

Co-ordinator

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County Peak Assault 2016

We left District HQ at approximately 5:30pm guessing where the three Leader teams would be heading. As we got on the A1(M) heading south we knew it would be either Wales or Dartmoor. When pulled up at our location 5 hours later, we realised we had arrived at Hexworthy in Dartmoor. From the shadows of the hills around us it was surprising at how small they looked compared to previous years. It was soon realised on Saturday morning at kit check as to why. On receiving the map we understood why- the whole map was covered in rather wet marshland or uneven grassland. Letchworth and Baldock Y (My team) chose a route that seemed rather flat for the majority of the morning, hitting 9 of the high scoring checkpoints in just under 4 hours. As we discussed our route to the next checkpoints and back to base the heavens opened. They remained very much open for the rest of the day, and absolutely soaked the whole team. This made the marshland VERY wet, and the grassland not much better. Cold, wet and struggling to stay on our feet, we pushed forward to collect a further 4 bases before making our way back to camp. On our way we collected a further 3 checkpoints bringing our total up to 16, and giving us a total of 94 out of 156 points. Our time keeping hadn't been as good as we hoped so we lost 5 of these points for lateness. With a quick change into dry clothes we tucked into chicken curry for tea prepared by Fiona, April and Hartley, the support team for this weekend.

We were then given the checkpoint locations and a fresh map to mark for day 2. We decided that we would go for 28 of the 60 points available.

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Overnight the wind and rain came in, moving our shelter, and keeping the majority of the teams up for most of the night. We "woke up" at 7am ready for the 4 hours of walking. Team Y were one of the last teams out, and with a quick swap of Mike Myner for Patrick due to injury, the team set out in the rain. Before too long we had passed the majority of the teams which set out before us and the sun had appeared!

With a quick hello and chat to Team X, we passed and got to the first checkpoint within 40 minutes of our start time. We then decided that we would push on and try and get the remaining three locations. After a further 20 minutes of walking, we looked back to see that nobody was following us and a lot had started to head back- a quick discussion as to whether we were being brave or stupid occurred and we pushed on our way to the 2nd base, overlooking the empty Explorer Night Camp location. We followed what was left of the field's wall to checkpoint 3, and with a quick time check, we realised we had 1hour 20 minutes to walk 9km. Over this terrain with no footpaths to follow it was a struggle and we had a choice- the long way around and collect 2 lower pointed checkpoints but be very late back, or walk 1km through a field of tall grass. Halfway through the field we realised we had made a mistake, as the grass quickly changed to shin deep bog water, possibly due to the amount of rain we had received over the previous 24 hours. This slowed us down, and by the time we had found our last checkpoint we had only 20 minutes to walk 6km. With marshals attempting to follow us back off the hills (and after discussions later, we found out that they couldn't keep up, and they soon lost us, so 3 more marshal teams were deployed to try and find us!) we walked as fast as we could to get back to the footpath and road that we had come in on. We got to the edge of the path at 4 hours in, meaning that we were now losing a point for every 5 minutes late. We pushed hard on the firm ground to get back in as little time as possible, and with some light jogging made it back the last 3km in 35minutes, losing us the 7 points we had gained for the final checkpoint. But we were back! And what a relief it was! We were greeted with a burger from the support crew and after a quick change into uniform the presentation started. With the team still recovering we lent on the wall of the barn in an attempt to take the weight off our feet. The results were read out, and when 3rd place for the seniors competition was announced, who got 71 points, we had calculated that we had gained 110 points, assuming that we had punched the right holes in the score card. 2nd place came in with 90 points, 1 more point than we had gained on day 1! As they read out the winners we went into a state of shock! Walking for 13 hours over the weekend (instead of the 12 we were meant to) had paid off and we had won! What a surprise! We couldn't believe it! We collected the trophy from the County Commissioner, and returned to pack our kit and head home. Thank you to all those that supported us this weekend, without you we would not have done as well without it.

Senior Competition results

1st	Letchworth and Baldock Y	110 points
2nd	Leopard Leaders	90 points
3rd	Sandridge Old Sods	71 points

District

1st Team Y (Ross Taylor, Patrick Tyler, Rob Coldrey and Ben Milligan [and Mike Myner on Sunday]) 110 points
2nd Team Z (Fiona Potts, Zeke Hill, Jackie Hare and Richard Platten) 54 Points in 11 hours
3rd Team X (Goodie, Spike, Gareth Howell, Bheki and Mike Myner) 54 pints in 11hours 40 minutes

Ross Taylor

County Peak Assault



Senior teams and support crew

All teams finished the Hertfordshire Peak Assault Competition despite the changeable and at times very challenging weather conditions.

Explorer Scout Competition Winners – Shackleton ESU A – Harpenden & Wheathampstead, 130 points in 12 hours 30 minutes.

Explorer Scout Training Team Winners – Phoenix ESU B – Mid Herts, 117 Points in 10 hours 51 minutes.

Senior Competition Winners – Letchworth & Baldock Y, 110 points in 12 hours 58 minutes.

See you next year at our 50th Anniversary event. Encourage all your Explorers and Network to take part. Sell the event to all your leaders, bring old friends who took part "back in the day". Save the date, 13 – 15 October 2017, an extra special Peak Assault event.



Due to circumstances beyond our control the District Gang Show dates have changed.

The show will now take place on March 31st evening and April 1st matinee and evening.

