

Issue 610
January 2014
Co-Ordinator



A message from the District Commissioner

Hi everyone and a Happy New Year to you.

Well, yes it really is four months since I took on the role as your District Commissioner. It's been a steep learning curve and one that I couldn't have managed without the support of the previous District Team and in particular Janet Conder, the previous District Secretary and Chris King, the previous District Commissioner.

I know that other members of the new District Team are thankful to the previous team for all their help and support also. Things were left in great shape for us to take over and move forward. It's always going to be difficult following on from such a strong team, but I have to say that I think the new team are indeed moving forward and my thanks go to them for all the tremendous work they have put in. We have plans as you might expect, we have targets and aspirations. All of which we hope to share with you as we roll these out over the next twelve to twenty four months.

You might have noticed Scouting popping up a little more in the paper, the shop in Letchworth Town Centre in the run up to Christmas, new sources of financial help coming on board and new opportunities for growth and assistance from outside, the picture and write up in the Letchworth Out & About Guide and a general buzz. None of this happens by mistake and this all forms a small part of my vision for Scouting in our District over the coming years. I hope you may be finding it all as exciting as I am.

Don't forget to share Scouting with all your friends and family. Send them a link to Coordinator online. It's quick and easy, needs no registration and is open to all to read. Send an article to Rita Hawkins, the Coordinator Editor, covering your events, successes and expeditions. Share our Facebook page and Twitter Feeds with your contacts.

Finally "Thank you" to each and every one of you who make Scouting what it is in Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell. Exciting, relevant and vibrant. Here's to another great year.

Hartley

Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts



**Help Wanted
Scout & Guide Shop**

The Badge Secretary has recently won twice on Hertfordshire Scout Unity Lottery. You have to be in it to win it and it's only £1.00 per week

For information on how to join please visit

www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

Have you made your New Year's resolution.? Do you like meeting new people? What about helping in the District Scout and Guide Shop/

They are looking for volunteers to help serve behind the counter. If you like meeting people and are free on Tuesdays and or Thursdays during term time between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm then please contact

Nora Hitcham - Shop Manager on 01462 627905 or email shoplbdscouts.org.uk

You do not need to commit to every Tuesday and or Thursday any help would be gratefully received.

Membership Subscription 2014

This year's subscription breakdown is:-

National	£21.00
County	£11.10
District	£ 4.20
Total	<u>£36.30</u> per member.

An increase of 10p at District level. County and National Subscription to stay the same as last year.

Phil Charsley, District Treasurer will be contacting Group Treasurers in the New Year with latest date the Group needs to pay their subscription.

2016 – changing how the subscription is calculated

The Scout Association continues to work towards changing how the membership subscription is calculated so it is based on youth members only, and the number of adult volunteers are not part of membership subscription calculation.

This revised method of calculating the membership subscription will not be introduced until January 2016. This timing will allow the new membership database, Compass, time to be fully updated with all member data following its launch in 2014 and therefore facilitate a simple calculation of the membership subscription via this new method.



Mick Dilley, GSL 2nd Baldock, was invited to join in the service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey for all Scout and Guide Leaders/associates with over 50 year's service.

Mick writes "The service was in November and luckily the weather was not bad as we had to queue for ages. The Abbey was full and the atmosphere electric. Whilst queuing a voice called out "Mick" and we recognised the Scout Leader with whom we stood at the St Georges Day Parade at Windsor two years ago!

It was a very lively service and the Dean of Westminster commented that there was a total of over 50,000 years of Scout/Guide service in the Abbey".

2nd Baldock will be celebrating 60 years next year and Mick has been there for every one of them. Cub, Scout, Rover Scout, Leader and GSL.. Does this represent dedication or idiocy.

Deb Dilley

Historical Note

Following the death of Robert Baden-Powell in 1941 a memorial stone was unveiled in Westminster Abbey on 23 April 1947. From then until 1955, Scouting Headquarters staff and some Members held an annual wreath laying and a small Service in the Abbey. In 1957, the centenary of Baden-Powell's birth, the Service was attended by members of the Royal Family. In years thereafter it was referred to as a Service of Thanksgiving and became a much bigger celebration.

