

Co-ordinator

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Southern Africa Expedition - Africa Luhambo

In September 2015, I joined Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit, by mid August 2016, I had been to Africa and back, with Explorer Scouts .

On the 27th of July, 40 of us Explorer Scouts and Leaders left Heathrow airport and sat on a plane for 10 hours before arriving at Johannesburg airport. We were all excited to be spending three weeks in such an interesting place.

First, we met the Swaziland scouts at the airport, we would be staying and living with them for almost 2 weeks. The Swazi scouts were older than Uk scouts with ages ranging from 20 to mid 30's. Even though this was quite a big age gap, we all got on really well and became good friends with all of them.

After waiting for our minibuses to arrive, we travelled to where we would be spending our first night in South Africa, at a scout centre called Gilwell. Everyone was really excited and we probably didn't get enough sleep as we should have done to prepare us for the next two and a half weeks. The first few days of our trip consisted of a lot of travelling and a lot of sleeping but my favourite part of those days was going on safari in Kruger. We drove around the park all day saw animals including, Monkeys, Giraffes, Buffalo, Zebras, Elephants, Springbok, Antelope, Crocodiles, Hippos and Lions, which was amazing, especially as they were in the wild, rather than in captivity.

We then spent a week at a place called Gogo Khoza's which means Grandma Khoza's as we were staying in the garden on the Khoza family. While we were there, we spent time with the children that lived there and worked on the project which was, clearing the site of unwanted plants and weeds and putting in the foundations to be able to start building the community centre. It will be continued to be built while we are away and should be finished by 2018.

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By the end of our time at the project, the foundations had been put in and the walls had been started. We also met up with the children from Malibeni High School and were able to watch them perform some traditional songs and dances which was really interesting and I really enjoyed seeing the differences in songs and dances between UK and Swaziland.

When we left Gogo Khoza's, we travelled to a backpackers lodge where we stayed for one night. The next day we had to get up early as we were going white water rafting and abseiling. This was one of my favorite activities of the trip. I had done rafting before but it was slightly more exhilarating knowing that there were crocodiles in the same water as us. We also had the opportunity to swim in the water, it was freezing cold but really fun. The current

was so strong that you had to be careful not to drift off too far without realising.

These are just some of the experiences I had on this trip but I will remember them all for a long time. Although parts of the trip were quite difficult, it was definitely worth it, and it was really interesting and eye opening to see how people less privileged than us live and how kind and welcoming they are to new people. I met some really nice, amazing people who I would hope to go back and visit. This is certainly something I would recommend to other people to get involved with.

Ruby Doherty
Oak Eagle Explorer Scout



Visiting at the children's soup kitchen, cooking chicken, rice and beans for the children of the community



Bheki Khoza project manager his dream becoming reality, be proud of yourself"

Great meeting with the community Elders yesterday, they are very happy with progress on the project and more so with the partnership between Hertfordshire Scouts and the community of Malebeni"



Yesterday's football match with the community team!!





Arrived on Friday and we played games then we got shown to our tents, we had a hot dog before bed.

Saturday morning we had breakfast which we had to be very quick because we had to go to our first zone which was earth. We got to chose from rope a phobia, quad bike and a zip line. I chose rope a phobia.

We went to a different part of earth where we could do abseiling or laser tag. Most of the girls went abseiling but me and one other went to do laser tag.



Then we went to the air zone where there was loads of inflatable things. I went on an inflatable helter skelter which was fun.

Then me and three other people went to gladiators. One of them got knocked off the podium and then I was cornered and had to fight off two boys, but eventually I lost.

My favourite part was on Sunday when we went to the water zone and I went zorbing, but it wasn't on water. I also liked the spider mountain.

Fantastic weekend but really missed Akela's egg bread! Get well soon Akela.

Thank you to all the Leaders for a fab, fun filled weekend.

Maddi Harper - 8th Letchworth



Cubjam was a huge cowboy themed cub camp at Gilwell Park which lasted for six days. Cubs came from all over the UK, from Scotland in the north to the Channel Islands in the south.

I had a great time at Cubjam doing activities. My favourite two activities were laser tag and land zorbing. For laser tag you had a gun and a head band for the enemy to shoot at. In land zorbing you are in a big ball and you run in it

and it moves around an inflatable ring.

We went on a trip to Whipsnade zoo, where we went around looking at the animals. At the zoo we saw some amazing animals including giraffes, penguins and bears. I was hoping to see the rhinos but they weren't around!

