

# Co-ordinator

## What to do on a Wet Weekend in May

The plan was for a warm and sunny weekend relaxing by a camp fire whilst the Explorers and Scouts played at survival in the woods. Well some of the elements worked and as I am sure you can guess the one that didn't was the good old British weather. Still the intrepid few that went to Hitch Wood last weekend were better off than those that stayed at home. Whilst you were all suffering deluge and flood we remained basically dry for Saturday and through the night.

Nine Explorers and three Scouts from 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock took part in a "survival" weekend. They departed base camp after a healthy breakfast at 09.30hrs and headed off, armed only with a few basic items, to construct their shelter, cooking fire and wood pile at a site of their choice in the woods. A break for lunch and back to work,. Fortunately for them a supply drop was made and the ingredients for an evening meal were delivered. Four bivvys were built and all ate heartily, no two teams preparing the food in the same way but they were all happy. As darkness descended the teams built up their fires and by 22.30hrs had settled down for a good night's sleep, snug and hopefully dry in their shelters. It was 09.00hrs Sunday before we saw any of them. They all stayed out and slept soundly all night. Breakfast was served followed by the clearing up operation. I always stress to the Scouts the old saying "When a Scout leaves a camp he leaves only his memories" so great attention was paid to returning the woods to their natural look. Then it was time for the British weather to do its bit. Just as we started to dismantle the base camp it started raining properly so as usual we have returned to HQ with seven wet tents. Oh well some things never change, perhaps the sun will shine next time!!

My thanks to all those who took part, they all joined in the spirit of the weekend and had some fun whilst, hopefully, learning a few bits. Thanks also to our visitors, Dave and Rita and Mick and Deb Dilley who came and shared some time by the fire.

I really find that Hitch Wood has a kind of magical quality that just helps you relax and feel at peace with your surroundings and I always enjoy my camps there and so hopefully do the Scouts that I take.

Bye for now and roll on summer

**Chris King**

**District Explorer Scout Commissioner**

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While the Explorer Scouts cook their supper Chris King puts his feet up and relaxes by the fire.

### Explorer Scouts Left to Right

Matthew Hart, Kane Hawkins-Hill and Jack Huggins



# District Beaver Challenge

Saturday dawned and Beaver Leaders across the District were anxiously checking the weather forecast. Would the rain hold off long enough for this year's challenge to take place? The answer, as we found out later, was no and this was to be the first of a number of hiccups to beset us.

The Leaders arrived at 12th Letchworth's HQ at 1pm to set up and Vicki unlocked the building to find hitch number two. Skool's Out had set out all their equipment for Monday morning on Friday as they had forgotten that we were using the building over the weekend!

We then went to get the key to the playground so that the three outdoor activities could be set up before the Beavers' arrival and found that it was missing! Hitch number three was resolved following a few frantic phone calls to the Cub and Scout Leaders to locate the key, which somehow had ended up in Skool's Out's key cupboard!

Once these had all been overcome, all the activities were set out and just in time too. The Beavers started arriving at 1.45pm eager to find out what awaited them. Representatives from six Colonies arrived to do battle for the title "Best District Beavers 2006".

Introduction given by Vicki, instructions given by Maple (Maralyn - 7th) and they were off.

The first game was hunt the CDs. 12th Letchworth were first back carrying a substantial pile followed by 1st Baldock, 1st Ashwell and the rest of the Colonies in quick succession. The CDs were speedily totalled by Boomer (11th Letchworth) and Vicki (ADC Beavers) so there was no bias in the scoring. The first round went to ...**12th Letchworth**.

Second event was the quiz. The Beavers were asked a number of multiple choice questions on such diverse topics as Scouting, football and the name of the Lone Ranger's horse. Best trivia brains in the District were ...**1st Ashwell**.

Third event was the ten pin bowling. Colony teams had two turns each to try and knock down as many pins as they could to create a final total. Best bowlers of the day were ... **7th Letchworth**.

