

JULY 2007 ISSUE 539



CO - O R D I N A T O R

District Centenary Sports Day - 16 June



It was wet!!should we cancel??no let's go for it.....and despite the weather about 50 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts took part in a traditional type of sports day.

Everyone concentrated hard on the egg and spoon, hopped, shuffled and jumped in the sacks, flew along in the skipping, ran their socks off in the sprint, made light of the obstacles, launched balls and bean bags, dribbled with the hockey sticks and as for the water race they probably collected more from the sky than the buckets!!!

Smiley faces all round showed that the children enjoyed the afternoon and didn't even notice the rain!

Thank you to everyone for being really 'good sports' and thank you to the District Fellowship for providing everyone with squash and biscuits.

Congratulations to 1st Baldock who came away winners.



Beaver Scouts hold a 'Bring a Friend' evening at Fairlands Valley Park - Orienteering

12th Letchworth, 24 Beavers, 11th Letchworth, 24 Beavers, 7th Letchworth, 28 Beavers and 1st Ashwell, 18 Beavers went to Fairlands Valley Park for an evening of orienteering. All the Beavers and adults were asked to bring a friend along and join in the fun.



7th Letchworth Cubs held a games evening at Wymondley Wood where the Cubs were encouraged to bring a friend. In total there were sixty eight Cub Scouts, adults and Leaders. What an achievement from one section in a Group.



The Blue Peter Shoe Biz Appeal is raising money for **very poor children in Malawi** like Esau, age 12, Enelise, age 13 and Mayasero, age 6. Many of the children have lost their parents and are orphans. All the money you raise through the **Blue Peter Shoe Biz Appeal** is going to help children just like them, through special children's clubs in Malawi called **Children's Corners**.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Thousands of children have lost their parents because of a serious **illness called AIDS**. **Without their mum or dad** – or both – the children are missing out on all the things that your parents do for you. Many are all alone, with no one to look after them.

The Children's Corners help Malawian children cope when this happens to them. **Every day, children can go to the Children's Corner** to be looked after by caring grown-ups, make friends, play games, and have something healthy to eat. Life is just made heaps better here for them.

The Blue Peter Shoe Biz Appeal will **help set up Children's Corners in villages all over Malawi** through the help of an organisation called **UNICEF**. UNICEF works in over 150 countries looking after children.

Thank you to all the Groups who have collected shoes for the Blue Peter Shoebiz Appeal. As a District so far we have collected 73 pairs of shoes. Well Done.

The appeal will be running until the end of October. However, the District will take delivery of your shoes until Friday 21 September 2007.

6 PAIRS = 8 "MEMORY BOOKS"

Children who have lost mums and dads often get very sad about how much they miss them. Memory books give children the chance to write down thoughts about their mums and dads, and describe how they are feeling.

69 PAIRS = A FIRST AID KIT

This first aid kit will help a community care worker look after children with plasters, bandages or cream when they've hurt themselves.

New name for Scout Insurance Services Limited



Unity Insurance Services is the new trading name for Scout Insurance Services Limited. Don't worry they are still the same team, offering you the same specialised, knowledgeable and personal service, whether by telephone, over the Internet or by e-mail. They exist to serve Scouting and nothing is going to change that. Their new website offers information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, about all the policies that they offer so that you can assess your needs and select a policy to suit you. Don't forget to call them to see what you need - with their specialised underwriters and policies, we should be able to arrange cover on almost anything.

www.scoutinsurance.co.uk

The Hertfordshire Scout Archivist Invites

All Districts to the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Haydn Dimmock Memorial Scout Museum at Well End County HQ on Saturday / Sunday, 14 / 15 July 2007.

Exhibitions: The life of F Haydn Dimmock MBE. The unveiling of a plaque on a tree, planted by B-P in 1933 at 2.30 pm on Sunday 15 July by Paul Brenham MBE, DL

RSVP - County Office

Dress - Uniform as appropriate

Frank Brittain, County Archivist is looking forward to meeting you there.

"Group Support Fund"

A reminder that there is a fund available from HQ, "Group Support Fund" formally the "Needy Group Fund". This is to support members who require assistance with uniform, camp fees etc.

