

CO – ORDINATOR

Issue 549
June 2008

Templars Cub Pack mascot, Woburn, meets Chief Scout - Peter Duncan



Wolf Cub Woburn is the mascot of 1st Baldock, Templars Cub Pack. As well as travelling with the Pack to all their camps and activities, he is also awarded to the most deserving Cub at the end of every weekly meeting. They are allowed to take him home with them until the next meeting when they hand him back with a photo or drawing for the notice board.

When our new leader Hathi, Rosie Simmons, had him home for the week, she took him down to Windsor to meet Chief Scout, Peter Duncan. Perched on his shoulder, Woburn told him all about the events going on to celebrate the centenary of Scouting in Baldock this year.

BALiN is BACK

BALiN at Coetmor Mill re launch 2008



BALiNetwork is Letchworth and Baldock's Scout Network which has re launched itself after a quiet patch. Only now its not just Letchworth and Baldock, BALiN has teamed up with members of the Scouting movement from Hitchin District to form what it hopes will be a huge success.

A few weeks ago BALiN organised a weekend trip on the working party to Coetmor Mill in North Wales.

Rory writes:

Just recently I travelled to Wales in a mini bus full of people, most of whom I didn't know, to a place owned by Hertfordshire Scouts called Coetmor Mill. We arrived there on a Friday night and I got to know the other people a little bit. At first I was a bit apprehensive because I'm 23 and most of the other people were 18 or 19 and thought that the age gap would be a problem...I couldn't have been more wrong if I had tried! It was amazing!

On the Saturday we woke up, had breakfast and headed to the Snowdonia region and climbed a mountain. Admittedly only a few reached the summit. The rest of us stopped half way and headed back towards the lake at the bottom. We all bonded and we all had fun, and that was the point of it. We didn't HAVE to walk all the way up the mountain just to have fun!

When we got back to Coetmor Mill there was some work to do. There was ground clearance and light gardening to be done. Some electrical work (which we left to the experienced) and painting to do.

At one point we were asked to clear the ivy and moss off a large rock, but only in jest, but we did it. It is a rock that is now known as the 'BaLiN Rock' where I was invested as a member of BALiNetwork.

On Sunday there was more painting and gardening to be done but we all had fun doing it and in the evening we had our OWN say in what we wanted out of network and how we want to do it!

Continue on page 7

Three Peaks Challenge

Two members of the District have recently completed the Yorkshire Dales Three Peaks Challenge.

Tony Hartley, ASL 4th Letchworth, accompanied by his son, Joe (16) Oak Eagle ESU, and Tony's two brothers Andrew and Graham completed the 24 mile trek on Saturday 19 April 2008, taking in the three peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough. The 12 hour walk is officially described as a severe test of endurance and stamina.

The Hartley brothers, Tony (42), Andrew (39) and Graham (36) first started to plan the expedition a year ago and commenced regular training. Joe was enlisted as chief of training and pace-maker. Since then Tony has lost two stones, Andrew five stones and Graham one stone. The four completed the challenge in 9 hours and 59 minutes, over two hours inside the regulation time. They are now all members of the elite Three Peaks of Yorkshire Club.

Tony said, "My brother Andrew came up with this hair brained scheme. At first I wasn't too sure but once I started to see the benefits of losing weight and getting fit I was really into it. I thought this could be a good fund raiser for the group. I have to say that I found it much more testing than I had expected but I am now so glad we did it. The weather was not kind to us and at one point we thought we might have to abandon the effort when we were hit by sudden 100mph winds on the Whernside ascent. We raised £450.00 for 4th Letchworth (St Paul's) Scout Group who need to replace some of their camping equipment."

Left to right

Graham, Tony and Andrew



5th Letchworth Scout Group President Retires

At their AGM in May, 5th Letchworth said goodbye and thank you to Tim Jurdon who has served the Group for the past 33 years. Tim has held every non uniform position in the Group at some time and through his work as manager of Hall lettings has raised thousands of pounds for 5th. Geoff Smith described him "As the most loyal and hard working servant that any group could have."

Bob Williams paid tribute to the work which Tim and all non uniformed people do in Scouting and said for as many years he had been Scouting in Letchworth and Baldock District, he had known Tim as a vital part of the 5th Letchworth Scout Group.

