



LETCWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUTS

March 2010

Issue 568

CENSUS

This year's census return makes interesting reading with ups and downs in numbers spread right across the District. It has been a challenging year for us all. We have seen a number of long serving Leaders step down from their roles. This has left numerous holes in Group Leader teams, that in a number of cases, are proving very difficult to fill. It is down to the flexibility and commitment of you, the Leaders, that we have managed to cover these shortages and continue to provide excellent Scouting to all our Young People.

Given all these issues and the increasing pressure on everybody's time it is heartening to see that we have only recorded a drop in our numbers of five from last year's submission, a mere 0.6%.

As we throw ourselves into another year of fun and adventure I would ask you all to carry on delivering Scouting as you do, with enthusiasm and fun that makes our District one of the best around for its quality and variety of Scouting. It also help us retain the unique family feel when any of our Leaders gather, no matter what section or group they are part of, that all visitors from in and around the County comment on.

We cannot afford to rest on our laurels, our numbers are good but they could be better, we have waiting lists a plenty and I would ask you all to be proactive in the never ending hunt to find and bring in new Leaders who will ensure we remain a strong and vibrant District, ready for any challenge.

Finally thank you all for giving as you do to Scouting, you are making a huge difference to the lives of the 642 Young People we have recorded on our census.

Chris King
D.C

CENSUS 2010

| Group | Beavers | | Cubs | | Scouts | | Explorers | | Leaders | | Assistant | | Other | | Group Totals | Census 2009 | Census 2008 |
|-----------------------------|---------|----|------|----|--------|----|-----------|----|---------|----|-----------|---|--------------------|----|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | | | |
| 1st Ashwell | 12 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 25 | 3 | | | 6 | 5 | | | | | 77 | 66 | 63 |
| 1st Baldock | 25 | 4 | 48 | 3 | 20 | 30 | | | 7 | 10 | | | | | 147 | 143 | 131 |
| 2nd Baldock | 7 | 2 | 19 | 0 | 8 | 4 | | | 1 | 5 | | | | | 46 | 54 | 40 |
| 4th Letchworth | 10 | 4 | 20 | 3 | 28 | 12 | | | 4 | 5 | 1 | | | | 87 | 98 | 86 |
| 5th Letchworth | 10 | 3 | 17 | 5 | 18 | 3 | | | 6 | 2 | | | | | 64 | 52 | 48 |
| 7th Letchworth | 10 | 5 | 22 | 8 | 16 | 6 | | | 4 | 6 | | | | | 77 | 95 | 93 |
| 8th Letchworth | 11 | 7 | 21 | 9 | 14 | 4 | | | 5 | 7 | | | | | 78 | 67 | 54 |
| 11th Letchworth | 2 | 0 | 16 | 5 | 5 | 2 | | | 4 | 3 | | 1 | | | 37 | 44 | 31 |
| 12th Letchworth | 14 | 4 | 20 | 0 | 18 | 0 | | | 3 | 4 | | | | | 64 | 74 | 85 |
| Oak Eagle Explorers Network | | | | | | | 25 | 20 | 4 | 1 | | | 6 | 3 | 9 | 41 | 26 |
| TOTALS | 101 | 38 | 194 | 39 | 152 | 64 | 25 | 20 | 44 | 48 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 736 | 740 | 657 |
| Fellowship | | | | | | | | | | | | | 19 | 17 | 36 | 39 | 36 |
| District Team | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Grand Total | | 782 | 788 | 699 |

St George's Day Parade and Service



You might like to rehearse the hymns which have been chosen for the Service. These are:-

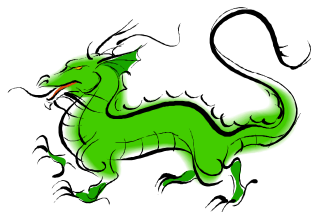
Colours Of The Day

Kum Ba Yah

When I Needed a Neighbour

Give Me Joy In My Heart

Let's hope we can sing out and raise the roof of the Church.



For more information on the St George's Day Parade and Service please keeping checking the District website www.lbdscouts.org.UK

Lord Baden-Powell chose Saint George to be The Patron Saint of The Scout Association. St George is typical of what a Scout should be. He felt that the Saint George of legend set a good example of faith, courage and perseverance.

"When he was faced by a difficulty or danger, however great it appeared, even in the shape of a dragon - he did not avoid it or fear it but went at it with all the power he could ... That is exactly the way a Scout should face a difficulty or danger no matter how great or how terrifying it may appear. He should go at it boldly and confidently, using every power that he can to try and overcome it, and the probability is that he will succeed. "St. George's Day is April 23, and on that day, Scouts remind themselves of their Promise and Scout Law. Not that a Scout ever forgets either but, on St. George's Day, he makes a special point of thinking about them."

