

# Co-ordinator

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### Rafting at Hertford Castle

Seven of us and two Leaders met in the car park of the stunning Hertford castle. The river ran in front of us, deceptively peaceful. After a quick look around the grounds, we set up our base on a patch of open grass near the brook. However, it quickly became apparent that we had no competitors - apparently they would be coming along later. We had time to kill.

We walked down to the bank where we found some kayakers, who kindly let us use some of their kayaks. The water was calm and forgiving. No one fell in. If we could conquer the river in a tiny and unstable kayak, how hard could it be to take it on board a large raft?

How wrong we were.

Soon the time came to build our rafts. We unloaded our building materials - barrels, thin but sturdy logs and some rope. Unless we were going to build a super raft, the seven of us were going to have to split into two groups. We entered the competition as separate teams; partly because we wanted to compare our naval prowess and partly because we were still the only group there.

We set to work crafting our masterpiece; our frigate; our flagship. Then the competition turned up.

Yes, very late and very prepared was our opposition, dressed in full pirate gear with their own pirate galleon. Their craft was square; it had rectangular containers (instead of round barrels like us), and a flag pole complete with a jolly roger. They had wooden oars. We had poles with tranguia lids strapped onto them. They even had an excited little terrier that perched on the bow.

Still, with hard work we could beat them. As a group we even had the mathematical advantage - a 2 in 3 chance of winning.

On the start line, seconds before the race began, Explorer boat no. 2 suddenly fell into pieces. Many pieces. Nevertheless, the intrepid crew carried on regardless of the waist deep water surrounding them. They grabbed onto anything that was floating around them. Beforehand, they had boasted of their mighty craft as if it was the HMS Victory. Now it was more like the Titanic.

There was only my team and the pirates left. Despite our desperate rowing, the tranguia-poles failed us (not surprisingly) and the pirates quickly gained a lead. We finished soon after them... and Explorer boat no. 2 finished many minutes after us. In the end, we went home with the silver and bronze.

The pirates took the gold. But then they always do.

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**Sam Collins - Oak Eagle Explorer Scout**

**District Beavers  
Bangers and Bash  
Tuesday  
16 June 2015  
Wymondley Wood**

# BEA

All ten Beaver colonies from the District took part in the annual District Beaver Bangers and Bash held at Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre. 1st Ashwell Beavers and Leaders arrived at Wymondley Wood in style. They made the journey from Ashwell to Willian in a luxury coach. In total one hundred and seventy Beavers enjoyed the evening. There were various activities for them to take part in, including face painting, glitter tattoos, football and assault course. During the evening they enjoyed a hot dog, drink and choc ice which was very welcome in warm evening sun. Before going home they had a campfire.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success.



# BEAVERS

## District Beaver Challenge

Saturday

20 June 2015

8th Letchworth HQ

Eight Colonies from across the District met at 8<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Scout HQ to take part in this year's District Beaver Challenge.

There were 6 rounds which included a colour quiz, a Scouting quiz, a general knowledge quiz, a picture round, map symbols & co-ordinates and catcha cups !

It was very close all the way through between three Colonies but in the final round, 1<sup>st</sup> Baldock (Tuesday) were clear winners.

Well Done

1 <sup>st</sup> Baldock Tuesday	43 points
7 <sup>th</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth	39 points
1 <sup>st</sup> Baldock Wednesday	38 points
12 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth	35 points
8 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth	30 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Baldock	29 points
5 <sup>th</sup> Letchworth	28 points



## 1st Baldock Scout Group Camp 12-14 June-Wymondley Wood

Our last scheduled Group Camp was cancelled at the very last minute due to appalling weather and waterlogged campsite. Once again, the good old British weather tried very hard to sabotage this one, but it failed abysmally. We still had fun...and wet feet.

The Scouts and Cubs all arrived on Friday evening, laden down with sleeping tents, mess tents, benches, tables, cooking stuff, sleeping bags, not enough spare socks.... and the kitchen sink. Once all the camps had been assembled, there was a wide game involving raw plugs and a not-very-early night.

