

Co-Ordinator

Remembrance Sunday



November is poppy month, the time of the year when by the wearing of a simple emblem, a red poppy, we salute the memory of those who scarified their health, their strength, even their lives, that we might live in a free country.

Long known as the corn poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) because it flourishes as a weed in grain fields, the Flanders poppy as it is usually called, grew profusely in the trenches and craters of the war zone. Artillery shells and shrapnel stirred up the earth and exposed the seeds to the light they needed to germinate.

Today the poppy is worn on Remembrance Day, the 11th of November. At 11 o'clock on that day, everyone is asked to be silent for just one minute. The silence is a chance to remember all those who have died in wars today.

The Letchworth Groups can attend the Act of Remembrance at the Letchworth War Memorial. The Letchworth Parade will assemble at 10.30 am in Letchworth Station Car Park. 4th Letchworth Scout Group will attend St Paul's Church, the two Baldock Groups will attend the Act of Remembrance at the Baldock War Memorial. 1st Ashwell will be attending the service held in the village.

Please note that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Badge is available via the Scout Shop, not the Badge Secretary. Please order your badges from the Shop Manager, Nora Hitcham on 01462 627905

Congratulations to 12th Letchworth Scout Group who achieved their 30th Anniversary on 20th October 2011

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Ukubuyela Africa 2011 Presentation

The three Explorer Scouts who attended Ukubuyela Africa 2011 in the summer will be giving a talk and slideshow to share their experiences with all those who supported them in their efforts to raise funds. There will be the opportunity to ask them questions and look at their souvenirs. Light refreshments will also be provided. All are welcome to come along.

The Presentation will be held on 26th November, 7 pm for 7-30 pm start at the

Mrs Howard Memorial Hall

Norton Way South

Letchworth Garden City

SG6 1NX



County Peak Assault - Bleaklow, Derbyshire

Forty nine teams took part in this year's County Peak Assault which took place in Bleaklow, Derbyshire. Bleaklow is a high, largely peat covered, gritstone moorland, just north of Kinder Scout across the Snake Pass in the Derbyshire High Peak near the town of Glossop. Much of it is nearly 610m (2,000 feet) above sea level. Our own District had a team from the Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit who came twenty third in the Explorer Scout category. The other categories were Explorer Scout (Training), Network and the Senior Teams.



Two teams from the 8th Letchworth Cub Pack who took part in the County Cub Night Hike



County Cub Scout Night Hike

17 September 2011

In this years' County Cub Scout Night Hike there were 120 teams. The District had three teams from 8th Letchworth and teams from 12th Letchworth and 2nd Baldock.

Last night I went on the County Night Hike. In my team were Adam, May, Lauren and Jessica. We had Baloo, King Louie and Jamie to help us. We were the second ones back to the school. On the way we had to do lots of challenges like wheelie bin races and a first aid challenge with a car crash. My favourite of the six challenges was the wheelie bin racing. We went to bed at 12 o'clock on the floor in a classroom at the school where we met. In the morning we had breakfast and got ready to go home. At the end we had a Grand Howl where they gave out certificates and I got a Night Hike badge and my map reader's badge and then we went home. I had lots of fun and I would like to do it again.

Mark Clark - 8th Letchworth Cub Scout

We started off at Stanley's house and drove to Hemel Hemsted. At the school we went to the class rooms which were jam packed. David, Stanley and Charlie were in an area on their own. I was sleeping with a bunch of girls on the other side of the room. Once we had settled down we went outside and studied the map. It was a long way (five miles actually). Then we joined the tea queue. It was really long but fast moving. The dinner was sausages, beans and toast. Soon we were prepared to go on a coach and went to the starting point. The coach dropped us off and then we hiked around five of the six bases. First was the assault course base. We had to spot things on a map and if we got it right we had to go over the assault course and grab a cork and dash back. Once you got four corks you got a packet of biscuits. At second base we had to make a map of a hill with polystyrene slices. Next was the burger base (the best base) where we had to eat burgers and identify map signs. Then there was the car accident base where Scouts pretended to be ill and we had to make an emergency call to Scout headquarters. Last was the mars bar and wheelie bin racing base. We raced wheelie bins where someone climbed inside and the others pulled them along. We had to mark signs on a map using grid references and we won a mars bar. We went home on the mini bus and had hot chocolate and biscuits and went to bed. Next morning we had breakfast - toast with jam or chocolate spread. We packed up and went home in Akela's car.



