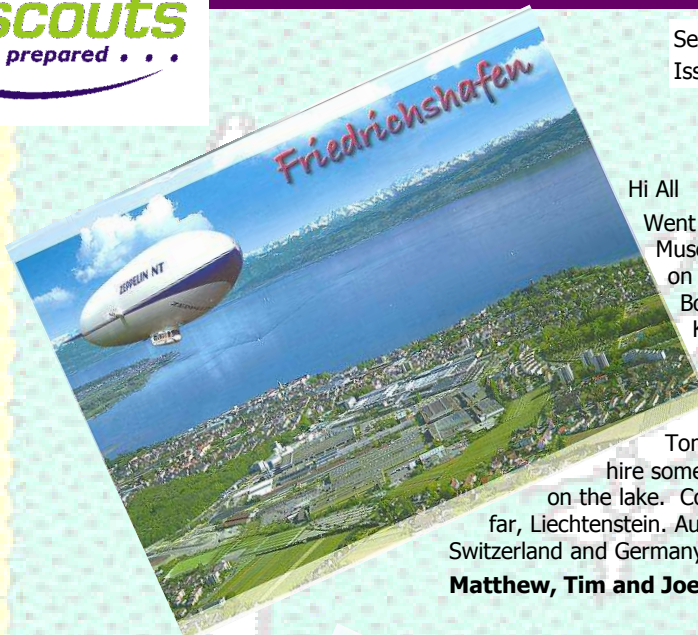


September 2008
Issue 551

Co-Ordinator



Hi All

Went to the Zeppelin Museum today, and now on a ferry crossing Bodensee to get to Konstanz where we are going to spend the next three nights.

Tomorrow we might hire some kayaks and go out on the lake. Countries visited so far, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Germany.

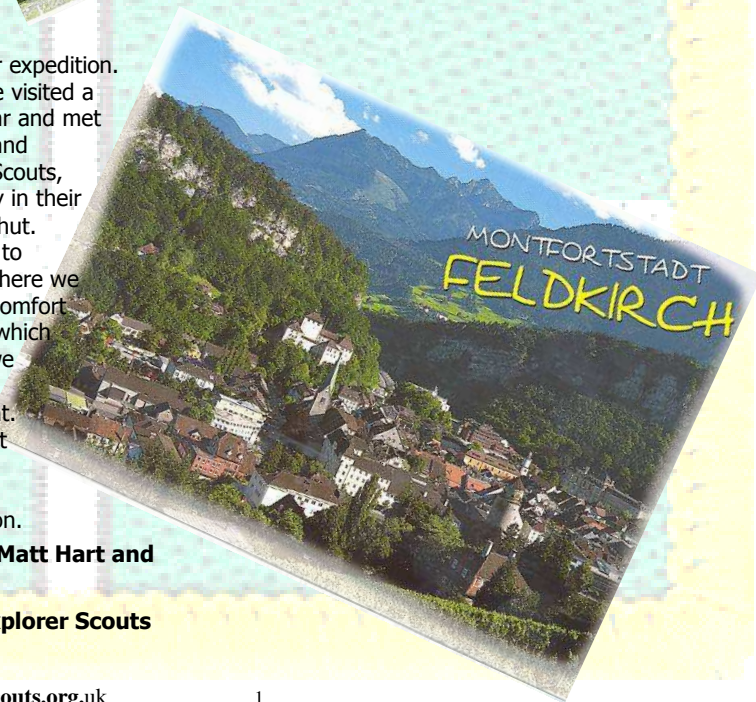
Matthew, Tim and Joe

Dear District

We started our expedition. On day one we visited a local wine cellar and met with Austrian and Liechtenstein Scouts, who let us stay in their swanky Scout hut. Then we went to Sankt Anton where we stayed in the comfort of a 4* hotel, which was lucky as we had a huge storm last night. Apart from that the tanning is going well, See you all soon.

