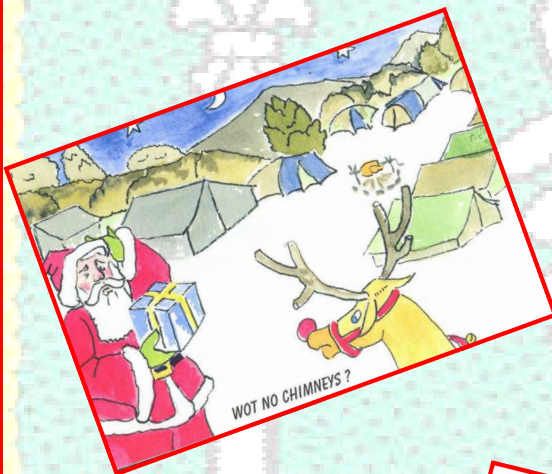


Merry Christmas and a big THANK YOU



Christmas is nearly here again, which brings us to the completion of another fantastic year of Scouting in Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell. My first year as D.C. has gone by in a blur of activity, trying to keep up with the action packed and varied programmes, camps and visits put on by you, the District Leaders, has proved an almost impossible task and I apologise if I didn't get to visit any of you at a specific event.

I am looking forward to getting figures in for the Annual Census in January as I feel sure we are still continuing to grow, as we have done within this District consistently over the years. This year has seen a good and much needed increase in our Leader strength with 22 new Leaders taking up the challenge. I would like to thank them for joining us in our endeavours to get Scouting to as many Young People as we possibly can. As ever we still need more adults to join us, so if you know any willing volunteers please encourage them to come and join us.



Cartoons courtesy of Edmond Tickner

Our levels of attendance at both St George's Day and Remembrance Sunday have this year ensured that the Scout Movement's reputation amongst the residents of our District is as good, or better now than it has ever been. When you add to this events like Bag Packs, Market Stalls and Poppy selling there are not many weeks in the Year when we are not doing something in the public eye.

Thanks to everyone, from the youngest Beaver Scout to the most senior Fellowship Member, for your contributions to Scouting this year and I look forward, with anticipation, to another wonderful year in 2009.

Chris King
District Commissioner

Two new members for the District Team

I am pleased to announce the following two Appointments to the District Team

Janet Conder District Secretary with immediate effect

Gavin Conder Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts) from 1 January 2009

I would like to welcome them to the Team and thank them for volunteering for the tasks. I know I can rely on you all to give them support as they undertake their new roles.

Chris King
District Commissioner



Barry Dickinson CSL 5th Letchworth drowning whilst helping 8th Letchworth Scouts at their camp at Well End over a very very wet weekend in November 2008.

The Ken Hart Trust

A reminder that the Wymondley Wood Committee administer the Ken Hart Trust which makes small grants to enable Scouts to take part in Scouting activities which they might not otherwise be able to afford. The preference is to help with adventurous outdoor activities rather than outings. Applications should be made to Bob Williams, chairman of Wymondley Wood Tel: 686727 e-mail bob.williams10@btinternet.co

Kenneth Johnson, known to all as KJ, announced at this year's AGM that he was stepping down from the committee of the Letchworth and Baldock Scout Fellowship. This draws a line under the first 31 years of the Fellowship, as KJ has been involved from before the "ship" set sail. He was at the planning meeting on Tuesday 22 November 1977, for the very first meeting on Wednesday 7 December 1977 for all who were interested in joining "The Fellowship".

In January 1978 KJ was on the bridge as the Fellowship set sail. KJ took up the post of ADC. In June 1979 KJ suggested that uniform members wear the Fellowship scarf at District events, and if a member wanted to they could wear two scarves. KJ held the post of ADC until his warrant expired, where upon he handed over to Rod Tiplady.

KJ then served on the committee in various roles. His enthusiasm and input was always most welcome, and he could always refer to his diary to help recall the very many events that the Fellowship has been involved in over the years.

As a token of their esteem KJ was presented with the "World Jamboree Badge Collection 1920—2007" by the Fellowship members.



Eileen Phillips surrounded by her family, Scouting and Guiding friends.



I would like to say a BIG Thank You to everyone who worked so hard to give me such a lovely party also for the many gifts and cards. It was so nice to see all my Scouting and Guiding friends together reminiscing on old times. Yes, we did enjoy ourselves and still do.