From 1959 onwards, the Service was held on the nearest Saturday to 22 February, and from 1978, following the death of Lady Baden-Powell the previous year, this Annual Service changed in style and name to a joint celebration of Thinking Day and Founder's Day. In 1981, a memorial was dedicated to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell in Westminster Abbey. In 2011, the arrangements for the Service were reviewed and changed in the light of increasing local opportunities to celebrate these special

occasions. The current arrangement nevertheless maintains the tradition of the Annual Service at Westminster Abbey, now known as the National Scout and Guide Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving, and focuses on thanking the adult volunteer leaders and supporters for their service and dedication.

Extract from the Westminster Abbey Service sheet

Melvyn Baker former SL at 7th Letchworth

We were sorry to learn of the death of Melvyn Baker after a short illness. Melvyn was SL at the 7th Letchworth in the 1970s and one of his former Scouts recounts memories of a summer camp in the wilds of Rannoch Moor, a canal holiday on the Grand Union Canal around Birmingham and camping at Sea Palling on the east coast.

For a short time he organised a Venture Scout Unit based on 7th Letchworth reflecting his Welsh roots it had the splendid name of Ysbryd Antur (Spirit of Adventure).

District Cub Scout Quiz



This year's District Cub Quiz was held at 5th Letchworth HQ in Spring Road. Nine Cub Packs took part. After some keen competition and a lot of head scratching 1st Ashwell Cubs were the ultimate winners

1st 1st Ashwell - Toby Horner, Phoebe Lewis and Alfie Duckett
 2nd 7th Letchworth
 3rd 1st Baldock (Knights)

During the break the Cubs tucked into biscuits, crisps and a drink which was well deserved.

Thank you to last year's winners - 1st Baldock (Knights) for setting the questions and running the event.

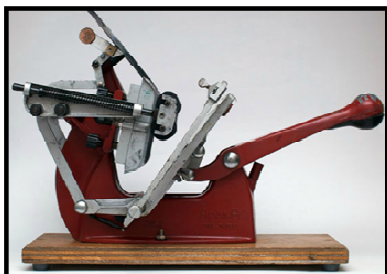
2014 District Cub Quiz will be organised by 1st Ashwell Cub Scout Pack. Looking forward to their questions.

Thank you Donation of Adana 5x3 letterpress presses

Laurie Cook as Scout Active Support Member had in his possession two Adana 5x3 letterpress presses and assorted equipment which he gave to Dave Upson, the manager of the Scout Active Support Unit for safe keeping. With Laurie's permission they have been donated to The Paper Trail at Frogmore Paper Mill in Hemel Hempstead.

A letter of thanks was received from Peter Balding, Senior Tour Guide stating that once the presses have been renovated and ready for use they will be fully utilised on their open days, especially with their school visits. The presses will form part of the display and will be used to show the production of small print items that hobby and small businesses would have produced before the days of PCs and ink-jet printers.

They are always updating their displays and presenting the print and paper industries of by-gone days as expected of a heritage centre. If any group would like to plan a visit they would look forward to seeing you.



For more information please visit:
<http://www.thepapertrail.org.uk/>

12th Letchworth Scout Troop



All Letchworth Garden City residents will shortly receive the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation "Out and About" Magazine. The magazine features over 200 things to try and do, from over 100 local clubs and groups, across seven days of the week. The photo above appears on page 34 of the December 2013 magazine.

12th Letchworth Scouts had fun showing off their engineering and creative skills to a photographer from the Heritage Foundation.

Using just lolly sticks and elastic bands, they worked in small groups to build catapults. There were a variety of glues and tapes to use to hold the sticks together, and a number of technical issues to overcome in the build.

In a round-up discussion at the end of the session, the Scouts agreed that the faster drying 'superglue' type adhesives were most effective. Otherwise, as one Scout put it, "You're just sitting there for ages holding it all together with sticky fingers!". The teams that used tape found that the models were too flexible and wobbly, and the teams that didn't build their catapults carefully found that they collapsed after a single shot!

To finish the evening, we held a grape-flinging competition to see which catapult was the best!

