



Co-ordinator

25 Degrees South - The Actual Real Africa

Inside this issue:

On 6 August, 40 Explorers, Network and Leaders from Hertfordshire and Suffolk flew to Johannesburg in South Africa for the start of our adventure. We were given a warm welcome at the airport by Scouts from Swaziland.

We spent our first night at Gilwell in Johannesburg before travelling in a convoy of minibuses to Mafeking, well known in Scouting as the area where Baden Powell fought during the Boer War.

We camped here for three nights with over 100 Scouts and Cubs from SA, Swazi, Lesotho and UK. We promoted Scouting to the local community during an Open Day, dug a vegetable garden at a school, toured the local sites and watched a university football match. All activities entailed singing and dancing along with lots of laughter. Even if we stopped for petrol there was time to dance round the minibus and take photos.

Our next camp was at Pilanesburg game reserve. We saw so many animals in their natural environment and enjoyed a wonderful guided evening safari. There were lions, buffalo, rhino, giraffe, hippos, springboks and many birds.

The following day we made the long journey to Swaziland. We stayed near the border at the family home of Go Go Khoza. This was the Grandmother's homestead of one of the Swazi Scout leaders. It was a beautiful place to stay in the middle of sugar cane fields with fantastic views and sun sets and no one worried about the 1 tap and 1 loo between 70 of us.

Children at the local school entertained us with traditional songs and dance and they enjoyed our action songs and gifts of shoes and stationary. Our project here was to clear and fence an area of land that had been given by the local elders to the community. Our camp showers were delightful after a hard days work even though they were just a bag of water left in the sun.

On Sunday we went to church and sang 'Oh Happy Day' to the congregation. There was a rock style band and we listened to a very passionate service. Afterwards we went across the road and played a football game against people from the local area, some wearing the football boots or trainers that we had given them.

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After four nights we said our Goodbyes to the Khoza family and moved onto a Scout camp site called Thirst for Life near Manzini. Here we visited a school and boys home run by a charity and where another Swazi leader worked. We took gifts of shoes and clothes as well as small toys. They showed us the vegetable garden which they had been working very hard on.

At TfL there were many Scouts from Swaziland on a national camp. We all worked together on fencing and building projects and had an amazing campfire. It was very hot in this beautiful mountain area, great sunrises and lovely views of the lake.

Next we headed to Lobamba to stay at a cultural village for a night of luxury with dance and drumming displays and swimming in waterfalls. We had a great day white water rafting and abseiling but then it was time to say goodbye to all our Swazi friends who had travelled, lived and worked with us for so long.

Our last two nights were back at Gilwell and our final project was in Soweto painting a nursery school. The work here was very much appreciated and seemed to make such a difference to the adults and children there. We toured the area of Soweto and saw where Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu had lived. Some also had a walking tour around a township and met children and families there. The difference in these areas was clear to see.



On our way to the airport we visited the Apartheid Museum. It was striking and informative and quite difficult to take in at times, especially for weary travellers.

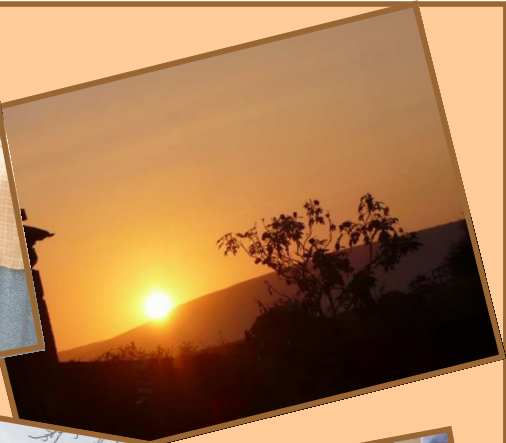
Our expedition to South Africa and Swaziland was fantastic. I was so lucky to go. It was full of fun and friendship, much laughter and a few tears. Scouting values shining brightly.

Clair Calver - AESL

We had a fantastic time in Swaziland and all the donations were distributed to children's homes, primary schools and day centres, many of which were close to the hearts of our fellow Swazi Scouters.

We took 19 extra bags all weighing around 22kg each, full of shoes, books, toiletries, clothes.....