Yours in Scouting and Guiding - Eileen Phillips

County Scouts Triathlon - Lees Wood 8th Letchworth



On the 26 October teams of 3- 4 or 5 Scouts got up early to get down to Lees Wood for the triathlon - running, cycling and shooting (it was raining.) When we got there we had to unload the bikes and then walk to our Leaders (if we could find them as it was still raining.) After about half an hour we got told the instructions. (It was still raining). My team was Jamie, Matthew and me.

We were the team of three! After getting told what we had to do we set off running, two laps around the nature trail (it was still raining!) After that we got on our bikes (it was still raining) and we rode around the whole wood twice!! Lots of hills, puddles, bumps and MUD! And guess what it was still raining!!! Then we quickly washed the mud out of our eyes and did the shooting. (Still raining!). We then dried off and got changed and had our packed lunches – in the rain.

After a quick awards ceremony (We came SIXTH out of nineteen teams!) we headed off home (it had stopped raining!)

James Burgess 8th Letchworth Scouts – loves the rain

Race Night with a difference 7th Letchworth Scout Group

This was no ordinary race night with just a film to watch! No we had real horses! Well little wooden ones with a string attached.

A fun evening was had by all, with lots of unknown jockeys winning lots of races. The children had a great time racing their horses using all of their arm muscles to make their horses go faster. The children also enjoyed watching their mums and dads being jockeys.



A very enjoyable evening was had by all. In total we raised just under £100.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We look forward to seeing more people at the next one in 2009

**Amanda Woolmer
Akela - 7th Letchworth**

Scouts join the Poppy appeal 11th and 12th Letchworth



12th Letchworth Scouts have been focusing on the theme of remembrance in the run up to this year's Remembrance Sunday

On Monday 20 October they had a visit from the Letchworth branch of the Royal British Legion. The presentation was given by Ray Cole and the Fellowship's own Arthur Scott.

The Scouts learned about how the British Legion started, the work it does for the ex-services community, and how it raises funds including the Poppy Appeal.

Arthur and Ray then entertained the Scouts with stories of their time as National Servicemen. The Scouts were particularly impressed with Arthur's tale of how he was working on a gun on a cliff top in Plymouth. He fell off the gun and down the cliff breaking his wrist. His comrades lowered a rope to rescue him but he could not pull himself up because of his broken wrist. However, he used the old Scout trick of tying a bowline in the rope with one hand so that he could secure it round him and be pulled back up.

The Scouts were given a selection of freebies including a large 'dress' poppy which you may have seen them wearing at Remembrance Sunday.

The verdict was that it was a great night, thanks Arthur and Ray

In return for the visit the troop volunteered to work as Poppy appeal collectors for this year's appeal. A total of 26 Scouts manned a collecting point in Sainsburys from Monday 3 November to Thursday 6 November 08. They were allowed a night off for fireworks on Friday and then collected in Letchworth town centre on Saturday 8 November 08.



There was lots of feedback from members of the public and the Royal British Legion saying how good it was to see young people taking part in this activity.

All the collecting tins were returned and the count up revealed the Scouts had raised £228.49 for this year's appeal. So well done to the troop.

As a footnote - Stephen Boakes would like everyone to know his tin had £35 in and his brother Matthew's had £27. There's nothing like sibling rivalry.

This is a really worthwhile activity which the Scouts enjoyed. Maybe other troops might be interested in doing the same next year. If you need any information contact Gavin at 12th Letchworth.

More Seats Please ! 4th Letchworth

At my first Remembrance Parade at St Pauls, a number of years ago, there were seventeen members of 4th Letchworth present.

This year at the service on 9 November there were ninety one uniformed members of the Group

4th Letchworth insist that their uniformed members attend Remembrance.

It is the only Church service that St Pauls ask us to attend and as we wear their name on our flash, we oblige. We feel we are considerably lucky as the church is quite warm compared to the memorial and certainly drier.

With all the Leaders and Committee members present we even had two extra Beavers one sporting the blue necker of 7th Letchworth and the other a silver necker from 17th Hitchin.

The Group followed their section flags into church and seated themselves in the pews reserved for them.

After the presentation of the flags to Rev'd Lovegrove, a short service of Remembrance followed that included an interactive element with two Scouts at the altar doing a spelling test!!