Marcus Collins - 5th Letchworth

I had a fab time at Cubjam 16 on the first day we had an interview on the cubjam radio. We told them so far we were having a great time we had just been on the moving climbing wall.

I got to see Bear Grylls and Steve Backshall.

There was so much to do at cubjam I really enjoyed the rides, the twister, disco ride and the bumper cars, the formula 1 simulator was ace even though I came last, I kept getting bumped off the track good job it was only a simulator.

The grass sledging was fun and the zorbing was excellent especially when the instructors gave us a big push and sent us flying.

I could not believe how dark it was in the cave bus. I made some rope and a toy cowboy in the craft tent.

We had a day out at Whipsnade zoo and had a fab time even in the rain the best bit was watching the sea lions perform it was amazing.

The late night disco was fun and I entered the talent contest with Oli we sang riding along on



the crest of a wave.

The closing ceremony was good we walked around and saw what everyone had been doing at cubjam and ended up at the stage where the talent contest winners performed.

I would just like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to Amanda and all the helpers and organizers of cubjam 16 for making it a camp I will always remember.

Ben

I found Cubjam really great. It boosted my confidence and it was a great way to make loads of friend's and to see what other Cub pack's are like. The food was exquisite especially considering the tricky cooking conditions. The other activities throughout the week were really fun - the Leaders, Cubjam crew and the Explorers Scouts tried really hard. I thought the funfair was awesome although the queues were massive (but I do understand

why).The craft tent had lots of interesting things to do which you wouldn't think of at home. The showers were really good for a campsite and they were actually warm. The grass sledging was really cool and sledges went quite fast. I thought the indoor climbing wall activity was a bit short so that could have been longer. All in all I thought Cubjam was a great success and a brilliant opportunity.

Jasmine Bagenal - 12th Letchworth

CubJam was from 28 May to 3 June. Only me and Freddie went from 2nd Baldock but there were 18 other Cubs from Letchworth and Baldock. When we got on the coach I was a bit excited and a bit nervous as I had only been in a tent overnight once before.

When we got there we were told what group we were in. I was in Tumbleweed and the other groups were Golden Nuggets and Buzzards. The area where our tents were was called Dodge City and was Green so we all had to wear green wristbands and neckers.

On Sunday I really enjoyed Aeroball, F1 racing, zorbing and food and drumming. There was also a really cool magic show and two of group got chosen to take part. We also saw Bear Grylls as he had come to do an interview on the radio. In the evening we had a big campfire and lots of songs. I learnt a lot of new songs and some were really funny!

On Monday we did craft and I did making a man, rope making and then I did a campfire CD. I also went on the pedal carts, wipeout and grass sledging and did shooting and in the evening we went on a massive indoor climbing

wall.

Tuesday morning was really wet so we couldn't do archery. Instead we did some crafts at the camp and then we went up to The Lid to see if anything was happening. We were really lucky because soon after we got there they opened up the Jacobs Ladder and climbing wall so we were at the front of the queue. I went on the climbing wall again as I wanted to get to the top and I made it! J In the afternoon we went in the CaveBus which was totally awesome and did It's a Knockout which was lots of fun and made us laugh a lot.

On Wednesday we were going out to Whipsnade Zoo. It was a bit wet and cold and a lot of the animals didn't want to come outside. But we saw giraffes and went in the butterfly house which was very hot but butterflies landed on some people but not me L We also saw the seals doing their show. When we got back it was the talent show final and the Cubs in it were really good.

On Thursday morning we got the last of our pocket money and we went round the 3 shops deciding what we would buy. One of the things I bought was a CubJam woggle.

The afternoon was the Wild West parade and we looked really cool in our outfits. There was also a party tea and Steve Backshall was on stage and after that we were allowed to go on the funfair rides until it was dark. That was totally awesome and we took lots of selfies as the leaders were allowed on with us.

On Friday it was time to pack up and we went on a long walk to look for geocaches while the tents were packed away. I was glad to be home cuz I was really tired but sad too as I had a brilliant time.

Christopher Wing, 2nd Baldock



I was lucky enough to attend cubjam 2016. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it to everyone in 2019.

The theme of cubjam was cowboys and Indians. Everybody in Letchworth & Baldock group dressed up as cowboys.

