

# Co-Ordinator

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

## What my Daddy saw

My Daddys in the army  
and once he went to war  
I think he must have been barmy  
But he told me what he saw.

Guns and Tanks and bombs and stiff  
and damage everywhere  
People being horrid to each other  
And people in despair

Children just like me and you  
Left all lone and sad  
Why do Wars happen? I thought,  
It really makes me mad

I wish people wouldn't fight  
And countries didn't go to war  
I hope he doesn't go again  
After he told me what he saw.

*George Gearing - Cub 1st Baldock (Knights)*



## 'Heroes' - That's the answer

The question came at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Remembrance parade at St Pauls.

Over 45 members of the group assembled in the hall, the buzz of everyone checking neckerchiefs, poppies and polished shoes, waiting so smartly for the call to the church.

A very special Parade for 4<sup>th</sup>, as their new Union Flag was to be blessed during the traditional remembrance service.

With a very proud William carrying the new flag, duly assisted by Cub Daniel with his infectious smile and Beaver John trying so hard to keep his hands out of his pockets, the rest of the group took their place in line with their section flags and at 10.30 we were beckoned into the church as the congregation sang their first hymn.

The union flag stood proud with its colour party, whilst the section flags were presented to the Vicar and the group took their places in the reserved seats at the front of the church.

After the hymn, the union flag took its blessing and was presented to stand with the section flags.

The service was swift; the subject of the day was 'friends' with two recorded interviews with senior members of the St Paul's Luncheon club telling of their experiences during wartime, the friends they lost and the friends they made. It was suddenly 11.00 am and the church fell silent to the toll of the Big Ben. After paying our respects, the service continued with another hymn, the Lord's Prayer and then it was time to collect our flags.

All the colour parties stood proudly at the altar whilst we all sang the National Anthem, and then swiftly and silently the group followed their flags out of the church and formed a horseshoe.

The whole group stood in formation until the church had emptied and the Vicar came out to dismiss us.....but one more surprise for the young people.....

HEROES – not soldiers, but chocolate, what an end to a great morning – chocolate

The question – What's the best thing about church parade?

**Apryl Goodwin - AESL (YL)**



Some of the forty five members of  
4th Letchworth (St Pauls) Scout  
Group



## 8th Letchworth Cub Day Out

### RAF Museum - Hendon

On 20 November, 2011 we left home at 9.30 am to go to The Royal Air Force Museum in Hendon for a Cub day out. When we got there, we saw lots of planes and helicopters. My favourite one was the Lancaster. When we got to the 'Do It Yourself' room we got to sit in the helicopters and do some scientific experiments.

When we got to the next building, we saw some 3D movies and we also went on the simulator. The next building was jam packed with planes. Unfortunately, we did not get to go in all of the planes and only got to sit in one cockpit.

However, I had a great day and would recommend it to all Cubs and Scouts.

**Rebecca Twena**

**8th Letchworth Cub Scout**

On Sunday 20th November we took a large group of sixteen Cubs , two Beavers and one Scout to the RAF Museum at Hendon. It was arranged for the parents to drop them off at the location for a prompt 10:30 start and then to collect them at 15:00 hrs.

Firstly we went in the Milestones of Aviation building where the children had chance to go on all the interactive screens to answer questions about the aircraft they could see hanging from the roof. After this they had the chance to go on the Typhoon flight simulator before heading into the main hall and towards the interactive section. We stopped for lunch at this point. Straight after the lunch break it was time to go into the interactive section and play on all the games and practise our hang gliding skills.

Once the kids had managed to play on most things it was time to go and look at Wings over Water (Flying boats) , Helicopter , Fighter section and Bomber Command. We managed to get the Cubs to stand still long enough to have a photo in front of the Lancaster bomber.

Our final port of call was the WW2 hanger which has the story of the Blitz and a lot of planes from this time , Spitfire , Hurricane and many more.

All the Cubs managed to complete the Air Activity badge as the RAF Museum have a work sheet (4 Pages) to work your way through. This is available on the website.

A great day was had by all.

Here is some useful info for other Leaders.

This is the website address for any Leaders [http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/learning/scout\\_groups.cfm](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/learning/scout_groups.cfm)

It is free to get in and parking is £3.50 per car for the full day.

**Ian Taplin - ACSL**

## **12th Letchworth Beaver Scout Sleepover**

### **4 - 5 November 2011 Wymondley Wood**

I went into Wymondley Wood and I chose my room. Soon some of my friends started arriving. Then we all got settled down and we made rockets out of foam; most of them were very sparkly with glitter glue and sequins.

At about 7.30 pm we decided to go for a walk through the woods. It was dark and spooky but it was great fun once we got used to it.