Joe Hartley, Matt Hart and Tim Irvin

Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts



County News

hertfordshire
scouts



Each Group has been given a free copy of the County's

"Milestones of 100 years of Hertfordshire Scouting".

Milestones traces the history of Scouting in Hertfordshire from its birth right up to the present. Extra copies can be purchased via County Office for £15.00 each plus £2.50 postage.

County Reviews - If you require further copies of the County Reviews for 2007 / 2008 they are available from County Office. It can be used as a promotional leaflet in recruiting new adult leaders.

Ivor Thomas County Commissioner

Ivor Thomas - County Commissioner is to stand down in March 2009 when his warrant expires. The following is an extract from a letter he sent to District Commissioners and the County Team.

"Over the past five years it has been a great honour to lead the County through both the Centenary of Scouting and the 100th year of Scouting in Hertfordshire. Seeing the wide range of experiences, that we delivered to the young people of Hertfordshire and those we hosted from across the world during the Centenary year was a real high point.

The County Chairman, Michael Shurety, with the support of our Regional Development Manager, David Walsh, will shortly be convening a search committee to find my successor.

The next nine months will be exciting ones, as I join with you all in celebrating our Hertfordshire 100. During this time I hope to have the opportunity to meet and personally thank as many of you as possible for your support and commitment to delivering Scouting for the young people of Hertfordshire, the reason why we are all in this movement."

Letchworth and Baldock District wish Ivor well.

Join the adventure - Let's Celebrate Hertfordshire Scouts Centenary



The Hertfordshire Centenary Uniform Badge, Scarf and Achievement badges will soon be available from your Scout and Guide Shop and Badge Secretary. To be worn from September 2008 until September 2009 - these are a great way to let everyone know that you are celebrating your Scouting birthday.

Hertfordshire Scouts Birthday Party Weekend

In 2009, we can all celebrate two birthdays — and our party is lasting a whole weekend! Join the rest of Hertfordshire Scouts celebrating our Birthday on this fun filled weekend camp in July. Make sure the date is in your diary and watch out for the party invitations.....

Naturalist Badge 8th Letchworth Cub Scouts

Can you spot the 8th Letchworth Cub Scout who together with his Pack have been working towards their Naturalist Badge in Wymondley Woods.?



Olympic Gold



Congratulations to Victoria Pendleton a former member of the Beech Springs Venture Scout Unit on winning a Gold medal in the cycling sprint in Beijing.

CTT (Come To Tolmers)
8th Letchworth Scouts Summer Camp



CTT (Come To Tolmers) 8th Letchworth Scouts Summer Camp

On the first day we arrived, we carried stuff down the hill and hilariously Lewis couldn't carry his roll mat. We then put our tents up and realised we were surrounded by Guides! It was about 50°C outside and we had to attend the opening ceremony. Most Scouts had a water fight after the ceremony. We then unpacked. In the evening there was a film in a marquee but none of our Scouts went to it.

The next day we woke up and had breakfast. At 8 o'clock we had to go to flag break. There was a huge crowd (most people pushing to the front) after that we made our way to sign up for the activities of the day. There were four sessions per day, off site activities took up two sessions and on site took one.

There were many activities available. Each morning after flag break we had to go and sign up for what we wanted to do that day. The most popular ones were bowling, sailing and swimming, the three off site activities, but the most popular of all was laser tag, luckily it had 40 spaces per session. There was also canoeing, rafting, climbing, backwoods cooking plus loads more. Toby and Jamie had a go at Rope A Phobia and David did the Coconut Climb.

We all came back between sessions for snacks and lunch. After dinner and flag down in the evening we had our own fire behind our camp area. Our Leaders stayed by the fire while we went out and met up with friends we made on the site. We then went off to do some activities and came back to find that Mim and Lewis had tied a pallet up the tree to make a tree house.

