

# Co-ordinator

## Traversing Wall at Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre

### Inside this issue

We are very fortunate to have received funding from our District Executive, the Letchworth Round Table, our commercial partner Willmott Dixon Ltd and three of our local councillors to provide us with a new traversing wall at our local campsite and activity centre. The wall was expertly installed by Climbing Wall Solutions of Bristol.

Hartley, our District Commissioner said; "Thank you to all involved. This just goes to show what can be achieved with a bit of joined up and cooperative working. I'm sure that the many hundreds of visitors each year to our facility will appreciate and enjoy the challenge and fun that the new wall will provide."



**Why not come to the Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre AGM on Wednesday 27 April 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm and see the Zig Zag traversing wall for yourself. You will be guaranteed a warm welcome.**

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# Letchworth & Baldock District Census Figures - 2016

GROUP	Beavers		Cubs		Scouts		Explorers		Leaders		Assistants		Others		Group Totals	Census 2015	Census 2014	Census 2013	Census 2012	Census 2011	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F							
1st Ashwell	21	4	27	6	21	10	6	4	6	4	0	2	1	1	103	94	92	102	104	97	
1st Baldock	40	8	51	11	22	11	9	11	4	4	0	3			163	153	136	139	136	138	
2nd Baldock	7	0	17	2	18	3	4	4	4	4	0	3			58	56	61	59	63	59	
4th Letchworth	22	8	23	2	9	6	4	2	4	2	1	0			77	73	70	76	64	79	
5th Letchworth	12	6	13	2	18	3	8	8	8	8	0	1	1	0	72	70	68	65	79	57	
7th Letchworth	23	2	20	4	13	8	1	2	9	10	3	2			78	81	88	93	90	79	
8th Letchworth	22	6	25	9	11	14	22	6	9	10					106	98	98	100	96	89	
11th Letchworth	9	4	8	5	15	3	3	6	3	6	0	3	4	4	53	55	52	41	40	46	
12th Letchworth	14	7	13	10	21	4	4	4	4	4	0	3			84	73	75	80	78	64	
Oak Eagle Explorers Network							40	14	3	2	1	0	4	0	4	60	65	70	79	67	54
																11	11	8	12	8	
TOTALS	170	45	197	51	148	62	40	14	51	53	5	11	6	5	858	829	821	842	829	770	
Active Support District Personnel													16	15	31	29	34	33	34	36	
													9	5	14	14	14	12	13	14	
															903	872	869	887	876	820	
															Grand Total						



Letchworth Rugby Club have kindly donated 3 sets of rugby shirts to the African Luhambo expedition.

I hope the shirts will go to a school and to a local team and perhaps a boys home too.

Big thanks to Chris Lunnon, Danny Ryall and Letchworth RUFC for their support.

## activesupport

On Wednesday the 16 March Michael and Margaret Durrant spent the evening with the 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Cubs. They were working for their Local Knowledge Badge. They were interested to know what the Wilbury area was like when we were children there. They had a talk from a person from the friends of Norton Common so are learning about different areas.

The Cubs were very well behaved and listened intently and were very surprised to learn that there were very few vehicles around then and everyone used bicycles to get to work and the children had to walk to school. Deliveries of milk and bread were made sometimes by a horse drawn cart and that we could play out in the street without having to worry about the traffic.

We had researched the meaning of the Wilbury and we all laughed when we found out that it means a Gremlin, a mysterious mythical creature. They asked lots of questions and hopefully they were able to provide the answers they needed to obtain their badges.

In all it was a pleasant evening and the Cubs were a credit to their Akela.

We went to Cambridge Gliding Club for an enjoyable day of gliding related activities and a 20 minute flight in a motorised glider.

After a safety briefing and a few short quizzes we were sent over to the run way in a small group to have our flight with instructor Stuart. We took off and flew around as the instructor told us what to do, before he gave us control. After a while he turned the engine off which was strange but calm. Soon enough we landed and watched a few other gliders take off and land.

We made some glider models to fly, cleaned the Hertfordshire Scout glider and returned home in the minibus.

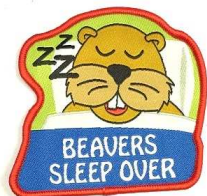
We all gained our stage 3 Air Activities badge and enjoyed our day very much.