After that we all ran to the glowing camp fire where we sang camp fire songs like 'There Was A Hairy Moose' and 'Oh You'll Never Get to Heaven.' The Leaders picked groups of five to hold sparklers. When everyone had held a sparkler, Matthew got the fire ready to toast marshmallows. The smoke went in our eyes and stung, but the marshmallows were delicious!

We had a snack and cocoa before bed. It was quite noisy in our room but eventually we fell asleep.

The next morning, for breakfast we had toast, cereal and bacon, scrambled eggs and beans. We went outside and were given a FIREWORKS acrostic to fill in. My favourite answer was "Obstacle Course" for "O".

We made a fireworks display out of natural things like leaves. Then we went inside and we made Catherine wheels out of paper and straws. After lunch we played outside and then we went home.

We had a great time and played lots of games (and ate lots of cake!) I hope we have another sleepover soon.

**Bethan Belcher (Age 7)**  
**12th Letchworth Beaver Scout**





## 8th Letchworth Scouts Wandlebury Woods - Orienteering

The orienteering at Wandlebury Woods was good, everybody enjoyed it. There were three groups. Two groups had Leaders, but the older Scouts were allowed to go off by themselves. Every group found nine posts and we all found one geocache box. The geocache was hidden in a log and Jack W found it. Inside the geocache were lots of things; we put in some Scout badges and we took out a plastic cow which Ellen and I named Gogmagog after the place we were. He is now going to keep Brecon company ! Thanks to the Leaders Lesley, Claire and Richard for the great day out.

### Francesca Stocker - 8th Letchworth Scout



## 8th Letchworth Scouts went Scuba Diving over 3 weeks in November.



## 5th Letchworth Scouts Review of the Year

Green Beret marks the end of our camping calendar for 2011. As we put the kit away for the winter we look back at what adventures we have had over the past 8 months.

Although we plan to start a new winter term camp next year, this year we started with our annual trip to PAW back in April.

PAW is a fantastically well organised County event in which Scouts from across Hertfordshire get to partake in the activities on offer at Tolmers Camp Site. The Patrol Activity Weekend gives patrols the opportunity to plan their menus and cook for themselves for 3 nights. Leaders are encouraged to step back and allow their Scouts to 'get on with it' in the knowledge their Scouts are being looked after by the sub camp and activity teams. The facilities on offer to leaders allow them to be catered for and entertained in the evening. In fact, Leaders don't need to stay on site at all! Organising a camp like PAW from a leaders point of view really couldn't be simpler and not needing to attend the camp leaves it obviously attractive to leaders who can't commit to a weekend camp.

Organising a weekend kayaking expedition was a new one for us so we enlisted the help of David Williams (the County Kayak Adviser) to pick suitable water ways to explore. Keeping it relatively local and simple allowed us to get 3 full days of paddling on the River Ouse. Through using the expertise of the County team we were able to get this expedition organised despite not having any of our own equipment or relevant paperwork in our group. We wanted to do it, so we found ways to make it happen.

Our summer camp to Haarlem was a highlight of the year and also a show of what can be achieved by working as a team. The initial prospect of arranging a trip to a foreign country with a group of Scouts and Explorers seemed a daunting task, however by splitting jobs between Leaders and choosing a long established Jamboree in which everything is organised the only major jobs involved transport and budgeting! The rest is sorted at the other end! The result was a 12 day camp which will stick in the memory for a long time; but don't take my word on it:



### Patrol Activity Weekend

29 April 2011 —  
2 May 11

I think Haarlem was absolutely amazing! I thought our neighbours were great, the activities were fun - it couldn't of been better!

We had a meeting the Wednesday before we went to check our suitcases and find out what our patrols for the camp were. There were three patrols- the Windmills, which were the Explorers, the Clogs and my patrol, the Tulips! Ruth was my patrol leader and was Bradley's, Ashley's and Lewis' patrol leader too.

The ferry journey was very long (6 hours!) so most of us bought some sweets or chocolate and played 21 dares, cluedo and monopoly for most of the journey. An Explorer was invested on the ferry (well, not officially but still invested, don't tell anyone!) but her neckerchief nearly blew away because it was so windy! The thing that I remember the most was the casino! My friend Daniel managed to con the machine and win €20! So he bought a game and a big box of mini toblerones, mainly for himself but he did share!

When we arrived at the campsite, we put up four patrol tents and two dining shelters. Ruth, Hayley and I were sharing a tent since we were the only girls. I must admit our tent was the second noisiest- the Explorer tent being first! Sadly, it was my patrol that had to do all the cooking and washing up, so most of us just stayed at the campsite that night.