Tim and his wife Anne are pictured on the garden bench which they were given as a parting gift and thank you by the Group.

On the same night Jordan Taylor was presented with the Scout of the Year shield.



FREE to good home.

8th Letchworth Scout Group have approximately **19 orange plastic stackable chairs** which they no longer want. They are free and can be collected by prior arrangement by phoning **Lesley Gwilt** on **0771 459 7229**



Headquarters for hire

The recently refurbished 11th Letchworth Scout Headquarters in Rushby Mead, Letchworth Garden

City is available for hire. Whether it is a children's party or a weekly keep fit club.

Contact Steve Walsh on 07970 021161 to discuss booking availability.

15 Scouts, 2 Young Leaders and 3 Leaders from 12th Letchworth

go to PAW 2008 - PART 1

We arrived to a slightly soggy Tolmers and were allocated Blue Sub camp.

Our next door neighbours were Scouts from 5th Letchworth. Having booked in and set up camp the Scouts started exploring the camp with a late film show in the giant marquee.

Most of the Scouts only just made it into bed for the midnight lights out.

They still managed to be up early with reports of some as early as 5:00am.

Saturday saw the weather improving and the ground drying out. The Scouts spent the day taking part in the activity zones. Followed by another late night, with a Disco laid on.

Sunday saw several of them unable to get up in the morning with latest riser getting up at nearly 10am. This was another day of visiting the various zones. A group of Scouts spent the afternoon exploring the site and finding out about the Pill boxes and other structures left over from World War 2. Unfortunately young Russell fell out of a tree and had to visit the local hospital in an ambulance. Fortunately no serious injuries were suffered. After another film show the bonfires were finally lit. The last Scouts were still sitting round the fires at midnight.

Monday morning the sun really came out and all the tents were taken down and packed in a nice dry condition. Everyone on site gathered at the flagpole for the closing ceremony. The blue camp won the award for the most casualties over the weekend with Russell's ambulance ride earning double points and clinching the award.

The Scouts really worked hard, they cooked all their own food. They kept themselves and their camp almost clean. They looked after each other and made sure they had everything packed away at the end of camp. The young leaders Dilly and Lucy did their bit organising and keeping the Scouts in line.

Thanks to Janet for arranging the food and doing the shopping, although we all wondered about the 11 packets of cereal we took with us (which included the box of economy Weetabix which has been going to every camp and then coming back because no-one will touch them). We only managed to eat 3 boxes.



Turn the page over to read a report from Alex Hawkins one of 12th's Scouts attending PAW, very keen he wrote it before he'd even left the camp!

Gavin Conder SL
12th Letchworth

15 Scouts, 2 Young Leaders and 3 Leaders from 12th Letchworth

go to PAW 2008 - PART 2

On the 2 May over 600 Scouts/Guides and 150 Leaders flocked to Tolmers Scout camp. PAW had begun. Four zones each with six events, provided enough activities to satisfy all the Scouts and Guides.

Set in the treetops the peak zone promised to be a blast. Abseiling and climbing coconut trees seemed to be popular, attracting massive queues. Rock climbing and bungee jumping as well as Tolmers famous Rope-A-Phobia also impressed the crowds.

Surrounding the lake the splash zone was set out to be a wet experience. Including rafting and kayaking, the young Explorers naturally glided across the lake. After catapulting water bombs towards their opponents and sliding through tunnels the Scouts/Guides assaulted the slippery slope.

Jumping into action the bounce zone put a spring in to every ones steps. Boasting Gladiators and an inflatable assault course this zone produced many smiles. Although a bounce zone it also played host to the laser clay shooting, possibly one of the most popular activities on the zone.

Challenging and impressing the crowds the challenge zone wiped the floor with the competition. There were many activities such as; Laser tag shooting and quad biking as well as shooting and archery. By far the most liked event – Laser tag –drew in ginormous crowds. Do you like a challenge?

In conclusion every body seemed to enjoy this camp . After this success at Tolmers the next camp (Green Beret) should have numbers in the thousands. I know 12th Letchworth will be there.

Reported by Alex Hawkins

Lions patrol - 12th Letchworth Scouts

And finally a true conversation between a 5th Letchworth Scout and a 12th Letchworth Leader

Scout "Have you got any polystyrene cups we can have"?

Leader "What have you done with the all the ones you had"?