The change has been made by St Francis and is due to exams taking place.

The online ticket office should open as expected at the end of October. Details will follow.

/activesupport

Shelia Tickner member of the District Scout Active Support Unit has some free second hand Scout uniform shirts 1 x XXS 1 x XS and 2 x M, also 1 pair of trousers 32" and 1 med/large belt. for any Group who could use them. Please contact Sheila in the first instance by email sheila.edmond@talktalk.net

/activesupport



The ASU went for a visit to Jordan's Mill on Saturday 8th October. We had a guided tour of the Mill lasting about an hour and were shown the machinery, much of which was Victorian and had an explanation of its use. Our guide Ann was very informative telling us that there had been a Mill on the site since 1086 when it was entered in the Doomsday book. Whilst it is not a working Mill now they did start up the machinery to show how it worked. After all the hard work walking up 3 floors a much needed cup of tea in the Café rounded off the day. Well worth a visit.

Forthcoming events - SASU

Date: 10 December
Event: Christmas Dinner
Venue: Broadway

Date: 5 January 2017
Event: Pantomime
Venue: Gordon Craig Theatre



Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit enjoying a few days in Wales during half term week.

**Remembrance Sunday
13 November 2016**

ASHWELL.

- 1415 Ashwell Scout Group to meet at the war memorial in the village (at the end of the recreation ground at the East end of the village)
1430 Service, laying of wreaths etc
1450 Parade to the United Reformed Church
1500 Church Service at Ashwell United Reformed Church.

BALDOCK

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the Baldock Town War Memorial in the High Street, starting with a two minute silence at 11.00hrs. Scouting members please gather in front of Templars Restaurant on the High Street at 10.15am prompt.

LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY.

Please assemble at 10.15am within the area of the highway, up to the centre line. Leaving the near lane for the ex-services, services and services youth members. Leave the pavement area in front of Nat West Bank for the public. Colour parties will need to go to the station forecourt and form up. You will need some Leader involvement in both areas please.

Please position your groups, starting with 5th Letchworth to the area nearest Broadway and progressing through 7th, 8th, 11th and 12th and Oak Eagles ESU. Please form with Beavers at the front, then working backwards with Cubs then Scouts. Oak Eagle, please get the shorter ones in the front etc.



Poppy Poppy



Poppy poppy what do you say?
Wear me on Remembrance Day.

Poppy poppy what do you tell?
Many soldiers in battle fell.

Poppy poppy what should we
know?

That peace on earth should
grow, grow, grow.

**WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM...**

5th Letchworth Cubs Exciting Programme



RAF Henlow with Gavin

This term follows on nicely from the last, packed with new and exciting activities such as gardening, an airfield and museum visit, air rifle shooting, cardboard bridge making, nature art and campfires!

We've planted flowers along the front of our HQ, had a fantastic tour of RAF Henlow by the fabulous Flight Lieutenant Gavin Nicholson (pictured), built oak trees out of acorns and cooked chocolate marshmallow ice cream cones in a campfire...and we are only halfway through the term!

Watch this space in the next Coordinator!

Joni Trulock
5th Letchworth CSL



Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Harvey French	4th Letchworth
George Jones	4th Letchworth
Katie Wright	4th Letchworth

District Administration Evening

This event was set up to allow District team members to explain to the Group representatives their roles and responsibilities and to make them aware of some of the processes that they should implement within their Groups.

Group Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers and other Executive members were all invited to the meeting held in DHQ on Thursday 13th October.

A reasonable attendance of 12 from across the Groups came. However, some Groups were not represented.

Allan Patterson, District Chairman spoke first, he was followed Phil Charsley and finally by Ron Smith. They covered matters related to being a Group officer including matters about trusteeship, managing accounts & accounting principles related to Scouting, processes related to bringing new persons into the Movement including and how and when to seek DBS checks.

Overall the 2 hour event was a success.



The District will be holding a fun weekend in 2017. The event will take place at Boyd Campsite, Henlow on Saturday 11 June and Sunday 12 June.

Make a note in your diary - all sections will be able to participate. More details will be available in the coming months - watch this space.

**Letchworth &
Baldock District
Scout Council**

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**5th Letchworth Cubs
Bridge building**

2016/17 Diary Dates 2016/17

November

- 1 Scout & Guide Shop Reopens
- 13 Remembrance Day Parade
- 18 Children In Need
- 18 - 20 County Scouts Green Beret Challenge
- 26 Explorers/Network Monopoly Challenge
- 27 8th Letchworth Christmas Fair
- 28 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting

December

- 10 ASU Christmas Dinner
- 13 County - Network Christmas Meal
- 16 District Cub Promise Renewal Party
- 17 Scout & Guide Shop Closes

January 17

- 10 Scout & Guide Shop reopens
- 12 County Network Quiz Stevenage
- 28 - 29 District Training Weekend for Lochearnhead
- 30 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting

February

- 5 County Scout Cooking Competition
- 12 County Beaver Leaders' Skill Session
- 27 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting

March

- 4 - 5 County Explorer Chiltern Challenge
- 12 Scout Triathlon Lees Wood
- 18 County Cub Bushcraft Day
- 24 Red Nose Day
- 27 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 31—1 Apr District Gang Show

April

- 1—2 District Sixers & Seconders
- 7 County Queen's Scout Award Dinner
- 23 St George's Day Parade and Service
- 28 - 1 May PAW Tolmers



LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUTS

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