The opening ceremony was very... unique. Since my sub camp were Romans, we all dressed up in roman togas and had swords and shields! The other sub camps were Ancient Egyptians, Incas and the Chinese, who dressed up too. We found out that the camp theme was unlimited energy and that we had to collect Jambo Joulz to gain it. At the end of the camp we would find out which sub camp collected the most Jambo Joulz- but they didn't win anything. My troop were very fond of a lady called Rose who played a bar lady in a performance that was performed at the opening ceremony - at one point, some of us got a picture with her!

My favourite activity was Wallaby World, which

was a theme park that had a MASSIVE roller coaster called Goliath. After lunch, Daniel took me and my friend Ruth to go on. I didn't want to go on. When we were in the queue, I felt like running away! But I stayed and I think it was one of the best decisions of my life! There was a big dip at the start so it was really scary when we were almost at the top! I thought I was going to scream but surprisingly, I started laughing. Ruth was the one who was screaming but only because we were having so much fun! We went on again straight after and when we were getting off, we saw our Leaders (Nick, Gareth and Tim) with some other Scouts getting on. We said 'hi' and went to join the back of the queue but it was too long, so we bought some food and drink and carried on looking for more rides!

On open day, 5th Letchworth (my troop) had a disco and Gareth made a buzzer game for other Scouts and Guides to play with. In the end, I got bored giving out free badges so I went exploring. I met up with my friends Andrew, Hayley, Ruth and my twin brother Tom. We all went to the main stage where there was a karaoki and free candy floss. We sang 'Let me entertain you' which none of us could sing apart from the chorus!

The closing ceremony was when we found out which sub camp collected the most Jambo Joulz – IT WAS THE ROMANS! When it was all over, 5th Letchworth went back to the campsite and slept outside for a treat!

**By Katherine (with a K) Rice**





The arrival of autumn means 3 weekends of camping ahead! The first of which is Born 2 B Challenged. This well organised County event gives Scouts the chance to compete against other teams in a 'camping competition' style of camp. For the younger Scouts there is the opportunity to learn new skills from a team of Leaders who specialise in things such as fire lighting, backwoods cooking, camp craft and tent pitching. Teams are dropped off on Friday night and left in the capable hands of the organisers. Leaders are not allowed to stay and due to my wedding, the parents organised the transport of kit and Scouts themselves.

Our Harmergreen camp is always a popular camp with our Scouts. The chance to rough it in the woods for a weekend playing games, building shelters and cooking in some odd ways really keeps Scouts engaged. A camp such as this is easy to organise and paper work, kit lists and nan forms are just adapted from the year before. Sorting health forms, booking the site and shopping is all that's left.

As soon as we arrived in the woods we put the tents up in our patrols, a girls patrol and two boy patrols and then got the camp fire going. The weather was a lovely autumnal day and we were very lucky that it stayed like that for the whole weekend.

I never thought that you could have so much fun in the woods. We cooked pizza, cakes and fish in the campfire oven, we got to play 50-50 in the dark and made see - saws with the fallen down trees. I even brought my teddy bear with me to keep me company as I know that bears like the woods!

The fun did not stop when camp ended on Sunday afternoon. I even got to take the washing-up home to do!

Thank you to all the Leaders who came on the camp: Tim, Tom, Geoff and Helen.

**By Ella Adams**



**Amber with her  
camp made  
cakes**

**Harmergreen was an exciting and adventurous camp where 15 members of 5th Letchworth went to a densely wooded area in the middle of nowhere.**

**On the first night we all had to help build a fire, which our Scout Leader Geoff said had to be long and thin. This was so we could cook in the embers at one end whilst at the other end we had some sticks/logs burning to create more embers. That night we ate hot dogs, which were lovely.**



The next morning we built another fire, the same as the night before. This time Daniel cooked the food. It was porridge, which some said tasted a bit like cardboard, but I thought it was quite nice.

In order to keep the fire going we had to use the axes and saws to cut up some wood, which only some of the Scouts could get the hang of. I was sort of one!

That morning, the other two Scout Leaders Tim and Tom, built an oven. This was made out of a bin on two metal trestle legs. They got some wooden panels and logs to lean against the side and back in order to keep it up. As well as this, they needed a lot of soil, (which was as hard as stone), to pile on the sides, in order to keep everything in place, to stop the fire spreading and to make all the heat go up towards the bin.

Whilst they were slaving away doing that, we all went off to build a shelter in the woods, that if suitable, we could sleep in. I actually helped Geoff prepare a sort of batter we were going to put on the fish. This was made up of plain flour and water and was very sticky indeed. When this was made, Geoff called over the Scouts in our separate patrols. We sliced the bottom off the fish open and took out all the guts; then we chopped off the head just behind the gills. After that we washed out the inside of the fish and covered it in the batter. Earlier, Geoff and

I had also wrapped up some potatoes in foil, which we also chucked in the embers at the same time as the first lot of fish. The fish turned out delicious, but very bony.