Eira Bagenal - 12th Letchworth Cub Scout .



National Scout Air Rifle Competition

On Friday 14 October 2011 a small but eager team from the District made their way to the National Small Bore Rifle Association ranges at Bisley in Surrey to take part in the National Scout Air Rifle Championship.

Team members were Fiona Potts, Brian Plater, Thomas Plater, Alex Conder and myself.

For those who don't know and have never been there Bisley is the home of shooting in Britain. The site is an old army barracks that covers hundreds of acres of countryside. It has a huge modern range complex including The Lord Roberts Centre, where the majority of the competition would take place and lots of other ranges from the huge 600 yard main range to any number of smaller ranges. Here you can shoot almost every type of gun you can imagine. There are lots of grand old Victorian military buildings interspersed with lots of colonial style wooden pavilions that belong to various shooting clubs such as the RAF, The Royal Marines and my favourite, Lloyds Bank which was an old railway carriage on a set of tracks and a number of railway buildings. And fortunately for us there are really good facilities for camping with two large fields with appropriate military names. We were on Sergeants Mess Field.

So arriving in the dark on Friday night and pitching camp my first thought was that you get a very small pitch. The reason for that became clear on Saturday morning. The site was absolutely packed with 808 competitors (a record number), plus leaders, supporters and organising staff.

Another thing I was to discover is that shooting is taken very seriously in Scouting with some troops being in effect shooting clubs that do Scouting activities as opposed to Scouts who do shooting activities. The result of this is that the standard is very high. Apparently no one wants to take on the Scout National Shooting Squad because they are so good. In fact a good number of the British and Olympic shooting teams started shooting as Scouts. The prizes on Sunday were actually presented by a current member of the British Shooting Squad who had competed and won medals at this competition for many years.

So into the competition stepped our little group of Fiona and Brian who made one team and Thomas, Alex and myself who made the other. We had all elected to do the standard competition shoots of 6 yard rifle, 6 Yard pistol, field target, .22 small bore and knockout. Fiona, Alex and Thomas also entered the biathlon (4 x 400 m runs around 3 x 5 target shoots). There were lots of other shoots we could have done but as first timers it was best to keep it simple.



We were given a timetable that allowed you to shoot your disciplines, for adults to do a 4 hour duty (helping on a range, scoring etc) and also gave sufficient time to explore. Myself, Alex and Thomas even found time to visit **JOTI (Jamboree on the internet)** where they asked the German Scouts what in their opinion the best cheese was. They also took part in a discussion on Unicorns. (Is this really what goes on in internet chat rooms?)

So the first day sped past with Thomas and Fiona going through various rounds of the knockout which was one against one. First one to knock 5 targets down or whoever hit the most at the whistle was the winner.

By the time we had finished at about 9:30 pm we were only too pleased to visit one of those old colonial style pavilions I mentioned. We made ourselves comfortable in the Old Sergeants Mess Club. Unheard of luxury when camping with big old sofas, chandeliers and a log fire. If you half closed your eyes you would have thought you were in India or Africa at the turn of the century. But alas we finally had to make our way back to our tents for an early start.

Sunday was much the same as Saturday but with the later rounds of the knockout. Fiona made it to the fifth round and Thomas finally went out in the quarter finals losing a close match 4 to 5. With the shooting coming to a close it was time to pack up camp (no problem when it has been gloriously sunny all weekend) and change into uniform for the medal ceremony.

What a sight it was with everyone packed into the Lord Roberts Centre. When the results were being given it was clear that a number of individuals and Troops or Explorer Units were of a standard that was extremely high. But even so this appeared to have no detriment on the enjoyment that all the young people had from simply taking part in what is a major Scouting event. This was evidenced by the groups who were proud of the fact that they had been coming every year, regardless of winning trophies or not. Something I had to agree with, having seen all the young people just enjoying the atmosphere and being with their mates. Another fact is that the Scouts are at Bisley by invitation and the organisers proudly tell everyone who will listen that the NSRA invite us back every year because the Scouts behaviour is so good.