The weather wasn't very good but it didn't matter as all the fun activities & games made up for the lack of sunshine. When it was sunny, it was even better.

I really enjoyed sleeping in a tent as it is

something I do not do very often.

All the different stage shows were entertaining, I personally enjoyed the talent show & the windy bottom ranch show.

The funfair at the end of cubjam was awesome & I loved every single ride. My favourite was the twister as it was very fast and fun.

Overall, cubjam was an amazing experience and I am glad I was part of it.

Oliver Peacock

Do A Good Turn Every Day



Image given the task to organise a Scottish breakfast for a retiring member of staff at a school. (Woolenwich Infant School, Stevenage)

You make a list of things that you would like - all ingredients of a Scottish breakfast, music, bagpipes etc. You talk to the schools cook about the food. You arrange for the children to sing a few Scottish songs and do some highland dancing.



But where to find a bagpiper. You ask around the school if anyone can help. The school just happens to employ a Scouter, and as you know people in Scouting come from all walks of life and if they personally don't know someone then they know someone who does. Dave Hawkins, Badge Secretary remembered that at one of the ASU Burns Night they had a young Explorer Scout playing the bagpipes. After making a phone call he got his number. Alex Hawkins now a Scout Network member of BaLin and no relation to Dave was more than happy to come along one early morning in July. Once everybody was assembled in the hall Alex walked his bagpipes. After playing a number of Scottish tunes and the children performing their dance and songs it was time to say farewell to Aileen. As the staff came up to day their goodbyes Alex burst into Auld Lang Syne which had everybody in tears.

Thank you to Alex from Woollenwich Infant School for making Aileen's day.

Susannah Goward 1st Baldock Beavers



After 7½ years of being 'Kestrel', aka Leader at 1st Baldock Beaver Scouts, the time had come to hang up my woggle. I have had a brilliant time with you all, full of laughter and smiles. I have made some wonderful friends and will always treasure the memories of all the 'Fun and Friendship' we have shared. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone I have worked with, for your unerring sense of humour and unbounded enthusiasm. Tonight, 9 July at the District Beaver Sleepover celebration Beavers 30th Anniversary, was a real mixture of smiles and tears (or was that the rain?) Special thanks for all the fun to Jane Lowrie who was with me from the start, but most of all, to those wonderful smiling 128 'Turquoise Ninjas' whose innate sense of fun

made it all so worthwhile. I will miss you.

Good luck Catherine, Jenny, Holly and Katinka.

Scout Cycling Race 26 June 2016



The Letchworth Grand Prix is it's second year and is organised by Kinetic Cycles and Cycle Club Ashwell and took place at Braodway Garden 26 June 2016. . Paul Tyler, ASL 4th Letchworth co-ordinator the Scouts participation in the event. Two Scout Troops 2nd Baldock and 4th Letchworth took up the challenge on behalf of the District "It was a great day and we are looking forward to next year and hopefully competing again" said Heidi ASL 2nd Baldock

2nd Baldock Cub and Scout Camp - Harmergreen

Thirteen Scouts from 2nd Baldock had a great time camping at Harmergreen with the Cubs, for the weekend in June. For most of the scouts it was the first time they had camped with their patrol groups, so it was also a getting to know each other better experience too.

We build some amazing camps in the woods, cooked on an open fire, sang campfire songs, toasted marshmallows, hiked and also managed to do some geocaching. We were all very tired on Sunday – but we had had a good time.

Nathan James – Patrol Leader, 2nd Baldock Scouts



8th Letchworth Scout Summer Camp Great Tower Scout - Lake District

Wednesday 3 August

We woke up at 7am and packed for our day ahead. We had tree climbing and rafting. Our instructors for tree climbing were Mark and Rory. We had to climb to the top of the tree.

me, Ben, Josh, Millie, Aiden, Kieron, Aimee and Zeke. We all fell in.

Alisha



Thursday 4 August

First we woke up and had breakfast. Breakfast was eggs, bacon and beans. Then we did our bags for hillwalking. Then we set off. In my group I had Zeke, Ben, Aiden, Emma, Ginny, Joe, Alisha and Me!!!!!! We climbed to Easedale Tarn. We saw a lot of sheep. I got so close to a sheep I ran for my life because I didn't realise it. Then there were about 15 sheep in our pathway.