District Scout Cooking Competition

The 2010 District Scout Cooking Competition took place on Sunday 7th February at 8th Letchworth Scout's Headquarters. The challenge was to provide a three course meal for 4 people, for £20 or less with a theme of 'The World Cup.'

Always a popular event there was even more interest this year, with ten teams from eight Groups. It was really great to see troops who have not entered in recent years taking part again making it a real District wide competition.

The doors opened at 10:00am for the teams to set up in their allocated work stations. As usual the Scouts were full of enthusiasm and looking very smart in their uniforms topped off with multi coloured aprons and hats.

At 10:30 the cookers were lit, the assembled parents and leaders were herded out of the hall and the teams had two hours to prepare their feasts.

This year's judge was Terry Cox, the proprietor of Cox's Fish and Chips. Obviously well known by the number of people he said hello to.

Whilst the Scouts chopped, peeled, fried and boiled their ingredients he visited each team observing their work, checking their menus and budgets and asking questions.

It seemed that the main approach to the theme was either South Africa, where the next world cup is being held or Football in general or a combination of both.

Whilst doing his rounds Terry was amazed by how capable the Scouts were. He also observed that it was really pleasant to see young people, so well behaved doing something constructive.

All too soon the cooking time was coming to an end and as if by magic tables that previously had been covered in piles of dirty dishes and peelings, were cleared and laid with fantastic place settings, decorations and most importantly food. There is not enough space to describe everything but there were tables laid as football pitches, draped in football shirts, South African flags, Zebra print mats, homemade table clothes. The decorations ranged from football boots, South African flowers to one team with a most exotic carved wooden centrepiece.

The meals themselves were fantastic; there were fish dishes, pancakes, salads, soups, meatballs, chicken, noodles, kebabs and chilli. For dessert there were more pancakes and an abundance of biscuit, cream and fruit based creations. There was even a delicious Zebra Dung (chocolate mousse).

Terry visited each table to assess the final layout and taste the food. He recorded the final scores and passed them to me. The Scouts were then left in peace to eat their meals and clear up whilst the team places were calculated.

The Scouts, parents and Leaders assembled in a packed hall to hear the results.

Terry Cox spoke to the Scouts and told them he had been very hard on the judging because that's how it should be when preparing food. But he was very impressed by the standard and that everyone had done very well. High praise from someone who has been in the catering industry for so long.

The final places were announced in reverse order until the top 3. Who was it going to be? 1st Ashwell, last year's winners, 2nd Baldock, last years runners up. Or 7th Letchworth who have never won.



And it was 7th Letchworth, much to the delight of an excited team consisting of Melissa Stevens, Bethany Smith, Becky Crombie and Jack Ferguson. And a slightly emotional leader Jackie Hare. Although that's probably because she realized they have to do it all over again at the County Competition.

The Tippet Trophy was duly presented as were certificates to all teams. With the official photographs taken the event drew to a close.

There was generous applause from everyone to everyone which is as it should be, because it is not just about winning, it is also about working with your friends and having fun.

So another year's competition over. Was it really a year since the last one?

Thanks to Terry Cox for judging and supporting the Scouts (Remember - buy your Fish and Chips at Cox's!). All the parents and Leaders who organised and helped teams prepare. Also to Lesley Gwilt, Jackie Hare, Chris Lewis and Rob Hemmings for helping to set up, clear away and generally keeping an eye on things. Lastly to 8th Letchworth for the use of the hall.

Results are in the download section of the District web site

Final Places

| | |
|---|---------|
| - 7 th Letchworth | 173 pts |
| - 2 nd Baldock | 170 pts |
| - 1 st Ashwell (Jambo Jambo) | 164 pts |
| - 12 th Letchworth | 161 pts |
| - 11 th Letchworth | 157 pts |
| - 1 st Baldock (Scouts) | 149 pts |
| - 5 th Letchworth | 143 pts |
| - 4 th Letchworth | 137 pts |
| - 1 st Ashwell (Tigers) | 123 pts |
| - 1 st Baldock (Jumping Jelly Beans) | 90 pts |



Good luck to 7th Letchworth at the County Cooking Competition at Stevenage District HQ on Sunday 21st February 2010.

Gavin Conder
ADC (Scouts)



Cottered Cub Camp 1st Baldock (Knights)

On the 12 February 14 Cubs from our pack went to Cottered Guide Centre for the weekend. We had different sixes at camp - Holly, Beech and Hazel.

We made some fires, The first one alight was the Holly six. It was quite hard as it was raining. The cheeky Cubs said that the young leaders failed miserably.

