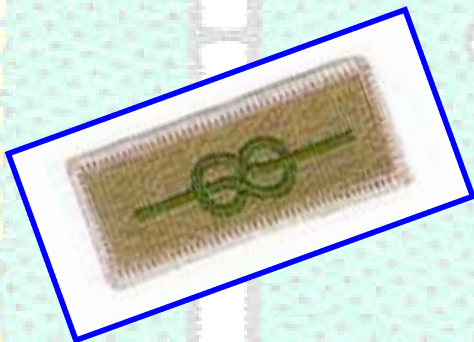


A Happy New Year and successful Scouting in 2009

Congratulations

Congratulations to Allan Patterson, District Chairman, Fred Lovelock, District Fellowship Secretary and Roger Comley, ADC (Fellowship) on being awarded the Award of Merit for outstanding service.



Congratulations to Apryl Goodwin AESL, Simon Goodwin, SL 4th Letchworth and Steve Walsh, Group Treasurer, 11th Letchworth on being awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service



Centenary of Scouting in Baldock ends with a bang!



Baldock Scouting marked the end of its Centenary Year with a fantastic firework display at Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre. The display was fired by a dedicated team led by Stuart Wylie, one of the 1st Baldock Scout Group Leaders, who also happens to be a professionally trained pyro-technician.

Despite the freezing cold, pouring rain all day, water logged site and gusting winds, the display commenced exactly on schedule and was synchronised to a specially edited sound track, which was broadcast across the site. Highlights included a 5 metre high waterfall of fire, multi-shot fans, high speed barrages and 100 rockets and mines.

To make the evening complete, the 1st Baldock executive committee had a team of people serving hot food from barbeques with soup and other drinks from the kitchen.

Attended by over 100 parents and children, the display marked the end of a great Centenary Year and we are now starting to plan for our next 100 years of Scouting in Baldock!

The District has renewed its Lottery Licence. This is available for any Group to use when running a prize draw.

Please contact Bob Williams for details.

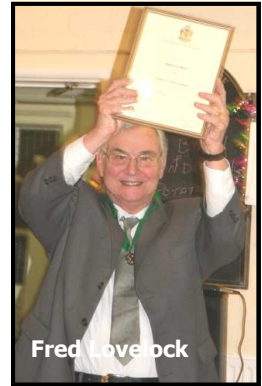




Roger Comley



The Fellowship held their annual Christmas dinner at the Howard Garden Social Centre, Letchworth. Over forty members of the Fellowship attended. They were also pleased to welcome Ivor Thomas, County Commissioner and his wife Jean. Once again they were treated to an excellent meal provided by Sue and her team of willing volunteers.



Fred Lovelock

After the meal Ivor Thomas presented the Award of Merit to Fred Lovelock, Fellowship Secretary and Roger Comley, ADC (Fellowship). The evening ended with a visit from Santa and a general knowledge quiz devised by Fred. Well done to Sheila and Edmond Tickner who turned out to be the bright sparks on the night.

The Fellowship will be entering the County Quiz to be held in January 2009 at the Ickleford Village Hall.

Christmas Tree Festival 12th Letchworth Scouts



Vicki Gage invited us to enter a decorated Christmas tree in the St Michael's Church Christmas Tree festival. 12th Letchworth Scouts decided to follow up their help to the Royal British Legion on Poppy Day by using poppies as a decoration for their tree. A quick phone call to the Poppy Appeal organiser Ray Cole and we were allowed to raid his storeroom for suitable materials.

A troop night was spent preparing the poppies. They each had a name on from the Letchworth War memorial and were covered in glitter. Then David Hall, Matthew Boakes, Gabriel Beecroft, Alex Conder and Matthew Woods spent an evening putting the pieces together. They even made their own wreath complete with a suitable poem.

The tree was entered in the festival at St Michael's Church and the following week we entered it the festival at the Letchworth Free Church. We had loads of nice comments about our tree mainly along the lines of what a nice idea it was.