Scout "We burnt them"

Leader "Have these and don't do it again"

Scout takes cups and leaves only to return a few seconds later.

Scout "Have you got any matches we can have"?

Leader "What have you done with the ones you had"?

Scout "Used them when we burnt the cups"



Kim writes:

The Network trip to Wales was very successful and enjoyed by everyone who went. We set off on the first day to walk up a mountain where we all had a laugh at watching each other struggle our way up. Unfortunately we didn't all quite make it to the top but instead cooled ourselves off by paddling in the lake which we all agreed was one of the highlights of the weekend.

When the walk was over we went back to the Mill where we got into groups and did work in the garden and cleaning up the walls inside. When all the jobs were finished we all sat around and relaxed and had some fun conversations. The next morning we continued helping around the house and had some fun painting the walls, even if a lot of the paint ended up on us!

Again when the work was complete we celebrated by playing down by the river and waterfall area next to the old mill.

We found that helping around the house and garden was a good bonding experience for all of us and it was also a fun and interesting way of getting to know one another.

We all have high hopes that Network will be a fun place where we can all escape our everyday lives and just enjoy yourselves whether it be working, camping, singing, helping, playing and general Scouting activities.

SO, HOW DO I JOIN BALiN?

Network is made up of 18 to 25 year olds so that makes us all adults! If you're in this age range and already a warranted leader then you are automatically part of Network but you need to make yourself known, otherwise we can't get the information to you.

Because we are adults we have to organize what we want to do (Within reason).

THERE ARE NO LEADERS!

Dave, Phil, Tim and Steve on top of Y Garn



Our first meeting will be at Letchworth and Baldock HQ (previous 1st 3rd HQ) on the 5 June at 7pm. We aim to meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month unless we've organised to do something elsewhere.

Come along

BALiNetwork members

Patrol Activity Weekend (P.A.W)

5th Letchworth Scouts

Friday evening:

Got to camp... a bit too early the tents weren't up yet. After we put the tents up and got settled in we boiled water for our "cup a soup". It was nice, no really it was nice except for the gunk at the bottom of the cup! We got called up to the flag pole for flag break, and then I went to the marquee for the film Norbit. I watched it until eleven o'clock then Sam my patrol leader told me to go to bed.

Saturday morning:

I woke up at four o'clock, repeat four o'clock. We had breakfast and washed up then we lazed around until about eight (a very reasonable time) and said hi to some Scouts camping nearby. At ten o'clock we started the activities at the peak zone. First we did abseiling. It was a bit frightening dangling of a rope high up. Second we did Rope-a-phobia an obstacle course in the sky. Luke got tangled up in the ropes it was very funny. Then we went for lunch.

Saturday afternoon:

We went to the bounce zone it was all really good we went on Gladiators, the Bouncy Castle (which wasn't very bouncy), Infinite Assault Course (a race on an inflatable obstacle course) and last but not least Bungee Run, I beat Peter. We went back to our tents and met up with the other patrol and went back to the bounce zone and we had lots of fun.

Saturday evening:

We went back to camp to make dinner; we were having noodles and fried chicken. It was delicious. We went outside to play hide and seek and then I went to the mini fair. After the fair there was a disco. I stayed for a bit and then went back to the tent and listened to the music.

Sunday morning:

Woke up about nine o'clock (a much more reasonable time) and helped Sam make eggy bread. It was delicious. We had fun playing with some Scouts from another troop. At ten o'clock we started activities. We went to the splash zone first. We went to play in the tunnels (an inflatable tunnel with water and washing up liquid squirted inside it). It was a race the first team to get six objects in there box is the winner. Then we went to play on the slippery slide (we had to somehow run up an inflatable slide covered in water and washing up liquid). It was lots of fun. And last but not least we went to water wars; we made 5 water balloons and fired them at different people using a catapult. After that we went back to the tents collected our towels and went to the showers to clean ourselves up. Then we had some sausage rolls.

Sunday afternoon:

We had a water fight, because it was so hot it was so much fun we dried off really quickly. Then we went to the challenge zone we had a laser fight. It was so cool we had these massive guns and funny hats with sensors on the front back and two on the guns. After that Luke and I went Quad Biking, it was really great.