The fourth event saw the Beavers back outside for the feely bag game and this proved to be the most controversial as one Colony decided to look inside the bags before they made their guess. Best feely Beavers were ...**1st Ashwell** and **12th Letchworth** jointly

The fifth and final event saw the Beavers outside for the last time, despite the rain which was by now falling quite heavily. This was the "Find the name" game with the Beavers running around the playground looking for letters which they then had to rearrange into a well known name. In fact it was so well known that all the Colonies found the right answer, each earning the full 10 points.

So to the final scores. Listed below are the final scores in reverse order.

6th place - 1st Baldock - 25 points  
5th place - 7th Letchworth - 32 points  
4th place - 1st Ashwell - 35 points  
3rd place - 8th Letchworth - 36 points  
2nd place - 4th Letchworth - 40 points

Our congratulations go to **12th Letchworth**, this year's winners with a total of 44 points!!!!

Many thanks go to the Beavers for taking part in a very sensible and enthusiastic manner, the Leaders for helping to set up and run the event but most of all to Maple for organising all the activities for the day.

**Vicki Luker ADC (Beavers)**



## District News



### World Jamboree - Sutton Coldfield 1957

The Centenary Celebrations planning committee is seeking out anyone who attended the Sutton Coldfield Jamboree either as a Scout or a visitor. Bob Williams and Kenneth Johnson both visited the Jamboree although it was to be many years later before they met one another as members of our District.

Is there anyone else out there who was present at Sutton Coldfield or do you know anyone? If so please ask them to contact:

**Rita Hawkins**

**rita.hawkins@ntlworld.com**

**1 South Close, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6DS**

### Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation Grants

The Small Grants Committee has asked that all grant applications be passed to them through the District Executive. There have been delays this year because the Committee has not been sure of the relevance of some applications.

In future direct applications to the LGCHF will be rejected out of hand and will not be reconsidered.

In the first instance you should submit your Grant application to the District Commissioner.

**Dave Hawkins**

**District Commissioner**

## Barton Challenge 2006

This year's Barton Challenge took place over a 10km course centred on Little Offley Manor and farm, by the kind permission of Martin French.

Five teams from Fifth and Seventh Letchworth troops took part, navigating a list of grid references that resolved to a figure of eight course, cunningly designed so that most teams were on different courses, and thus free of the temptation to follow each other! Along the way, the teams had to answer a number of questions relating to map reading and observation.

The results were pretty close, with only four points covering the top three teams.

In first place were James Hare, Dean Kilbride, Liam Milne and Jamie Pitts of Seventh Letchworth with 100 points (out of a maximum of 120), closely followed by Adam Taylor and Jordan Taylor of Fifth Letchworth with 98. Louise Crombie, Katie George and Laura Parkes of Seventh Letchworth were close behind in third place with 96.

According to the "User feedback survey" conducted as part of the event, all found the challenge good, though many thought the navigation was too easy. [Wait until next year!] Somebody wanted a river crossing to be included, whilst others wanted a map that covered the whole route [oops, my fault – Gareth]

### Mike Miles

It is with sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Mike Miles following an epileptic fit.

For many years Mike was an assistant producer of the Gang Show and we will have fond memories of his enthusiasm and commitment.

He will be remembered with affection by 'the Gang' and his spirit will live on in future shows.

Donations to the Keech Cottage Children's Hospice can be made via Crouch, Funeral Directors in Letchworth.

Congratulations to Matt Hart and Nicola Birch from Oak Eagle ESU on being selected to represent the Letchworth & Baldock District at the 21st World Jamboree in 2007.



## County Cub Scout Football Competition - Report

Letchworth and Baldock District was represented by a team from three packs at the County Cub Football Tournament held at Stevenage on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May. The team consisted of; Charlie Fletcher, William Tomlin, Kieran Rushmere, Ben Fletcher (all from 4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth), Adam Lunnon (from 1<sup>st</sup> Baldock), Elliot Neale and Conor Stevens (from 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock).