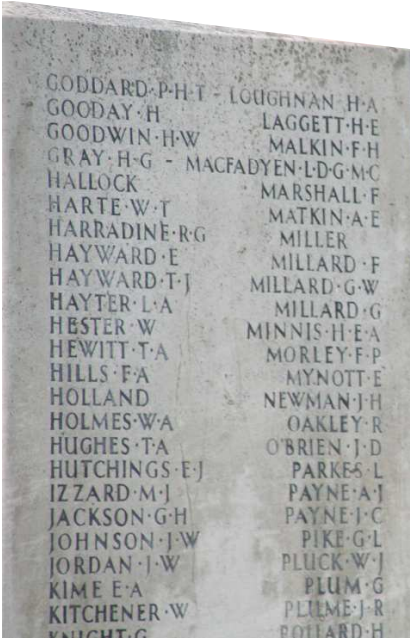
The test was on how we remembered how to spell certain words cleverly linked in with the act of Remembrance.

Our two minutes silence fell just at 11.00am, a prayer, the National Anthem and we were all following the colour parties back up the aisle for a formal dismissal outside the church with the congregation watching.

The panoramic view of 4th Letchworth on Parade was a spectacular turnout for the Group and a recording breaking event.



Remembrance Day The District on Parade



**“At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them, we will remember them”**



12th Letchworth Scout Group together with 11th Letchworth, 8th Letchworth, 7th Letchworth, 5th Letchworth, Oak Eagle Explorer Scout, Network Scouts and the Fellowship joined with the rest of the District at this year's Remembrance service in Letchworth on Sunday 9 November 2008. There was a really big turnout this year from the public and the area was packed. A quick head count revealed about 250 members from all sections of Letchworth and Baldock District with 16 standards on parade.



The wreath was laid on behalf of the District by a 12th Letchworth Beaver and an Explorer Scout.

Wreaths were also laid in Baldock and Ashwell.

1st Baldock and 2nd Baldock attended the Remembrance service in Baldock and 1st Ashwell attended the service in Ashwell.

Grass Skirts and Coconuts ! 4th Letchworth

What do you call three men dressed in grass skirts ? Easy if it's Children in Need night they must be Scout Leaders at 4th Letchworth.

The traditional fancy dress party, was TROPICAL, the thirty two Scouts who arrived dressed in variations on the tropical theme didn't let the chill of a November evening put them off. Mini skirts, shorts and sun glasses all brought out of the depths of the wardrobes.

A Pineapple bar was set up in the corner, and Apryl set about making lots and lots of fruit punch, with party snacks and a superb fruit cocktail made by Elena. The table was awash with colour. We had cocktail shakers, mini umbrellas, James Bond stirrers, and a fabulous plate of home made cake bears, all decorated as Pudsey, made by Janina.

A double helping of forfeit pass the parcel made everyone giggle. A great game of Limbo (improvising with bamboo cane and two senior patrol leaders), how did Freya and Beth manage to get that low?

Confused musical chairs, there were no rules on how many chairs would be taken or indeed added to the game.

In need of refreshments, the Scouts swiftly cleared the Pineapple bar, more games followed.

The evening passed extremely quickly, good fun had by all and a fantastic £130.00 raised for BBC Children in Need.



Scout Leader leading the way for a new Scout Uniform



Matthew Dyne and George Muge from 2nd Baldock Cubs receiving their Chief Scout's Silver Award from ADC Wendy Tierney and 2nd Baldock CSL Diana Marshall

100 years of Hertfordshire Scouts



Frank Brittain, the County Archivist, recently held an exhibition at Well End to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Hertfordshire. It was well worth a visit as it chronicled the personalities and events which have made Hertfordshire so successful over the years. It was illustrated with a collection of diaries, photographs, DVDs and artefacts many of which are unique.

The exhibition told the story of Percy Everett, a great friend and confidant of Baden Powell and one of the Founders of Scouting; visitors were inspired by our Cornwell Badge recipients, learnt about the contribution of our Scouts during the war years, relived memories of county camps, World Jamborees, international expeditions, traced the development of our County Activity Centres and recalled adventures of Peak Assault and Green Beret.

From seed to Christmas Tree 8th Letchworth Cubs

Last November all twenty eight Cubs from 8th Letchworth were given a seed to grow a Christmas Tree by Paperchase, who've been helping with our fundraising.

Twelve months later the Cubs brought them back for measuring. Six trees had survived the year and are growing well. Sharon from Paperchase came to Cubs to check on their progress. All six were given a prize and Lewis Ryall whose had grown the biggest won a gift voucher. His tree had reached a height of 6cm and looked very healthy with lots of needles. He said his secret was planting it in compost from a Christmas tree.

Darren Greener - CSL 8th Letchworth

www.lbdscouts.org.uk



The six Cubs with their trees and prizes.
Richard, Grace, Lewis H, Stan, Mees and Lewis R.