**By the Biggles and the Jolly Red Baron**









## 1st Baldock Tuesday & Wednesday Beaver Scout Sleepover

### Roll Up! Roll Up! Roll Up!

It was circus time again! Well, for the Beavers from both colonies at First Baldock it was anyway. Our camp theme this year was...Circus. With the hall at Wymondley Wood magically transformed into a Big Top, thanks to Woodpecker's artistic talents the very excited beavers arrived on the Friday evening.

After the usual palaver of unpacking, safety briefings etc, the would-be clowns set to work making and decorating themselves a pair of stilts out of tin cans and string. A circus-style dinner of burgers and doughnuts with LOTS of sticky chocolate sauce was hotly followed by a stilts disco! I am still amazed we had no mishaps. Then what better way to calm Beavers down before bedtime, than by taking them for a Gruffalo hunt in the deep, dark woods?

After a good night's sleep (well, it was for the beavers), we were all ready to continue the fun the next morning. The transformation into clowns was achieved by decorating hats, making wiggly bow ties, squirty flowers and clown face painting. Unfortunately us leaders, although multi-skilled in many ways, lack plate-spinning-three ball juggling-feather-balancing skills. So, we delegated that to 'Shooting Stars Circus Skills' and enjoyed a cup of tea whilst the beavers had great fun spinning plates, juggling balls and batons, twirling scarves, balancing feathers and generally having a whale of a time.

A final check under the beds to round up dirty socks, and it was time to go home. We'd like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who came and helped out over the camp. This is what two of the Beavers had to say about it:

"I loved the Beaver circus sleepover it was awesome, because I loved going onto the stage and learning how to spin hoops on my wrist and I really loved being with all my friends. Thank you"

**Lucas Robinson**

"I loved camp. I especially liked playing in the woods at night time which was really good fun."

**William Goodall**





Coming down from the exhilaration of show nights and coming back to a "normal" life I can now write this without prejudice.

2015's Gang Show was always going to be a hard act to follow with all the excitement of it being the 50<sup>th</sup> show. 2016's Gang Show, therefore, had a considerable amount of thought put in at the organisational stages and it is my belief that because of this every thing just seemed to run so smoothly. However this was not the only factor to this year's show. We had an experienced "Invisible Gang" that just adapted to everything that was happening around them. We had new members of the team who were quick to learn and not afraid to bring new ideas to the table. We had parents who tried everything to ensure their charges were at rehearsals. We had understanding leaders who allowed us a bit of leniency when using halls.

But mainly we had an unusually receptive cast. Songs that required different parts being sung by different groups AT THE SAME TIME. Songs that even the production crew hadn't heard before. Songs with key changes in them. Movement that required hitting marks on stage to get the desired effect. Dance moves to represent the "Four Seasons"

The words "Best show ever" are often banded about after a show – especially the first night – but to have so many of the Invisible Gang use the word "awesome" has never been heard of before.

There is a team that puts the Gang show together and to be honest every one of them deserves a mention, but I'm thinking of the planet and trying to save paper and hence making sure I miss no one.

Somehow the words Thank You seem to be insufficient for what each and every one of you deserve but unfortunately it is all the English language can give us.



Phil Ross

So from the tea maker to who ever the top person is a massive thank you for making Gang Show 2016 the success that it was

Congratulations to this year's first medal winner. A lady who makes the preparation week go so much smoother and always has time for our ideas – good or bad. Georgina Ekers – St. Francis Theatre technician.