Sunday evening:

A poor boy fell out of a tree (he had got up to the top of the coconut tree in 3.45 seconds). An ambulance had to be called and he stayed in hospital. Grapes were sent to him! Geoff arrived just in time for food! After that we went to watch Eragon. Bed after that.

Monday morning:

Geoff woke us up at 8am and helped us make breakfast. After that I made lunch, we then could do any activities we wanted, I went abseiling, bungee trampolining and climbing. The camp was then dismantled and we had the closing ceremony, then lunch and home with our smelly, muddy bodies.



Mary Kitching 5th Letchworth Scouts



Photographer : Nick Howell

8th Letchworth Family Activity Day - 6 April 2008

As mentioned in last month's edition on Co-ordinator 8th Letchworth Scout Group raised £440.00 on the Charity Day. The Fellowship have kindly donated £60.00. After discussion with Joseph, GSL of the Baden Powell Memorial Group in Nairobi we have now sent £500.00 to the Essex Jamboree 26 July—2 August 2008. The Makadara Local Scouts Association which is their equivalent of our Letchworth & Baldock District are sending Scouts to the Jamboree. Joseph is sending Scouts and is very involved with the organisation. They are looking for hosts either before or after the Jamboree. If anyone is able to offer assistance please could they let me know (Lesley Gwilt - 0771 459 7229). Below is the reply we received from Joseph thanking everyone.

"God bless you so much for your efforts. our eyes are all set to the events in Essex. We are doing our home work to make sure that everything becomes a success when the right time comes.

Pass our regards to all the Scouts and Leaders and pass our appreciation to the Scouts Fellowship for their kind donation".

Joseph Chacha and Francis Juma



Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre Report 2007 – 2008

The highlight of the year was the District Scout Centenary Jamboree when over four hundred Scouts and Leaders joined in activities both on and off the site and enjoyed a giant street party

Biggleswade District Scouts also celebrated the Centenary with a big camp at the Centre.

Both events required a great deal of planning but proved just how many youngsters we can accommodate at the Centre when a event is well organised.

As usual the Centre was well used throughout the year. The indoor accommodation is particularly attractive to Brownies, Cubs, Rainbow and Beavers and there are very few free dates.

We continue to enjoy the support of other organisations. Each year the number of Schools using the centre increases and it is particularly good to see it being used regularly by Woolgrove School and Valley School from Stevenage. St John Ambulance, the Sea Cadets and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme are also regular visitors.

We were pleased to host a girls rugby team from Canada and Australian Guiders. A number of outside Groups have also hired the Centre for day activities such as training courses and lunches.

Outside a Chess Square has been added to acknowledge the 30th Anniversary of the local Scout Fellowship

It has been a difficult year with regard to public utilities. For a large part of the time we were in dispute with Eon over the size of our electricity bill. They had not read the meter for three years and were reluctant to accept our belief that the meter was faulty. A lightening strike in August which knocked out the whole system including the meter and transformer eventually got negotiations going towards a satisfactory settlement.

We have had no such luck with the water supply which has been reduced to a trickle. Negotiations with the Water Company and numerous experts and consultants have not come up with an explanation of the problem nor, more importantly from our point of view, have they proposed a solution. *

In the meantime we are very grateful to the users of the Centre who have coped with the problem very efficiently and cheerfully. Also thanks to the Wardens who have done their part towards easing the problem.

The Centre has now been operating for five years so we have set about a major re-decoration in order that we can maintain its high standards.

We welcomed Rita Hawkins to the management committee as representative of the Scout District Executive as a replacement for Alan Wright who remains a co-opted member. We were also pleased to co-opt David Daws.

We were sorry to lose Ann Martin who resigned from the Committee and also as a cleaner. We thank Ann for her services over many years.

I would like to thank all members of the Management Committee who work so hard to ensure the smooth running and maintenance of the Centre and, in turn, we are grateful to all wardens for their help in maintaining the quality of the Centre and the welcome they give to our visitors.

Bob Williams
Chairman – Management Committee

* Update

Consultants have recommended that we install an underground storage tank with pumps to increase the pressure of the water at the Centre. The Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation has given a grant to cover the cost of the work. The work has been commissioned and, hopefully, it will be completed in the next few weeks.

