

Co-ordinator

Michael Thomason

We are sorry to announce that Mike Thomason has resigned as District Treasurer with immediate effect due to ill health. Mike was a long standing stalwart of the 12th Letchworth Scout Group and in 1995 he accepted the role of District Treasurer. We have been extremely fortunate to have had someone with Mikes' financial experience looking after our finances. He has given us wise advice, compiled our accounts accurately, prepared final accounts and provided good service to Leaders.

We thank him for giving us his time and expertise and we wish him and Monica all the best for the future.

Maggie Miller

Maggie has resigned as ADC (Beavers) although she will remain active as a Beaver Leader. I would like to thank Maggie for the cheerful and efficient way in which she led the Beaver Section. She ensured an interesting programme of District events and also encouraged participation in County events. At the same time she guided the Beaver Section through the implementation of the new training programme.

Andrea Soulsby

Andrea's departure to South Wales is a sad loss to 1st Baldock, the District and County. Andrea's enthusiasm for Scouting was seen in so many different ways. She was an outstanding Cub Leader, an inspiring and infectious producer of the Gang Show and enthusiastic and efficient ADC (Leader Training) and an important Change Agent at both District and County level for the implementation of the new training programme - not to mention the energy and imagination she shared as lead organiser for three District Jamborees.

Her commitment to Scouting and her enthusiasm and energy were well rewarded with the Medal of Merit and the bar to the Medal of Merit.

Our loss is South Wale's gain and we wish Andrea, Hugh and family good luck in their new home.

DISTRICT SCOUT COOKING COMPETITION

Results

Group	Points	Position
5th Letchworth A Team	115	1st
1st Ashwell	111	2nd
2nd Baldock	107	3rd
12th Letchworth	106	4th
4th Letchworth	103	5th
7th Letchworth Alpha & Omega	100	6th
7th Letchworth		
Jedi Masters	98	7th
1st Baldock	98	7th
5th Letchworth	97	8th
1st Baldock	87	9th

The winning menu

Salade du fromage a la creme;

lettuce leaves with cream cheese and fried veg-pepper, celery + mushrooms

La viande hachee avec les legumes

Beef hotpot + vegetables with mashed egggy potato topping

Les pommes a la pate a frire

Apple fritters with fromage frais, sugar and lemon juice + zest sauce

Team

Adam Taylor, Will Dollman, Hayley Guilder, Carla Kelly



Beech Springs VSU

Well here is the end! With the ups and downs the Unit had had, we are all surprised we have lasted 26 years, and are still planning to see Venture Scouting to the end.

I took over the role of chairperson at the beginning of the year. It hasn't been easy taking the flack when things go wrong and sometimes you just want to go back to being a plain Venture Scout.

This year has been our most active for a long while, seeing us compete in Peak Assault and Operation Ferret. We have also helped at Gang Show, 12th Letchworth and 1st 3rd Letchworth Beaver Sleepover and the District Jamboree. At the beginning of the year four of our Venture Scouts had the opportunity to go to the World Scout Jamboree to Thailand. Also some of us recently completed a First Aid course organised by the District.

We have also been out in the community helping at two local schools, Woolgrove in Letchworth and Samuel Lucas in Hitchin. We have been fundraising this year by helping North Herts Music Trust with their annual Priory Picnic and at the Local Elections.

We have camped twice this year, once at the District Jamboree, where quite a few Venture Scouts experienced their first event Scout camp, they pulled together in the end and worked wonderfully as a team and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Our second camp was our EXPO, 'men in tights tour 2003.... Insanity and beyond the final frontier...' We spent two interesting weeks in Nottingham, where every Venture Scout achieved their Venture Award due to the exceptional circumstances they had to cope with. They all did the District proud. There are not may Venture Scouts who would go looking for a lost Scout before breakfast, then entertain him and be a friend to him when perhaps he wasn't having a particularly good day. They were there to help after some of us were involved in a car crash and when Rory had to go to hospital.

But we also had fun, visiting the galleries of justice, Go Ape, climbing Kinder Scout....well nearly! And also making use of all the activities at Walesby Forest. We didn't make it to Alton Towers that time, but we did at the beginning of October and much fun was had by all.

