

Co-ordinator

Cub Scouts International Expedition to Antwerp

The group photo is inside the hostel where we stayed. They have a jungle book wall which has been painted beautifully. The Leaders also had a photo next to our jungle book character.



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Five Cubs from Letchworth and Baldock attended the International Trip to Antwerp, Belgium this

summer. This year the trip was extended so we were there 2 nights. This gave us more time to look around the city and recover from travelling. The Cubs enjoyed taking the Eurostar through France to Brussels where we changed to a local train to get to Antwerp. After travelling the Cubs settled into the Scoutel Hostel we were staying in and got ready for dinner. After dinner the Cubs got the chance to have some ice cream before we went to a local park where they let off some steam on the play equipment and met some of the local children.

The second day we had a tour of the city by foot seeing the Cathedral and walking down to the river. A tunnel has been built so you can walk under the river to the other side. We took a local tram back to the city centre and the Cubs had a chance to do some souvenir shopping. On the way back to the hostel we stopped at a chocolate factory where we saw them making the chocolate and the Cubs had a chance to buy and taste some. We did not want to leave. In the evening we went out for dinner to the same place and the Cubs took part in an organised quiz around the local statue park.

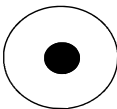
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The third day we visited Antwerp Zoo. We split off into smaller groups so we could attempt to see everything. The zoo has lots of different animals to see, an aquarium and a reptile house. The Cubs really enjoyed seeing all the animals. The weather held up so we had a chance to have an ice cream. Mid afternoon we had to pop back to the hostel to collect our bags ready to go to the train. We stopped in Brussels for dinner on the way back before getting the Eurostar.

The Cubs were very tired after a long three days away. However, it was a fantastic jam packed trip and they wanted to stay longer.

Hayley Palmer
CSL - 11th Letchworth

Lesley Margaret Farmer
31 October 1950 - 13 September 2015



I met Lesley at the Hitchin District Swimming Gala in the early 1980s where she was helping Hanna Moules with the 8th Hitchin (then "Westmill"). She used me to lift herself up to shout encouragement to one of the Cubs. Things began for us from there.

It was in the mid-1980s she volunteered to take over as Akela at the 4th Letchworth (Cavillers or was it the Musketeers?)

Then following a time away from Scouting both Lesley and I joined the 5th Letchworth Scout Group and eventually became members of the Scout Fellowship and subsequently the Aged Support Unit (as she liked to call it).

She was interested in helping at the reformed 8th Hitchin (now "Oughton") but alas ill health prevented her from getting involved.

She was a veteran of Lochearnhead having served three tours of duty.



Nick Farmer - ASU Member

We have said goodbye to Lesley who has been a strong member of the ASU/Fellowship for many years. She has worked hard on our behalf with the dinners and events bringing her artistic talent brightening our tables.

Lesley last came to see us in June for the birthday party, even though she was poorly it was good to see her. Lesley has fought Cancer for the last 2 years. Unfortunately it was not a battle she could win. So goodbye Lesley you have left a space that cannot be filled.

Hwyl fawr

Sheila Tickner -Scout Active Support Unit

8th Letchworth Beavers



To celebrate 30 years of Beavers, the 8th Letchworth Beavers have joined in a postcard swap with other Colonies around the county, including one on the Isle of Wight and one in Australia.

The idea is to swap postcards and friendship details with 30 other Colonies. So far they have received some from

Northumberland, the New Forest and Chatsworth.

They were very excited when they wrote and posted their own postcards.



I took part in the Shine Night Walk half marathon round London on Saturday 16 September for cancer research. For two reasons:- shining for mum with her being in full remission and in memory of Simon Tierney with the blessing of the family. I completed route in under 6 hours and raised around £700 for Cancer Research.

Chris Lewis
ASL - 1st Baldock



Correction to October's edition No 628 front page.
Apologies to Daniel Barnicott for incorrectly spelling his surname.

Oak Eagle Explorers go to Kandersteg International Scout Station

In the August holidays 8 Explorers, 4 Leaders and a Scout went on an action packed expedition to Switzerland to the Kandersteg International Scout Station. I was excited about this trip and a bit apprehensive - excited about all the new experiences I was going to try and apprehensive about the flight out as this was my first trip on an aeroplane!

On Saturday 15 August we all converged on Luton airport with our mountaineering, climbing and swimming gear ready for an adventure. We flew to an ultra-modern Zurich airport, which seemed like the star ship Enterprise, and then boarded a train to Kandersteg. The train ride took us from the flat lowlands of northern Switzerland up into the epic high Alps. This took longer than the flight and was an amazing journey. On arrival we walked through the town of Kandersteg following the helpful blue signs and arrived at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) tired, very excited and full of anticipation for the week to come. The staff at KISC were great and we were all soon squared away with a good meal and a comfy bed.



On our first day we hired mountain bikes from the local town and explored the hills and trails around Kandersteg. We all tackled the gruelling slopes with lots of vigour, often passing massive drops on the high pathways just for that minute or so of an adrenaline high! We found coming down however, that our brakes were smoking!

Day two was white water rafting which was a challenging yet rewarding experience.



The next two days were spent away from KISC on a mountaineering trip over the Lotschenpass Glacier and on up to Lotschenpasshutte for a night's stay and then an early rise to hike up the Hockenhorn. However, Mother Nature decided it was winter and we ended up in a snow blizzard going as low as -15°C! So we decided to make it to the 10,000 foot marker and have a good game of Frisbee, laughing at our Swedish Leader Albin who decided he was too hot and wore shorts! After hiking back down the now ice covered mountain, we were more than happy to stop

off at the Lotschenpasshutte for a steaming and exclusive bowl of tea. We continued down the mountain finding ourselves on Mars for the last stretch above the cloud line until we got to the lush alpine grasslands.



