



Letchworth, Baldock & Ashwell



Co-Ordinator



The Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Council would like to extend their warmest wishes and congratulations to HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the occasion of His Majesty's Coronation.

Sunday 21 May 2023

Over 100 adults and 200 young people took part in the Garden City Greenway Walk. In collaboration with the Letchworth Garden City Heritage, the Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts took the lead in organising the event.

The walkers started from Standalone Farm following the Greenway to finish where they started.



A 2nd Baldock Cub taking a welcome break.



There were 6 checkpoints along the way of which two were refreshment and comfort breaks. The first refreshment stop was Nortonbury Farm and was manned by 4th Letchworth Scout Group who provided bacon butties and hot dogs. The second refreshment and toilet break was at Wymondley Wood where Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Leaders and ASU Members offered tea coffee and hot dogs.

The Letchworth Heritage Foundation Open Air Museum also had a display of Scouting in the 1950s and 1960s.



2nd Baldock Spring Patrol Camp Friday 28th April – Sunday 30th April 2023

I had my first camp with 2nd Baldock Scouts after moving from 12th Letchworth Scouts and I had so much fun! Everyone arrived at Boyd Field at 6 pm where we got split into red and blue patrols and explained about the buck system. Both patrols start with 80 "bucks" and can earn more by doing things like making tea with a Kelly Kettle, cleaning up mess tent equipment after meals and more. We then started putting up our tents, blue patrol (mine) had Vango tents, the red patrol had bell tents, and both patrols had a marquee each for cooking and eating. We then made our dinner, which was planned a few weeks before, and washed up. After dinner, we played a few wide games, had hot chocolate, and went to bed.

Saturday Morning, I was up at 5 am, I woke up shivering while everyone else got up around 7:30 and started making breakfast. I started the fire. There was a choice of cereal and something cooked in both marquees. After clearing up breakfast and our tents, blue patrol went and did some rifle shooting (where I surprised myself with how I performed) and red patrol did "Buck" earning and switched later.

After that the less squeamish Scouts watched Ben's dad prepare a muntjac deer for the stew while the more squeamish prepared veg for the stew and salad for lunch.

We then had lunch, which was sandwiches, salad, cake, fruit, and more, and cleared up.

After lunch red patrol did more "Buck" earning whilst blue patrol did some Stand Up Paddle Boarding, which I did not partake in, then switch around 3. In this time red

patrol had caught up to us buck-wise, taking the lead for the rest of the camp. When red patrol returned, we started planning our campfire sketches. Some Scouts made some "creative" ones from their imagination, while others used a sketchbook that had been donated to 2nd Baldock a couple of years ago, but was only received the day before camp started.

Now that's what I call being prepared. Anyway, we decided what we were going to do around the campfire and started with dinner. We cleared up after dinner, had one last practice of sketches, and performed them to the scouts. Oh boy, oh boy was that hectic. We played Lighthouse, had hot chocolate, and went to bed.

Sunday morning, got up around 7:30 and started making breakfast. There was a choice of cereal and something cooked in both marquees. (Deja vu) Blue patrol began with angel throwing while red began packing up and doing more "Buck" earning. Again, switching later. We packed down our tent, ate the leftover food, announced who had more "Bucks" and went home.

I loved this weekend away, can't wait for the next one.

Tom Stevens, 2nd Baldock Scouts





Scouts learning Campfire Sketches, book donated by Gwen Keech.



5th Letchworth Beavers

At 5th Letchworth Beavers we have been practicing our navigation skills in preparation for the Greenway Walk. We decided to test our new knowledge on a "Penny" hike. This involved letting a coin decide which path we should take when exploring Norton Common.

It was a wet Wednesday with heavy showers forecast so we put on our wellies and waterproofs (picked up our high vis jackets) and stepped up to the challenge. We practiced our map reading skills and predicted where paths were going to take us using our knowledge of what was around us! We successfully identified Pix Brook Spring and many other landmarks including the numerous benches on the Common. And we were even able to practice our compass skills, following North and then East to navigate our way back to our starting point.

One of our sharp-eyed Beavers spotted a muntjac deer and we watched it as it gingerly picked its way through the mud. We also stumbled upon a couple of ducks who were on a walk around the Common just like us.

We returned to the carpark a little damper and muddier but full of smiles and confident that we were able to find our location on a map using landmarks around us.

**Beth Aird
BSL - 5th
Letchworth**



8th Letchworth Scout Group

On the Coronation weekend 8th Letchworth met with a representative from the Letchworth Heritage Foundation to plant some trees.



The trees we planted can live for 100 years and can grow up to 100 feet tall. The leaves will be red in the Autumn. It was really good fun planting them and the rain made the soil wet.

**Joshua - 8th Letchworth
Beaver**

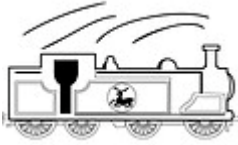
The trees we planted are called a Liquid Amber. The trees we planted were the first in Letchworth's public places. When we did the tree planting we were split into 5

groups containing at least 1 Beaver, 1 Cub and 1 Scout. Then we took turns to dig a square hole and most of us had to dig through some roots. Then we put the tree in and covered it with the soil we had dug out of the ground. After that we had some fun in the surrounding meadow. We planted them in Pix Brook Meadows, which is in Norton Common. It was really fun, and I would definitely do it again. I look forward to seeing the trees we planted grow.