There were 13 teams playing at the tournament. The matches started at 10.30 and finished, a little late, at 15.30, with Stevenage "A" team being the eventual winners. Our team played valiantly with Colin Wing and Steve Neale, parents from 2nd Baldock, ably supported by all the Dads, coaching the team. Many thanks go to them for the time they put into doing this for the District.

Unlike last year when the team from 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock represented the District, the team had not played together before. This meant they faced a steep learning curve about how to play as a team. Despite this, and only having seven boys for twelve matches, they acquitted themselves very well. They never lost heart and actually took the lead in a couple of matches towards the end of the day, though they were pegged back to 1-1 on each occasion.

It was great to see the fathers' enthusiasm when we scored and it's a shame we couldn't do it more often! In hindsight the first-aiders may have been summoned to help non-participants should we have actually triumphed in a match, so it was just as well we remained hardy battlers rather than champions.

The real benefit was to see the boys enjoy themselves and to improve as matches progressed. None improved more than our Boy of the Tournament (my vote anyway) Adam Lunnon, who capped-off some sterling performances with one of our goals.

World Cup? Cubs football is what real football is all about – so roll on next year!

Diana Marshall  
CSL - 2nd Baldock

## District Gang Show - Report

This year's Letchworth and Baldock Gang Show saw 76 members of our combined Scouting and Guiding Districts take to the stage at St Francis Theatre at the end of March. Three performances were watched by nearly 700 people.

Again this year almost the entire cast had a special moment on stage where they sang a solo, spoke in a sketch or had their own touch of the spotlight. They all performed wonderfully well.

After five months of rehearsing we really became a team, not only with those on stage but with the parent helpers, Leaders and friends. Altogether about 150 people were involved.

Saturday evening's Show produced undoubtedly the boldest, brightest, most colourful Letchworth and Baldock Gang Show ever.

I hope you will all agree that the stage effects this year were superb. From the starcloth to the smoke effects, the special effects lighting to the pyrotechnics, it was all such fun. We really did go a league higher this year.

We invested in costumes this year, spending over £700, including the making of waistcoats for the whole cast. I thank the Heritage Foundation for their generous grant of £500 which made this possible.

With profits from the bar, contributions from the Scout Fellowship running front of house, programme and ticket sales I am pleased to report that we again had a good surplus of income over expenditure.

We also raised well over £200 for Keech Hospice this year.

I thank everybody who became involved, but, as always offer my thanks to the cast; I couldn't do it without them.

Dave Strong  
Producer/Director



# Happenings Around the District

## May

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 6 District Beavers Challenge        | - 12th Letchworth                                 |
| 6 Gang Show                         | - 8th Letchworth HQ                               |
| 14 District Scouts Barton Challenge | - Barton Hills                                    |
| 14 Letchworth Rotary Walk           | - Greenway Walk - 4th Letchworth Scouts took part |
| 14 County Cub Football Competition  | - Stevenage                                       |
| 19 - 21 7th Letchworth Hike         | - Wymondley Wood to Harmer Green                  |
| 19 - 21 Oak Eagle ESU               | - Survival Weekend - Hitch Wood                   |



**The Centenary of Scouting is a notable event in the history of our Movement and it provides an opportunity to raise the profile of Scouting.**

The District will be celebrating the Centenary of Scouting with at least one event each month throughout 2007. The events already in the planning stage are

- 6 January Party and Quiz, Celebration Launch
- 22 February Robert Baden-Powell 150th Birthday – Uniform Day March Gang Show
- 22 April St George's Day Parade and Service
- 4 – 7 May District Jamboree - Wymondley Wood
- June District Sports Day – All Sections
- 7 July Black Tie Dinner and Dance
- 1 August "Sunrise" - Renewal of Promise
- September Walking Treasure Hunt
- October Museum Exhibition
- November Firework Display – Wymondley Wood
- December Carol Service

Watch out for more details as they become available. As you can see there are a wide range of events to organise and plan. If anyone can spare time to help make these events a success and enjoyable then please contact Dave Hawkins, District Commissioner, or come along to the next planning meeting, 26 June 2006 at 8th Letchworth HQ, Sparhakwe, Letchworth starting at 8.00 pm. I look forward to seeing some new faces as well as the regulars. Thank you in advance for any help you can give us.