On Wednesday there was a choice of a day trip to London, an incident hike or a trip to Thorpe Park. We thought we were going on the incident hike, but secretly our Leaders had arranged for us to go to Thorpe Park. Some of us had learned a new song on the way to bowling the day before, so we sung this along with others on the coach. We also made up some new verses to 1,2,3,4 about the Leaders. It was really hot so we went on the loggers leap and got soaked then we went on Nemesis and some of the other roller coasters and then the rapids. At the end we went in the paddling pools in our clothes and cooled off.

On the last evening there was a disco in a field for all the Scouts and Guides and the Leaders weren't allowed to go. They had to go to Joy's Joynt where there was a band playing. The disco was really good and there was a foam party near the end. The music at the beginning was a bit cheesy but it then got onto the decent 'ravey' kind of music.

It was a brilliant week.

Andrew, Lewis, Ashley, David, Casey, Jamie, Toby

8th Letchworth Scout Group have a selection of various sizes of gas bottles, both butane and propane. They are empty or part filled and anyone who wants them can have them - they are a lot cheaper to exchange than to buy a new bottle of gas.

Please contact Darren Greener of his mobile 07791 095522.

District News

Calling all Group Officers and Committee Members. You are cordially invited to fill the chairs at the District Administrators' Evening.

Date: Monday 20 October 2008
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: District HQ, Icknield Way
Cost: FOC - refreshments will be available.



Topics will include presentation of accounts, responsibilities of a Trustee, Charity Commission, CRBs and any other topic you wish to raise. Members of the District Executive will be on hand to answer your questions.

Invitations will be sent out at the end of September, in the meantime please put the date in your diary.

Training Weekend Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts

How do I get the Explorers to attend a two hour training Module?

Easy sandwich it between a 'free camp' and an activity afternoon. It worked, a wonderful twenty two Explorer Scouts completed their Module A training. It was an opportunity too good to miss, a very late cancellation at Wymondley Wood, and a group of Leaders available to help. Starting with the usual Explorer meeting, which had been moved to Wymondley thirteen Explorers remained on site overnight. A social evening followed the supper of hotdogs, soup, popcorn, and marshmallows. Supervised by Goodie and Matt Hart, ten slept around the campfire, two young ladies decided to utilise the tentage and one managed to get a good night's sleep on the trampoline. A traditional Scout breakfast was cooked by Tracey and I, before we set up the training module. By 9.45am there was a sea of twenty two faces, all chatting and renewing friendships. Using the films supplied by The Scout Association (via Nick Farmer), we started on time and were blessed with a dry morning, which assisted with practical training and risk assessing Wymondley Wood for all sections. The Fellowship arrived and cooked a wonderful lunch. They were surprised how much a group of teenagers could eat. We opened the store room with the view to using the circus equipment and running an 'It's a knock out session', but the Explorers found the bouncy castle and were happy. Matt Hart and Chris King ran Archery. We all spent a lovely afternoon getting to know each other, and planning our next adventure. Thank you to all the Leaders who gave up their valuable time to help. Thank you to all the Explorers who were a credit to the District and themselves.

Apryl Goodwin ESL (YL)

Evaluation of Public Footpaths

Expedition Challenge - 2nd Baldock Scouts

The Greenway

Overall the Greenway is a great footpath in great condition. Most of it is well signposted and not misleading and is a lovely walk as well. Unlike a lot of footpaths this has very few road crossings and all have pelican crossings nearby. The route that we walked on the Greenway had no stiles at all, so is push and wheelchair friendly. The only negative comments we have to say about it is, on a roundabout near the Jackmans Estate there were two very misleading signposts. As we came out onto the street we saw a signpost saying to go straight ahead and across the roundabout, but we distinctly remember going right on this section. Then we saw a signpost saying to go right on the opposite side to where the other sign said to cross. So, actually we would be going parallel to the way we thought we were going. Confused? That's the point I'm trying to make, it doesn't make sense. Overall 8/10