Green Beret

Green Beret was great fun with lots of activities to take part in. There were things like orienteering, assault courses and bases which all involved team work. Our first activity was a quiz. It was very difficult but a lot of fun. They had karaoke as one of the morning events. The last activity was at night. It was called air band where we had to play air guitar, air drums etc. We had a great time playing along with the music. It wasn't just quizzes and music though, there was lots of other things to take part in like ducks (a game involving rubber ducks and litter pickers) and go- carting with pedal karts. We all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. And I would love to go again next year. I hope you would like to go too.

Chris Wilson — 5th Letchworth

Green Beret Challenge - Final Results for the District

Final Team Position	Activity Base	Assault Course	Night Exercise	Orienteering	Total
	Score / Pos	Score / Pos	Score / Pos	Score / Pos	Pos
29 Famous Fifth	246 14	295 40	223 34	70 66	154
32 8th Letchworth / 1st Ashwell	233 40	324 18	190 83	30 30	171
54 7th Letchworth	224 59	315 23	151 104	52 49	235
95 5th Letchworth Junior	179 110	218 93	209 54	72 67	324
110 5th Letchworth Infants	180 108	161 113	146 108	67 63	392



Recognising the achievements of our Young People



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

John Goward	1st Baldock
William Lowrie	1st Baldock



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Matthew Dyne	2nd Baldock
George Muge	2nd Baldock



A warm welcome to

Ian Taplin	ACSL	8th Letchworth
Deborah Jones	ASL	1st Ashwell
Andrew Masson	ASL	1st Ashwell

**Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts
Wish all its memebbers a
Happy Christmas and a Properous New Year**

Photos taken by Tracey Duxbury at J.O.T.A. held at Wymondley Wood



DIARY 2008 / 2009

DECEMBER

8	District Lochearnhead Meeting	District HQ
11	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
13	District Fellowship Xmas Dinner	Howard Hall Social Centre
16	Scout Shop closes for Christmas	8.00 pm

JANUARY 2009

8	Scout Shop reopens	6.00 pm
8	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
17	County Fellowship Quiz	Ickleford Village Hall
20	District Scout Leaders' meeting	5th Letchworth HQ
25	District Scout Cooking Competition	1st Baldock HQ
26	Wymondley Wood Meeting	107 Spring Road



Friends together at Tolmers - 11th Letchworth Cubs enjoying an activity day



Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts Editor Rita Hawkins, 1 South Close, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6DS editor3@btinternet.com Printed by: Print Factory, Whitehorse Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire



District Arts and Craft Competition

The judging for the District Arts & Craft Competition took place on Saturday 3 November at 1st Baldock HQ. As usual the standard of entries in all classes was extremely high. The judges found it difficult to award the places in each category. Well done to all who took part and thank you to Wendy Tierney and the Cub Section for organising the event.

Beaver Section

	1st Baldock (Tuesday)	
1st	(11
2nd	12th Letchworth	10
3rd	7th Letchworth	8

Cub Section

1st	1st Baldock (Knights)	20
2nd	4th Letchworth	15
3rd	2nd Baldock	9

Scout Section

1st	4th Letchworth	19
2nd	1st Baldock	10
3rd	12th Letchworth	8

Overall Winners - Plinston Trophy

1st	1st Baldock	47
2nd	4th Letchworth	41
3rd	12th Letchworth	18



FIREWORKS

A selection of fireworks based on popular scouting activities and awards.

CONTAINS:

1. Adventure Challenge (Best lit somewhere exiting).
2. Martial Arts (Packs a knockout punch).
3. Aviation Skills (WARNING, flies very high).
4. Communicator (No one understands the instructions for this one).
5. Caver (Place in a deep hole before lighting).
6. Electronics (May cause sparks).
7. Camper (Only works when raining).
8. Astronomy (Can only be seen through a telescope).
9. Camp Cook (First one to start, Last one to finish).
10. Canoeist (Works even when upside down).
11. Mechanic (Often breaks down).
12. DIY (Get some one else to light).
13. Entertainer (Very theatrical).
14. Survival skills (Just ask some one else to help with this one).
15. Orienteer (Always gets lost).





District Cub Scout Quiz - 23 November 2007

We have just held the Annual District Cub Quiz; there were seven teams in total this year. The questions were set by the winning team from last year, 1st Baldock Knights. A very big Thank You to the Leaders and parents from all of the sections and 1st Baldock Knights for setting the questions. It was a very enjoyable evening with lots of General knowledge questions and, of course, Scouting questions. In the break the Cubs had to match the capital city to the right country. The winning team was 4th Letchworth with a total score of 73 points.

