

Co-ordinator

What to do with Explorers on a Thursday Night

While the nation sat poised, awaiting the election results on the night of 5 May 2005, a team of 12 members of Oak Eagle E.S.U along with their Leaders, Edmond, Neil and Chris and aided by Brian Rosendale, 12th Letchworth GSL were continuing what has become a regular service to the community by supporting the local Council at the North Herts Leisure Centre. This service was originally started by Beech Spring V.S.U, as an one off fundraiser, but the Council found our assistance so useful we are always contacted in times of election to provide help.

As the ballot boxes arrived back at the Leisure Centre following the close of the polls, the team had to unload them from the cars and vans, sort them out into Parliamentary and Council elections, get them registered, check that all paperwork was returned correctly and then stack them in their correct locations within the hall. They also helped by sorting tables, serving drinks to the counters delivering boxes to tables and any other job that cropped up during the evening.

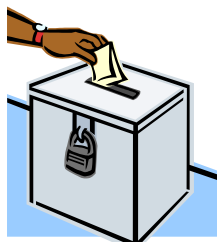
By 12.30am all the boxes had been received into the counting house, the last to arrive at midnight came in from Bishop's Stortford (a whole transit van full!). All the paperwork was checked and agreed and we headed home leaving the Counters, Officials and apprehensive Candidates to await the outcome of the voting.

Once again the District was thanked for their support and the good name of Scouting in the area was strengthened by the appearance and behaviour of our Explorer Scouts.

Well done to everyone who took part.



Chris King
DSEC



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The District takes charge of a new minibus.

On Friday 13 May the District took over the ownership of a V Reg LDV 2.4 turbo 16 seater plus driver minibus. For those of you who think that minibuses only come in white, then be prepared..... Our minibus is green/blue/turquoise depending on who you speak to. It is definitely not white. It will be available in the near future once it has been fully checked, serviced and sign written. In the meantime you can still book the old minibus.



Wymondley Wood Charges April 2005 - 2006



Centre	Within District		Outside District		Non Scout/Guide	
	Each	Minimum	Each	Minimum	Each	Minimum
Overnight	£3.50	£85.00	£50.00	£125.00	£6.50	£160.00
Day rates	£10.00		£15.00		£25.00	
For any combination of kitchen, activity room and committee room.						
Meetings	Free		£15.00		£25.00	
Camping	0.60p		£1.00		£1.00	
Use of grounds only	Free		Free		Free	

Note: "District" includes Letchworth and Baldock District Scout District
Letchworth Garden City Guide District and
Baldock Guide District

"Minimum" = less than 25 people in the house overnight.

Wymondley Wood Report 2004 - 2005

We have had another successful year at Wymondley Wood. The Centre has been well booked for residential visits and there has been a significant increase in camping and day visits. We had our first overseas visitors when a group of Belgian Scouts visited us in the summer and we hosted their parents for the final week-end. This year we are looking forward to a visit from French Cubs. The Centre has also hosted County events and meetings. The Centre will act as a focal point for local schools undertaking conservation/environmental studies sponsored by the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. The nature trails and educational materials will be available to all visitors. We are pleased to welcome other groups such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Sea Cadets.

During the year a wet weather shelter has been erected and good progress is being made on the "lean-to" which will provide additional storage.

The archery range is a major addition to our facilities and other activity equipment such as a trampoline and bouncy castle has been purchased.

The Management Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to these developments and the day-to-day management of the Centre. Our thanks also go to the Wardens for their commitment to the smooth running of the Centre and ensuring that our visitors enjoy their stay with us.

Bob Williams – Management Committee Chairman

1st Baldock Beavers Environment Evening

Our Young Leaders (Eagle, Sparrow, Raven and Pigeon) planned an entire evening based on the Group Environment badge that we are working towards. At the meeting they talked to the Beavers about the various habitats around the world and the animals that live in each one. Here is what some of the Beavers wrote about what they had learnt when they got home.

Anteaters have very long tongues.

Tropical rainforests are in South America.

Robert Brierley

Otters are skinny, black and purplish, have whiskers and live by the river.

Robins eat worms.

Seagulls live by the sea.

Beavers collect sticks to make their home by the river. They are good swimmers.

Water from rain is used to make electricity.

Scott Taylor



Orang-utans have become rare because their forest habitat has been cut down and also because some people think baby orang-utans make good pets and steal them from the wild. Mothers are often killed while defending their babies.

