

# Co-ordinator

## 1,000 pupils to trail outdoor experience

Working with 16 primary schools and Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts and Guides, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation plans to use Wymondley Wood - one of five 'resource' centres created as part of the Garden City Greenway - as a modern nature trail packed full of interest. The new route around the centre will include:

- A choice of trails allowing pupils to identify trees, leaves, plants, wild birds, flowers, animals, butterflies and information boards relating to these and other topics.
- Creating writing story 'starter packs' for the pupils
- Scavenger hunts leading to the making of collages and sculptures.

Teachers backing the scheme feel that a visit to the wood will be an opportunity to broaden pupils' minds in the 4 - 11 age group, in what is an uncommon environment for the.

Each primary school will be making a trip to the trail and one teacher from every school will be offered free basic on-site training.

"Insight "



## Remembrance Sunday



We were proud that our Scout Fellowship Treasurer, Arthur Scott was marching at the head of the Colour Party at this year's Remembrance Day Parade.

He was supported by a large contingent of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts from 1st 3rd Letchworth, 5th Letchworth, 7th Letchworth, 12th Letchworth and Oak Eagle ESU.

Each group had its own colours on parade and the wreath was laid by Explorer Scouts, Matthew Hart and Catherine Beaumont.

1st Baldock Scout Group attended the service at St Mary's Church and 4th Letchworth Scout Group were on parade at St Paul's Church.

Well done to everyone for an impressive turnout.

Inside this issue:

Cub Quiz	2
Cub Cyclo Cross	2
Green Beret	3
Beaver Friendship Challenge	3
Gang Show	4
Night Jar Competition	5
Training	6

## Special points of interest:

- ♦ *Green Beret - Results*
- ♦ *Cub Quiz*
- ♦ *Beavers - Friendship Challenge*
- ♦ *Cubs - Cyclo Cross*
- ♦ *Fund Raising Event*
- ♦ *Night Jar Competition*
- ♦ *Gang Show*

## District Cub Quiz

## Gang Show Background

We have just held the Annual District Cub Quiz, There were nine teams in total this year. The questions were set by the winning team from last year 1<sup>st</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Letchworth. A very big Thank You to Paul and Val Tierney and Ayprl Goodwin. It was a very enjoyable evening with lots of General knowledge questions and a name the badge round in the break. The **winning** team was 12<sup>TH</sup> Letchworth with a total score of 79½ points.

**Well Done**  
**Amanda Woolmer**  
**ADC (Cubs)**

### Results

1 <sup>st</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Baldock
4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Baldock Knights (joint)
4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Baldock Templars (joint)
5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth
6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth
7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth
8 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> Letchworth

The Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Gang Show was started back in 1955 and since that time there have only been 10 years when the show was not performed. The Gang Show is essentially a variety show consisting of songs, sketches and dancing, both modern and traditional, that is performed by members of the local Scout and Guide movements. Most of the cast is made up from young people. Last year the average age was just 11 years, and they are supported by a team of adults who are all Leaders within the Scout or Guide Movements.

## County Cubs Cyclo Cross

7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth and 1<sup>st</sup> Baldock Templars entered into this year's competition at Well End, Activity Centre, Borehamwood.

It was a very warm and sunny Sunday afternoon.

There were 15 teams all together, each team had four riders, and each race had three teams riding at the same time.

7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth were in the 1<sup>st</sup> race and came 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All of the teams were very excited about the course and the challenge it was giving them. The second race for 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth started very well with our first rider opening up a good lead. The team managed to keep the lead. When our last rider came

flying out of the woods with another rider close on his heels there was a battle for the finish with 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth's rider nearly being knocked off his bike when the other team cut across in front to get to his finish line but luckily for us our rider stayed on, and won the race. We then had along wait to see whether we had come in the top three.

The ACC Cubs, Bob Cooper, was there to do the presentations. He started announcing the placing at 15 and slowly worked his way to the top three. By this time we were very excited because we had not been called out yet, we were in the top three yeah!! 5<sup>th</sup> Stevenage were

3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth came 2<sup>nd</sup> and just a few seconds in front was Potters Bar, the top three were very close. Look out for 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth next year we are out to WIN!!

Well done to both teams from Letchworth & Baldock. It was an exciting afternoon for everyone.

**Amanda Woolmer**  
**7th Letchworth Akela**



## Scouts - Green Beret

Congratulations to

2nd Baldock

5th Letchworth

7th Letchworth

8th Letchworth Scout Troops who took part in the County's 21st Anniversary Green Beret Competition

Final Results - Position out of 110 teams

32 5th Letchworth

55 7th Letchworth 'Headhunters'

59 2nd Baldock

69 8th Letchworth

79 7th Letchworth 'Magnificent 7'

## Beavers - Friendship Challenge



As part of the Friendship Challenge badge, the 1st Baldock Beavers decided to adopt an animal from Woburn Safari Park. This article, written by Adam Lunnon (aged 7) describes how we had a secret ballot to vote on which animal to adopt and how the Beavers brought in their money to stick onto the markings of a 21ft snake (which is how long a Burmese Python can grow to!).