On the Saturday, there was a great assortment of activities for the youngsters to enjoy including: climbing, shooting, a spider mountain, a pioneering catapult, cooking dough sticks over an open fire, moving a nuclear bomb, getting wolves, goats and cabbages across a river, making candle holders out of tin cans, and an inflatable assault course. The drizzle decided to join the fun at about 10am, but no one seemed to care. Our two beaver colonies arrived at lunchtime on Saturday, laden down with

sleeping bags, pillows, cuddly toys and not enough spare socks.

The rain finally gave up and went home in the afternoon, leaving a wonderful evening to enjoy a great barbecue cooked by 'Vulture' and his supporting flock. Then there was the good old campfire, with youngsters from each section taking it in turns to lead the rousing singing and lots of children joining in, oblivious to their wet socks.

On Sunday...a lazier morning. The Scouts had the Cubs over for brunch and demonstrated their culinary skills by cooking them pancakes. The Beavers had a nature walk in the woods (and some actually did find a four-leaf clover!) then they had a tour of the Cub and Scout camps to help them know what to expect when they move up.

All in all, a great, fun camp, thoroughly enjoyed by all and a superb example of team work. Thanks to everybody involved in the organisation, planning and execution. Lessons learned: pack plenty of spare socks; rain is wet stuff.





This is what some of the children had to say:

"I liked the spider mountain because you had to climb up first and the slide made my belly flip. I also liked doing the really big rock climbing because it was really high and I got to the top twice on different walls. I liked sharing a room with my friends". **Spencer (Beaver Scout)**

"I loved camp. I had lots of fun! My favourite thing at camp was the spider mountain and I liked the cakes too. I really liked the campfire as well and I knew lots of people there." **Levi (Beaver Scout)**

"I enjoyed sleeping in the bunk beds and the spider climbing activity" **Corey (Beaver Scout)**

"I liked the campfire bit with the moose song and the obstacle course, but I liked the climbing wall best. It loved it." **Abigail (Beaver Scout)**

"The Beaver sleepover was great because there was a spider wall and it was epic because it is hard to climb but I climbed up it 16 times. I also loved sleeping in bunk beds because I got a top bunk!" **Barney (Beaver Scout)**

### Camp Review

Friday 12 June First Baldock Cubs and Scouts met up at the Scout HQ to help load the equipment onto a van and take it to camp. We then made our way to Wymondley Wood. Once we arrived Scouts had to put up their tents. Then everyone had some hotdogs and we proceeded to play a wide game where the Cubs and Scouts played together.

On Saturday morning we made our own breakfast - bacon eggs, beans, sausages and toast. We were then sorted into nine difference groups and joined the Cubs. We found out we were doing lots of difference activities. The Scouts favourite were Spider Mountain, climbing and craft, but all the activities were fun. They included cooking bread on the fire, inflatables, challenge, bouldering. There was also rifles and pioneering. The pioneering was very hard for some of the Cubs and especially the First Baldock Beavers when they joined us. The Beavers also found the rifles very heavy and hard to shoot.



Saturday night we had a barbecue with the Cubs and Beavers. We then had a campfire where we sang many songs including campfire burning, Chessington zoo, penguin race and Kumbaya. We then went back to our separate camps to settle in for the night.

On Sunday we made pancakes for ourselves and the for the Cubs. We then started to pack everything up. Half way through the packing we had flag break with the Cubs and Beavers. There were a lot of us. We then finished packing up and went home for some much needed sleep.

**Maisie Tomlinson - Falcon Patrol  
1st Baldock Scout**

I always look forward to reading the section reports from Group AGMs. They give a very good overview of the activities the Scouts have enjoyed during the year, badges earned as well as money raised for charitable organisations. I do try to visit every Group AGM, but this year I have not been very successful. However, from the AGMs I have attended I can see that as a District we have been very busy and have given young people the opportunity to have nights away, hiking, cooking, adventurous activities and to help them gain their Chief Scout Award.