Front Page Photographs

1. Scout Network Members at Coetmor Mill
2. Peter Ellmers, GSL 8th Letchworth demonstrating woggle making to a Cub
3. Bob Williams and Mick Dilley GSL 2nd Baldock at the Norton Bury refreshment stop - Rotary Walk.

Rotary Club of Letchworth Garden City **Garden City Charity Walk**

A big thank you to all Scout Groups who took part in this annual event. Over two hundred and eighty walkers took part which included a large number of Scouts members with their Leaders / parents / helpers. First indications are that the Rotary has pledged of over £12,000. Special thanks to the 2nd Baldock Scout Group and 8th Letchworth Scout Group for providing and staffing the two refreshment stops at Norton Bury and Wymondley Wood.

District Beaver Scout Challenge



Over thirty Beavers Scouts representing six colonies met up at 11th Letchworth HQ to take part in the afternoon of activities. These included name the Cub Badge, how many items can they spot beginning with the letter 'G' and arithmetic.

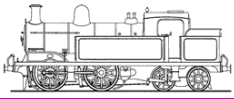
Well done to 11th Letchworth who won

1st	14 points	11th Letchworth
2nd	12 points	4th Letchworth 12th / 8th Letchworth
4th	8 points	1st Baldock (Tuesday) 7th Letchworth

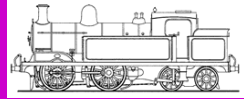
District Cub Scout District Bell Boat Competition

The annual District Cub Scout Bell Boat Competition took place at Fairland Valley on a sunny Sunday in May. Nearly all the Packs in the District were represented. Cubs and adults enjoyed the day. There were some keenly fought races. During the races Cubs who were not taking part amused themselves with activity bases such as woggle making. Eventually 5th Letchworth triumphed and won the shield. Well done to all the Cubs and Leaders and thank you to the parents who stayed and supported and encouraged the young people.





Lochearnhead 2009 Instalment Payments



I would be grateful if Scout Leaders would remind parents of Scouts going to Lochearnhead that the next instalment payment of £60 is due at the end of the month

Thanks

Bob Williams (District Treasurer)

fellowship 

NEWS

Welcome to new members Anne Martin, Edmond Tickner and Phillip Rose, the membership now stands at 40. The power has gone to the Chairman's head and he is now looking in increase the membership to 50. So if you know any one who is thinking of joining the Fellowship please encourage them to do so.

Thank you James and Anne Martin for hosting the Country and Western Barbecue. Over twenty people enjoyed good food and drink and great company.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 24 June - Picnic at Wymondley Wood

Turn up after work and enjoy a meal already prepared for you and have fun. Sue King has volunteered to bring her medieval gear.

Sunday 6 July Afternoon canal trip with cream tea.

Saturday 26 July - The fellowship will have a £ stall and cake stall at the Lions Day in Broadway Gardens. Donations please.

Plus volunteers required to man the stall.

Contact Sue Lovelock

On 01462 672403





At the District AGM held in May Ivor Thomas, Hertfordshire County Commissioner presented Bob Williams - District Treasurer with his Silver Wolf. Ivor congratulated Bob on behalf of Peter Duncan, Chief Scout and thanked him for his exceptional service to Scouting over the last 40 years.

Ivor also presented Geoff Smith, 5th Letchworth Scout Leader and Vicki Gage, ADC(Beavers) with their Scout Commendations. Darren Greener, 8th Letchworth CSL with his Wood Badge.

Ann Nally - 1st Ashwell Scout Group

Your District may be interested to know that I have been trying to trace **Ann Nally** in the USA only to find that she died on 12 June 2007. When Ann was Cub Leader of the First Ashwell Pack in 1961 the DC of Letchworth & Baldock, Leslie Brown persuaded her to go to Gilwell for her Wood Badge training. When she left the UK for Texas and then the Philippines, she became involved in Cubbing and when her husband Jim was stationed at the Pentagon, she started her Scouting in the US again. In those days only Den Mothers and Den Leader coaches could be female, Cub Leaders had to be male. The "GSL" of the Group realised he had a good find and registered his assistant as M.A.Nally and it was years before the Area Council found out she was not a man. By this time Ann had organised Wood Badge Training in her area and in a few years 90% of the Area leaders were trained, more than anywhere in the USA! When rules were relaxed and females were given more training opportunities, Ann was made District Cub Training Chairman and later Council (County) Cub Training Chairman. For her work Ann received the Silver Fawn and later following her work on the Regional Training Committee the Silver Antelope. She was author of the official history of Cub Scouting and became a member of the National International Committee attending many US and World Jamborees. It is reputed that she always returned to the UK each year to attend the Gilwell Reunion. In 1982 Ann was awarded the Silver Buffalo the highest possible award in the USA, this is roughly equivalent to the Silver Wolf in the UK but is given to far fewer people, on average 12 each year. The year Ann was presented, Ronald Regan got his. When she contracted Parkinsons, Ann continued to work on her history projects and Cubbing until she had to go into assisted living for the last seven years of her life.