Amy - 8th Letchworth Cub



All District Adults - all sections



Lochearnhead Planning Meeting 1

Tuesday 19th Sept 2023 8pm at Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre

In the school summer holiday 2025 we will be going to Hertfordshire Scouts' mountain base, Lochearnhead Scout Station in the Southern Highlands of Scotland.

All interested Leaders are invited to attend the initial planning meeting to find out more about the expedition, the process for young people booking and the leader team needed.



International Service Team at Roverway 2024
Lundsneset in Stavange - Norway
22 July - 1 August 2024

A big, big congratulations to Ellie Hill from BaLinNet Scout Network who has been selected to be a Deputy Leader for one of the Hertfordshire Scout units going to this great event next year.

**LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT!**

Annual General Meeting

Most Groups have now held their Annual General Meeting, including the Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre and the Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Council. Below are extracts from some of the Groups AGMs written reports showing some of the activities the young people have taken part in during 2022.

Activities - Bucket Drumming,	Circus Skills,	Yoga,
Orienteering	Pioneering	Bug Hunt
First Aid	Camp Fire	Rafting
Outdoor Cooking	Shooting	Archery
Skiing	Litter Picking	
Tree Planting	Bird Boxes	
Den Building		

There was also overnights camps, summer expeditions, taking part in District and County events and many visits to places of interest including fire stations, police stations, Sheik Temples, Fish and Chip Shops, Fit 4 OCR, Ivel Springs, Library and many others.



WYMONDLEY WOOD SCOUT AND GUIDE CENTRE
Charity No. 277746
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022



(Extract from the Chairman's Annual Report)

2022 was the year Wymondley Wood came back to life. After a slow start the summer months were very busy. Outdoor activity has an important impact on the mental health and physical well-being of young people so it was good to hear the voices and laughter of young people and see them playing on the field once again.

The figures below illustrate the extent of this activity.

64 Groups in residence between 1 - 6 nights

25 groups camping 1 - 5 nights

7 Day visits

60 evening visits.

The summer evenings were particularly busy. In addition to our regular District events such as the Cub Sixers and Seconders weekend we also hosted County events such as the Great Patrol Hunt and Beavers in Tents (BiTs). 18 local schools enjoyed our facilities as well as Hertfordshire Young Carers and the Centre was a popular base for the Duke of Edinburgh award expeditions.

None of this would have been possible without the enormous amount of work undertaken by our management committee and wardens and our local Scout and Guide Leaders. All of this work is undertaken on a volunteering basis by a group of people with a belief in the ethos of the Scout and Guide movements and dedicated to developing the lives of young people.

We are very pleased with a new website which has been set up. It gives a good description of the Centre and goes on to include our risk assessments and booking form.

The shop did a good trade during the year. Young people like to spend their pocket money and our badges are very popular.

In conclusion I must thank the Management Committee and Wardens for their contribution to the success of the Centre. I always say that the smoother something runs the more unseen work has gone on behind the scenes.

This is my final report and I am going into retirement after this meeting. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman and gained great satisfaction from the success of the Centre but, more than anything else, I have been inspired by the people around me and their comradeship. Everyone is so enthusiastic and confident in the work that they are doing and steadfast in their belief in the ethos of Scouting and Guiding.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside you.

Bob Williams

Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre Chairman

1st Ashwell Scouts - Circus Skills Night

One of my favourite nights this term was the circus skills night. We learnt to juggle, spin plates on a cane, balance peacock feathers on different body parts, tightrope walk, flick sticks and to ride a unicycle (with great difficulty)

My favourite activity of the night was the spinning plates. I already had some experience from doing this in Cubs previously, so I was quite good at it. Our teacher for the circus skills taught us all how to successfully get the plate spinning without using our hands, which I thought was very cool.

Another good activity which I enjoyed was the juggling. We started out with just using one ball and throwing and catching. When we dropped them we got taught to pick them up by putting them on our shoes, then flick them up to catch. Then, we progressed to two balls. We learned three different ways of juggling, all of which were effective. Some people who were doing very well moved on to three balls.

At the end of the evening, after we had learnt a lot of skills, there was a big free-for-all of whatever items we wanted to use. There were little bikes, unicycles and all the other things which we already learned, and you can't forget the tightrope.

The session was packed full of fun things, and we learned a lot about the circus as well!

Stanley Simons - 1st Ashwell Scouts



Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts Kandersteg International Scout Centre - Training

As part of our preparation for our trip to Switzerland this summer, we had a training day in the Peak District.

So parents didn't need to get up too early, we had a sleepover on Sunday evening at DHQ. We chatted about kit, the activities we will be doing at Kandersteg and ate a big pasta dinner.