James Hazzard



District Barbecue

Letchworth and Baldock

District Scouts

Event: District Barbecue
Where: Wymondley Wood Centre
When: Sunday 10 July 2005
Time: 3.00 pm - 7.30 pm
Cost: Adult £5.00 Child £2.50
(Under fives free)



Family Ticket £12.00 (2 Adults/2 Children)

Contact your Scout Leader or Sue Lovelock, 19 Campers
Road, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3QJ
01462 672043 fredlovelock@msn.com



Welcome to

Richard Kelly
ABSL
4th Letchworth

St George's Day

Sermon given by Rev. Seamus Murphy

A few moments ago we were reminded of why it is that we have all come here this afternoon, we said "we have come to worship God and honour our Patron, St George".

Much of the life of St George is shrouded in legends and stories about dragons etc, but what we do know for sure about him is that he was a martyr - that is, he was someone who suffered death rather than betray his religious beliefs. The word martyr means "witness" and so a martyr is someone who is prepared to stand up and give witness before other people for what he believes in: by his words and actions he tells other people about God's love for him and his love for God. He gives good example.

It is for this reason that all the branches of the Scout movement give special honour and devotion to our Patron, St George. We want to do the same as he did; we too want to be witnesses to God's love in everything we do; we want to give good example. It is true that we are all witnesses to God's love but the Scout is a witness in a special way; people know who you are; they know what you stand for and what they should expect from you and so you have a special responsibility.

I know that in all your different actions and the things that you do, Scouts are not just concerned about having a good time for themselves; I have been reading "the Co-ordinator, HSG and the Fifth Letchworth News" and I was very impressed by all the charitable works you do, not only locally but also by generously responding to the world's needs, such as the Tsunami appeal. Well done!

In a few moments time you will be making your promises; these are promises that we make to God Himself; we are a people who live by our words and so we don't make our promises carelessly nor lightly; we say what we mean and we mean what we say.

Many young people find that being a Christian nowadays is no easy matter, because of inexperience they can be exposed to many harmful influences. So often we are told human life is cheap and unimportant - we don't agree, for us all human life is precious and sacred in the sight of God. Sometimes young people are even laughed at and ridiculed by their own age group because they believe in God, say their prayers and practice their faith. Some find the easiest way is to follow the crowd; but to stand up for what you believe in and know to be right can be very difficult - to be a witness takes courage. It is here that you young people can do so much good by your example to others and especially in your own age groups. Each of you is very special in the sight of God and He has a special purpose, a special plan for each one of you. The important thing is that you discover that plan by using wisely and well the gifts and talents that He has given you. If you always have respect for yourselves and for the people you meet, then you will be following the example of St George - you too will be martyrs - witnesses before others of God's love for you and your love for God.

Thank you for your cheque for £165 donated by the Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Council being proceeds from your St George's Day Collection.

Obviously Keech Cottage needs no introduction to you Suffice it to say, however, that every penny we receive will enable us to help and support those families who rely on the services we are able to provide. You can rest assured that all monies received will be well and wisely spent and we know that, with your help we can develop a greater awareness for our work and the support our children so desperately need.

Please could you pass on our thanks to all concerned - thanks a million for your commitment - you are making a difference.

Michael G Bains
Community Fundraiser Hertfordshire



Hitchin Gang Show

District Beaver Challenge

I will admit that I was a little flattered when Theresa Johnson of 16th Hitchin (St Faith's) Scout Group approached me and asked if she could borrow some of my Gang Show 2005 sketches.

She had come to Letchworth to see our Show and had enjoyed it so much she had decided to put on a little show of her own with her Beaver colony as part of some badge work.

I said yes, of course. And offered to advise, encourage and to direct the sketches for her.

But these things have a tendency to grow. Theresa's enthusiasm was a credit to her Group.

Some Cubs joined in. And then some Scouts and then Leaders.

In the end Theresa put on an hour's show at Highover School on Friday

evening 20 May. She had 32 cast members on stage. The Beavers sang camp fire songs and ditties, the Cubs and Scouts did the sketches and entertained the audience of more than 50 with some live music on guitars, saxophone and cornet. They had rehearsed only 4/5 times but managed to put on really quite a good performance. They even had one little talented Beaver called Lauren who shone on stage in her part as the District Commissioner in Lateral Thinking.