The scores are as follows:

1 st	4 th Letchworth	73 Points
2 nd	1 st Baldock (K)	70 Points
3 rd	5 th Letchworth	66 Points
4 th	8 th Letchworth	65 Points
5 th	12 th Letchworth	60 Points
Joint 6 th	7 th Letchworth & 1 st Baldock (T)	53 Points



Well done everyone!

Amanda Woolmer - ADC Cubs

8th Letchworth Scout Group

Darren Greener CSL and his better half Claire attended a Module 19 Course - International Matters. It true Scouting style, never one to let the grass grow under his feet, Mike Aston, ACC International linked the 8th Letchworth Scout Group with a Scout Group in Kenya called the Baden –Powell Memorial Group. Since then the Group has put together a box of goodies to send to them for Christmas. They are planning the International Friendship Group Award and the Scouts have written introductory letters. 8th Letchworth have received some photos of the children. They haven't all got uniforms yet as the Group buys them for the orphans when they can afford them. They also pay for their education in Uganda because it's cheaper than educating them in Kenya.

The GSL is called Joseph and the SL is Chacha.



Scout Group



Junior Scouts
(Chipukizi)



Scouts

Remembrance Sunday 11 November 2007



The District Remembers

Over 250 members of the Letchworth and Baldock Scout District attended the Remembrance Day Services in Letchworth and Baldock on Sunday 11 November.

Scouts from the 5th Letchworth, 7th Letchworth, 8th Letchworth, 11th Letchworth and 12th Letchworth Scout Groups and Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit attended the service in Letchworth town centre.

Members from the 4th Letchworth Scout Group attended a service at St Paul's Church.

The Baldock service was attended by members from both 1st and 2nd Baldock Scout Groups

Wreaths were laid in Baldock and Letchworth on behalf of the District

Apryl Goodwin ASL, 4th Letchworth said "They all did us proud, with their polished shoes, dark trousers, the shirts and neckers that saw an iron! They all remembered their woggles and poppies. They sang their hearts out in Church and despite the short shower of rain, they stood their ground on Parade outside the Church until dismissed - it brought a tear to our eyes".

Scout & Guide Shop

The District Scout & Guide Shop will close 13 December at 8.00 pm and will re open on Thursday 10 January 2008 at 6.00 pm.

8th Letchworth Scout Group had a Christmas Stall at Highfield Christmas Fair.

They made £214.
Not bad for a day's work.





HARMERGREEN WOOD



The Famous Fifth

Harmergreen Camp

A camp at Harmergreen each autumn has become a regular feature of the year at 5th. Always run as 'a backwoods camp', Scouts use only wood fires all weekend and experiment with new ways of cooking 'The Sunday Roast' served up on Saturday night ! This year it was a Ray Mears recipe - wrap the chickens in banana leaves - it starts ! and YES they sourced banana leaves from a Chinese store in Cambridge ! (thanks Kayleigh !) A pit was dug. A fire lit beside it and the rocks heated up. Then into the pit with the rocks - chickens in banana leaves, next cover with sticks, leaves and finally earth. Then off to build shelters etc

in the wood for three hours. Another team had got the oven going ! This is a metal dustbin - not easy to find today ! - laid on its side. Fire lit underneath and the whole thing covered in earth to keep the heat in. Not quite as controllable as gas! but the best roast potatoes and parsnips we have ever done !

The highlight of this year's camp was a lesson in gutting and skinning rabbits. Paul Gwilt produced the rabbits - not out of a hat ! Perhaps better not to ask where they came from but fresh that morning. Varina Davies had offered to teach the old country skills and the Scouts - nearly all - learnt with enthusiasm ! Worryingly much enthusiasm in some cases ! A fine rabbit stew was enjoyed for Sunday lunch - but one or two more had suddenly joined George in the ranks of vegetarians that day ! "Their loss". the others said. Many thanks to Varina and Paul



Green Beret

Fifth had all taken part before and started with high hopes. Their final position of 13th was not quite the best we have ever managed, but a tribute to their Patrol Leaders, team work and enthusiasm. Even the camping offered the usual Green Beret challenge, with the

temperature well below freezing on Friday night. Junior 5th were 78th as I recall, but that was out of a field of 120 teams present. They enjoyed the Challenge every bit as much as their colleagues and gained valuable experience for next year. We enjoyed the very sociable company of both 7th and 8th Letchworth at this event. I myself had a slight headache on Sunday morning, but this was caused by sleeping with my head lower than my feet I am sure !

