



Co-ordinator

Chief Scout's praise for 8th Letchworth Scout Group



Last week was #IWill Week and I'm super proud of the difference 8th Letchworth Scouts are making in their local community. This year the group has chosen to focus on dementia. This means, thanks to Scouting's award-winning campaign, A Million Hands they have spent time learning about the issue, finding out about the people it affects and taking meaningful action to improve and support their quality of life in Letchworth.



I would also like to recognise the volunteers at 8th Letchworth Scout Group for their dedication each week to giving Scouts the chance to have fun, adventure and take part in life changing opportunities through the A Million Hands project.

A Million Hands is celebrating its first anniversary this October and it's down to the 200,000 members who have signed up to take part, such as 8th Letchworth, that the past year has been such a success.

During this special week, I would just like to say 'A Million Thanks' to these incredible Scouts. They really are shining lights in their community.

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Bear Grylls

Chief Scout, the Scout Association



Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas

Remembrance Sunday 2016



District Cub Quiz



This year's Cub Quiz was held on Friday 17th November at DHQ. The Cub Quiz was well supported with 8 out of 10 Packs attending. The questions were set by 5th Letchworth, who were last year's winners. They gave the Cubs quite a challenge,. Subjects diverse as politics and entertainment gave everyone some real thinking! What ancient country did mummification ? (Egypt) What programme has a lemon head peppermint and a talking dog! (Adventure Time) After a fun evening the results showed a resounding win for 7th Letchworth Cubs. Well done.

Gill Palmer - ACSL 11th Letchworth

Results

7th Letchworth	54 points	1st
1st Baldock (K)	51 points	2nd
4th Letchworth	44 points	3rd
5th Letchworth	40 points	4th
8th Letchworth	38 points	5th
1st Baldock (T)	35 points	6th
2nd Baldock	34 Points	7th



On Saturday 26 November two teams from Oak Eagle ESU travelled to London to take part in the County Monopoly Challenge. Christmas hats and a mascot were needed, plus a big packed lunch and strong legs.

The aim of the game was to travel around London taking in the sights, find particular parts of the Pall Mall,

Whitehall, Vine Street etc and try to avoid the marshalls who would insist you take a Chance card. These could send you to jail or give you a prize. There were lots of jail cards!

We had six hours of fun, jumping on and off the tube, taking lots of photo evidence of the places we visited and even some running to avoid being too late back to the start. Everyone improved their confidence in the big city plus their skills of map reading, time keeping, and eating on the run.

Well done to all those taking part

Clair AESL

Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit Coetmor Mill



With a minibus full of Explorers Scouts and Leaders we set off for Coetmor Mill in North Wales. We stopped off at Ludlow on the way and visited the castle. Lucy was scared of the ladybirds and we had three investitures down a hole. We almost couldn't find our way out of Ludlow but after squeezing the minibus through a gap with inches to spare on either side the Leaders finally figured out the one way system and we were on our way.

After arriving at Coetmor Mill we had a lovely dinner of curry and green beans (just curry for the majority) and played some card games.

The next morning we headed out to Go Below who took us down an underground slate quarry – not a mine. Here we splashed, paddled, climbed, abseiled, zipwired, crawled and slipped through. It was a most enjoyable experience although very dark.

On the way back we stopped at Tesco Express to buy food for the rest of the weekend including 18 cheesecakes.

Saturday was our big day walk. We climbed to the top of Pen yr Olwen via a hidden scramble, then we went along the ridge to Carnedd Daffyd. The boys went further along and up to Carnedd Llewelyn, walking at such a pace the we all ended up back at the minibus at the same time.

On our final morning we packed up and cleaned up before taking one last group photo with the Coetmor sign and the minibus, saying farewell and going out onto the hills near Rachub for some micro nav. There were many thorn bushes and piles of slate from disused quarries. Then we headed home.

Isabel Wroe
Explorer Scout



GREEN BERET CHALLENGE

The Green Beret Challenge is a weekend competition for teams of six Scouts. To achieve the Green Beret Challenge, teams compete in four elements: Orienteering, an Assault course, Challenge Incidents (Daytime) and a Night Exercise.

The Challenge is designed to test a group of Scouts through a range of physical and intellectual activities. It also proves to be a significant challenge to Leadership

and teamwork skills. IT'S TOUGH !! However, you can survive, provided you are prepared for the weather. The Challenge is held in November, cold and wet weather is normal for the time of the year, this only adds to the Challenge of Green Beret.