Application form available on ScoutBase website or through your GSL.



All Scout Headquarters as from 1 July must be smoke free. Signage has been distributed to all Groups that have their own HQ. If a Group rents the hall, it is the landlord's responsibility. A District Smoke Free Policy will be issued to all Leaders, GSLs and Chairmen after the next District Executive Meeting.

Rotary Greenway Walk - Update

A new figure of £1,400 was raised by Scout Groups in the District for charity.



LEH 2009

Letchworth & Baldock District Scouts



LEH 2009

Lochearnhead 2009

Time to start thinking about our next visit to the stunning surroundings of Lochearnhead



Dates 22 August to 5 September (tbc)



We need Adult support on all the elements that make for another successful and fun Expedition for the Young People of the District

Interested in joining the team?



Leader? Helper? Parent?

It does not matter which Section you are with, what Warrant you hold or what qualifications you have.



!!If you are keen to help - we want you on board!!

Launch meeting – Monday 17 September, 8.15pm, Sparhawke

Organiser:- Chris King

tel 01462 637901

email:- dc@lbdscouts.org.uk

12th Letchworth Scouts Up Up and Away



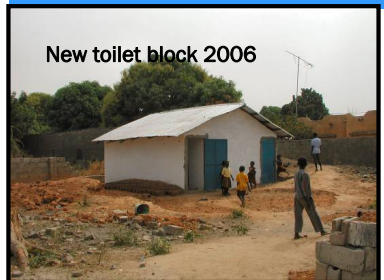
Nine Scouts and two Leaders from 12th Letchworth Scout Group went to the Cambridge Gliding Centre, about 8 miles north of Royston on Sunday 9 June 2007. The day started with a briefing some ground training and instruction. This was followed by a flight of approximately 20 minutes.



4th Letchworth Cubs raised £100 for the Friends of Gambian Education Projects.



New toilet block 2006



Walking for charity

Having spent 21 years working for the Forestry Commission in Wales it wasn't unusual for me to receive phone calls from friends and former colleagues, but I was completely taken aback when Sue (who says "I don't do outdoors") asked me to join her on a sponsored challenge hike and overnight camp in aid of the Welsh Air Ambulance Charitable Trust.

The event was being arranged by Leaders of the 2nd Penparcau Scout Group and the aim was to raise money for the charity and to give some of their Explorer Scouts hiking and camping experience. As it turned out my partner, Gareth, was co-opted to help out on a couple of the challenges which meant that I had company for the 230 mile drive from Herts to Wales. A good job as it turned out because the weather was horrendous and we went through hell and high water (literally) to get there.

The plan was that we would hike six miles, carrying our personal kit, sleeping bags and food, undertake team challenges en route and end up at the overnight camp site where we would build sleeping shelters and cook our evening meal. On the second day we would cook breakfast, strike camp and hike a further six miles with more challenges en route ending up at the original meeting point some time in the afternoon. Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time!!!

The reality was only slightly different in that we slept in tents instead of shelters because the weather forecast was so bad (although it didn't actually come to anything) and the Leaders cooked our breakfast for us. Oh, and we hadn't prepared ourselves for the fun and rituals of "camp fire" which was absolutely fantastic, albeit fuelled by a modicum of alcohol.

All in all, a fantastic experience that I would be happy to repeat, with or without sponsorship. The total raised is not known at this stage but I was sponsored in the sum of £254 and am grateful to all those who supported me.



Varina Davies
5th Letchworth
Secretary

Sunday the 10th June saw the third running of the Barton Challenge, for the Barton Trophy.

This year's event took the form of a wide-area orienteering event and was won by 7th Letchworth: the current holders of the trophy.

The event was held in the open countryside south of Sandon and required teams to plot the locations of Control Points and then navigate around them, collecting points as they went. Additional points were awarded for starting on time and avoiding having to open the emergency envelope. Points were lost if a team arrived at the finish later than their designated time.



| | Team | Points |
|-----|-----------------------|--------|
| 1st | 7th Letchworth Team 2 | 70 |
| 2nd | 5th Letchworth Team 5 | 55 |
| 3rd | 7th Letchworth Team 4 | -4 |

4th Letchworth Scout Go GreenCamping

On Friday 8 June, thirty one 4th Letchworth Scouts and Leaders set off for a Green Camp at Hitchwood. Almost half of the Scouts were new to Scouting or moved up from Cubs and had never been on a green camp before.