The Kingfisher Way

This can hardly be called a public footpath, though we only walked a small way we weren't impressed at all. The first part of it that we walked on was OK. It was a nice little walkway alongside a river, then we got to the bad bit. As we exited this walkway we were put straight onto a very busy dual-carriageway and no signpost to tell us where to go. Luckily one of our team remembered from walking it before and showed us the way. For about 100yds we were walking alongside the busy road. In some places where the plants had overgrown we were almost on the busy road facing the oncoming traffic at 60 or 70mph. When we got to the crossing it took 10mins to find a safe place to cross, and even then we were cutting it fine. As we walked through it was like a jungle, nettles a few feet taller than me leaning towards us from both sides as we walked down a narrow footpath. Sharp and tall thistles also lean out and as the person in front of you shields them self from it, you get hit in the face. Low branches from trees overhang so you have to duck. You have to step over tree logs that are unstable right in the middle of the path. Finally, at the end there was a bridge with two wooden poles at each end that we had to step over. The path was a shambles! Surprisingly enough, we didn't think this was push or wheelchair friendly because the path was too narrow and the person in the chair would get stung by the nettles, and the logs and trees would make the person fall out. Overall 1/10.

Ollie Wing, Danielle Albone, James Berry, James Valentine

Well Done to

4th Letchworth Cub Scouts who raised £143.56 for the Gambia Education project by holding two Car Boot Sales.

£210 was raised by 11th Letchworth Scout Group at the Letchworth Lions Day held on

Broadway Gardens in July. The money raised is going towards laying foundation for the new storage facility.

At the same event The Scout Fellowship raised £213, their best effort so far for this event.

Who you gonna call? Tent Busters

What do you do if you have a marquee to put up and no idea how to do it? That was the problem facing Letchworth Conservative Club as they prepared for their summer ball.

The solution was provided by Vicki Gage - contact your local Scouts.

So a party of Scouts from 12th Letchworth arrived on a Monday evening to demonstrate their skills. However, when presented with five large boxes containing hundreds of pieces and **no instructions** the pressure was really on.

Not to worry, with a bit of common sense and only going wrong once, the marquee was up within two hours. A return visit the following week to take it down saw the Scouts collect a charitable donation for group funds.

Perhaps that's a way we could raise funds, doing jobs for people for a small reward. We could call it something catchy like 'bob a job'. I forgot we've been there and moved on but I used to enjoy it when I was a Cub, especially walking the poodle for the old lady from Maycroft. Do you remember the yellow stickers we gave out to show we had done a job? Once stuck to a window they never came off. Best stop there, I'm showing my age.



Gulliver's Land Outing District Beaver Scouts

If you thought it was rather quiet around Letchworth and Baldock on Sunday 29 June here is the reason why.

One hundred and twenty eight Beavers, Leaders and parents jumped aboard two coaches and disappeared off to Gulliver's Land for a day of fun and excitement.

The weather was forecast to be four different things by four different weather stations but we didn't care. With uniforms on and bags all packed we visited Adventureland, Toyland, Discovery Bay, Lilliputland, Junior Discovery Cove and Main Street, having fun on a wide variety of rides. We made friends with some Brownies, who had to borrow our Leaders so they could go on the rollercoaster (theirs were too scared!) and Enfield youth football team who had gone there, with an enormous picnic, to celebrate the end of the season. Finally, after 5 1/2 hours of water rides, rollercoasters, dodgems, ball pits and sun we got back on the coaches having had a great day and really living up to the old Beaver Scouts motto of "Fun and Friends". My thanks go to all the Leaders and parents who gave up their time to look after the Beavers and enable them to have a fantastic time. See you next year.

Vicki Gage - ADC (Beaver Scouts)



Saturday 6 July seventeen members of The Fellowship enjoyed a day out on the Grand Union Canal on board the "Princess of the Chilterns". It was raining when they got to Pitstone wharf, but they must have done something right as when they got to Marsworth reservoirs the sun came out so they could enjoy a walk. On the way back they tucked into cream teas.