FRANK BRITTAIN
Archivist, Hertfordshire Scouts.

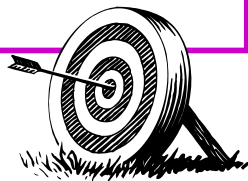


Welcome to

Lisa Eke	ABSL	8th Letchworth
Paula Dilley	BSL	2nd Baldock
Peter Ellmers	GSL	8th Letchworth
Chris George	ACSL	11th Letchworth
Michaela Stevens	ASL	2nd Baldock
Liz Taplin	ABSL	8th Letchworth

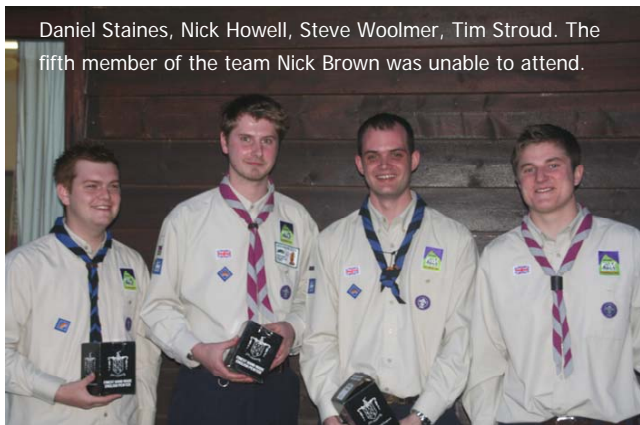
Congratulations to the following who attended a module 10 course and successfully gained their First Aid Certificate in May

Sarah Crook	8th Letchworth
Lisa Eke	8th Letchworth
Peter Ellmers	GSL 8th Letchworth
Phil George	ASL 1st Ashwell
Sarah Morgan	7th Letchworth
Chris Page	SL 1st Baldock
Liz Taplin	8th Letchworth



Congratulations to Matthew Hart - BALiN Scout Network on recently qualifying as an Archery Instructor

Daniel Staines, Nick Howell, Steve Woolmer, Tim Stroud. The fifth member of the team Nick Brown was unable to attend.



40th County Peak Assault Winners 2007

The BALiN Scout Network team were presented with their engraved tankards by Ivor Thomas at the District AGM.

Congratulations to them on being the first team from the District ever to win a Peak Assault Competition.

2008 DIARY

JUNE

2	District Lochearnhead Meeting	District HQ
3 - 5	District PLP Evenings	District HQ
5	Network Scouts Meeting	District HQ
6 - 8	4th Letchworth Scouts	Hitchwood
7	11th Letchworth Cake Stall	Outside WH Smith
7 - 8	District Scout Kon Tiki Competition	Stotfold Mill
11	1st Baldock Scout Group AGM	1st Baldock HQ
12	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
13 - 15	District Cub Camp	Chalfont Heights
17	District Scout Leaders' Meeting	5th Letchworth HQ
18	District Team Meeting	Wymondley Wood
20	7th Letchworth Scout Group AGM	Wilbury Hall
20	4th Letchworth Scout Group AGM	St Paul's Church Hall
24	District Fellowship Picnic	Wymondley Wood
28	District Beavers Day Out	
30	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	Wymondley Wood

JULY

4 - 6	District Hill Walking Weekend	Orchard Farm
4 - 6	County H.E.A.T (Explorer Scouts)	Well End
6	District Fellowship Canal Trip	Huntingdon
7	County A.G.M.	Castle Hall, Hertford
10	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
15	District Beaver Scouts Bangers and Bash	Wymondley Wood
28	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	Wymondley Wood



12th Letchworth Scouts at PAW

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

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