Enjoy the summer and watch out for Gang Show 2017 promotional visits



Comments received

**Amanda Woolmer.** Brilliant show well done to everyone. My favourite bit, the synchronised swimming. Just brilliant.

**Dave Fabris.** Kids done good, looking really good from the flies, heard every word for once!

**Tracey Dobinson** (Sawbridgeworth). It's so much fun, and lovely to see all the young ones have so much fun.

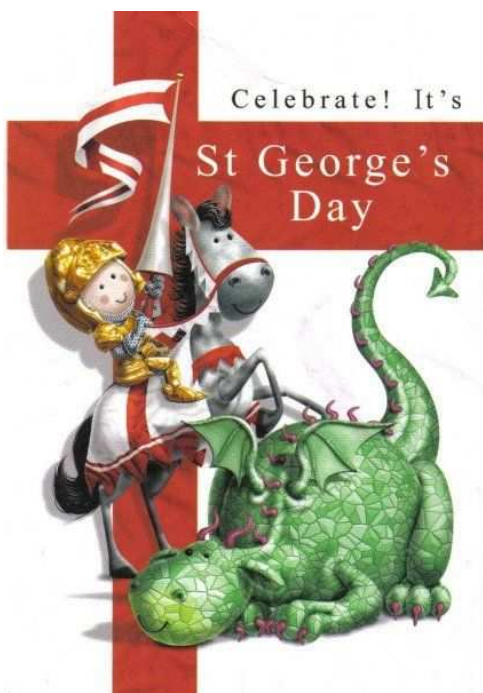
**Dave Strong.** Just been to see Gang Show 2016. Lovely evening, great show, congratulations to all involved.

**Russell Wake.** Well done all involved. You put on an awesome show and the kids have fun.

**Liz Walker (HertsCC)** tweeted. Fun evening with lbdgangshow, great job guys and thanks for the scarf and welcome.

**Ross Bellamy** (parent). Ahead of the live shows, I just wanted to pass on a big thank you to all of the leaders and adult helpers that have made this opportunity possible.

**Cheryl Lewis** (parent). A huge thank you to you guys for giving up your time to give this experience to our children – am looking forward to seeing their performance xx



## St George's Day Parade and Service

**Sunday 24 April 2016**

**Meeting at Howard Park Letchworth**

**2.00 pm - 2.15 pm**

**Parade to march up Station Road, turning left up the middle of the Broadway then onto Broadway Gardens**

### Hymns

**The whole world in his hands**

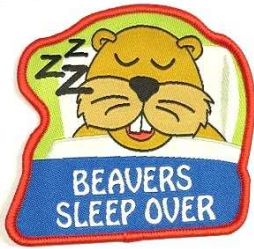
**When a Knight won his Spurs**

**This is the day**

**All things Bright and Beautiful**

**Dismissal Broadway Gardens approximately 3.45 pm**

**Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served in St Hugh's Church Hall after the service.**



## 8th Letchworth and 5th Letchworth Beaver Scout Sleepover

The Beaver sleepover was really good because we made bottle rockets.

We had to see how far they went.

The camp fire was really excellent and the hot chocolate was super nice.

I liked being with my friends.

By James

This was my 2nd sleepover.

I really enjoyed making and blasting the rockets off.

I had fun with my friends.

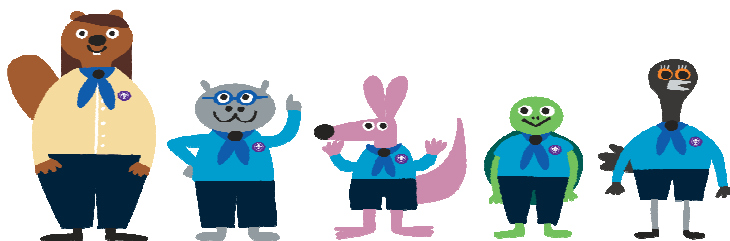
By Chloe



**Bottle rockets at  
the ready**







At the 8th Letchworth AGM this is what the Cubs and Beavers had to say about their sections.



<b>B</b> rilliant badges	<b>B</b> eavers is always fun
<b>E</b> xcellent games	<b>E</b> veryone loves it
<b>A</b> ll work together	<b>A</b> t Beavers we love it
<b>V</b> ery helpful	<b>V</b> ery fun
<b>E</b> veryone is friendly	<b>E</b> veryone thinks it's awesome
<b>R</b> eally fun	<b>R</b> eady to be happy
<b>S</b> upper teamwork	<b>S</b> o great so fabulous
<b>Oscar R</b>	<b>Megan</b>

### My year in Cubs



'I camp, have fun and learn new things.'

My year in Cubs has been excellent. I have been to many camps and done lots of activities. My favourite camps were Ferny Croft and Tolmers. I was a bit scared before going but the Leaders were kind and I soon began to have lots of fun.

At Ferny Croft we went to the beach and had a day at Monkey World. We picked two monkeys to sponsor and I saw them there. There was a big climbing frame and we all had fun. At the beach we swam in the sea and played on the sand and then had fish and chips. Other activities at the camp included crate stacking a, a zip wire, assault course, climbing wall and games around the camp.