Also over the weekend we went walking, we cooked our meals and played games.

We did not go to sleep and all the Leaders are happy to go home for a rest....

By Laurie Rushbrook



1st Baldock Knights returned to Cottered again this year for our indoor camp. It is a great location as it allows the Cubs and Leaders to do what we enjoy best - getting muddy and lighting fires whatever the weather!!! This year did not disappoint and despite the weather we managed to get three fires alight and all managed to toast marshmallows and boil water in a tin.

Our other activities included a lot of cooking and washing up so now all the cubs know what a tea towel is for! We went on a very muddy hike where each six had to collect various items along the way; some Cubs decided to collect logs for the fire as well with many being as big as they were!! Although the Leaders didn't get a lot of sleep a great time was had by all.

Our thanks as always go to the three young leaders who were invaluable and to

all the parents who cooked, cleaned and helped with activities.

**Akela
and
Raksha**





Fellowship Social Calendar

Date: 30 April
 Venue: Gordon Craig Theatre
 To See: Letchworth Arcadians in "Crazy for you"
 Closing date for tickets 15 March.

Date: 9 May
 Venue: 38 Chiltern View
 Event: Barbecue - proceeds going to "Up on Downs"
 Cost: TBA
 Contact Ann Martin on 01462 627493 by 5 May if you wish to attend.

Date: 13 June
 Venue: RSPB at Sandy
 Event: Picnic - own transport and bring your own picnic

Date: 26 June
 Venue: Boyd Field, Henlow
 Event: "Cubs Day"
 Cost: TBA

Two members chalked up 173 years between them. Both celebrated their birthday on the same day. Congratulations Laurie Cook and Arthur Scott.

Hope you both enjoyed the day and here's to many more of them.



County Scout Cooking Competition 21 February - Stevenage District

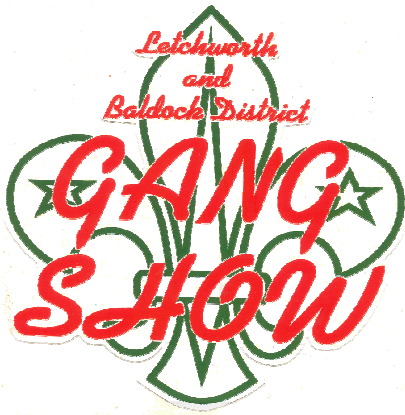


7th Letchworth Scouts joined ten other teams from around the County to pit their culinary skills for a place in the Regional Cooking Competition.

An ex Scout from East Herts who works in Birmingham at a Michelin Star restaurant judged the competition and was impressed by the standard of cooking from all the teams.

The eventual winners were Ware District (165pts) with Harpenden (163pts) a close second
 7th Letchworth came a creditable sixth place (124pts)

Well done.



What's got two beginnings, two endings and four middles?

And it's got bad boys, perfect Cub Scouts and a bit of live brain surgery.

Not for the squeamish is this year's Letchworth and Baldock Gang Show.

We have the longest opening ever. Ever. And such a variety of music.. like you've never heard before. From rap to swing from Leona to Abba.

So why should you come and see our little Show?

It's not a West End production. It hasn't got famous stars in it. It is not professional; the stage

does not move nor do we have Chitty-chitty-bang-bangs that float out over the audience...

You should come and see this our 55th production because of our cast. They will be nervous, and trying their best to perform a Show which we have been rehearsing for nearly 5 months. You should come and see our Show because we have some very talented youngsters; and you will be surprised at how good they can be. Even some of our 9 year olds have precocious talent. Some of our older cast members are stars in the making.

You should come and see our Show because it is Scouting at its best. 59 cast members smiling and laughing because they love it; not because we tell them to..

You should come and see our Show because of the four... yes four!! Powerpoint presentations that Stuart is putting on.. one of them is amazing. Well, two of them are amazing...actually make that three...

You should come and see this year's offering because of the music. It is wonderful. And the sound quality is big.

You should come and see this year's Show because St Francis Theatre is awesome.

You should come and see this year's Show because of the lighting that Kev is planning; he is a professional.

You should come and see our Show because it is the only event each year that brings Guiding and Scouting together.

You should come and support our Show. If you don't then how can we continue each year putting on a production that our District is so proud of? There are only 3 Gang Shows in Hertfordshire and we are proud to be the only one that does not audition. That allows the younger members full participation, full choice of what is in the Show; they do their own choreography too... (that's only cos I can't dance...)

Tickets are on sale at Millets, contact Apryl or me.

Dave Strong
Producer

8th Letchworth Beavers

The busy Beavers at 8th Letchworth enjoyed a Scottish evening this week. They learnt all about Scotland and some of its famous people including Robert Burns. They learnt about him and how and why people celebrate on 25 January all round the world.