Recently we took a trip to the Rocky Horror Show, as we are all big fans. ! Over the last few weeks we have been finishing our video about life at Beech Springs.

Beech Springs has done extremely well as a Unit, we have brought into Scouts young people who have not been involved before, left Scout Groups due to bad experience or from the Guide Association. I hope they have all enjoyed the experience and will take many skills and memories away with them .

**Rachel Anderson - Chairperson
Beech Springs VSU**

Weston Hill Night Hike

Organising this night hike seemed easier than expected The route was planned, walked, checked out, back ups had been thought of, and another group had been invited.

4th Letchworth joined 1st 3rd for a gentle hike round the proposed route, apart from the steep hill, which made it not so gentle in some spots.

The weather behaved as had been forecast. Rain early in the week building up to the hike, turned into a nice calm, cool evening, perfect for walking. We split into three groups setting off at 15 minutes intervals. My six were my Scouts so I could keep an eye on their map reading skills

I have found a very good map reader within our group and I will be rewarding the Scout in question with the relevant badges.

Two Scout Network members also joined our group, Even they weren't too sure where on the route we were until I had to call back my group as they were heading towards the A507. Missing a turning seems natural for the 1st 3rd Scouts. Once the map had been checked they led us onto where we should be heading, and met up with Simon Goodwin and his group who had overtaken us due to that error. From this point we joined forces and walked the rest of the route minus any slip ups back to Weston Hills car park. Once we all got a hot drink inside us, we set off to walk back to the 1st 3rd HQ, and arrived back there around 2.30 am which was half an hour past the time slot I gave to the police when I logged the event earlier that week.

I would like to thank 4th Letchworth Scout Group for joining us. The behaviour was very good. I did not receive a single phone call during the evening from the residents that we had to pass, and n some residents around the Clothall area were even speaking to the Scouts Thanks to Chris Gee and Paul Tierney for providing the drinks and marshalling in case we had any injuries. Everyone enjoyed the hike including a few of the Leaders who had to be at work for

9 am on the Saturday morning. I certainly felt tired in the evening after Gang Show rehearsals.

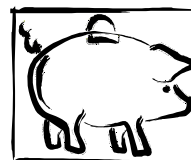
**Chris Lewis
ASL 1st 3rd Letchworth**

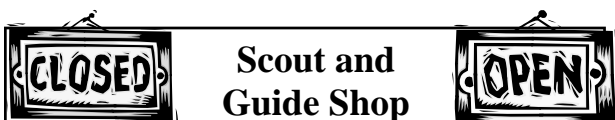
Census - Subscription

It's nearly time to break the piggy bank once again. Please ensure that all subscriptions are sent to Dave Hawkins by 5 March 2004 lat the latest. Cheques made payable to Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Council.

The breakdown is as follows:

National	£18.00
County	£10.00
District	£ 3.00
Total	£31.00





Scout and Guide Shop

Please pass on the following information to all your parents/guardians.

If anybody needs uniform for St George's Day Parade and Service - Sunday 25 April 2004 it is best to visit the shop before it closes for the Easter break.

The Scout and Guide Shop closes for the Easter Break on Tuesday 30 March 2004 and does not reopen until Thursday 22 April 2004.



1st Baldock (Templars) detectives

District Scout Cooking Competition 25 January 2004

We were provided with a list of ingredients from which we had to prepare a three course meal prepared on a two hob calor gas stove and grill.

After two weeks of difficult, but necessary research we came up with a menu as follows:-

Starter: Salade du Fromage a la Creme

Main Course: La Viande Hachée avec Les Legumes

Sweet: Les Pommes a la Pate a frire

(roughly translated as Salad, Shepherds Pie and Apple Fritters!)

We practised on the previous Saturday and arrived in Baldock for the competition in good time on Sunday. We started at 10.30 and had two hours to cook. We were marked on hygiene (we used a lot of anti-bacterial wipes!), table presentation, four different categories for food (temperature, presentation etc) and tidiness amongst others. We used our time well and washed up as we went along (lots of points for that!).

As we had won the competition for the previous two years we knew that other teams didn't stand a chance. In fact we were so confident we forgot to return the trophy!