### Adopting a Burmese Python By Adam Lunnon (aged 7)

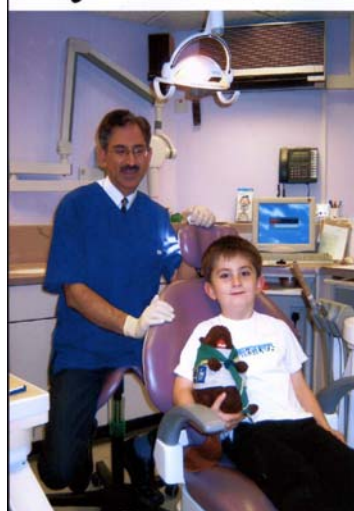
#### 1<sup>st</sup> Baldock Beavers

We decided that we wanted to adopt an animal from Woburn Safari Park. We had five groups. Each group had a different animal. Our leaders told us about each animal, and why we would vote for it. It ended up that it was the Burmese Python. Someone made a long python out of paper that was 7 metres long. It had £1 coins drawn on it for the eyes and 5ps, 2ps and 1ps drawn on it for the body. We then brought those in and stuck them onto it to make £45.00

We have a Beaver Mascot and each week we let the Beaver who has been the most well behaved or has done something extraordinary take him home with the instructions to look after him well, give him lots of cuddles and to do a drawing of him for our scrapbook. This is what Joe Penny came back with after his week of looking after him.



### My week with Beaver



*A beaver's teeth are very important to him, he needs them to chew the wood to make a dam and also to eat his food. So I took him to the dentist to make sure they were o.k. The dentist said that we both had good teeth. Thank you for coming to stay Mr Beaver, it was fun.*

*Joe Penny (8/11/04)*





## Gang Show 18 - 19 March 2005

My voice is very creaky this morning, and my ears are buzzing.

GangShow rehearsal this week was great fun.

We had 78 present, including 2 newcomers and this makes a total of 102 through the door so far and well over 90 of those are attending regularly. Which is a lot of So Excited people. **The Opening** is coming together. We are beginning to work on the logistics and choreography of nearly 100 on stage. **Casting.** Managed to sort out lots of names to fit characters. Chloe is going to die on stage, Alex and Jack are going to play the



ukele. It's alright..... they have months to learn it.....

**Anniversary.** It is our 40<sup>th</sup> Show in 50 years and we are singing a special, very special song to celebrate. But I was pleasantly surprised how quickly they picked it up, .More casting. 6 Patrick Moores, and Jack and Joe are keen to play two little old ladies. Careful you don't get typecast guys...

**Ending.** Went the whole of the ending of the Show in both sections. From Beatles to Free. It is beginning to sound good. I cannot wait until I have the whole cast together and start sorting out

the counter melodies (is that the right term?) and the harmonies (ish) and the different groups singing different bits. Three hours rehearsing with 76 people is a lot of singing for a few of us.

**Gospel.** Is perhaps not how Geoff perceived it. And we had a go at a lot of the choreography for the songs. And it was a laugh, but not easy clapping and rowing and baby rocking and spreading your arms and shoulder popping when you are still reading from a songshee. My



## Happenings Around the District

**4 November** - 8th Letchworth  
Firework Display - Boyd Field

**5 November** - District Firework  
Display—Wymondley Wood

**5 November** - Beaver Sleepover -  
Wymondley Wood

**6 - 7 November** - District Scout  
Night Jar Competition - Cottered

**7 November** - Wymondley Wood -  
Open Day

**7 November** - District Fellowship -

River Trip

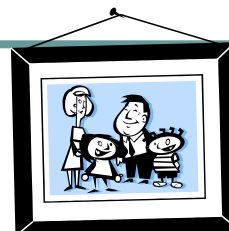
**14 November** - Remembrance  
Sunday

**19 November** - District Cub Quiz -  
5th Letchworth HQ

**19 - 21 November** - County Scout  
Green Beret Competition

**28 November** - 5th Letchworth  
Xmas Bazaar

Next District Fund Raising  
event  
Family Quiz Evening  
27 February 2005



## A letter from Raymond J Andrews ADC (Scouts)

I now have an office devoted to Scouting and hopefully it will soon contain all the memorabilia I have collected over my career in the movement.

I have also changed my role to become an Assistant District Commissioner although I am still looking after 1st Over (St Marys) Scout troop.

My first District activity was to organise a night hike like your Night-Jar Competition which took place on the weekend 22/24 October and in spite of the weather, continuous rain and high winds the Scouts seemed to enjoy themselves so I suppose it could be termed as a success.

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## District - Night Jar Competition

On the Thursday I had 18 teams for Night Jar 2004. Then the next day it was down to 15 and I had no idea how many was in each team. How do you cater for breakfast at Cottered when you could have anything from 50 - 90 hungry Scouting people? On the Friday I bought 150 sausages, 8 packs bacon, 90 eggs, 6 loaves and enough beans to.... well... you know...

