

Issue 613
April 2014
Co-Ordinator



Annual General Meeting Season

AGM's are not usually a highlight in anybody's calendar, but I can truly say that I always look forward to the 8th Letchworth Scout Group AGM. As soon as you arrive you are made to feel welcome, there is a buzz in the air and the young people are involved in the proceedings. The paperwork covers all Charity Commission and Scout Association requirements. Starting with the agenda, minutes of last year's AGM, section reports and year end accounts. The Treasurer, Mike Myner always does an excellent job in keeping the Groups finance on a sound footing. The strength of the Group is having a brilliant GSL and Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, and we mustn't forget the fundraising committee who do sterling work in raising funds with the help of the parents/carers.

All three sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts take an active part in the evening. The Beavers read out poems of why they like coming to Beavers, The Cubs read out the activities they have enjoyed taking part in throughout the year and the Scouts did a power point presentation on the camps and adventurous activities they have undertaken during the year. They are a credit to their Leaders

Assistant County Commissioner, Graham Woolley presented the Chief Scout Commendation to Claire and Darren Greener and our own District Commissioner, Hartley presented Wood Badges to Danny Ryall, Fern Boughton and Lisa Eke and 5 year service awards to Ian Taplin, Mike Myner and Lisa Eke.

If you want to see how it should be done, you wouldn't go wrong if you ask the 8th Letchworth Scout Group for a copy of their Annual Reports and Accounts.

Editor



Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts

**8th Letchworth AGM
The young people have
their say**

What I like about Cubs

Cubs is so much fun because we do lots of great things like games, hiking, camps and working towards badges.

What I don't like about Cubs

I found this hard to answer because there is nothing I don't like about Cubs.

Camps and Trips

I love going on Cub trips and camps. We have such a great time. So far I have done Eaton Vale, weekends at Wymondley Wood, County Night Hike, Drayton Manor and I have even met Bear Grylls at the Big Bash.

Leaders

The Leaders are great, they always make me laugh, especially when we are on trips and going on a hike. They are very kind and helpful and I know I can talk to them if someone upsets me.

Finally I'd like to say that Akela makes the best eggy bread in the world!

Lily J - Cub

In Cubs we have done lots of things like going to summer camp where we did lots of activities such as abseiling, crate stacking and rafting where we made our own rafts. Also at camp we went to Bewilder Wood and we had so much fun. In Cubs we had lots of people come in to show us some interesting things. For example, the Shelter Box people who told us about what's in the Shelter Box, and the Gang Show people who showed us a slide show about their show. I would like to thank the people who organise these events and I am sure 8th Letchworth will carry on being the best and in future I hope Cubs will enjoy it even more.

GINNY - Cub

My Time At Cubs

Here are some of my favourite activities I have done in Cubs. Last year I went to Eaton Vale it was really exciting. I really enjoyed it when we had to get a boat over the river to get to the main part of Bewilderwood. We also went to the seaside and we had fish and chips for dinner that were really delicious. Last year we also did the night hike. We left about half past seven and got the coach and got dropped off at a station and the first activity was when someone had to get in a wheelbarrow and someone else had to pull them. When we got back it was ten past midnight.

EMMA WRIGHT - Cub

Acrostic Poems read by some of the 8th Letchworth Beavers

Beavers are kind

Everyone is kind

Again we have fun

Very kind class

Everyone is happy

Remember to be kind

Size is not important

By William

Behave

Everyone has fun

Always walk

Very nice Beavers

Eighth Letchworth

Really cool

Super Beavers

By Callum

Beavers are kind

Everybody has fun

All leaders are fab

Very brave

Eighth Letchworth

Really good times

So exciting

By Harrison

Beavers are sensible

Everyone has fun

Always tell the truth

Very Happy

Eighth Letchworth

Really behave

Super Beavers

By Oliver

County Cub Bushcraft Activity Day

All too often the Co-Ordinator is filled with articles from the participants in local, district, county and even national events. However, it isn't too often that you get to hear what actually goes on behind the scenes to run the show. We therefore wanted to give you an Explorer's eye view of helping out at a day designed for their younger counterparts.

The 22nd March saw an activity filled Bushcraft day for Hertfordshire's Cub Scouts take place at Harmer Green Wood, near Welwyn. Organised and managed by our very own Wendy Tierney, to say the day was a success would simply be demeaning.

We arrived on the Friday evening to find Wendy man-handling the largest bag of carrots it is possible to acquire on the open market. As such, after some twilight tent pitching it was all hands on deck to peel and chop various vegetables that the Cubs would be cooking the next day – Yes Vegetables!! (although Cubs cooking is also quite surprising). The lack of a chopping board soon saw a chainsaw fired up as a suitable sized disk from a tree trunk was perfect for the job. After a fairly cold, windy and wet

night, in true explorer style, a Ballista for hurling coits through the air was duly constructed before breakfast was served in order to pose as the demonstration model for later in the day for the Cubs. Before they arrived however, we did find time to aim it at each other. In order to get parents in and out as quickly as possible, it was necessary to implement a one way system along the track leading into the campsite. That meant giving Explorers radios to stop traffic before it could meet another vehicle head to head on the single track dirt road.