On the penultimate day and the day after our mountaineering trip we caught the train through the mountain to Brig where we had a look around and then visited the Thermal swimming pool and baths. We spent the day lounging about in the sun having a great time and jumping off the boulder that had been placed instead of a diving board. We then visited the picturesque town of Brig, where we enjoyed walking around the old Swiss town licking Italian gelatos.



On that night we all went to the international campfire where we sang songs and saw what all the countries had to offer. Our presentation involved some very comic looking penguins!



Our time spent at KISC was inspirational and went by in the blink of an eye, but was totally worth it. I look forward to having the opportunity to go back there as a staff member.

Simon Kitching
Oak Eagle Explorer Scout



Our last day was spent in the hot Swiss Alpine gorges of Kandersteg where we had a tremendous time, challenging ourselves on the various rocks and boulders. We climbed a few individual routes, one of which was called "The Chimney", where you would have to shimmy up between two rock faces. The Oak Eagles record time was set as 1 minute 28 seconds by Ben Milligan, the best time being 1:08.



Whilst at the Scout station we met and befriended many people from all around the world, Netherlands, Australia, Sweden and goodness knows where else.. One friend whom we spent a lot of time with was Stefan, a Dutch Scout Leader who wore his orange and blue clogs everywhere.



District Day Out - Beavers

County Beaver Fun Day at Paradise Wildlife Park

This year we chose to go as a District to the County Beaver Fun Day at Paradise Wildlife Park near Broxbourne.

58 Beavers, 4 Young Leaders, 3 parents and 17 Leaders travelled on 2 coaches.

Once there, everyone was given a goody bag with a map of the park, a pencil, a woodland trail sheet and a 'find the letter' prize draw competition sheet.

Scattered about the Park were 6 letters. The Beavers had to find them, write them down and also what enclosure they were next to.

One of the Beavers from 8th Letchworth, Ryan E, won the prize draw, a family ticket to the zoo - well done !

There were keeper talks, feeding and shows throughout the day.

Some of the Beavers attended the bug show and 2 of them got to hold a millipede each.

There were also special talks that counted towards the conservation and animal friend badges.

The sun shone all day so we were very lucky.

It was a lovely day out and is highly recommended to those who have never been before.

Dragonfly
Liz Taplin
ADC Beavers

I had a great day at Paradise Wildlife Park.
I loved holding the millipede the best and I really enjoyed the bird show. My favourite animal was the lion and he roared really loudly.
I liked going into the shop and I bought a note book and a pen.
Thank you for my day out.

Alfie P

On Saturday we met the meerkats and they were standing nice and tall.

We got to go in a tunnel to look at the meerkats. It was really fun when we came out of the tunnel because it was a slide.

The white tiger was amazing. It was really beautiful. I have never seen such a tiger.

We also saw lions. The dad was roaring and standing proud. It was far away from the females.

The anacondas were really big. There were two of them. They were in water.

I saw a crocodile....he winked at me!!!!

Harry

I really liked going to Paradise Wildlife Park with my friends from Beavers. My favourite part was seeing the anacondas. Dragonfly was scared but I wasn't.

The snow leopard looked like he wanted to get into his new bedroom as it was being built. I really liked seeing the crocodile, he was under a light, it was keeping him warm.

I'd really like to go and visit there again soon.

Noah

I loved the cute monkeys, I loved the baby monkeys the most.
I enjoyed the red pandas because I have never seen them before.

The meerkat was sitting under the light and its eyes were glowing.

I was a bit scared of the big lion when it did a big roar.

Ella

I had a lovely time at Paradise Wildlife Park. The best bit was the bird show. The eagle running into the tunnel was very funny because he was like a penguin.
I also loved the gift shop.

Jessica

Achievements



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Becca Hall	1st Baldock
Matthew Haskins	1st Baldock
Bethany Sell	1st Baldock



Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Lewis Ryall	Oak Eagle ESU
Shaun Warren	Oak Eagle ESU

1st Baldock Cubs - Templars Pack Holiday Weekend - Tolmers

Templars Cubs from 1st Baldock went to Tolmers for a weekend pack holiday. The fun started Friday evening when they took part in Water Wars "it was the best" said Mia. Saturday the Cubs did the tunnels and Scarlet G said "we went in some colourful tunnels. It was pitch black in them, its good we had a torch!" Then they went climbing which Sam thought



was "epic." The favourite activity was the rafting on Saturday afternoon, summed up by Scarlett N "it was amazing, Cubs is amazing."

**Letchworth &
Baldock District
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Members of the Active Support Unit (ASU) had a very pleasant visit to the Swiss Gardens at Shuttleworth,. The guide was very informative and the gardens had been re done and were easy to navigate round. Afterwards we sat on the terrace with teas and coffee and watched the planes.



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2015 Diary Dates 2015

October

- 3 - 11 National Scout Community Week
- 5 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 6 Book Club - ASU
- 16 JOTA / JOTI
- 17 Active Support Unit trip - Bletchley Park
- 20 12th Letchworth Scout Group 34th Anniversary
- 22 Scout & Guide Shop AGM
- 26 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 27 Scout & Guide Shop closed
- 29 Scout & Guide Shop closed

November

- 1 District Cub Day Out
- 2 Book Club - ASU
- 3 Scout & Guide Shop reopens
- 7 District Arts & Craft Finals Day
- 8 Remembrance Sunday
- 12 District Executive Meeting
- 29 8th Letchworth Christmas Fayre
- 30 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting

December

- 5 ASU Christmas Dinner
- 15 Scout & Guide Shop closes for holiday

January 2016

- 12 Scout & Guide Shop reopens