PL - Simon Lucas, APL - Jordan Taylor, Andrew

Laing, Jamie Laing, Joe Greener and Sam Nobbs





The Famous Fifth

Nightjar

For the second year running this competition was incorporated into the Mid Herts Night Hike. I cannot speak too highly of the organisation / safety / staffing of this event. Tony Cobb has been running it for many years. He has a dedicated core team, but welcomes new help ! Thus it was a shame that only 12th and 5th competed. Victory for the Famous Fifth in the senior, unaccompanied event was a little hollow against only one other Group, particularly as they would have been outright winners of the Mid Herts Trophy if Nightjar had not been run beside it. The policy is only one trophy per team, fair enough, but hard when you have got TOP SCORE !

Congratulations to the wonderfully named 'Fairy Pudding' from 12th who won the accompanied trophy. Like 5th, they would have carried off the Mid Herts trophy for this category without the Nightjar competition. The weather had been predicted as first wet, then very cold. In the event it was neither and a very successful competition was held between over twenty teams that took part

5th were assisted at all three of the above events by Gareth Howell. Although no longer our SL, he turned out three times at weekends to help us. Thanks very much Gareth.

That Dave and/or Rita Hawkins will visit us at these activities is pretty much a dead certainty. We always appreciate these visits - they never come empty handed but we must never take their kindness and interest for granted. Thank you both !



Famous Fifth Winners

Chief Navigator - Jordan Taylor

Patrol Leader - Simon Lucas

Scout - Amy Lloyd

Scout - Mary Kitchen

Amy had only been invested three days earlier. Both girls were taking part for the first time in the hike



7th Letchworth Scout Group at Green Beret— mid morning break having toasted cheese and ham sandwiches on their open fire.

Gang Show

Letchworth & Baldock District Gang Show 2008

St Francis' Theatre: 15 and 16 March 2008

TICKET ORDER FORM - GROUP TICKETS

TICKET COSTS

GROUP BOOKINGS PAID BEFORE 15 FEBURARY 2008 ALL TICKETS £5.00

(BUY 10 TICKETS GET 2 FREE)

£5.00 free COST

FRIDAY EVENING 7:30			
SATURDAY MATINEE 2:30			
SATURDAY EVENING 7:30			
TOTAL			

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: - LETWORTH & BALDOCK DISTRICT GANG SHOW

From: NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NO:

E-MAIL :

SEND FORMS AND PAYMENT TO: -

GANG SHOW

C/o 14 CHATTERTON

LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

HERTFORDSHIRE

SG6 2JU

WITH A S.A.E.

Individual tickets can be purchased from the

ticket office 01462 671192 or MILLETS in

Letchworth



Amanda Woolmer was presented with a silver woggle by the District in recognition of her time as ADC (Cubs) at the recent District Cub Leaders' meeting at the Broadway Hotel.

Amanda will be continuing her Scouting as CSL at 7th Letchworth.

2nd Baldock Cub Scout Scouting Centenary Year

Our Centenary year has been packed with interesting and fun filled activities. On Red Nose Day our Cardboard sleepover raised money for both Comic Relief and 2nd Baldock. It saw the Cubs demonstrating a flair for building and architecture!



Over the course of the year we collected more than 1200 Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and spent them on orienteering equipment and a fitness game.



We visited St Mary's church in Baldock for our local history badge work; the spiral stone stairs up the church tower were very small and very Cub-sized! We were all amazed at how big the bells were, and we were lucky enough to watch the bell ringers practice - what a noise!! We also visited the Baldock Museum to see a display about Baldock Coaching Inns. The Curator, Mr King, made us very welcome and we learnt even more about the history of Baldock, including the tale of Jack o' Legs.

Our "Bring a Buddy" evening saw our hall bursting at the seams with lots of friends! A good night was had by all, and we have gained a few new Cubs following the evening. Halloween fell on a Cub night this year and saw everyone dress up in very scary costumes for our party! Gory



food and ghoulish games completed the night!

The Centenary Year has had many highlights, and we have been proud to partake in the celebrations.

Marching to the Centenary Year St. George's Day Parade at the Broadway Gardens we were pleased to be able to hear the band and tried to march in time but it was very difficult!