The day went on with the radio

Thankfully however, their new found first aid experience was not needed, with the only crisis being the beverage base running out of hot chocolate. Yet, supplies were quickly replenished

The day ended for the Cubs with various presentations as the car park crew once again tried to prevent anarchy on the driveway.

After the Cubs had left, there was a fair amount of tidying up to do. This led to some hysterical bin-towing antics whereby a number of large wheeled bins were strapped in series to the back of a land rover



and towed through the pitted forest track. It was a little disappointing however that none of them fell over – at least we didn't have another mess to clear up.

With the forest clear, the evening meal was served and now all that is left would be to thank Wendy, her team, and the site

crew at Harmer Green for giving us the chance to come down and help out in their world.

Alex Hawkins
Oak Eagle Explorer Scout

now being used to transmit slightly dubious jokes about the weather as the Cubs went about fire building, pioneering, shelter building, tree identification, backwards cooking and a brief introduction to first aid.

Farewell to Fred Lovelock

A large turnout of Active Support Members, Scout Leaders and friends from Guiding were testimony to the quiet and unassuming contribution which he made to Scouting in the District over many years. We will have fond memories of his witty and informative newsletters and quizzes.

Five Reasons to Involve parents in your camp.

1. It's all about recruitment - Get your head switched on to the fact that by inviting and involving parents you could recruit more adult volunteers for your Group, or at least get more commitment from the adults who currently help.
2. It works - Camps and residential experiences are proven to be the most successful method of recruiting parents to help more in their children Scout group. At an average camp, eight parents will get involved in Scouting for the first time as an adult.
3. The numbers don't lie - Forty-five per cent of new section Leaders come from parents of existing or prospective youth members. Fact. Targeting parents is the most effective way to focus your recruitment energies.
4. Camping is fun - Much of the best work you do as a Scout volunteer happens at camp. So there's no better place to show off the special formula of fun and friendship that Scouting provides. Parents who've attended camps tell us they most look forward to enjoying themselves and camping.
5. It's recommended - Ninety-eight percent of Scout groups that have used camps to recruit parents say that they will do it again.

Why the name Kon Tiki

1947 Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian anthropologist, demonstrated that the Polynesians could originally have been migrants from South America, by sailing from Peru to the Pacific islands of Tuamotu, on a raft made of balsa wood which he named KON-TIKI after the Polynesian sun god.

District Scout Kon-Tiki competition
6 June 2014



18 May 2014

Walk the walk...

*Rotary Club of
Letchworth Garden City*

In 2013 8th Letchworth Scout Group raised £929 by taking part in the Rotary Club of Letchworth Garden City Sponsored Walk.

**Letchworth and Baldock
District Scout Council
A.G.M.**

Date: 8 May 2014

Time: 7.30 for 8.00 pm

**Venue: District Headquarters
Icknield Way**

All are welcome

RSVP: Apryl Goodwin

District Secretary

sec@lbdscouts.org.uk



1st Baldock Beaver Colonies Visit to Shepreth

On a cold, wet Saturday in February, Beavers from both the First Baldock colonies went to Shepreth Wild Animal Park as part of their animal friend badge. We managed to avoid the showers (thanks to the reptile house and indoor play area), and some of the animals were even awake. A big thank you to all the parents and helpers who came with us and to First Capital Connect for providing us with an escort there and back. This is what one of our Beavers, James Legg, has to say about our outing:

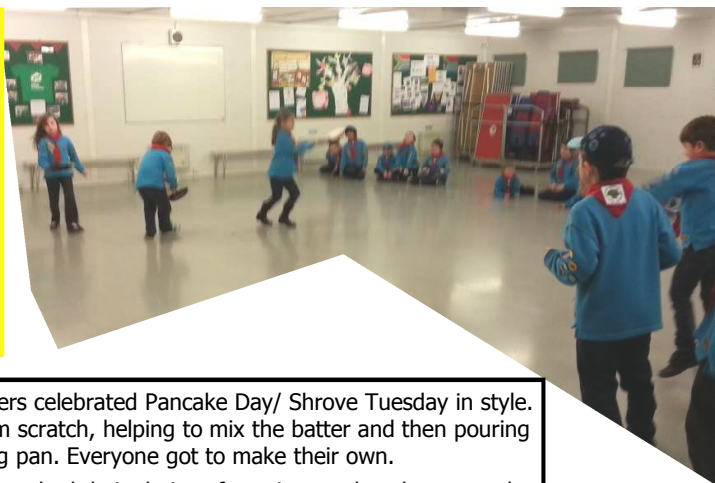
About 50 Beavers went on the train to Shepreth. It was quite a short journey. Beavers filled up most of the train. When we got there we had a bit of playtime.