Thank you to everyone who made donations. **Apryl Goodwin - District Secretary**



D C's Camp

The DC's Camp. An adult networking and training weekend held over the weekend of 12 September 2014. Thank you to all who came. We had over 50 people on site on Saturday which all helped to make it a great event. Very worthwhile and one we hope to repeat next year. **Hartley**

Jason Kingwell from Mid Herts District came along to share his experience with Axes and Saws. Pictured here showing Patrick Tyler how to sharpen an axe



Caroline wrote: "An egg cooking in an orange and building a fire from scratch melted marshmallows on a stick melted in the fire yummy All having a brilliant weekend at DC's camp"

Apryl and Simon wrote: "Shattered. But had a fantastic weekend at our first District "DC's Camp". Lots of networking between Leaders, skills shared and learnt. Good food, good company and new friends made. Thank you to everyone. When shall we do it again?"

Saturday evening social. Great camp fire songs from Chris Lewis, Jason Kingwell and Glen Brooks our Regional Development Officer



Tim Jasmine Tea Little & Annie Challis Namgeet Kaur from Hard Graft - Countryside & Urban came along for the weekend to share their skills with us. Pictured here tracking animals with Claire Imber Winchester SL 12th Letchworth — at Wymondley Wood.

District Beaver Scout Sports Day
Saturday 20 September
Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre



Thirty two Beavers from five Colonies braved the drizzle to take part in the District Beaver Sports Day at Wymondley Wood.

The challenges included hurdles, javelin, discus, egg & spoon, 3 legged race, hammer, skipping, sack race and 'chase the scout'.

It was a close contest but in the end 11th Letchworth were worthy winners - Well Done !

Thank you to all the Beavers (and Leaders) who took part and displayed excellent sportsmanship. ,

Liz Taplin ADC (Beavers) and Caroline Northover BSL 11th Letchworth with the winners Jack, Charlie, Daniel, Ewan and Thomas

Liz Taplin ADC (Beavers)



Scout Active Support Unit Calendar

Date: Saturday 11 October

Venue: District Guide HQ,

Event: Beetle Drive

Time: 5.30 pm **Cost:** £5.00



Date: Saturday 15 November

Venue: District Scout HQ, Icknield Way

Event: Tea and a chat plus pay your subscription

Time: 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm



The Christmas Buffet will be held on Saturday 13 December - details to follow.

County Cub Scout Night Hike

Saturday 20 September

8th Letchworth

A great night out for our three teams from 8th Cubs. We started from Hemel Hempstead and after a quick meal we were off. Luckily for us it was dry even though the rest of the county had storms! The Cubs took part in incident bases along the route which included Morse Code, Spacehoppers, First Aid, the Car Game, a french Burger Stop plus loads more. After hiking for eight or so miles we arrived back at the base where we all had hot chocolate and biscuits then crashed out and had a bit of sleep. In the morning there was breakfast and presentations before the parents arrived to pick everyone up. A brilliant night. Well done to all of you!





Chief Scout's Gold Award

William Hall	1st Baldock
Tom Holford	1st Baldock
Maggie Read	4th Letchworth

A warm welcome to



Venetia Bentley	ABSL	12th Letchworth
David Nunnington	ASL	4th Letchworth

Letchworth and Baldock District Christmas Card Competition

Rules:

All entries are made by an invested member of Letchworth and Baldock Scout District
Entries are A5, portrait and flat (so that they can be scanned as artwork).

There are no restrictions on the materials you can use, but felt tip pens are recommended as they will make scanning easier. Fluorescent colours and the use of silver and gold is to be avoided as these colours do not reproduce well whilst printing.
Entries **MUST** be submitted by 2.00 pm on Friday 24 October 2014 to 14 Chatterton,

Letchworth SG6 2JU, late entries will NOT be considered

The Scout Group name and section, the young person's name should be on the reverse of the entry

The judges' decision is final - no correspondence will be entered into.

Entry to the competition grants free reproduction rights to The Scout Association.

**Letchworth &
Baldock District
Scout Council**

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Brecon seen with the Cubs in
Belgium

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2014 Diary Dates 2014

October

- 5 District Cub Day Out - Drayton Manor
- 6 SASU Book Club
- 11 SASU Beetle Drive
- 12 County Cubs' Cyclocross
Well End
- 14 District Team Meeting
- 17 - 19 County Peak Assault
- 18 - 19 JOTA / JOTI - to sign up email
jota@scouts.org.uk or joti@scouts.org.uk
- 23 District Scout & Guide Shop AGM
District Scout Headquarters
- 26 District 100 Poppies
- 27 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 28 Scout and Guide Shop closed for Half Term

November

- 3 SASU Book Club
- 4 Scout and Guide Shop reopens
- 13 District Executive Meeting
- 14 - 16 County Green Beret (Scouts)
Phasels Wood
- 15 SASU - Subs
- 24 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 28 District Cub Quiz

December

- 6 SASU Book Club
- 7 County Winter Wonderland - Phasels Wood