The moment was tense as the results were announced. As third came and our names still hadn't been called we began to get excited and before we knew it we were shaking hands with Nick Farmer, ADC (Scouts) and receiving our certificate.

Hurrah for Fifth.

p.s. Thanks to Nick Howell for his hard work and please forget the camera for county!!

Adam Taylor
5th Letchworth Scout

MURDER MYSTERY CUB PACK WEEKEND

Hello I'm Peter reporting for First Baldock Templar Cubs. I just want to say "Thank you" to Akela and Baloo for making our Murder Mystery Camp, special. I also want to say "Thank you" to all the Helpers.

I arrived for the first time at Wymondley Wood and was amazed at the facilities. Our dormitory was brilliant and it was even better because I had my friends, Charlie, Ryan, Ryan, Jordan and Reece to share with it with me..

All twenty two of us were sitting down on the mat in the main hall, when we were told about an unsolved murder on Clothall Common and First Baldock Templars had to solve it before being allowed home. (scary). Later that night we were shown the suspected murder weapons, a carving knife, a kitchen knife, a pen knife, a chisel and a syringe!!

On Saturday after a hearty breakfast, we were trained in the skills we would need to solve the mystery. My favourites were sign language, text messaging and secret codes.

That night the police helicopter dropped an important clue, the pathology report that would boost us in our investigation.

We all went out with our torches, in the dark to find it. Everyone returned!!

Next morning at 7:30 am we were fortunate to look on the Bulletin Board and find the vital clue which had been placed there. Well done, Reece for setting your alarm.

The best bit about the Murder Mystery was that we found out who was the murderer, with all the details, at the end.

Peter Wheeler
Crime Investigator
First Baldock (Templars) Cub Pack

Date: 19 February 2004
 Venue: Patrick's Café
 Cost: £10.00 per person plus drinks
 Contact: Margaret Durrant
 01462 624731



Date: 30 April 2004
 Venue: Gordon Craig Theatre (Oklahoma)
 Cost: TBA
 Contact: Sue Lovelock
 01462 672043



BARN DANCE

Have fun while raising funds for the Scout and Guide Districts by joining us at the District Barn Dance

Date: 16 March 2003
 Venue: Highfield School
 Time: 8.00 pm - midnight
 Cost: £10.00 per ticket - includes supper

Dancing to the Moon Tan Clan, Robin Harper calling

Licensed Bar

For tickets please contact Sue Lovelock
 01462 672043
 e-mail F.lovelock@ntlworld.com

Gang Show

Gang Show rehearsals are well under way. There are approximately one hundred in the cast this year and we will be putting on three shows at St Francis Theatre. We have a Pirates section and Around the World and a Monster Section together with the usual mix of songs and sketches which will bring together Cub Scouts, Scout, Brownies and Guides in our annual bit of fun.

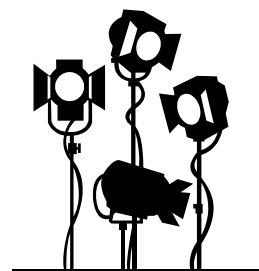
Please support us by bringing your Colony, Pack, Troop, Unit or Group.

Tickets are available from Peter Marsh
 44 Bedford Road
 Letchworth Garden City
 SG6 3DR
 01462 624894

Show dates Friday 26 March 7.30 pm
 Saturday 27 March 2.30 pm
 Saturday 27 March 7.30 pm



Tickets are being sold at the reduced rate of £3.50 until 14 February. After that they will be £4.50 for children and Senior Citizens and £5.50 for adults.



**Dave Strong
 Producer**



2nd Weston Scout Group

Wendy and Simon Tierney will be resigning as Scout Leaders in July.

Scouting is an integral activity in the life of the village so it is important to continue the proud traditions of the Group.

If you have any suggestions as to who I might approach as a Leader I would be pleased to hear from you

Dave Hawkins
DC

Administration Evening

10 March 2004 - Wymondley Wood Centre

At your next Group Executive Meeting please do not forget to mention the District Administration Evening - 10 March 2004 - Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre - 8.00 pm.

This is an ideal opportunity for Chairpersons Secretaries, Treasurers and Group committee members to share good practises, and also meet the District Team

The District is there to support and underpin the valuable work which is carried out on a weekly basis within the Scout Groups.