Groups have donated money to WaterAid, Cancer Research, GuideDogs, Heathlands Animal Trust @ Royston, Red Nose Day, and taken part in the Rotary Greenway walk

where 25% of the sponsorship money goes to charitable causes with the rest staying with the Group.

Groups have also helped in the local community by doing litter picks, cutting down tress, cutting back overgrown areas, and hedge laying in Weston Woods and Ivel Springs. They have helped sell poppies, visited various Homes and entertained the residents with songs, carols and music,

All sections during the summer months have taken the opportunity to hold their meetings outdoors with Wymondley Wood being extremely busy during the warm sunny evenings.

**Editor**



**4th Letchworth Beavers taking part in the Letchworth Festival Parade  
Saturday 13 June 2015.**

**/activesupport**

The District Scout Active Support Unit held its General Meeting Annually on Saturday 6 June at the Guide HQ on Ickniel Way. With the formalities over it was time to help Anne Lilley and Peter Elmer celebrate their 80th Birthday. In good old fashioned tradition the ASU members played musical chairs and pass the parcel.

The afternoon was finished off with tea and cake and a Birthday Cake for Anne and Peter to blow out the candles. The next social event will be a picnic on Sunday 19 July 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm at Wymondley Wood. Bring your own picnic and the ASU will supply the refreshments. Please let Sheila Tickner know if you are coming along.

Sunday 9 August 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm the ASU Cream Tea at the Guide HQ, Ickniel Way, Letchworth. Cost £5.00 per person. Please let Sheila know if you are coming.



# Achievements



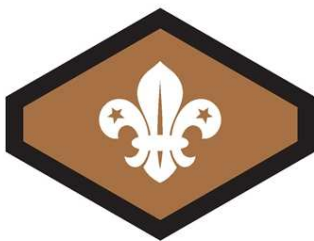
## Chief Scout's Gold Award

Mae Reader	8th Letchworth
Tristan Rodway	8th Letchworth



## Chief Scout's Silver Award

Josiah Coates	11th Letchworth
Matthew Wiseman	11th Letchworth



## Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Sam Barlow	7th Letchworth
Daniel French	7th Letchworth
Luke Kendell	7th Letchworth
Samuel Straughan	7th Letchworth

## New addition to the District equipment



The District has purchased two pairs of walkie talkies (radios) to complement the three the District already have available.

The radios are held at the District Headquarters and can be borrowed for any Scouting event. The point of contact to book the radio is either Apryl Goodwin (District Secretary) or Clair Calver (Assistant Explorer Scout Leader).

Contact details can be found in the District Directory

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**Congratulations** - Young at heart Mick and Deb Dilley, GSL 2nd Baldock have become great grand parents. Their great grand daughter, Alexis Jane, was born on Thursday 25 June 2015 at 10.23 pm weighing in at 7lbs 3oz.

After some serious thinking about what they should be called Deb would like to be known as Gran as she is Nan to her grandchildren and Mick will be called Gramps.



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## **2015 Diary Dates 2015**

### **July**

3 - 5	District Walking Weekend	Derbyshire
3 - 4	County Beavers in Tents	Well End
4 - 5	County Beavers in Tents	Well End
10	Explorer Scout Fund Raising Quiz	
12	District Cub Bell Boating Competition	
16	Scout & Guide Shop Closes	
19	ASU Picnic	Wymondley Wood
27	Wymondley Wood Meeting	
30 - 1 Aug	District Cubs International Trip	

### **August**

5	23rd Scout World Jamboree	Japan
9	ASU Cream Tea	Guide HQ
23	Young Leader Training - Module A	

### **September**

6	Young Leader Training - Module G	
8	Scout & Guide Shop reopens	
9	District Beaver Orienteering - Fairlands Park	
17	Young Leader Training - Module H	
25 - 27	DC Camp - Wymondley Wood	
27	District Beavers Day Out - Paradise Wildlife Park	
28	Wymondley Wood Meeting	