Future Events

27 September Race Night at 8th Letchworth HQ

18 October AGM at 8th Letchworth HQ

31 October Gordon Craig Theatre - Copacabana

6 December Christmas dinner

For information on all future events please contact
Fred Lovelock

e-mail: fredlovelock@msn.com

The "Lovelocks at Home" had to be postponed due to
The Boss (Sue) being unwell. The District wishes her a speedy recovery.



During a recent visit to the Cloisters I couldn't help but notice the woods at the back of the building and think what a fantastic place to have a Troop Camp. A few words with Jim Smith from the Cloisters secured permission and CBBC08 was off the ground. A back to basics camp with the Scouts building their own shelters and learning a few Scouting Skills, not forgetting some free time and fun activities. Derrick Hart's giant Meccano set which was used to build a go-cart, cardboard ski slopes (very slippery) and the ever popular camp fire.

There was also a chance for the newer Scouts to cook under camp conditions.

The weather was fantastic. Our hosts Jim Smith and The Masons couldn't do enough for us. Jim said it was great to see the Scouts having a whale of a time and making such good use of the facilities.

Simon Goodwin came and assessed me for my camp permit. Thanks Apryl for letting him come out to play, I know he was supposed to be packing for your family holiday.

The DC paid a visit

And no Scouting event is complete without an appearance by Matt Hart. Despite supposed to be packing for his Explorers Belt expedition to Lichtenstein, Italy and other parts of Europe he couldn't resist getting stuck in for a few hours and helping with activities.

That's 12th Letchworth Scouts finished until after the holidays. Seven weeks to get all my troop records in order, next camp planned and finally write up my training plan achievements and get all my Leader training finished. Definitely, probably, hopefully, maybe by Christmas.



As part of their community challenge 11th and 12th Letchworth Scouts recently visited The Cloisters in Barrington Road, Letchworth. For those that don't know that's the strange looking building with the towers and turrets next to St Christopher's school.

Twenty Scouts and their Leaders were met at Cloisters by Jim and Janet Smith who were kindly hosting the visit.

The visit started with a presentation by Jim who explained all about the building which is now 101 years old and its founder the eccentric Miss Annie Lawrence.

He explained all about its history from its original use as a centre to teach teachers with visitors living and sleeping in open air dormitories and growing their own food.

Sleeping outdoors was very popular at this time. Apparently Baden Powell slept on his balcony nearly every night for 20 years.

He told us how the people of Letchworth used to visit on Sunday afternoons and for a shilling (5 pence) could listen to concerts and swim in the pool. Miss Lawrence taught many Letchworth children to swim in the pool and when they had learnt presented them with a special bluebird fountain pen.

During World War 2 the building was used by the army and Air Raid Wardens had a lookout post on the roof to observe German bombers.

After the war the building was taken over by the Freemasons who use it to this day.

We then toured the building with Jim using old photographs to show how it had changed over the years. He also pointed out the strange architecture which is not just in the shape of the building but also in the detail such as the lead work which has a re-occurring bat motif as Miss Lawrence was fond of bats. One of the most striking features is the marble fountain inside the front door which used to dispense all the drinking and washing water.

The Scouts were particularly interested in the 'wall of discovery'. This is an apparently normal wall on the outside of the building inset with flint stones. When you stare at it you can see the

shapes of animals such as dogs, fish and elephants in the stones. The longer you stare at it the more you see.

We were also allowed into the Masonic Temple which used to be the outside of the building but is now the inside. Jim also explained about Masons and their charitable work.

After a question and answer session the Scouts were allowed to let off steam in the woods at the back of the building.

Thanks to Jim and Janet Smith for looking after us and doing such a good job in keeping 25 lively Scouts in order.



Camp Report

12th Letchworth Scouts

Have you ever camped with a difference? 12th Letchworth Scouts have. The Scouts were invited to have a cardboard box camp in the back garden of The Cloisters, in Barrington Road, Letchworth.

Gavin Conder the leader of the group instructed the boys to make a cardboard box shelter to home an individual or group overnight.