We had a great time at the District Centenary Jamboree camp at Wymondley Woods. The Cubs especially enjoyed the trip to Woburn Safari Park and the Street party that was laid on for them on their return. The camp was a bit wet at the end but that was nothing compared to the soaking we got at Harmer Green Campsite in July! The campfire was almost put out by the rain but we still sang on ...and on, even though we were knee deep in mud! One of our hikes found us on a footpath through a broad bean field where suddenly the plants were taller than us and all we could see was the sky and the broad beans!

Shortly after the Centenary Sunrise gathering, 2nd Baldock Cubs visited the 21st Jamboree in Chelmsford. All the Cubs and the parents that went with them had a hot, fun packed day. They enjoyed it so much that they came back planning how they could get to the next Jamboree in Sweden!

September saw us travel down to Hemel Hempsted for the annual County Cub Night Hike. Nearly 800 people attended this years' event, working through tasks and brainteasers as they hiked their way around the course. A tired, but well challenged, team of Cubs managed to get to sleep after midnight and were bright and breezy once again at 7a.m.

With the year coming to an end, our last major outing was to the O2 Dome for the Scouting Live Show. We travelled by train and then tube to the venue: it gave some a new experience or two before we even got to the show! The event told how the different Scouting sections vary in their activities ranging from playing games at Beaver level, badge work and activities at Cubs, Challenge 100 at Scouts, giant assault courses at Explorers, and the daredevil variety of tasks at Network through James Bond-like Mini stunt driving, which thrilled the audience!

The Cubs seemed to enjoy the Explorer and Network displays especially, so let's hope it inspires them for their future in Scouting.



Diana Marshall

Akela

2nd Baldock

John Baker 1919 - 2007

We were very sorry to hear of the death of John Baker who was a stalwart of Scouting in the District in the 1960s and 70s. We send our condolences to his wife, Nancy, and his son, Melvyn.

John was a distinguished GSL at the 7th Letchworth Scout Group where Nancy was Cub Leader and Melvyn, Scout Leader. John was very proud of his Scouts at the 7th and they responded to his challenge by making it one of the most successful Groups of the era. John had very high standards which was reflected in the adventurous programme of the Group and the achievement of the Scouts.

John's Scouting activities extended to the District where he was ADC Rover Scouts, ADC Leader Training, editor of Co-ordinator for many years and earned the title of 'Mr Music Man' as producer of the Gang Show

It is the vision, commitment and enthusiasm of John who have made our District so successful over the years and his memory will remain with us for many years to come.

The World's biggest sleepover

Scouts across the UK have been invited to join up for two Guinness World Record breaking attempts as part of The Giant Sleepover which will take place in venues throughout the UK on the night of **14 June 2008**. The fun event is aimed at 6 –11 years olds. Every participating young person receives a free 'goody bag' and every sleepover venue receives a treasure chest of games, toys and ideas for activities to use on the night.

To break the world record for the largest simultaneous sleepover (currently held by 33,093 participants in the 2006 Giant Sleepover) all young people must have their lights out for at least 7 hours and not sleep in their own beds.



4th Letchworth Beaver with his 'Beaver' meeting Father Christmas at the recent St George's Church Christmas Fayre.

Does anyone recognize the gentlemen in the red suit?

Answer on page 15

The following morning there is another world attempt. 'The Aquafresh Minty Mouth Challenge' for the most people simultaneously brushing their teeth.

Anyone wishing to take part can register a Group Sleepover at www.giantsleepover.com or call 0870 240 1640. It costs £10 to register your Group before 31 December 2007. After this date the price will be £20 per group.



H.E.A.T.

The dates for HEAT next year are 4 - 6 July 2008. Well End is the new location to descend on for the weekend. This is also the first event of the Centenary Celebrations of 'Hertfordshire Scouts', yes 100 years of Scouting in Hertfordshire. This means some extra special additions to the programme and probably some more action!

Watch out for more information on the County website and in Headlines, the County magazine.

Dan Nathan - ACC Explorer Scouts.

Congratulations to Herlinde Turner, ACSL 7th Letchworth who got married last month. She is now Mrs Herlinde Franklin and her new e-mail address is herlinde.franklin@btinternet.com

On Friday 16 November, Britain went Children In Need crazy. Not wanting to be left out, the Scouts at 4th Letchworth decided to hold a party. Following on from last year's very successful Pirates and Princesses theme the Scouts were asked to come up with another theme of their own. The final decision was made after quite some debate. Army and Pyjamas it was.