We also spotted trees entered by 12th Letchworth Beavers (Little Beavers hanging from a tree), 7th Letchworth Cubs (Cub badges) and 4th Letchworth (Bagpuss – the cat).

Only 12 months to think of an idea for next year.

District Cub Scout Quiz

On Friday 28 November Richard, Josh and I represented 8th Letchworth Cubs in the District Quiz night. The quiz was held at 5th HQ in Spring Road. There were seven Cub packs in all, each with a member from the 8, 9 and 10 age groups. We answered questions on general knowledge, sport and Scouting history.

I was very nervous as it was my first ever time going to the District Quiz. When we got there we had to wait for the other Cub Packs to arrive and then we got started. There was a big long table and each member from each age group had to write three answers down on a piece of paper from the questions they were asked and then we handed it to a Leader. For every correct answer a point was given.

We scored a fabulous 82 points, the highest score of the evening. It meant that we had won the Nancy Baker Trophy for the year!

Thank you to Akela for choosing us and also a big thank you to all the people who organised the quiz, snacks and for making us welcome.

8th Letchworth are now singing "We are the champions of the DISTRICT!"

**Rachel Warren - Cub Scout
8th Letchworth**



Due to 8th Letchworth winning this year's competition, they will be setting the quiz questions for next year.

The finishing positions were as follows.

1 st	8 th Letchworth	82 points
2 nd	12 th Letchworth	75 points
3 rd	4 th Letchworth	74 points
4 th	7 th Letchworth	69 points
5 th	2 nd Baldock	66 points
6 th	1 st Baldock Knights	61 points
7 th	5 th Letchworth	52 points.

Well done to all the teams that took part.

Wendy Tierney
ADC (Cubs)

Christmas Show 8th Letchworth Beaver Scouts



Thursday saw the 8th Letchworth HQ transformed into a theatre as the Beavers put on a Christmas show for all their friends and family.

Each lodge performed a short play that they had written themselves.

One was about Santa needing help to make and deliver his presents.

One was about the evil elves trying to stop Santa delivering his presents.

And the last one was all about the Christmas presents being missing. When the Beavers finally found them, there was a present for each one of them.

They also sang the 12 Days of Christmas – Beaver style !

A raffle and the sale of squash and biscuits and cakes, helped to raise some money for their Christmas party in two weeks.

Well done Beavers, it was a fantastic evening !

Christmas at Wymondley Wood 7th Letchworth Cub Scouts



Christmas came early for twenty four very excited Cubs and Leaders. On their arrival at Wymondley Wood Activity Centre it was looking very different to normal! The entrance hall was full of Christmas decorations and the main activity area was aglow with lights. In the corner was a very large real Christmas tree and a fire was burning brightly (kindly painted by Baloo). After settling into their rooms it was time for the fun to begin.

The evening activities were making name tags for their Christmas

stockings and paper chains to be hung from the beams. Then it was time to get ready for bed and listen to their bedtime story of *The Night before Christmas*. After the story twenty four very excited Cubs, hung up their Christmas stocking and hurried off to bed.

Christmas Day (Saturday) the Cubs were not up too early which was good for the Leaders but once they were up they couldn't wait to see if Father Christmas had been (which of course he had). They found their stockings then went off to see what they had been given.

After Breakfast. When the Cubs had finished the washing up they started making lots of Christmas crafts, cards, stained glass windows, coloured lanterns, baubles and bat and ball games. Each Cub had a go at everything. After having spent the morning inside it was time to play a wide game outside. Some of the Leaders set the tables ready for a full Christmas Dinner. The Cubs sat down to their dinner in the company of Chris King (DC) and Wendy Tierney (ADC Cubs). Wizzy balloons and party poppers meant it was very noisy but good fun was had by all. The afternoon was filled with a visit from Father Christmas and more presents for everyone. While they were waiting for their turn to visit Father Christmas each six was practising a pantomime to perform to everyone in the evening.