Cottered is the perfect place for a night hike. Lots of bridleways, a few minor country roads and only one A and one B road. A straight, hedge lined Roman road bridleway some 4 kilometres long. Lots of opportunities for Scouts to get lost and with NJ there are always some that end up lost! In the middle of nowhere it gets dark, very dark.

On Saturday evening I had 16 teams. 9 Junior, 4 Senior and 3 Explorer. An excellent turnout and the best for many years.

We had a problem before we started. A road accident blocked the A507 and our organising team could not get to the Guide HQ at the time expected; I was held up by Gang Show rehearsals, but that is another ramble...

It was not an easy route. There were some complicated parts at the beginning that stretched map reading skills. I talked through the route with the Leaders from each team and gave them pre-prepared maps and route plans (which one team

managed to lose during the hike).

Every team completed the 13.25k course. Only two got badly lost, one team had to be mini-bussed to the next base, the other found their own way and it took them two hours to walk the 20 minute leg... oops!

We had an unusual time trial leg, a 2.75 k yomp along the Roman road. I had walked the leg in 35 minutes.

Walked comfortably as fast as I could. The Junior 5<sup>th</sup> and Elks teams beat me doing 33 and 32 minutes respectively. Excellent times guys! The best senior team Flying Monkeys did it in 31 minutes and the Brick in the Wall Explorers managed 30 minutes. Did you run??

The original plan was for the junior teams to be called in at midnight and the rest at 2am. That plan changed. With each team having a mobile phone, the mini bus as a mobile unit, with five manned set bases and with Raynet, our amateur radio enthusiasts supporting and offering constant 2-way communication, I knew where all the teams were at any time and that they were safe. The last junior team Grog Experience turned up at 2.46am. Well done for seeing it through!

I had walked the route in 2 hours 58 minutes. The best walking team for the junior team was the Elks from 7<sup>th</sup> who did the walk in 3 hours and 3 minutes, an excellent time, well done! The best senior team Flying Monkeys

1<sup>st</sup> B did it in 3 hours 26 and the Explorers 2 hours 55.

Of course when all the teams arrived back at Guide HQ they were exhausted, hungry, weary, tired.....NOT! The early junior teams that got back in 11.30 pm to 12.30 am then spent the next two hours running around full of energy and excitement. Some of them crashed out, some tried to... Eventually at 3.30 am all was quiet. I bet they slept all Sunday afternoon though!!!

As a competition it was extremely close. Mike Wheeler and I agonised (well, at that time of the morning it was like agony!!) over the points for the Junior section. Only 5 points covered the first five teams. I have re-checked these figures and am relieved that they are correct. I will entertain questions if you want to, but the result stands.

Many thanks to the people who spent hours on bases. Raynet were wonderful. Thanks to Guide HQ Cottered for their facilities, many thanks to the team who cooked our breakfast. Many thanks to those who stayed behind and cleared up the mess, the mud, the rubbish. I still have some lost property in my porch. Also many thanks to Mike Wheeler for helping me organise what turned out to be a very successful, thankfully very safe and a really fun District event.

**Dave Strong**  
**GSL 7th Letchworth**

Letchworth & Baldock  
District Scout Council

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## Diary Dates 2004

### December

8	District Team Meeting	Wymondley Wood
9	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
9	11th Letchworth Coffee Afternoon	38 Chiltern View
11	Fellowship Evening	
14	Scout & Guide Shop closes for Christmas	

### January 2005

10	District Beaver Leaders' Meeting	8th Letchworth HQ
11	Scout & Guide Shop reopens	
11	Lochearnhead Meeting	8th Letchworth HQ
13	District Executive	Wymondley Wood
23	District Scout Cooking Competition	TBC
25	Parents' Evening - Lochearnhead	8th Letchworth HQ

# Merry Christmas

## Training

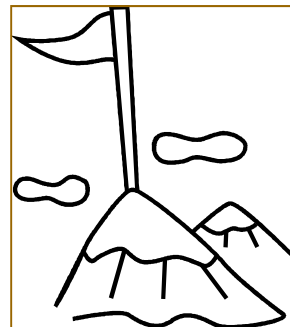
### Congratulations to

Fiona Potts CSL 1st Baldock (Knights) who has gained Terrain II authorisation

Chris Lewis ASL 1st 3rd Letchworth who attained the NRSA diploma

The following have successfully completed a First Response Course

Dave Hawkins	District Commissioner
Anne Martin	CSL 11th Letchworth
Wendy Murphy	BSL 5th Letchworth
Chris Page	SL 1st Baldock
Daniel Staines	Scout Network - BALiN
Dawn Wylie	ABSL 1st Baldock



### Scout and Guide Shop

The Scout and Guide Shop will close for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 14 December 2004 and will re-open on Tuesday 11 January 2005



### GANG SHOW 18 -19 March 2005

Tickets for the Gang Show are on sale now and are available from Peter Marsh. Letters and ticket forms will be sent to all Section Leaders in Scouting and Guiding within the District before Christmas.

Watch out for an order form in next months edition of Co-ordinator and in the download section of the District website. Tickets prices start from £4.00