Claire Winchester
12th Letchworth SL



Happenings

Scout Groups in the District including 5th Letchworth and 8th visited Care Homes and provided some light entertainment, including carol



singing, playing musical instruments, reading poetry and serving light refreshments of tea, coffee and mince pies. 8th Letchworth Scout Group visited Kingfisher Court. The elderly residents enjoyed the experience so much that they have invited them back next year.

5th Letchworth Scouts visited Freeman House and the Garden House Hospice.

4th Letchworth Beavers were given a collection tube for the Christingle service at St Paul's. The idea is to put any loose change into them and

bring them to the Christingle Service. They have also been collecting old spectacles to donate to charity. Their aim is to collect 100 pairs.

Important Dates for your 2014 calendar

Friday	28 March	District Scout & Guide Gang Show
Saturday	29 March	District Scout & Guide Gang Show
Saturday	12 April	Sixers & Seconders Weekend - Cubs
Sunday	13 April	Sixers & Seconders Weekend - Cubs
Sunday	27 April	St George's Day Parade and Service
Thursday	8 May	District Annual General Meeting - All Welcome

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Along with 38 other local clubs and groups, Letchworth and Baldock District entered a decorated Christmas Tree into the Letchworth Tree Festival weekend. Our theme was "fun and friends". The tree was decorated with red and gold baubles, with some handmade decorations showing the scout promise and some fantastic photos, created to look like baubles, from events around the district during

the last year. The Letchworth Christmas Tree Festival runs every year at Letchworth Free Church and is open to the public for free, a donation bucket and the sale of refreshments raises money for local charities. Garden House Hospice was the charity of 2013

With thanks to Hartley, Goodie and Apryl for spending time putting up and taking the tree down, and special thanks to Rita Hawkins for creating the photo baubles.

Achievements

Chief Scout's Bronze Award



Nihal Chaggar-Chahal	8th Letchworth
Albert Crockford	8th Letchworth
Mason Hobbs	8th Letchworth
Matthew Jennings	8th Letchworth
Guy Roylance	8th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Gold Award



Stiofan Doherty	5th Letchworth
Michael Stocker	8th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Silver Award



Jack Bowman	12th Letchworth
Miles Brewis	12th Letchworth
Bryce Collins	8th Letchworth
Timothy Hartell	12th Letchworth
Ellie Hill	8th Letchworth
Ronan Hunt	12th Letchworth
Elias Osei-Kissi	12th Letchworth
Gabriel Ryan	8th Letchworth
Riley Sayer	8th Letchworth
Owen Stanton	7th Letchworth
Connor Young	8th Letchworth
Ella Waynforth	12th Letchworth
Elliot Winchester	12th Letchworth

**A warm
welcome to**



Lydia Challis	Oak Eagle ESU	Unit Assistant
Gillian Palmer	11th Letchworth	ACSL

Diary 2014

JANUARY

9	District Scout & Guide Shop reopens	
13	District Cub Leaders' Meeting	
27	Wymondley Wood Meeting	Spring Road
28	District Team Meeting	Wymondley Wood

FEBRUARY

2	District Cooking Competition - Scouts	
13	District Executive Meeting	District HQ
23	County Cooking Competition - Scouts	Stevenage District HQ
24	Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting	

MARCH

2	County Chiltern Challenge - Explorers	Phasels Wood
11	District Team Meeting	Wymondley Wood
16	County Scout Triathlon	Lees Wood
28	District Scout & Guide Gang Show	St Francis Theatre
29	District Scout & Guide Gang Show	St Francis Theatre



**At the last
Wymondley
Wood
Committee
Meeting held in
November it**

**was agreed unanimously there will
be no increase in the charges for the
Centre and Campsite for 2015.**

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Correction to December's edition No 609.

Unfortunately it was wrongly reported that Nigel De Roeck died as a result of a car accident. In fact he died from a catastrophic heart attack at the wheel of his car. The editor would like to apologise for any distress caused to the family.

To all Groups and Units the editor would be more than happy to come along to any of your events or fund raising activities. She always brings her camera along and enjoys getting out about.

If she can't make it why not send her a short write up and some photos / pictures which might be included in an edition of the District magazine.