Dragonfly read a poem called "A Red Red Rose" and they used a Scottish dialect dictionary to understand it !

They made a kilted man with bagpipes and for those daring enough, there was a haggis cooked by Otter.

For those not daring enough, there were tatties, oatcakes and shortbread !

A very enjoyable and informative evening.



adult training

The District has updated the Training Fund Guidelines which can be found on the District Website. This is available as a download.

The guidance lays out the criteria for funding from the District. Also included is an application form that must be completed and submitted to Geoff Smith, or in his absence Dave Hawkins, for approval before any training is undertaken.

Funding available.

| Cost | Funding available |
|------------------|-------------------|
| £100 or more | 50% |
| £50 - £99.99 | one third |
| £20 - £49.99 | 25% |
| £19.99 - or less | Nil |

5th Letchworth Scout Group

On Friday 12 February Claire Charles was invested as Leader of the recently re-opened 5th Beaver Colony

5th Letchworth Scout Group together with the District and Claire are actively looking for at least two more potential Leaders to help Claire run the Colony.

They presently meet on Friday evenings from 6 pm - 7 pm

Please contact the 5th Chairman Nick Lloyd on 07796 172460 if you can help, or if you know someone who might be interested.



**Chief Scout's
Bronze Award**



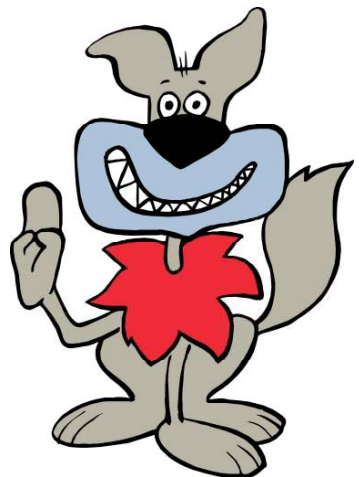
Lily Evans 4th Letchworth
Daniel Money 4th Letchworth



**Chief Scout's
Silver Award**

Michael Stocker

8th Letchworth



Achievements

Congratulations to the following Leaders on being awarded their Wood Badge



Nick Howell
Debbie Jones
Graeme Masson
Rosie Rafferty
Beverley Suttie
Mark Suttie

- ASL 5th Letchworth
- ACSL 1st Ashwell
- ACSL 1st Ashwell
- ACSL 1st Baldock
- SL 11th Letchworth
- SL 11th Letchworth

The following have been awarded their service awards



Kenneth Johnson - District Fellowship
John Moys - District President



Wendy Tierney - ADC (Cubs)



Ian Hunt - GSL 12th Letchworth



Apryl Goodwin - AESL Oak Ealge



Stephanie Marshall - ACSL 2nd Baldock
Julia Franklin - Treasurer, 5thLetchwoirth

Congratulations to
Steve Woolmer and
Anne on the birth of
their daughter Mollie
Grace.

The District also has a
new Grandma -
Amanda Woolmer 7th
Letchworth CSL.



A warm welcome to



Claire Charles - ABSL 5th Letchworth
Liz Gormley - ABSL 2nd Baldock
David Rafferty - AESL Oak Eagle

DIARY 2010

MARCH

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8 | District Cub Leader's Meeting | |
| 11 | District Executive Meeting | Wymondley Wood |
| 13 | County Cub Scout Swimming Gala | St Albans |
| 19 -20 | District Gang Show | St Francis Theatre |
| 19 - 21 | HEAT - Explorer Scouts Weekend | Well End |
| 27 | Scouts Mid - Herts Night Hike | TBA |
| 29 | Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting | Wymondley Wood |
| 30 | Scout Shop closes for Easter | |

APRIL

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 8 | District Executive Meeting | Wymondley Wood |
| 11 | County District Chairs' Meeting | TBA |
| 14 | District Scout and Guide Shop Meeting | Wymondley Wood |
| 22 | Scout Shop reopens | |
| 25 | District St George's Day Parade and Service | The Free Church |
| 26 | Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting | Wymondley Wood |

MAY

| | | |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| 30 April - 3 May | PAW (Patrol Activity Weekend) | Tolmers |
| 30 April - 3 May | ITTH (Introduction to the hills) | Orchard Farm |
| 8 | District Beaver Challenge | |
| 8 | County Cub 6-a-side football competition | Watford South |
| 13 | District Scout Council AGM | Wymondley Wood |
| 16 | Rotary Greenway Walk | Greenway |
| 17 | Wymondley Wood AGM | Wymondley Wood |
| 21 - 23 | Sixers and Seconders Weekend | Wymondley Wood |

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12th Letchworth Cubs at Well End