So when the prizes were given out we weren't too disappointed not to win anything after all it's the taking part that counts.....but a few notable achievements by our little band were

- Tom Plater – Quarter finalist in the knockout.
- Fiona Potts - 2nd in the .22 small bore. (if she had been under 18 she would have got a medal but as an adult couldn't receive one)
- Gavin – 11th in the 6 yrd rifle.
- Brian Plater – 16th in the Field Target.
- Alex Conder - 30th in the Biathlon.

Myself, Alex and Thomas also entered the Connaught Cup, which is the main trophy of the championship, and came away with a respectable position of 52 out of 93.



A special mention and thanks to Fiona for organising the entries.

Now having done it once can we get our act together and organise a bigger team for the thirty sixth Championships?

Gavin Conder
District Scouter



CHRISTMAS FAIR
8th Letchworth Scouts
Sparhawke
(in the grounds of Grange School)
Sunday 27 November
12 – 3 pm



- Christmas Raffle and Auction
- **Cake Stall**
- Tombola
- **Tea/Coffee & Mince Pies**
- Christmas crafts & gifts
- **Fun & Games for all the family**

If you would like to have a stall at our fair please email susan.platten@ntlworld.com to book as we have limited spaces.
 Cost £5.00 per stall.



County Cub Cyclocross - Well End

After the District trials held at Wymondley Wood the following Cubs were selected to represent the District in the County Cub Cyclocross held at Well End on 9 October.

Thomas Ryan	4th Letchworth
Molly Wright	8th Letchworth
Oliver Orton	1st Baldock
Jack Mallard	4th Letchworth
Kim Onslow	1st Baldock
Alex Bennett	8th Letchworth
Joshua Hazzard	8th Letchworth
Daniel Money	4th Letchworth

I was very pleased to get into the Cyclocross team. We had to go to Well End Scout Centre. I was glad it didn't rain. We had two teams and I was in the A team. The course was through the woods with lots of steep hills and a bridge to cross. It was quite hard the first time round but the second time was easier and I was quicker. It was really good fun especially when I overtook someone from another team. All our team did really well and had fun. I was very happy when we got our certificate at the end.

Joshua Hazzard - 8th Letchworth Cub



Lochearnhead 11 - 25 August 2012

Planning for the 2012 District expedition to Lochearnhead is going well. Young People places are full with a healthy waiting list and training weekends are being booked.

The planning team have all the logistical issues in hand, however we need more Adults to join the actual expedition team to make the adventure happen.

Leaders/parents/group Exec members are invited to apply to attend. Priority will be given to uniformed Leaders. Leaders from any section are welcome, no adventurous activity experience is needed, there are on station roles such as catering and evening activities, cabin parents and roles out at the activities as support Leaders. You can stay on station or get out and about with the Young People and join the adventure!

You can attend either of the weeks or even both.

It is a magical place to visit, if you would like more information before deciding please contact Chris King Station Master or Janet Conder District Secretary or have a chat to a Leader who has attended previous expeditions.

To apply please contact Janet Conder for an application form.

Email : sec@lbdscouts.org.uk



Congratulations to Nick, 5th Letchworth Scout Leader and Kayleigh on their wedding. It was a wonderful day !

A conventional church wedding at St Pauls, but with lots of special, Nick and Kayleigh additions !

As the photograph shows the wedding car was a two door convertible Morris Minor and, of course, the roof was down on such a beautiful day

After the service in came lots of the

kids from Woolgrove School where Nick works.

Then Mr and Mrs Howell processed round inside the church to The Beatles singing 'All you need is Love' and the congregation all joined in the chorus on the kazoos provided !

Apologies to Joe Hartley - Scout Network who also attended the World Jamboree as a member of the International Service Team and was missed from the entry in October Co-ordinator

Congratulations to three members of the District who have won prizes in the Hertfordshire Scout Lottery over the last few weeks.

If anybody would like to enter please speak to the District Champion - Allan Patterson .

The adventure continues - 8th Letchworth Scout Troop Summer Camp

Thursday 4th August- Hill Walking

The first thing we did when we saw the mountain was say 'can we go back now!' When we started walking it was very steep, it looked vertical. There were two men coming down the hill who told us there was an ice-cream van open at the top of the hill so we got excited. We wanted to get to the top quickly but we soon found out that they had given us false hopes!! Every time we thought we were at the top we saw another bit to climb. When we finally got to the top Chris King gave Ellen her Chief Scout Gold Award. When we walked down we decided not to go the same way that we walked up so we had to walk down a river. Then we found out that there was a footpath right next to us so we had been tripping and slipping all over the place for nothing! It was a tiring day but it was quite interesting.