The meeting will concentrate on

- i) organising and running an AGM
- li) end of year accounts
- iii) provisional appointments
- iv) CRB check



Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts Programme 2004



28 January	Wednesday	1900-2030	Baldock	Maps, Diet, Menu, Basic Camping + Kit Check
6/7 February	Friday / Saturday	1930-2130	Sparhawke	Chiltern Challenge Practice
11 February	Wednesday	1900-2030	Baldock	Fun Night
14/15 February	Saturday / Sunday	1930	TBA	Chiltern Challenge
27 February	Friday	1930-2130	Sparhawke	Review of the Year Parents' evening
5 March	Friday	1930	TBA	Night Hike with 7th Letchworth
10 March	Wednesday	1900-2030	Baldock	BAT Night (Badges, Awards, Targets)
19 March	Friday	1930-2130	Sparhawke	Quiz Nite
26 March	Friday	1930-2130	Sparhawke	Now Get out of That!!
2 April	Friday	1930-2130	Sparhawke	Fun Night

Welcome to

Barry
8th Letch-
ASL



Huffer
worth

Anthony Hartley 4th Letchworth ASL

Andrea, Hugh, Megan, Robert and Tegan Soulsby have moved.

A farewell gathering took place at SG6(Plinston Hall Bar/Café) on Tuesday 6 January 2004.

Their new address is

39 Tor View
Bedwas
Caerphilly
South Wales
CF83 8HE



Congratulations to

Long Service Decoration

25 years

Eric 'Skip' Woodward District Fellowship

Happy Anniversary

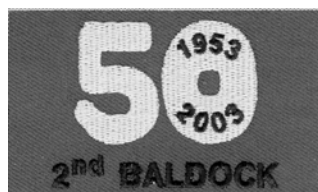


1st 3rd Letchworth Beaver Scouts and 1st Ashwell Beaver Scouts have just celebrated their 2nd Anniversary.

BALiNET Scout Network will be celebrating their 1st Anniversary in March.



2nd Baldock Scout Group was fifty years old in December 2003. The Scout Group Registration was signed by Mary Clare and was given the



Registered Number of 31025 dated 24 December 1953 - Christmas Eve.



Wood Badge

Congratulations to the following

Chris King	DESC
Edmond Tickner	ESL Oak Eagles
Sue King	AESL Oak Eagles
Chris Lewis	SL 1st 3rd Letchworth

District Web-Site

The District Web Site is open for comment.

Take a look at the site at www.lethworthbaldockscouts.org.uk. Feel free to register on the site and take a look around. It's not complete, and probably has some bugs. I would be pleased to have your views, positive or negative about the look and feel of the site. If you are interested in helping take this project forward, let me know.

Garth Howell
gareth@howell.uk.com

Presentations

We were pleased to welcome Roger Sands to 1st Baldock HQ when he presented Rachel Anderson with her Queen's Scout Award. We are proud of Rachel's achievement in gaining Scouting's highest award.

Roger presented "Skip" Eric Woodward with the Bar to the Medal of Merit in recognition of his continued dedication to Scouting at 1st Baldock.

Roger also presented Andrea Soulsby with her Bar to the Medal of Merit and at the same event presentations were made to Andrea by the District and the Gang Show to say farewell and wish her well in South Wales. In return Andrea presented the District with a plate depicting all the District neckerchiefs.

5th Letchworth HQ

Due to storage space at the 5th Letchworth HQ the following items are available for a donation

Dunlop Table Tennis - folds

Snooker Table - legs come off for easy of storage

For more information please contact

Tim Jurdon - 01462 682265



WYMONDLEY WOOD

It is pleasing to be able to say that the Centre is well booked for 2004

Dates (week ends and school holidays) still available are as follows:

August	8 - 15
October	29 - 31
November	12 - 14
November	26 - 28
December	10 - 12

The Centre has generated considerable interest across the County since it opened last March - it appears that Leaders are keen to try out a new venue. Whether we are riding the crest of a wave or not, only time will tell.