In the afternoon, I went off to find some good shelters and stumbled across a fallen tree where Oscar, Richard, Simon, Ashley and Freddy were building. I decided to help, but I wasn't going to



sleep in it. Later though, we discovered there was a hole in the roof, so we took it all down and built another one. This time we made it big enough for me to sleep in. Later on we found out that we were the only ones sleeping outside in our shelters. So when all the Scouts went to bed, we went over to our shelter in the wood with Tim. I had on ten layers! Turns out it wasn't actually too bad.

So in short, the whole weekend was great!

By Tom Ferguson

And here we are back to Green Beret. Another well organised County event. Possibly the most well known Scouting event in the County calendar. Leaders act as a support crew for their Scouts as they compete again Hertfordshire's finest to get their mitts on one of the most coveted trophies. Similar to Harmergreen, sorting paperwork, shopping and equipment by this time of the year is easy; we've done it before many times.



Hooray – Green Beret!

Wow, what a brilliant time we've had at Tolmers! 6 of us arrived on Friday night raring to go: Ruth, Freddie, Simon, Ashley, Daniel and me, Ruby. When we arrived our tents were already pitched so we set up our sleeping bags. Even though it was freezing cold we were snugly and warm in our thick coats and jumpers. On Saturday we did some day bases, my favourite one was tug of war with two land rovers! We had to pull them up a small hill to meet another land rover at the top, it was great fun but some of us got rope burns, it hurt. We also did an orienteering challenge and an obstacle course which was quite challenging. After dinner we started the night bases and did about 7 of them, they were really fun. Overall, we worked really well as a team and enjoyed all of the activities. We were proud to come in 42<sup>nd</sup> place out of 138 and we all went home with a smile on our faces, well, a tired smile! We couldn't have done it without the support of our leaders, we can't wait to go back and have more fun next year!



**By Ruby Doherty**

So what am I really banging on about?!?

Well, largely through the efforts of others we have been able to get twenty three nights of camping on our programme this year, and of the six camps we've been on we only had to plan a programme for two of them!

Camping is a core Scouting activity; the Scouts love it, and so should the leaders. We're lucky enough to have a very active County team running events such as the above. These events are rarely over subscribed and organisers will go out of their way to ensure your Scouts can attend. Yet its often the same troops who support these events, and whilst we love to see them, we'd love to see more District faces at these events.

The pressures of Scouting on us Leaders and supporters of Scouting is huge and sometimes getting away on weekend camps is tough, let alone planning a summer camp!

So why ignore these opportunities for Scouts to get out there? The hard work has been done; all we have to do is attend.

**Nick Howell - SL**

# Achievements

## Chief Scout's Bronze Award



Ellie Hill	8th Letchworth Beaver Scout
Kaitlyn Lawrence	8th Letchworth Beaver Scout
Sophie Mollison	8th Letchworth Beaver Scout
Gabriel Ryan	8th Letchworth Beaver Scout

## Occasional Badges

Please remember that occasional badges have to be removed after the allocated time, normally three months, unless :-

- (a) Occasional badges in respect of national programmes, activities or events may be worn as directed and for such periods as decided by Headquarters
- (b) Occasional badges for wear by Members of a Group, a District or County in connection with a special gathering, camp, event or anniversary must be approved by the County Commissioner to whom a drawing or specimen of the design must be submitted.
- (c) Such badges must not be worn after a period of three months from the date of the conclusion of the occasion unless exceptionally authorised by the County Commissioner in respect of special circumstances for a further period not exceeding nine months.

# A warm welcome to



Vanessa Baxter	1st Baldock (Templars) ACSL
Paul Harrison	1st Ashwell ABSL
John Hayward	2nd Baldock ABSL
Tom Plater	2nd Baldock ACSL
Lindsey Rumbold	5th Letchworth ABSL
Timothy Williams	7th Letchworth ASL

# DIARY 2011/ 2012

## 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
10 - 11	Letchworth Free Church Christmas Tree Festival	
13	District Lochearnhead Meeting	District HQ
15	Scout & Guide Shop	Closes

## JANUARY 2012

5	Scout & Guide Shop	Re-opens
5	District Beaver Leaders' Meeting	District HQ
12	District Executive Meeting	DHQ
18	District Team Meeting	DHQ
21	Scout Active Support - 'Burns Nights'	TBA
30	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	Spring Road
31	District Lochearnhead Meeting	District HQ



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