

Co-Ordinator

5th Letchworth Scout Troop Summer Camp 25 July - 1 August 2010 Barton Turf

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

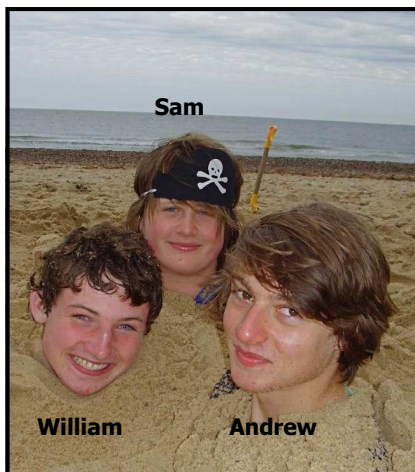
As a 5th Letchworth Scout for five years, I have learnt to look forward to our original summer camps and I have been lucky enough to have been at all five.

Our camps have been known to rotate in a four-year scheme.

Our Norfolk Broads camp- Decoy broad was the esteemed destination for my first ever summer camp. As I was merely ten, I have only vague memories from this camp, but what I remember most clearly was the enthusiasm of our Leaders and fellow Scouts, despite an obvious lack of wind and boats.

Our Haarlem Jamborette camp- Twelve days marooned in the flat Netherlands- bliss for the parents; hell for the Leaders. Since returning from the lengthy Jamborette, every time I have been asked which scout camp has been my favourite, my answer has always been an unwavering 'Haarlem'- not for activity points, but for fun, originality, the multi-cultural company and the tea and biscuits (consult Nick Howell for an explanation of that).

Our Coetmor Mill camp- As some one who had never been to Wales, I was looking forward to beautiful landscapes, and I certainly wasn't disappointed. The highlight of the week definitely had to be our overnight hike in the Welsh mountains. Some of us were more pleased than others to hear that we were also expecting an overnight thunderstorm. I was luckier than the others to be in the lower part of our valley where the weather was a lot less extreme, which was more than could be said for the poor lads at the top. Rumours have it that our lightweight tents couldn't take the extravagant, Welsh winds without a certain Leader shaped figure inside, not to name any names.



Sam

William

Andrew

Our older scouts only Brecon Beacons camp- In 2009, a district camp was organised to take a fair few Scouts from throughout our district to Scotland. This could have ruined 5th's fantastic summer camp track record. Thankfully, for our Leaders, a few of our more loyal members decided they'd still love to spend a week with our normal leaders. A lot of fond memories from this camp come from our Scouts doing exceedingly well and surprising our Leaders. But, the most vivid memory of all has to be my 'hiccup' with the drying arrangements. Personally, I blame Geoff for not reminding me not to leave my boots by the fire in case a log fell on them and burned them into black lumps, which are impossible to walk up a mountain in.

This year, another Norfolk Broads camp at Barton Truf - As it was the last camp for a lot of our older Scouts, we wanted to make the most of it. Our last week in Scouts was full of trivia, quizzes, rain and activities. Although our sailing activities did tend to possess too many scenes from 'The Titanic', we all agreed that we learned a lot more about sailing than we intended to.

Now that my time in Scouts is over, I have learned that time definitely goes faster when you're having fun, and to always say yes to porridge.

Quote from Geoff Smith SL - "If anyone ever asks me why we leaders do Scouts, I would like to have a copy of this article to show them. Then they would understand "

Andrew Laing

What a way to have my first ever summer camp!

When we got there we pitched our tents and we were put into patrols Coot (the best), Mallard and Grebe. This was a water based camp so we all got extremely wet every day especially when doing dry capsizes on sailing boats. This is when you have to push your boat down jump on to the bottom and climb back into your boat. Ben Milligan stayed the driest as he only got his feet wet.

Also we did a lot of canoeing. On the first session of this the expert called Ashley said to a canoe of 5th Letchworth Scouts "Can you do a square lashing? Can you do a triangular lashing? Can you do a sper-lashing?" And he splashed them and they all leaned to one side so the canoe capsized and because he was laughing so much Ashley fell in as well! The next time we did canoeing we paddled for 6miles and Will Smith lost his bandana because Ashley took it and it took Will about an hour to find it as it was on the leaders head at the back of all the canoes.

One of the funniest activities was rafting. We were going to do the battle of Trafalgar so everyone got really excited and were discussing various plots to jump on the other team's raft. No one actually thought about building the rafts so Mallards collapsed as it entered the water. Grebes did really well and they did four laps of the river before it fell apart and Coots , well the barrels fell out, so we had to push them up but in the end it fell apart.

On another day of sailing it was raining really badly so there wasn't much wind but when there was the boats went really fast. Some of us (Me, Freya, Ruby, Bradley, Will T and Ben) had to go back because we were really cold. The lady who worked at Barton Turf gave us all hot chocolate and home made shortbread but the others didn't know about it!

Most nights we would have a camp fire and Andrew would play his ukulele with Will Smith telling stories about all the people listening.

Thank you Nick, Geoff, Steve and Helen as well as all the people at Barton Turf.

Ruth Fox



DHQ undergoes a facelift

Over recent years the former 1st/3rd Headquarters, now referred to as the District Headquarters, had fallen into a state of disrepair and dilapidation. During July I put out a plea for help and set a weekend to make a start on returning it to a condition that would make it useable for both Scouting and any potential external bookers. Over the weekend of 17 / 18 July a small team assembled, it comprised District Team, Leaders, Explorers, Network and a couple of parents, not as many as we had hoped but enough to make a good start.