Elise Lambert

Thursday 4th August – Rock Climbing

The climbing was on the site where we were camping. I'm not exactly sure how tall it was. First of all we had a safety talk, and then we got put into our harnesses and helmets. There were two parts to the harness- one bit that you stepped into and the other bit was like a waist coat jacket. The rope attached them together. Then we were ready to climb up the tilted slate wall. We all took turns climbing and belaying for each other. Someone pulled the rope so the belayer didn't have any slack. There was a bucket monkey so the rope didn't get muddy or loosen. Everyone got to where they wanted to get to. Some people slipped and banged against the slate rock. I think it was a really good activity to do as it was different to climbing on a normal climbing wall.



Jack Taplin

Friday 5th August – Hill Walking



The walk up Harrison Stickle, well it was more a hike! It was a hike with an amazing view. After an hour we were almost halfway up - that tells you how high we were (Claire: and how fast they were going! at least the Leaders had had the previous two days to warm up!) For lunch we got water from the river to make hot chocolate. It was that nice. The path coming down was scary because if we fell we could fall off the mountain and because I'm Stan I had to be the one to fall over!

Stan Reader

(this was one of the most rewarding days walking with Scouts I have had - the enjoyment of the four Scouts made it one to be remembered for a very long time, and just for the record Stan didn't fall off the mountain! - Claire)

Friday 5th August - High Ropes

There were two sorts of high rope activities we did: the leap of faith and an aerial assault course. First we did the spine-chilling leap of faith; as we were putting our harnesses on the instructor taught us how to belay each other (pay attention!). When it was my go we strapped Brecon (our scout mascot) to my back. To reach the platform we were to jump off, we had to climb a ladder then use metal rungs sticking out of the tree. When you got to the platform (as high as a house), you made a mighty leap and gripped hold of a hanging bar about two metres away. Overall Brecon was the most scared, and he was relieved not to have to do the aerial assault course.



The aerial assault course consisted of a plank of wood to start with, followed by another. We had to scramble over these. On top of that was a beam sticking up vertically with rungs on the side to hold onto; next was a scramble net, and finally two tyres. Two people took part at a time, and we raced against each other – I won mine easily!

I don't mind heights too much, but some people weren't so keen. This was one of the best things I have done in Scouts. It was really good for overcoming fears and developing confidence.

William Stewardson

Saturday 6th August - The end of Summer Camp

We woke up early today. The leader's had got us to pack our bags last night and some of the biggest scouts had helped Goodie load them onto one of the minibuses while I had sat and supervised the other scouts making all the packed lunches for the journey. (I have to watch these things closely you know as the duty patrol had been a bit 'careful' with the chocolate spread earlier in the week and I like mine thick!)

We had breakfast outside as the mess tent was already packed away and all got our tents down quickly (I was supervising again – it's a tough job but someone has to do it!) because the leaders said there was a lot of rain heading our way. We finished loading the trailer and at 8.00am both minibuses pulled away from Great Tower Scout Camp and straight into a massive storm with awesome lightning strikes over the Yorkshire Dales. It had been a brilliant week, new activities to try and a chance to get better at the things we'd done before. All the Scouts and Leaders had worked really hard together (an amazing team!) and everyone was tired but buzzing. Before we left Lesley gave us all our Great Tower Badge and Richard presented us with our Service Stations Away Badges (I'm up to 10 – they only count if you're in Scout uniform – I think it's a brilliant badge and we're the first troop in the country to get them, we're waiting for Gilwell to endorse them)

We had a long journey home (but not as long as on the way up here thank goodness – at least there were no traffic jams) and it was great to see our families again. Had the best week ever though – can't wait until next camp!



Brecon Bear

EASY FUND RAISING

Do you shop on-line? If you do then you could be raising funds for your Group or the District simply by accessing your favourite websites via the Easy Fund Raising website. Every time you order anything a small percentage of the value of your order will be donated to your chosen charity. It doesn't cost you any extra and there are no differences in the way retailers process your orders.

Instead of going straight to your website to shop simply log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk then look up the retailer you want to buy from (there are hundreds of all the main retailers including Play, Amazon, Marks & Spencer, Tesco etc). Then just click to go through to their website and shop as usual.