Aimee



Friday 5 August

Everyone was up early and after another filling breakfast (you can probably guess what by now) we all worked hard packing up, cleaning and loading the trailer before saying goodbye to Great Tower Scout Campsite. We headed back home to our families and arrived safely in Letchworth early evening. Thank you to all of our scouts, young leader and leaders for an amazing week, and also to Jackie Hare from

7th Letchworth and CK1 from the District Team who came along to help us this year. Also thank you to the instructors at Great Tower Scout Camp and also the Old Smithy Fish and Chip shop in Ambleside who found us all seating at short notice when the heavens opened. We all had a brilliant trip, and now it's time to start thinking about the next.....

8th Letchworth Scout Leaders

Why not visit 8th Letchworth Scout Group website for more extracts of the Scouts adventure, photos and videos - over 1000

County Beaver Scout 30 Anniversary - Tolmers



Robbie from 5th Letchworth Beaver Scout Colony designed @HertsScouts #Beavers30 badge. How cool is this?

The winning design and certificate was presented to Robbie by Liz Walker, County Commissioner at Tolmers.

District Beaver Scout 30 Anniversary Sleepover St Nichols School



The District celebrated the 30 Anniversary of Beavers with a sleepover at St Nicholls School, Norton on 16 / 17 July. Over 125 Beavers from all the Colonies in the District took part. There was an opportunity to take part in a disco or go to a quiet craft area supervised by the ASU where various craft activities were provided.



Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award


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|------------------|-----------------|
| Daniel Church | 11th Letchworth |
| Martha Coates | 11th Letchworth |
| Hannah Connar | 11th Letchworth |
| Millie Oates | 11th Letchworth |
| Charlie Morrisey | 11th Letchworth |



Chief Scout's Platinum Award

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| William Hall | Oak Eagle ESU |
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ANNOUNCEMENT



Tony Hartley, District Commissioner is pleased to announce that Ross Taylor has accepted his invitation to become our first District Scout Network Commissioner. Ross will also continue working with his Cub Pack at 11th Letchworth.



A warm welcome to

| | | |
|--------------|------|----------------|
| Shaun Warren | ACSL | 8th Letchworth |
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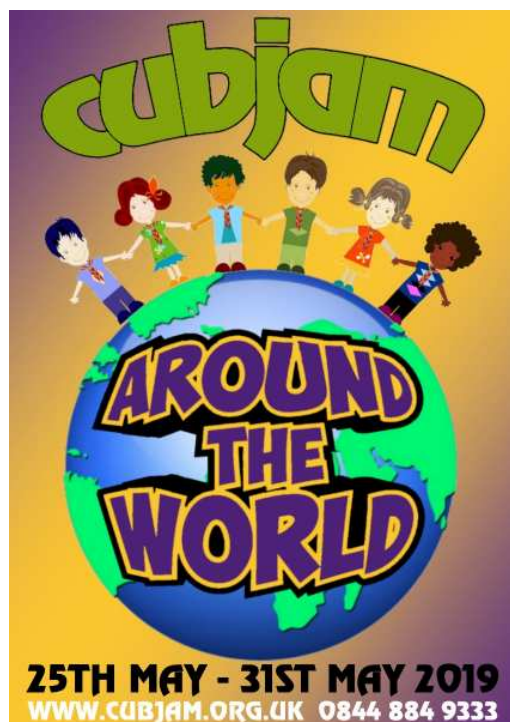
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**Make a note in your
diary**



2016 Diary Dates 2016

September

- 6 Scout & Guide Shop Reopens
- 17 4th Letchworth Quiz
- 24 - 25 County Cub Night Hike
- 26 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 30 - 2 Oct County Scout Born 2B Challenged

October

- 8 8th Letchworth Quiz
- 9 County Cub Cyclocross
- 13 District Admin Evening
- 14 - 16 Peak Assault
- 20 Scout & Guide Shop AGM
- 31 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting

November

- 11 - 13 County Scouts Green Beret Challenge
- 27 8th Letchworth Christmas Fair
- 28 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting

December

- 16 District Cub Promise Party

January 17

February

- 5 County Scout Cooking Competition

March

- 4 - 5 County Explorer Chiltern Challenge
- 12 Scout Triathlon Lees Wood
- 28 - 1 Apr PAW Tolmers

April

- 1-2 District Sixers & Seconders

May

- 21 Rotary Greenway Walk

June

- 17 County AGM Phasels Wood
- 23 - 25 Scouts Take Away Weekend Harmergreen



LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUTS

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