**Dave Hawkins**

**[dc.lethworthbaldock@herts-scouts.net](mailto:dc.lethworthbaldock@herts-scouts.net)**

### **Roving Report on St Georg's Day.**

I wore the blue trousers passable as uniform, my outdated shirt and the startling Fellowship scarf, went by the straightest way to Baldock. I heard the throb of the drums a quarter of a mile away as the Salvation Army inspired the parade into action. I saw colours from the other end of the High Street where Rita's camera was poised, more District Officers and Fellows were at the Church and I hurried after Laurie to the front door at the back. Anne was in charge and I had no ushering to do, so I became a piece of furniture helping the parade to flow the right way. Does a circular church have a nave? It was soon packed with Youth, Pride and Hope, and the parents had to stand at the back. From the door I heard

clearly the Easter stories and how George probably bagged St Michael's dragon. Music and songs were loud and splendid, everyone behaved beautifully and God saved the Queen. The collection raised £180 which was donated to Headway a local charity for head injury victims. Mingling outside, I couldn't persuade some of the 25 mile club to try the 2 ½ miles to the Garden City, Fred, Fellowship Chairman walked with me to Weston Way from there I went solo, having been no use at the service but feeling much better for it.

**Ken Johnson**

**Roving Reporter Letchworth & Baldock**

Letchworth & Baldock  
District Scout Council

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#### Wymondley Wood Wardens

#### JUNE

6 Ann Martin	627439
13 Jeff Robson	684954
20 Jane Thorn	635745
27 Shirley & David Daw	431884

#### JULY

4 Chris King	637901
11 Sue Chapman	630881
18 Mick Balls	893855
25 Shelley Wilsher	642026

#### AUGUST

1 Pat & David Northover	635752
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#### June

- 1 District Team Meeting - 1 South Close, Baldock
- 5 Wymondley Wood AGM - Wymondley Wood
- 6 11th Letchworth AGM - 11th Letchworth HQ
- 8 District Executive Meeting - Wymondley Wood
- 10 District Beaver Sports Day - Wymondley Wood
- 11 District Adult Fun Day & BBQ - Wymondley Wood
- 16 - 18 District Cub Camp - Tolmers
- 17 County Cub Day Out - Gilwell Cub Fun Day
- 18 2nd Baldock Car Wash and Cake Stall - Fund Raising  
for the Summer Expedition to France - Catholic Church
- 20 1st Baldock A.G.M. - 1st Baldock HQ 7.00 pm
- 24 - 25 25 / 40 Mile Walk
- 26 2007 Celebrations Meeting - 8th Letchworth HQ
- 29 District Jamboree Camp Meeting - 1 South Close

#### July

- 1 - 2 District Kon-Tiki Competition
- 3 County A.G.M.
- 4 District Beaver Bangers & Bash - Wymondley Wood
- 7 - 9 H.E.A.T.—Explorer Scout event - Wymondley Wood
- 9 District Cub Scout Dragon Boating - Fairlands Lake
- 9 2nd Baldock Car Wash and Cake Stall -Catholic Church
- 10 District Cub Leaders Meeting
- 12 District Fund Raising Meeting
- 13 District Executive Meeting - Wymondley Wood
- 25 Summer Term Ends
- 29 LGCHF Fun Day - Broadway Gardens

#### August

- 4 - 13 Oak Eagle ESU Summer Expedition to Austria
- 4 - 13 2nd Baldock Scout Group Summer Expedition to France

#### September

- 1 Autumn School Term Begins

## Welcome to



**Jody Webb - 1st Baldock ABSL**

## Service Awards

### Long Service Decoration

15 Years



David Hawkins

DC

Rita Hawkins

Co-ordinator Editor