The purpose of the camp was to teach backwoods cooking and skills, the only service available was a cold water tap (15 minutes walk from the camp). We pitched our mess tent, and started to pitch the 11 hike tents, when the Scouts arrived at 7.30pm. It took a couple of hours to finish pitching and get settled round the camp fire, where we ate hotdogs and burgers and drank hot chocolate.

An early night would have been nice, but alas, there was a great deal of excitement and the last Scout tent dozed off at about 3.00am.....Thank you Jack S, Chris G and Chris R.....the first awoke at 5.15am.

Breakfast was a lovely big fry up on the Trangias. Sleepy Scouts and eggs are not a good combination. Surprisingly only one Scout decided to poach his eggs, everyone else tried to fry them. There were lots of sausage and bacon sandwiches.



The Leaders prepared sandwiches, cake, fruit and crisps for lunch, and then it was straight into pioneering. The idea was to build the washing up stands or pot holders, the activity was not a great success but at least we can hope that they learnt from their mistakes.

Whilst the mess tent team prepared the vegetables (had a coffee, cake and afternoon snooze!) the rest of the team took all the Scouts for a walk to the river. Bets were taken on which of the Scouts would be wet on their return, Jack S won hands down.....no surprise there. Worn out from the walk, the Scouts took to the camp fire and the woods, though some were sensible enough to have a 'power nap'.

We had visits from the DC, Rita and two Scout Leader's friends from Bedfordshire (who wanted to see the site in use). Aware of their naivety with backwoods cooking and not wanting hungry Scouts at camp, we had planned two dinners, the mess tent team cooked chicken, potatoes and vegetables, with cake and custard, whilst the Scouts prepared beef stew in cabbage leaves with jacket potatoes.

The backwoods stew and jacket potatoes were cooked in the pit oven ready to eat as supper. Vegetarians had home made nut roast and prepared stuffed peppers for the pit oven. With the camp entertainer, Adam Marsh, the evening camp fire went with a bang. A 4th tradition is to sing 'quartermaster stores' using everyone around the fire, and their very own rendition of Yogi bear, which involves characters from 'star wars'. I'm still not sure if Hartley likes being a wookiee!!

After eating their supper and playing the lighthouse game in a pitch black wood, the Scouts were beginning to ask to go to bed; they were all settled by midnight.

Sunday brought a 5.15am start again (the same tent as the day before!) for 'new' Scouts they were up packed and washing up by 7.15am. An alarm clock for the rest of the camp involved the use of the pots, pans and utensils, and a very loud out of tune performance of 'Morning Has Broken'.

The mess tent team cooked breakfast, and prepared lunch. By 11am the tents were all down and packed away, the cars were loaded and we all congregated around the fire, ready to invest Daniel. An improvised uniform, an improvised flag and a very happy Scout. Invested at camp is a great memory, but invested at his first ever Scout camp is great.

Lost property and a site walk and it was almost time to go home. The parents arrived just as the Scouts were pretending to be Beavers and performing 'the penguin song' Hilarious

A good weekend, Scouts home at 12.00noon, dirty, tired, happy with dry, unused flannels. Leaders closing the storeroom door at 1.15 pm after putting all the kit away.

Drinking a cup of tea whilst running a long hot bubble bath at 1.30pm

Same again next year.....

Simon and Apryl Goodwin





District Beaver Challenge

May 2007

A bright
sunny

Saturday in May saw the District's Beaver Scouts meeting to pit their wits against each other in the annual District Beaver Challenge.

Twenty seven Beaver Scouts, representing six Colonies across the District, met up at the newly-refurbished 11th Letchworth HQ for an afternoon of varied activities.

A wide range of activities was provided for the Beavers by Christine Hart of 12th Letchworth, who were last years winners. These included a quiz, treasure hunt and seeing who could jump the furthest!