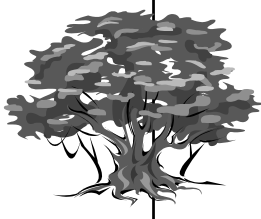
Importantly, we would like to let all local units know that we are now opening up bookings for 2005 and would like to make the point that local units - Scout and Guide - should take advantage of their preferential tariff and advance warning by making their bookings for 2005 **now**.

Please don't leave it to the last minute and be disappointed. Have the security of knowing you have booked the date you want - In the event that your booking has to be subsequently cancelled your unit might lose the £15.00 deposit but this would only be in the unlikely eventuality that we could not "re-sell" your date. Please take action in good time and avoid being disappointed.

And please also remember that any booking cannot be regarded as confirmed until you have **paid your deposit and returned your booking form to the Booking Secretary.**



**Barbara Crombie
Booking Secretary**



Wardens at Wymondley Wood

February

3	Mick Balls	01462 893855
10	Shirley and Dave Rossall	01462 431884
17	Ann Martin	01462 627439
24	Chris King	01462 637901

March

2	Jane Thorn	01462 635745
9	Mark Hill	01462 483422
16	Amanda Woolmer	01462 637718
23	Peter Moules	01462 435103
30	Pauline Gimson	01462 677993

April

6	Shelley Wilsher	01462 642026
13	Dave Hawkins	01462 643432
20	Ruth and Peter Baker	01462 682752
27	Val Barlett	01462 730817

May

4	Ann Howard	01462 452500
11	Nora Hitcham	01462 627905
18	Sue Lovelock	01462 672043
25	Maureen Kell	01462 684665


June

1	David and Sheila Daws	01462 621699
8	Jeff Robson	01462 684954
15	Elaine Wigglesworth	01462 626218
22	Mick Balls	01462 893855
29	Mark Hill	01462 483422

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1 South Close
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SG7 6DS

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Tele: 01462 643432

2004



February


9	Information evening for parents Lochearnhead Expedition 2005	8th Letchworth HQ
12	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
14 - 15	Chiltern Challenge - Explorer Scouts	
19	Fellowship Meal	Patrick's Café
24	Fund Raising Meeting	Wymondley Wood
27	Oak Eagles Review of 2003	8th Letchworth HQ
27	District Scout Quiz Competition	TBA
28	Watford v Wimbledon	Watford FC

March

3	Scout Network - BALiNet AGM	Three Horse Shoes
5	Deadline for payment of Membership Subscriptions	
10	District Administration Evening	Wymondley Wood 8.00 pm
11	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
13	District Barn Dance	Highfield School
18	District Team Meeting	Wymondley Wood
20	County Cub Swimming Competition	St Albans
26 - 27	Gang Show	St Francis College
24 - 28	County H.E.N. Network Scouts/Leaders Dublin Fellowship	
30	Scout Shop Closes	

April

3	County Explorer/Network Football Competition	
4	District Scout Day Out	Alton Towers
7	District Shop Meeting Scouts & Guides	Wymondley Wood
8	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
16 - 18	Sixers & Seconders Weekend	Wymondley Wood
22	Rehearsal - St George's Service	8th Letchworth HQ
22	Scout Shop Reopens	6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
23	12th Letchworth Campfire	Wymondley Wood
25	St George's Day Parade and Service	St George's Church
26	Fellowship Outing	Gordon Craig Theatre Oklahoma



2004

Nick Farmer
01462 627673
Rita Hawkins
01462 643432
County Office
020 8236 0040
Margaret Durrant
01462 624731
Bob Williams
01462 686727
Chris King
01462 637901
Nick Farmer
01462 627673
Rose de Roeck
020 8236 0040

Steven Woolmer
01462 637718
Dave Hawkins
01462 643432
Rita Hawkins
01462 643432
Rita Hawkins
01462 643432
Sue Lovelock
01462 672043
Dave Hawkins
01462 643432
Amanda Woolmer
01462 637718
Dave Strong
01462 624309
County Office
020 8236 0040

Chris Lewis
01462 679769
Peter Dixon-Payne
01763 288401
Rita Hawkins
01462 643432
Amanda Woolmer
01462 637718
Sheila Tickner
01462 483738

Vicki Luker
01462 630728
Sheila Tickner
01462 483738
Sue Lovelock
01462 672043