Christmas Day was finished with Pantomimes, party games and lots of party food.

Very tired Cubs went straight to bed and fast asleep.

Boxing Day (Sunday) and all the packing finished, it was time to go on a Treasure hunt to find all of the pieces to their puzzle. When all of the pieces were found each six had lots of fun trying to break into their piñata (kindly made by Bagheera. It was very messy but good fun.

After a light lunch and dancing with Cheryl, sadly it was time to go home.

Thank you to everyone who made the weekend happen. I could not have done it without all of you.

Amanda Woolmer
CSL—7th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Bronze Award 8th Letchworth Beaver Scouts

It has been a very busy week for the Beavers at 8th Letchworth . Not only did they put on a fabulous show, which gained them their creative challenge badges, eleven of them also got their Chief Scout's Bronze awards.

Our ADC was invited to the show and then to present all the badges.

It was lovely to see so many of them being rewarded for their hard work and commitment.

I have been told that eleven in one go is also a record for this District.

Well done to everyone.

You have worked hard, had lots of fun and deserve your success !

We are very proud of you !

Dragonfly and Otter



adult training

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING

Do you want to learn and qualify yourself to help with teaching or leading a new skill ?

Particularly if it is something that could benefit the whole District

Especially at Lochearnhead next summer

We particularly need more Leaders for HILL WALKING and KAYAKING

Find a suitable course - then ask for help from the District Training Fund - you must do this before you commit to the course

Email Geoff Smith at carfax.t21@btinternet.com with the details of course, date, cost and what you expect to achieve

You will get a prompt response !

Minibus Assessment

Don't wait till the week before your camp or activity - book your mini bus assessment now and use the District Mini Bus to improve the quality of your Group activities

Geoff Smith is one of the County Assessors. He will do assessment by arrangement, either day time - evenings - or weekends. In the first instance please e-mail Geoff on carfax.t21@btinternet.com and he will get in touch to arrange a date and time

County Training Dates

The County Training Dates are now available on the County website www.hertfrodshirescouts.org.uk or from your training adviser.

For those requiring Module 10 - First Response the next County Course is being held at Well End Saturday 10 January 2009 and also on Saturday 15th February. To book please contact County Office or complete the online application form.

On the opposite page you will find the dates for Training Modules being held locally by the Hitchin Training Manager— Nick Farmer

adult training

Date	Module	
12-Jan	2	Assessing Learning
14-Jan		Personal Learning Plans
19-Jan	1	Essential Information
21-Jan		
26-Jan	3	Tools for the Job
28-Jan		(Section Leaders)
23-Feb	4	Tools for the Job
25-Feb		(Managers)
02-Mar	5 & 6	Fundamentals of Scouting
04-Mar		Changes in Scouting
09-Mar	17	Activities Outdoors
11-Mar		
16-Mar	7	Valuing Diversity
18-Mar		
23-Mar	8 & 9	Skills of Leadership
25-Mar		Working With Adults
30-Mar	11	Administration
01-Apr		(Section Leaders)
06-Apr	12	Providing a Balanced Programme
08-Apr		
20-Apr	13	Growing The Movement
22-Apr		
27-Apr	14 & 15	Young People Today
29-Apr		Challenging Behaviour
11-May	18	Practical Skills
13-May		
18-May	11	Administration
20-May		(Section Leaders)
01-Jun	19	International
03-Jun		

Nick Farmer, 56 Westmill Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 2SD

nick.farmer3@ntlworld.com

01462 627673 01462 435409 07887894945

Laurie's Plant Stall May 2009

Laurie Cook MBE, President of the District Fellowship will be holding his annual plant stall on Saturday 23 May 2009. You do not have to wait until then to order your plants. Just telephone Laurie on 674046 and let him know what you want and he will try to meet your requirements.

The Letchworth District Gardeners Association will be holding a Summer Show - Saturday 4 July and an Autumn Show - Saturday 19 September. At both shows there will be a children's class.