Then we learned about and touched some animals. First there was a stick insect, then some giant snails, after that there was a skunk. Finally we stroked a python. Then we all sat together to have our lunch.

After lunch we went to see the bat tunnel and bunny world. Then we saw the Tigers being fed and we learnt about the Lemurs. We had to hide from the rain in the reptile house. After that we went to the soft play to play with the cannons and fired balls at each other. Then it was time to come home back on the train.

The best animals I saw were the bats and I enjoyed the soft play.





The 8th Letchworth Beavers celebrated Pancake Day/ Shrove Tuesday in style. They made pancakes from scratch, helping to mix the batter and then pouring the mixture into the frying pan. Everyone got to make their own.

Once they were cooked they had their choice of toppings – chocolate spread being the favourite !

Then it was time for pancake races. To prevent any sticky mess, they used tortilla wraps instead of real pancakes.

Each Lodge had a relay heat against another Lodge and then the three winners had a final.

Silver Lodge were the worthy winners, displaying good teamwork, sportsmanship and flipping !

A fun evening was had by all !

Baldock Fire Station Visit 1st Baldock Cub Scouts

"I learnt about Blue Watch. I learnt if we catch fire we drop and roll. We had a mini quiz. We saw a fire truck and more stuff and Bagheera dressed up as a fire fighter. We had a go on the hose and helped to pack it away. We had a fun night, all the Cubs loved the fire station."

Charlie Cornell
1st Baldock Cub Scout



Achievements

Chief Scout's Bronze Award



Kacey Butler	11th Letchworth
Hope Evans	11th Letchworth
Samuel Harris	11th Letchworth
Fenn McCullagh	11th Letchworth
Laurie McGinn	4th Letchworth
Reiss Ravalia	11th Letchworth
Fredrick Simmen	11th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Gold Award



Rosie Muge	2nd Baldock
Rory Shepherd	2nd Baldock
Rachel Warren	8th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

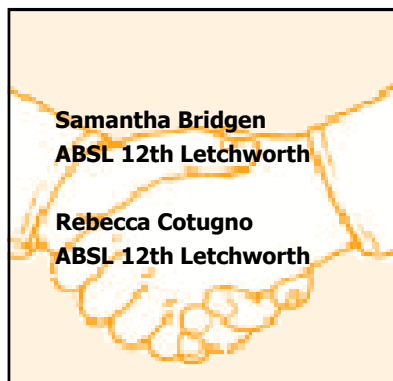
Claire Greener	SL	8th Letchworth
Darren Greener	CSL	8th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Silver Award



Edward Bennett	8th Letchworth
Lewis Clark	8th Letchworth
Millie Hazzard	8th Letchworth
Jack Hirst	2nd Baldock
Joseph Ince	2nd Baldock
Joseph Price	2nd Baldock
William Treagus	8th Letchworth
Emma Wright	8th Letchworth

**A warm
welcome to**



Samantha Bridgen
ABSL 12th Letchworth

Rebecca Cotugno
ABSL 12th Letchworth

Congratulations on 5 years Service

Lisa Eke	BSL	8th Letchworth
Mike Myner	Treasurer	8th Letchworth
Ian Taplin	ACSL	8th Letchworth

Diary 2014

APRIL

1	District Scout & Guide Shop closes for Easter	
4	County Queen's Scout Award Dinner	
10	District Executive Meeting	
12	District First Aid Course	District HQ
12 - 13	District Cubs Sixers and Seconders Weekend	Wymondley Wood
24	District Scout & Guide Shop reopens	
24	District Scout & Guide Shop Meeting	
27	St George's Day Parade and Service	
28	Wymondley Wood AGM	Wymondley Wood
29	District Team Meeting	
30	District Beaver Leaders' Meeting	

MAY

2 - 5	P.A.C.E.	Tolmers Activity Centre
2 - 5	I.T.T.H (Introduction to the Hills)	Orchard Farm
8	District AGM	District HQ
10	District Beaver Challenge	1st Baldock HQ, Park Drive
10	Active Support Unit Cream Tea	River Lee
10	District First Aid Course	
17	County Active Support Unit event	Tolmers
18	Letchworth Garden City Rotary Walk	
18	District Scout Archery & Shooting Competition	Wymondley Wood

JUNE

7	Active Support Unit General Meeting Annual plus games afternoon, quiz and Fish and Chips dinner - Guide HQ	
12	District Beavers Bangers and Bash	Wymondley Wood

JULY

12	County Beaver Day	Tolmers
13	District Cub Bell Boating	

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**First Baldock Beaver Scouts on a
First Capital Connect train**