Four troops from our District took part

5th Letchworth (Famous Fifth Springers)	placed 16th
7th Letchworth (Magnificent 7th)	placed 64th
4th Letchworth (St Pauls) (Go Forth)	placed 111th
8th Letchworth (Sid the Sloths)	placed 115th

**1st Baldock Scouts
were the overall
winners of the
1996 Green Beret**



On Friday 18 November our team arrived at the campsite. Claire and Lesley had very kindly put up our tents and the mess tent so that we could unpack straight away. After we had unpacked and 'settled in' we went to our mess tent to discuss what was happening the next day. We talked over the rules and timings and introduced ourselves to our new team member Charlie from 5th Letchworth. We had Charlie in our team so that we had enough people to compete instead of a team that goes and doesn't get to compete against the other teams.

We woke up on the Saturday to find frost on our tent. We quickly put some more layers on and we had bacon and egg or bacon rolls for breakfast. We had our orienteering session at nine so we headed out to start a couple of bases before. After a long discussion on what we were going to do we only had time to complete 1 base. We had to move the tyres from one side to another using three poles and you weren't allowed to put a bigger tyre on top of a smaller one. We completed it within the time limit and we were told that we were one of the quickest to complete it so far. We headed back to our camp to grab our orienteering equipment and headed to the base

entrance. We had a quick brief on what to do and how long we had to do it and then we had as long as we needed to mark out where each checkpoint was. We managed to find 7 out of 14 posts in our time limit.

We dropped our things back off at the camp and had a quick snack and drink and headed off to complete some more bases. During the day, we completed 14 bases in total. Some of them included pulling a range rover to the line and pushing it back again. Another included a first aid base (we didn't do the best at this one). Dinner was at 5. We had chicken and vegetable curry with naan bread.

At 7:30 we started our night bases. We did 7 in total and one of them included getting our team over a minibus in 10 minutes. We did another right at the end where we had to stack cans in the quickest time possible. After this base, we were all cold and wet so the Explorers that were running the base invited us to sit down at the fire with them.

In the morning, before the final ceremony we packed all our personal equipment and the camp equipment the tree. The ceremony lasted 20 or so minutes but we didn't win anything.

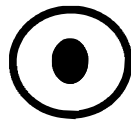
It was a very cold and wet weekend but all in all a good one.

**Georgia
8th Letchworth Scout**



Nine adults risk assessing the 8th Letchworth Scouts summer trip!well they just had to try out the adult course at the same time.

Lee Valley White Water Centre



Peter Dixon Payne

1949 - 2016

We were sad to hear that Peter Ian Dixon Payne has died and we send our sympathy to his wife Lynda and her family.

Peter was a keen supporter of Scouting and played an active part in many roles in our District. He served as Chairman of the 2nd Weston Scout Group and was a member of the District Executive. He was also a member of the Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre Committee and played an important part in the development of the Centre in its early years. He was a Scout representative on the District Scout & Guide Shop Committee.

He was a member of the District Team which organised the Seven Centre Draw for the County which raised over £25,000 for the County's Activity Centres.

He entered into everything with enthusiasm and we will remember his pleasant and friendly personality.



Congratulations to Carole Brewer, ABSL
2nd Baldock, on the birth of her daughter
Lauren Marie on 2 November 2016.



Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre CHARGES

JANUARY 2018

At the last Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre Committee Meeting in October it was unanimously agreed not to increase the Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Scout Centre charges for 2018.



A warm welcome to

Jennifer Dorman

1st Baldock

ABSL

Edward Hartley

2nd Baldock

ACSL

Emma Whinray-Edwards

1st Baldock

ASL



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Baldock District
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2016/17 Diary Dates 2016/17

December

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

January 2017

- 10 Scout & Guide Shop reopens
- 12 County Network Quiz Stevenage
- 13 - 15 DC's Camp Wymondley Wood
- 22 District Scout Cooking Competition
- 28 - 29 District Training Weekend for Locheadhead
- 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 County 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
- 25 Wymondley Wood A.G.M.
- 28 - 1 May PAW Tolmers

May

- 21 Rotary Sponsored Greenway Walk

June

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



LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUTS

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