Over that weekend we:

- Cleared the undergrowth to the side and back of the building
- Disposed of a cycle rack, 15 canoes, a trailer, 2 roof racks and 9 oil drums
- Replaced damaged roof tiles
- Cleared and cleaned the pathway to the side of the building
- Applied the first coats of paint to the Meeting area, both toilets, entrance way, ceiling and brick walls.
- Undercoated the new doors.
- Started laying new flooring in both toilets
- Cleared out, cleaned and tidied the kitchen
- Totally filled one large skip with rubbish and half filled one with metal scrap
- Removed and replaced old light fittings
- Got into, cleared out and organised the storage container

Since that first weekend Wendy and Simon Tierney (+ their sons) along with Janet and Gavin Conder have continued to put in a huge amount of time and effort to get as much as we can completed ready for the start of the new term. We are now fully decorated throughout, toilets are complete, plumbing and drainage have been sorted, repaired or replaced. External drains, gutters and gullies have been cleared and cleaned. New doors are all painted, the end wall is now emblazoned with a Union Flag and a Scout Emblem (thanks to Ross Tierney) and all in all the place is looking amazing. New heaters have arrived and are awaiting installation and we have cleaned and resealed the floor, a new fence has been erected to the rear of the site, garden tidied and an access gate installed at the side between the building and the container.

There are still some big issues to address, re-wiring and getting some hot water to name but two, but a huge improvement has been made. If you have been to the building in the last few years it would be worth you having a look at it now to see what can be achieved by a small band of volunteers with an equally small budget.

My thanks and appreciation to those mentioned plus the following without whose help we would not have got so far:

- Joe Hartley donated paint and decorating equipment from his Young Lion of the Year bursary
- Darren Greener for providing a metal skip
- Conamar Builders for providing the rubbish skips
- Richard Goodwin (parent of 5th Letchworth Beaver) for providing and laying the new toilet floors.
- Carillion Builders (Charitable Fund) for the new heaters.
- Phil Scoot for providing a portable tower for high level works and electrical advice
- Steve Milligan for his muscle and undergrowth clearing equipment.
- Hertfordshire Timber for providing the wood for the new fence.
- GJS Garden Services for erecting the new fence
- Letchworth Roofing for the replacement roof tiles
- And of course anyone who gave up their precious time to help

Well done Team, you have created a great HQ.

Chris King



To book use of the
District Headquarters
phone:

Wendy Tierney
01462 624762



Letchworth and Baldock District
Scouts Firework Display

Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide
Centre

Friday 5th November

Gates open at 6.30pm
Display starts 7pm (ish)

Admission tickets

Individuals £2.50

Family ticket - £8 in advance
/ £10 on the night
(includes entry for 5 people)

Please order from
Cathy Eames - 01462 674667
or cathyeames@hotmail.com

Refreshments will be available. They will be selling hot food, soup and rolls, crisps and a range of hot and cold drinks. They will also have glow sticks for sale but will not be selling sparklers.

A family ticket comprises of 2 adults and 3 children.

Please note: Sparklers and other fireworks are not allowed to be brought onto the site. These will be confiscated if found.

7th Letchworth Scouts go Gliding

On Saturday 11 September, nine members of 7th Letchworth Scouts and one Leader went on a very exciting trip to Gransden Airfield and we got to fly a glider.

In the morning we watched a film to tell us about the gliders and did three tests. Then we did a flight simulator on a computer and controlled it with a gear stick.

In the afternoon we built a model plane. Mine flew the furthest until the wing snapped off. Then I made it into a boomerang.

Then it was my turn in the real glider. I was a bit nervous. I climbed in the aircraft and had a chat with the man. He started the engine and we took off. He showed me the control and some sights on the ground. When the engine was turned off it was much quieter and we didn't need to wear headphones. Then I took control! I had to use the control stick really gently otherwise we would barrel roll.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day and thanks to all the Leaders and instructors for this great opportunity and experience.

Mash
7th Letchworth Scouts



The District Cub Leaders thanked Anne Gutteridge for her hard work in the Cub Section over the years. They wish her well, and she will be missed by them all.

Wendy Tierney
A.D.C (Cubs)

A warm welcome to



Heidi Hall	ABSL 1st Ashwell
Jane Smith	ASBL 1st Ashwell
Rebecca Ward	ABSL 1st Ashwell

DIARY 2010/2011

OCTOBER

1 - 3	County Scout Event - Born 2B Challenged	Harmer Green
9	Scout Fellowship AGM	Guide HQ, Icknield Way
10	County Beaver / Cub Cyclo Cross	Well End
13	District Guide & Scout Shop AGM	Wymondley Wood
14	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
15 - 17	County Peak Assault	TBA
16	DC / GSL Regional Meeting	Stansted
17	District Cub Day Out	Drayton Manor
25	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	Wymondley Wood
25 - 29	Half Term - Scout and Guide Closed	
30	11th Letchworth Quiz Night	11th Letchworth HQ

NOVEMBER

2	Scout and Guide Shop reopens	
5	District Fireworks Display	Wymondley Wood
11	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
19	District Cub District Quiz	
19 - 21	County Scout Green Beret	Phasels Wood
28	County Skills Days - Adults	Hobbs Hill Wood School
29	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	Wymondley Wood

DECEMBER

4	District Fellowship Christmas Dinner	The Howard Centre
9	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
11	Christmas Tree Festival	The Letchworth Free Church

JANUARY 2011

13	District Executive Meeting	District HQ
31	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	Wymondley Wood

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Nineteen Members of the District will be taking part in the County Expedition to Denmark in 2011.