Summer Show Class

- 64 6 Fancy Cakes
- 65 Arrangement of any flowers and foliage in an unusual container
- 66 A miniature garden in a seed tray
- 67 A fancy figure novelty item from the garden and a cocktail stick
- 68 Collage, using seeds and pasta on a 9" paper plate (approx.)

Autumn Show Class

- 43 Arrangements of fresh flowers and foliage, accessories permitted
- 44 The largest sunflower



head

- 45 Any novelty figure using items from the garden, plus pins and/or cocktail sticks.
- 46 6 Jam Tarts (short crust pastry)

For further information and an entry form please contact Laurie Cook

Sutton - Fundraiser

As a District we have a number of Sutton (Fundraiser) Seed and Plant catalogues to distribute to Groups together with Order Forms.

You keep 20% profit of everything you spend.

Catalogues, order forms and a step by step essential information guide will be given to the Co-ordinator contact to distribute to each section.

Please be aware that some plant items have a last order date in late March - you need to keep these date in mind. Other items have their own dates too.

The first order will be sent on Saturday 31 January 2009. Please send your order and payment - payable to Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts to Rita Hawkins, 1 South Close, Baldock. , e-mail ritahawkins@btinternet.com, 01462 643432



8th Letchworth Scout Group raised £747.58 at the bag pack in Morrison's on the Saturday before Christmas. This is a fantastic amount, well done and thank you to all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and parents who came and gave their time and energy.

This is a great fund raising opportunity and it would be nice to see other Groups in the District taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the local supermarkets. Just as a footnote a Group from Bedfordshire held a bag pack at Letchworth Sainsbury's and raised

Recognising the achievements of our Young People



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Shaun Daly	8th Letchworth
Imogen Derbyshire	8th Letchworth
Tom Eke	8th Letchworth
Richard Evans	8th Letchworth
Rhys Hennah	8th Letchworth
Louis Hollman	8th Letchworth
Jack Horniblow	8th Letchworth
Adam Marvell	8th Letchworth
Kieran Murphy	8th Letchworth
Michael Paddon	8th Letchworth
Adam Taplin	8th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Joshua Andrews	8th Letchworth
Stan Reader	8th Letchworth
Shaun Warren	8th Letchworth



A warm welcome to

Fern Boughton	ACSL	8th Letchworth
Mark Drummond	ABSL	1st Baldock
Tom Wonnacott	ASL	5th Letchworth

2009 Subscription - The annual subscription for 2009 per member will be £33.00. The breakdown is as follows:

National	£19.10
County	£10.40
District	£ 3.50
Total	£33.00

Group contacts will shortly be receiving the annual census return information which needs to be completed and returned to Ron Smith

DIARY 2009

JANUARY 2009

8	Scout Shop reopens	6.00 pm
8	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
12	District Cub Leaders' Meeting	8th Letchworth HQ
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
30	District Team Meeting	16 Brandles Road
31	Lochearnhead Training day	TBA

FEBRUARY

1	Lochearnhead Training day	TBA
7	Watford v Southampton	Vicarage Road
12	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
17 & 19	Scout Shop closed for Half Term	
21—22	County Chiltern Challenge (Explorer Scouts)	Phasels Wood
22	County Scout Cooking Competition	Stevenage District Scout HQ
23	Wymondley Wood Meeting	107 Spring Road

MARCH

1	Saracens v Sale Sharks	Vicarage Road
2	Lochearnhead Meeting	Wymondley Wood
9	District Cub Leaders' Meeting	TBA
12	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
14	County Cub Swimming Gala	St Albans
20—21	District Gang Show	St Francis Theatre
27—28	District Scout Night Hike	
28	District Cub Scouts Football Tournament	TBA
30	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Wymondley Wood

APRIL

3 - 5	Sixers and Seconders Weekend	Wymondley Wood
9	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood

MAY

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