At 6am on bank holiday Monday, we were in the Baldock Community Minibus and off up the M1. At Gradbach we met with more Leaders, Alex and Helen and were off into the hills.

We walked in two groups, via Luds Church and along the Roaches. Then back along the valley using various tracks.



It was great to be out in the hills and everyone that came improved skills and confidence. It was very reassuring to see everyone enjoying the outdoors and gaining understanding of what is required for our expedition.

Well done and thanks to all those that came along. Twenty four hours of fun and learning.

A big thanks to Baldock Community for once again, letting us use their minibus.

**Clair Calver -
DESC**



The Scout Association - Continuing our journey to the future - Where are we at?

We've been working hard in the background preparing and planning.

County/Area/Region teams have been busy with their volunteer Transformation Leads, understanding the changes that will be coming in 2023 and 2024. They've been planning how they'll conduct conversations locally to share more information at the right time and right pace for your particular area. Some of you may have already heard about changes in your area, and if not yet, we know you will in the coming months.

We'll continue preparing Compass data for transition to the new adult membership system. .

In 2023, please keep doing what you're doing so brilliantly.

- You may find yourself invited to local meetings by your Transformation Lead and County/District team to learn more about the changes that are coming and what they mean for you and your team.
- You should start to receive information locally about how the changes will be introduced and implemented in your local area.
- Please engage with this information and attend discussions and meetings when invited to help your understanding of what the future looks like for your role in your local area and how we believe all of this change will set us up for a future where even more young people can develop skills for life.
- There's no need for anyone to do anything until you hear from your local teams. You may see neighbouring Counties/Area/Regions planning and doing different things, but everyone will be progressing with this at a slightly different pace and may be planning or phasing things differently.

We're all incredibly excited to introduce these changes to the volunteer experience which'll make your volunteering more enjoyable and more efficient. We know lots of you are eager to get started as soon as possible, too.

Together, we're confident that we will achieve our vision and that more young people and more adult volunteers, will benefit from all that Scouting offers.

As always, thank you for your support and patience, and everything you do.

Craig Turpie
Deputy UK Chief Commissioner (Transformation)

Extract taken from a recent blog from Craig Turpie,

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service



Matthew Brown	4th Letchworth
Emma Hitchin-Reeves	11th Letchworth
John Robertshaw	1st Ashwell - Treasurer
Shaun Warren	8th Letchworth

Achievements



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Elizabeth Robson 12th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Arthur Carrod 12th Letchworth



5 Year Service Award

Nick Denham 1st Ashwell ACSL



15 Year Service Award

Nick Denham 1st Ashwell ACSL



Wood Badge

Simon Peacock 1st Ashwell ASL

Welcome to



Rosalind Hartley
Peter Repka

ASL 2nd Baldock
ASL 1st Ashwell

Diary Dates 2023

JUNE

- 1** Scout and Guide Shop closed (HALF TERM)
- 8** Scout and Guide Shop open
- 9** 2nd Baldock AGM
- 10** District Beaver Challenge
- 11** District Scout Shooting and Archery Competition
- 18** ASU Meeting @ DHQ
- 24** County AGM - Tolmers Activity Centre
- 24/25** County Beavers in Tents (BiTs) - Well End

JULY

- 10** County DC Meeting
- 12** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 15/16** County Beavers in Tents (BiTs) - Wymondley Wood
- 20** District Beavers Bangers and Bash

AUGUST

- 19 - 28** Come to Tolmers (CTT)

SEPTEMBER

- 16** District Beavers Orienteering
- 17** ASU Meeting @ DHQ
- 24** County Cubs Activity Day - Tolmers

OCTOBER

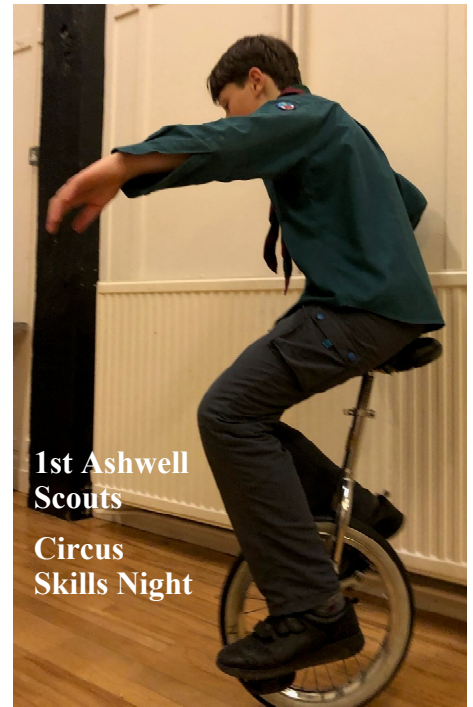
- 8** County Cub Cyclocross

NOVEMBER

- 17/19** County Scout Green Beret

DECEMBER

- 9 or 10** District Beaver Day Out
- 17** ASU Christmas Dinner TBC



1st Ashwell
Scouts

Circus
Skills Night



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Printed by: Print Factory,
32 Whitehorse Street
Baldock SG7 6QQ
01462 896289