Whilst there the Scouts enjoyed many survival activities such as cleaning water with natural materials. To do this Scouts cut the bottom off a plastic bottle and filled it completely with grass, then the two groups had a competition to see whose filter worked best.

Adam Hensby and James Gore
12th Letchworth Scouts



Cub Scout Skills Day - Harmer Green 5th Letchworth Cub Scouts

Under the Leadership of Barry Dickinson 5th Letchworth Cub Scouts held a Cub Skills Day at Harmer Green. With help from parents and Young Leaders they were split into three groups and learned about axes and saws, shelter building, fire lighting and went on a bug hunt. The Leaders also made a monkey bridge and swing. The day ended with a Tug-O-War. All in an enjoyable day.



Harmer Green Cub Scout Weekend Camp 2nd Baldock

Also at Harmer Green over the same weekend were 2nd Baldock Cubs. Diane Marshall CSL enjoys taking the Cubs to Harmer Green because of its location and its natural surroundings which are being enhanced by the improvements to the facilities.



Orchard Farm District Scouts Walking Weekend

Sixty four Scouts, Leaders and adults enjoyed a walking weekend based at Orchard Farm in the Derbyshire Peak District.

Thorpe Cloud
taken by Nick Howell



Dove Dale Caves
taken by Nick Howell



taken by Claire Greener



11th Letchworth Fun Day

At a loose end - why not take the children to the 11th Letchworth fun day, to be held at their HQ in Rushby Mead on Sunday 28 September.

Festivities start at 12.00 pm. The celebrations will also mark the 30th anniversary of the Group. All money raised will go towards the cost of the new storage facility.

Lord Baden-Powell Centenary Statue

K.J. was invited to the unveiling of the life-size bronze sculpture of Lord Baden-Powell created by leading sculptor David Annand, in Poole, Dorset. The sculpture is sited where the harbour ferries depart for Brownsea Island.

Lord Baden-Powell is captured in a natural pose, resting on an up-ended log and looking out towards Brownsea Island. Two further 'perching logs' have been sited at either side to allow visitors to get up close and encourage photo-opportunities.

Kenneth Johnson (K.J.) meets our Founder



Weekend Camp, Boyd Field, Henlow 7th Letchworth Cub Scouts



Amanda Woolmer, CSL and her team of Assistant Cub Scout Leaders, Helpers, Young Leaders and parents took the Cubs to Boyd Field, Henlow for a weekend of fun and adventure. The Cubs were instructed on how to make a whirligig and draining board complete with washing up bowl.



ROTW 2008 Rhythms of the World

On 12 July two minibuses full of GangShow cast youngsters arrived at Hitchin Priory for Rhythms of the World. Not to listen.. but to perform. We had just had a full rehearsal at 1st Baldock HQ and were ready to show potentially many hundreds of people what fun Gang Show can be. And it wasn't raining!

Soon I had formed a single file 25 metre snake of excited cast members behind me as we threaded our way through some 5000 spectators. Dressed in our GangShow white t-shirts and red scarves we must have drawn many quizzical looks.

We were not on the main stage, nor the Phil Friendly stage nor the Willow stage. We were on the Arena which was a large fenced off grass area with a rubber platform measuring about 25 by 30 feet and we had the advantage that every person entering the Priory site had to come straight past us. I had told the 39 cast to enjoy themselves. We let them use scripts where necessary because a few of them were filling in for others in the small part/solos. Enjoy themselves they did. Doing impromptu choreography including the whole 38 member cast joining in with 500 Miles. Such fun. We performed Memories and Crest of a Wave then re-did our Pirates, Fame, and Heaven and Hell sections from last-year's Show (2008)

We finished off with the IH8 Kidz band. And they brought the house down. Well, would have if there was a house there... All in all, a resounding success.

We managed to hand out over 100 leaflets too.