At Tolmers we had Water Wars and did lots of other cool stuff including a bouncy castle assault course.

We went on a day out to the Science & Dinosaur museums which was great fun, even getting electrocuted was fun.

Every year we go on the County Cub Night Hike which includes cool tasks and lots of fun in the dark. My dad had come along

on the last two as a Cub helper and he really enjoyed it too.

As Cubs we like to help others and I have done bag packing to help local charities and the Greenway walk, which I have completed two times. Recently we helped out clearing areas of Norton Common which was hard work but good fun.

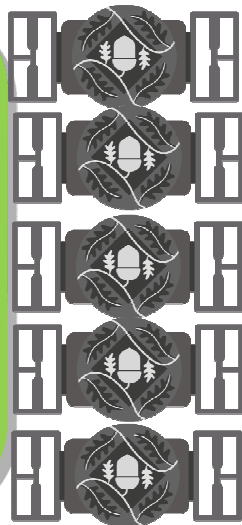
**Callum Lawrence**



**Helen Inman being presented with her Queen's Scout Award by Sheena Burrus, County Queen's Scout Award Co-Ordinator on Monday 7 March 2016 at the District Headquarters.**

## Young Leader Belt

**Five Young Leader Belts have been awarded last month. Two at the 8th Letchworth Annual General Meeting to Jay Lamb and Rachel Warren and three at an Explorer's meeting to Hannah Proctor, George Muge and Christian Allen**



# Achievements



## Chief Scout's Silver Award

James Robertson 5th Letchworth



## Chief Scout's Gold Award

Bryony Fleming 1st Ashwell  
James Smith 1st Ashwell



## Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Francesca Stocker 8th Letchworth

## A warm welcome to



**Wayne Carter**  
**Nichola Etienne**  
**Maria Procter**

**1st Ashwell** **ACSL**  
**7th Letchworth** **ABSL**  
**2nd Baldock** **ABSL**

## Young Leader Training Modules - 2016

Date	Module	Module Title	Location	Times
21 April	D	Kids behaving badly	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs
19 May	E	Game on	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs
16 June	A	Prepare for take off	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs
21 July	F	Making Scouts accessible	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs
22 September	G	Programme plans	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs
20 October	H	Programme plans plus	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs
17 November	I	What did they say / Awards and Badges	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs
15 December		Catch up / Sign off session	DHQ, Icknield Way	1900hrs - 2100hrs

# **Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Council**

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## **READY SET RECYCLE**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in Herts are invited to take part in a challenge aimed at boosting the recycling rate. The Scout Association has teamed up with RECYCLE NOW for the scheme where groups compete with others across the country to recycle the most. For more visit [www.scouts.org.uk/recyclenow](http://www.scouts.org.uk/recyclenow)

## **2016 Diary Dates 2016**

### **April**

- 1 Queen's Scout Award Dinner Gilwell
- 16 - 17 District Sixers and Seconders weekend
- 17 ASU - Dog Racing at Henlow
- 19 Scout & Guide Shop Opens
- 21 District Scout & Guide Shop Meeting
- 21 YL Training Module 'D' Kids behaving badly
- 24 St George's Day Parade and Service Broadway Gardens
- 27 Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre AGM
- 28 District Beaver Leaders' Meeting
- 29 - 2 May PACE (Scouts) Tolmers

### **May**

- 3 District Beaver Orienteering Evening
- 7 District Beaver Challenge
- 7 ASU - Cream Tea Cruise
- 8 Scout Archery & Shooting Competition
- 10 Module 10 - 1st Response
- 10 4th Letchworth AGM at Wymondley Wood
- 10 5th Letchworth AGM
- 12 District Scout Council AGM
- 19 YL Training Module 'E' Game on
- 22 Rotary Greenway Sponsored Walk
- 23 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 28 - 2 June CubJam—Gilwell

### **June**

- 11 Scout Kon-Tiki Raft Races TBC
- 16 YL Training Module 'A' Prepare for take off
- 24 - 26 Peak Practise - Orchard Farm
- 25 County Beavers In Tents - Well End
- 26 County Beavers In Tents - Well End

### **July**

- 1 - 3 County Cub Centenary Camp

### **September**

- 24 County Cub Night Hike



**LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK**  
**DISTRICT SCOUTS**

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