The only difference you will see is an additional e-mail from easy fundraising to tell you how much they have donated to your charity from each order.

The first time you do it you will need to register so you can connect to your favourite charity (charities) for donations to be made automatically.

Hundreds of Scout groups have registered in this way.

Please take a few minutes to have a look and register. If your own Scout Group is not already registered please consider adopting Letchworth & Baldock District as your nominated charity. It costs you nothing other than remembering to go via the Easy Fundraising site when you order on line.

With Christmas shopping starting we could raise a substantial amount across the District.

Any queries regarding this initiative please contact Janet Conder District Secretary sec@lbdscouts.org.uk tel 01462 624365

Wymondley Wood

A reminder that the fees for Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre will increase in January 2012.



The new fees are:-

	Overnight Each / Minimum	Camping
Inside District	£5.50 £137.50	£2.50 per night
Outside District	£7.50 £187.50	£3.50 per night
Non Scout / Guide	£10.00 £250.00	£3.50 per night

There will be a charge of £1.00 per person per day for use of the camping field only. It will still be free for inside District.

Scout Active Support Unit - River Trip



Saturday, 1st October was the hottest day recorded for the month since records began. What did our top planner have lined up for us on this scorcher of a day? An afternoon trip on the river Lee with a cream tea included. Having received instructions on how to get there and timings, twenty two of us

assembled at Broxbourne in good time to board the boat, which was set out with the seating facing outwards, so that we could enjoy the view while partaking of our tea. On the starboard side on the tow path there was a young girl in a wheel chair who waved to us, we waved back. At the lock she was there to wave again, and just after that we thought that we had waved a final goodbye to her and her dad, who must have been wilting in the heat. After turning round and cruising down river past where we boarded, there was our little friend waving to us. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to Sheila for organizing the weather and the trip.

Fred lovelock Scribe to the ASU

The District is looking to fill the following positions

ADC (Scouts) - if you know of anyone or you would like to be considered please contact Chris King, District Commissioner who will provide you with details of the role.

District Scout Shop Representative - You will need to attend two meetings a year, April and October and also the AGM which is combined with the October meeting. You would be one of three representatives from the District Scouts. If you are interested please contact Janet Conder, District Secretary.



A District Scrutineer - The District need to appoint a Scrutineer to examine the annual accounts which are prepared in accordance with POR (Policy Organisation and Rules) and Charity Commission requirements. Please contact Phil Charsley, District Treasurer if you know of a suitable candidate.

DIARY 2011

NOVEMBER

1	Scout Shop Opens	
6	Lions Club Firework Display	Herts FA County Ground
6	World Jamboree Presentation / Denmark	District HQ
10	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
13	Remembrance Sunday	Various Venues
18 - 20	County Scout Green Beret Competition	Tolmers
22	PLP Meeting 19:00 - 20:30 hrs	District HQ
23	PLP Meeting 19:00 - 20:30 hrs	District HQ
26	District Arts & Crafts Competition	District HQ
26	Swaziland Presentation	Mrs Howard Memorial Hall
27	County Skills Day	Hobbs Hill Wood School
28	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Wymondley Wood
29	PLP Meeting 19:00 - 20:30 hrs	District HQ

DECEMBER

3	Stevenage District Scout Night Hike	Contact: Neil Ravillous
5	Scout Active Support Unit Book Club	
6	PLP Meeting 19:00 - 20:30 hrs	District HQ
7	PLP Meeting 19:00 - 20:30 hrs	District HQ
8	District Executive Meeting	Wymondley Wood
10	Scout Active Support Unit Xmas Dinner	Guide HQ, Icknield Way
13	District Lochearnhead Meeting	District HQ

New Non-Emergency 'phone Number

Hertfordshire Constabulary have recently implemented a new number for non-emergency calls.

Whereas they had been asking the public to use 0845 33 00 222, this is now replaced by 101. Calls cost 15p each.

101 will eventually become a new national number used by every Constabulary.

You should always use 999 if you are witnessing a crime or need immediate assistance.

However, if you are merely suspicious about something, you can use 101 to report your concerns - perhaps something you witnessed yesterday which on reflection think should be reported.

The 0845 number will be discontinued eventually but can be used for the time being too.

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/CrimeJusticeAndTheLaw/Reportingcrimeandantisocialbehaviour/DG_185338