It was 11th Letchworth who led for the first three rounds, with 12th Letchworth in second place, before the jumping. Unfortunately, 11th just could not jump as far as the Colony in second place and this meant that 12th Letchworth are the winners for the second year running.

My thanks go to Christine Hart for organising all the events, to all the Beaver Leaders who helped to make the event run smoothly, to 11th Letchworth for hosting the event and providing refreshments and finally to all the Beavers who took part in the greatest of spirits and made it a fantastic afternoon.

Vicki Gage - ADC (Beaver Scouts)

1st Baldock Beavers Centenary Activity Day

On 5 May 2007 I went to Wymondley Wood with our Beaver pack for the day.

We all went by coach and I got to have a go at lots of things like archery, the climbing wall, Rifle shooting and the Zip wire. My favourite thing was Archery, as I hit the target a few times!

At the end of the day we sat around the camp fire with the cubs and sang lots of songs. I had a brilliant time and it was great fun.

Joe Fantom

Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts enjoy an evening of Kick Boxing.



MENCAP
Understanding learning disability

Get Together Training

14 October - Kibblestone International Scout Group, Staffordshire

In the partnership with The Scout Association, Mencap runs Get Together Training. It is about enabling volunteers to develop knowledge, acquire good practice and examine attitudes to help young people with a learning disability access Scouting more easily.

13 October—Mafeking Hall, Coalpit, South Glos.

For £12.50 you will get 6 hours of training as well as resources to take away, a certificate and plaque on completion of the training. The course will start at 10.00 am on both days, and finish 4.00 pm. You will need to bring your own lunch. Application form from Dave Hawkins.

fellowship

Forthcoming events

Sunday 21 July - The Letchworth & Baldock Lion's Day. The Fellowship will be running a pound Tombola and Cake Stall. Please bring any thing you have for this event to 19 Campers Road.

Sunday 12 August - Lovelock's Garden Party

District Art and Crafts Competition - 3 November 2007

Watch out for details of the District Art and Crafts Competition rules and categories coming soon via your ADC.

2007 DIARY

July

| | | |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| 2 | County AGM | Hertford |
| 4 | Young Leaders' Training Module D | Wymondley Wood |
| 7 | District Dinner and Dance | Spirella Ballroom |
| 9 | District Cub Leaders' Meeting | 11th Letchworth HQ |
| 10 | District Beavers Bangers and Bash | Wymondley Wood |
| 12 | District Executive Meeting | Wymondley Wood |
| 13 | 2nd Baldock AGM | Catholic Church Hall - Baldock |
| 14 | 5th Letchworth 50 Anniversary Celebration | 5th Letchworth HQ , Spring Road |
| 15 | District Cub Dragon Boating | Fairlands Lakes - Stevenage |
| 16 | District Celebration Meeting | District HQ |
| 20 - 22 | 4th Letchworth Family Camp | Boyd Field - Henlow |
| 21 | Lions Day | Paddling Pool |
| 27 - 29 | 1st Baldock Family Camp | Wymondley Wood |

August

| | | |
|----|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Sunrise - Renewal of Promise | Broadway Gardens - 8.00 am |
| 4 | District Day Visit to The World Jamboree | Hylands Park |
| 12 | "The Lovelock's" Garden Party | 19 Campers Road, LGC |

September

| | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 3 | District Team Meeting | 1 South Close |
| 6 | District Beaver Leaders' Meeting | 1st Baldock HQ |
| 10 | District Cub Leaders' Meeting | TBA |
| 13 | District Executive Meeting | Wymondley Wood |
| 14 | 12th Letchworth AGM | Norton Bury |

Wymondley Wood Wardens

July

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| 3 - 10 | Jeff Robson | 684954 |
| 10 - 17 | Vicki Gage | 630728 |
| 17 - 24 | Shirley & David Rossall | 431884 |
| 24 - 31 | Stuart Wylie | 635571 |

August

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|
| 31 - 7 | Barbara Crombie | 671062 |
| 7 - 14 | Peter Moules | 435103 |

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

Editor Rita Hawkins, 1 South Close, Baldock,
Hertfordshire SG7 6DS
pro@lbdscouts.org.uk

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