The IH8 Kids band performed on the Sunday for half an hour, again at the Arena and drew an audience of about 300. They performed a set of 8 songs, 7 of which were new to them. They had spent two months rehearsing hard at District HQ and this was their first proper gig as a band. Superb stuff.

There were a lot of open mouths in the audience, a lot of surprised people that a band of 10/11 year olds could perform so well, with such artistry. Well done guys.

Dave Strong - Gang Show Producer



Centenary Celebrations Baldock Scouts

Tony Ruffell



1st Baldock and 2nd Baldock Scouts joined together to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting in the town with a big camp at Wymondley Wood attended by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. During the celebrations they were joined by past members of Baldock Scouting for a Scouts Own Service during which their Chaplain, Tony Ruffell dedicated the chapel area. Also during this service Mick Balls was presented with a 30 year long service decoration by District Commissioner, Chris King.

**Frank Brittain -
County Archivist**



Recognising the achievements of our Young People



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Andrew Carrod - 8th Letchworth Scouts



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Isaac Platten - 8th Letchworth Cub



Andrew Carrod

Birthday Boys

Mick Dilley GSL 2nd Baldock has just celebrated his 65th birthday.

Ron Smith also celebrates a special birthday, celebrating three score years and ten.

The one thing that you can say about The Scout Movement it that it keeps you young at heart. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Chief Scout's Awards

The District would like to record in Co-ordinator the names of the young people gaining the awards.

Please could Leaders let the editor have the details either by sending the blue card to her or e-mailing the details. She will the pass the card onto County office once a copy has been taken.

Editor



**Congratulations
to Anne and
Ken Lilley
who have
just celebrated
their Golden
Wedding
Anniversary.**

**Sue Lovelock - Sending you an
express delivery of best wishes for a
speedy recovery.**

From all your friends in Scouting

Get Well Soon

S.T.A.R. Service, Training, and Adult Recruitment



Sara Morgan	ABSL - 7th Letchworth
Robert Northover	ABSL - 11th Letchworth
Philip Scoot	AESL - Oak Eagle ESU
Rosie Simmons	ACSL - 1st Baldock (Templars)
Beverly Suttie	ASL - 11th Letchworth
Mark Suttie	ASL - 11th Letchworth

Service Awards



Bob Williams	- District Treasurer
Mick Balls	- Wymondley Wood committee member



Deb Dilley
2nd Baldock ASL
Gill Rollason
1st Baldock committee member



Geoff Smith
5th Letchworth SL



Welcome to the newest addition to the Letchworth and Baldock District

Congratulations to proud parents Fiona and Jeremy Steeley on the birth of their first child Maya Rose.



Ivor Thomas, County Commissioner presenting Geoff Smith with his Long Service Award at Coetmor Mill.

Training e-learning - a correction from Ron Smith
At recent Appointment Meetings, I have been giving new Leaders a web address for e-learning - it is no longer correct. Please go to www2.scouts.org.uk/learnersresources

DIARY 2008

SEPTEMBER

1	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Wymondley Wood
4	District Beaver Leaders' Meeting	1st Baldock HQ
6	District Orienteering (Training day for Lochearnhead participants)	
8	District Lochearnhead Meeting	Wymondley Wood
9	Scout & Guide Shop	Reopens
11	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
16	District Scout Leaders' Meeting	5th Letchworth HQ
20 - 21	County Cub Night Hike	
22	District Team Meeting	TBA
26 - 28	County Scouts B2B Challenged	Well End
23	12th Letchworth AGM	TBA
29	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Wymondley Wood

OCTOBER

4	District Beavers Sports Day	Wymondley Wood
9	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
12	District Cub Day Out	Duxford
15	Scout & Guide Shop AGM	Wymondley Wood
18	District Fellowship AGM	8th Letchworth HQ
17 - 19	County Peak Assault Competition	TBA
20	District Administration Evening	District HQ
26	County Scout Triathlon	Lees Wood
27	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Wymondley Wood



I H8 Kidz at the Rhythms of the World.

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

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