures

Each Group Scout Leader or Acting GSL should shortly receive a revised edition of the Association's Child Protection Procedures. This 2001 edition replaces the current version, dated January 1997. If you need additional copies these can be obtained at no charges from the Scout Information Centre. Tel: 0845 300 1818. E-Mail: info.centre@scout.org.uk

Norton Bury - Wardens



SEPTEMBER

4 Ann Martin 01462 627439
 11 Pauline Gimpson 01462 677993
 18 Elaine Wigglesworth 01462 626218
 25 Shelley Wilsher 01462 642026

OCTOBER

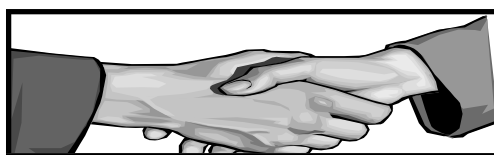
2 Nora Hitcham 01462 627905
 9 Bob Williams 01462 686727
 16 Ruth Baker 01462 682752
 23 Jeff Robson 01462 684954
 30 Peter & Hannah Moules 01462 435103

NOVEMBER

6 Sheila & David Dawes 01462 621699
 13 John Moys 01462 487847
 20 Julia Pollard 01462 686190
 27 TBA

DECEMBER

4 Michael Wright



Welcome to:

Valerie Tierney 1st 3rd Letchworth
 ACSL

Colin Haigh Bacchus VSU
 AVSL

District Skills Day

What skills would you like covered at this years skills day in November?

Do you want to learn/go over some practical skills?

Is there any particular area of the sectional training programme you would like to discuss/share ideas about?

Watch this space for details of the date and venue – to be announced soon!

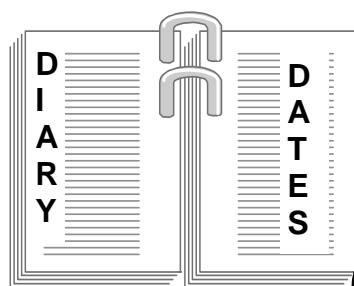
Please pass any ideas/comments to Andrea Soulsby as soon as possible so that we can tailor the day for your needs.

TRAINING

Congratulations to the following leaders who have completed training recently:-

Phase 1 & 2	Colin Haigh	Bacchus VSU
Phase 4	Christine Hart	12 th Letchworth Beavers
	Vicki Luker	12 th Letchworth Beavers
	Mark Hill	7 th Letchworth Beavers
First Response	Paula Dilley	Beech Springs VSU
	Sue King	Beech Springs VSU
	Daniel Staines	Venture Scout – Beech Springs VSU
	Chris King	ADC (Scouts)
	Chris Lewis	1 st /3 rd Letchworth Scouts
	Laura Laing	4 th Letchworth Beavers
	Anne Gutteridge	4 th Letchworth Cubs
	Sheila Tickner	GSL 8 th Letchworth
	Anne Martin	11 th Letchworth Beavers/Cubs
	Jim Martin	Scout Fellowship

Many thanks to Philip May (ACSL – 4th Letchworth) for running the First Response Course.



20012001

SEPTEMBER

10	Cub Leaders' Meeting	TBA	
13	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
15-16	District PL's Weekend	TBA	
17	Beaver Leaders' Meeting		
17	GSLs Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm Cancelled
18	GSL's PRI Meeting	Barron McCann	8.00 pm
20	Scout Leaders' Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
22	County Venture Scout Wet 'n' Wild	Lea Park	
22	County Venture Scout Chambers Pot	Lea Park	
22	County Cub Night Hike	Lees Wood / Phasels	
26	Norton Bury Warden's Get Together	Norton Bury	
27	District Team Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm

OCTOBER

6	Beavers Sports Day	Norton Bury	3 - 5 pm
7	District Cub Outing	Woburn	
11	District Executive	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
12	Lochearnhead Leaders Reunion	The Orange Tree	8.00 pm
13	District Beaver Outing	Gullivers Land	
13	District Scout Fellowship AGM	Guide HQ Icknield Way	TBA
14	County Cub Cycle Cross	Well End	

NOVEMBER

3 - 4	Scout Night Hike	TBA	
5	Bonfire Night		
8	District Executive	Norton Bury	
10	District Arts & Crafts	TBA	
12	Cub Leaders Meeting	TBA	
16	District Cub Quiz	5th Let HQ	
16-18	Green Beret	Tolmers	
19	GSL's Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
22	Scout Leaders Meeting		
23	District Scout Quiz	4th Letchworth HQ	

DECEMBER

13	District Executive Meeting	Norton Bury	8.00 pm
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Editor: Rita Hawkins
1 South Close
Baldock
Hertfordshire
SG7 6DS

(e-mail:rita.hawkins@ntlworld.com)
Tele: 01462 643432