I met Helen who is the new ADC Cubs and offered my help with any other Group in Hitchin who may want to put on something similar. And I promised to be in touch next year in an effort to sell some Letchworth and Baldock Gang Show tickets.

16th Hitchin (St Faiths) have promised to come and see our 2006 Show as a Group.

Dave Strong

Saturday 7 May 34 of the District's older Beavers came together with their Leader's at 12th Letchworth HQ for the annual Beaver Challenge

The Beaver Scouts took part in six activities including a treasure hunt, a CD game, a word search and a feely-box game.

The results were:-

1st	7th Letchworth	28 points
2nd	5th Letchworth	24 points
3rd	4th Letchworth	23 points
4th	12th Letchworth	20 points
4th	1st Baldock	20 points
6th	8th/11th Letchworth	16 points

As you see, the shield was fiercely contested but all the teams were well behaved and a credit to their colonies. Thanks go to all the Leaders who helped set up and run the day but especially to Carolyn from 4th Letchworth who devised the games, to David and Sam the Explorer Scouts who kept the event running smoothly and supplied the Leaders with lots of tea, and to Julie who provided the drinks and biscuits.

Vicki Luker
ADC (Beaver Scout)

Scout Water Activity Days

The two Water Activity days held in May at the Herts Young Mariners Base, Cheshunt were a great success.

Seventy Scouts going on the District Expedition to Lochearnhead attended over the two days. During the day the Scouts spent half a day canoeing and the other half sailing. All valuable practise for Lochearnhead.

Thank you to all the District Leaders, Instructors and County Instructors who gave up their weekend to make it possible. We are proud of our Scouts who were commended by the management of the Centre for their good behaviour.

Dave Hawkins
District Commissioner



Letchworth & Baldock
District Scout Council

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We're on the web
www.lbdscouts.org.uk



**Wardens at
Wymondley Wood**

*To contact the warden, in the
first instance please get in touch with the
Booking Secretary - Barbara Crombie*

JUNE

31 May - 7 Vicki Luker
7 - 14 Stuart Wylie
7 - 21 Peter Moules
21 - 28 Nora Hitcham
28 - July 5 Val Bartlett

JULY

5 - 12 Sue Lovelock
12 - 19 Sheila & David Daws
19 - 26 Susan & Chris George
26 - 2 August
2 - 9
9 - 16 Ann Martin
16 - 23 Shelly Wilsher

Diary Dates

June

29 May - 3	June CubJam	Blacklands
3 - 5	District Scout Camping Competition	Wymondley Wood
6	11th Letchworth A.G.M.	
7	District Scout Leaders' Meeting	5th Letchworth HQ
8	5th Letchworth A.G.M.	5th Letchworth HQ
9	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
12	District Fun Day	Wymondley Wood
14	Lochearnhead Meeting	8th Letchworth HQ
16	12th Letchworth AGM	12th Letchworth HQ
17 - 19	County Matrix Weekend	Well End
21	Lochearnhead Kit List Check	8th Letchworth HQ
22	Lochearnhead Kit List Check	8th Letchworth HQ
23	District Team Meeting	Wymondley Wood
25 - 26	25 / 40 Mile Challenge	John Bunyan Walk
26	District Beaver Day Out	Greenwich
29	Fund Raising Meeting	Wymondley Wood

Happenings Around The District

2 - 3 April	District Sixers and Seconders Weekend Wymondley Wood
8 - 10	8th Letchworth Scouts - Weekend Camp Boyd Field, Henlow
16	District Cub Scout Football Competition Leisure Centre, Letchworth Garden City
16 - 17	Scouts Hike Weekend in preparation for Lochearnhead
24	St George's Day Parade and Service St Hugh's Church
29 - 2 May	12th Letchworth Scout Group Camp Wymondley Wood - all sections
29 - 2 May	County P.A.W - 2nd Baldock, 5th Letchworth and 7th Letchworth Troops
6 - 8	5th Letchworth Cub Scout Camp Wymondley Wood
7	District Beaver Challenge 12th Letchworth HQ
8	District Cub Scout "getting to know you" in preparation for Cub Jam - 8th Letchworth HQ
14 - 15	District Water Activity Days - Herts Young Mariners Base, Cheshunt
15	County Cub Scout Football Competition, Maple Cross - 2nd Baldock represented the District
20 - 22	4th Letchworth Scouts Weekend Camp Boyd Field, Henlow