As ever the Scouts at 4th did us all proud. 31 of them all sporting their best Army and Pyjama attire. There followed party games and food, a pass the parcel complete with forfeits and prizes and of course the grand fancy dress parade. Dave and Rita Hawkins attended to assist with the judging and eventually chose the winners who both received a prize.



In true pyjama party style a few of the Scouts applied faces and beauty treatments.

The Scouts collected sponsors for their efforts and altogether over £200.00 was raised for "Children In Need". A really magnificent effort

Tony Hartley

ASL - 4th Letchworth



11th Letchworth Scout Group



Then - December 2006



Now - November 2007

11th Letchworth Scout Group officially opened their refurbished Headquarters in Rushby Mead 26 November 2007. Ex-members of the Group as well as representatives from organisations who gave grants towards the cost attended the evening. All were impressed by the modernised HQ. The Group has already benefited by an increase in the number of young people attending. The Group is actively participating with the local Schools to increase the number of eight years olds and recruitment of Leaders and helpers. Congratulations to all who helped and contributed to the headquarters.



Andrew Sims and Patrick Tompkins - two of the original Cubs from 11th Letchworth Scout Group.

Good Deeds around the District

4th Letchworth Cub Group raised £100 for the Friends of Gambian Educational Projects. Photo shows the Essau Community Nursery School class 1. Before the third classroom was completed they used to meet under the 'big tree'. The Group also made up eight boxes for the Samaritans Christmas Child Purse Donations which are going to needy children in Kosovo.



1st Baldock (Knights) Cubs collected gifts which were sent to Great Ormond Street Hospital and collected used stamps which they forwarded onto Guide Dogs for the Blind and much more.



12th Letchworth Beavers are supporting Operation Christmas Child - shoeboxes filled with gifts for less fortunate children around the

These are just a few of the good deeds that Groups and Sections have undertaken during the Centenary of Scouting. Groups from the District will be visiting various Old People Homes to entertain them with Christmas Carols in the weeks before Christmas.

7th Letchworth Scout Group have teamed up with Countryside Management Team to do some work on Norton Common.



1st Ashwell Cubs slept in cardboard boxes overnight to raise money for Children in Need. During the evening they were given a presentation on the work of Toybox Charity - a Christian charity rescuing street children in Guatemala, Latin America. They operate outreach, residential and educational programmes.





Welcome to

Stephanie Marshall	ACSL	2nd Baldock
Derrick Hart	ASL	12th Letchworth
Jeremy Steeley	ESL	Oak Eagle ESU



Congratulations to
Barry Dickson CSL 5th Letchworth
on gaining his Wood Badge.

Module 10 - First Response

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

Deb Dilley	SL	2nd Baldock
Mick Dilley	GSL	2nd Baldock
Anne Gutteridge	CSL	4th Letchworth
David Hawkins	DC	District
Ian Hunt	SL	12th Letchworth
Dave Strong	GSL	7th Letchworth
Wendy Tierney	CSL	District
Ben Whitaker	ACSL	7th Letchworth



Long Service Decoration 15 years



Anne Gutteridge CSL
4th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Diamond Award



Congratulations to
the three Explorer
Scouts who have
gained their Chief
Scout's Diamond
Award

Danni Butterworth
Matthew Hart
Hayley Palmer

2007 DIARY

December

8	District Fellowship Xmas Dinner	Howard Social Centre
10	District Team Meeting	District HQ
13	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
13	District Scout & Guide Shop	Closes for Christmas Break
15	Civic Carol Service	Broadway Gardens

January 2008

10	District Scout & Guide Shop	Opens
10	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
16	District Celebration Meeting	District HQ
28	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Wymondley Wood

February

4	Lochearnhead Meeting	8th Letchworth HQ
14	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
17	County Scout Cooking Competition	Stevenage
22 - 24	County Chiltern Challenge (Explorer Scouts)	

Green Beret - District Group Results

5th Letchworth 'A' Famous Fifth	13th
7th Letchworth 'A'	18th
7th Letchworth 'B'	39th
8th Letchworth / 1st Ashwell	57th
5th Letchworth 'B'	79th

Father Christmas - Bob Williams

Wymondley Wood Wardens

December 2007

4 - 11	Jeff Robson	684954
11 - 18	Sue Walsh	490294
18 - 1 Jan 08	Barbara Crombie	671062
1 - 15	Bob Williams	686727

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

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**LETCHWORTH
AND
BALDOCK
DISTRICT
SCOUTS
WISH
ALL ITS
MEMBERS A
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AND A
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR.**