

Co-Ordinator

All District Adults - all sections

Lochearnhead Planning Meeting 1

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

In the school summer holiday 2025 we will be going to Hertfordshire Scout's 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.



Participants of the 25th World Scout Jamboree - South Korea now back on UK soil (More to follow in next month's edition of Co-Ordinator)

Oak Eagle ESU Trip - Kandersteg International Scout Centre, Switzerland- August 2023

On Thursday 10th August we flew from Heathrow to Zurich and then took a train to Bern and another on to the village of Kandersteg. Then we hopped on the local bus to take us to the Scout centre.

Here we were staying in the Old Chalet which is a beautiful old building on a large camp site. The atmosphere is very much of an international celebration. There were Scouts from around the world staying in the huts or camping. During our week we met people from Cyprus, Spain, Poland, Germany, Canada, America, Holland, plenty from the UK and even some from Hertfordshire.

Explorer report. On Friday we departed KISC at 9am and we took the Sunnebuel cable car up the mountain and then walked to the climbing spot. It was really cool. After a couple of hours the instructors took us on a tour of the local flora and fauna and we went through two caves. It was interesting and a really fun day.

I found the climbing difficult and challenging but I persevered through it and got to the top of all the climbs. The scenery was beautiful.



Rafting and High ropes. We left at 7.30am and got two trains to Interlaken. We got on our wetsuits and then took the minibus up river where we put the rafts on the water and sailed down. Only the district commissioner Rob fell off the raft. After we got back we had hot drinks and headed to the high ropes where we spent two hours in the trees.

On Sunday we started the day with the international flag break with Scouts from around the world. Then we got the bus into town and took the Oeschinsee cable car up the mountain to the tobogganing which was great fun. It was sledges on wheels which went down a metal track quite fast.

After that we walked to the lovely lake and had ice cream and a paddle. It was a steep walk back up to the cable car.

On Monday we started our two day hike. We went up the Allmenalp cable car and then walked straight up hill for two and a half hours to the top of Bunderspitz mountain. Then we walked around

and down to the mountain hut that we were staying in for the night. It has the most fabulous views. Pasta dinner with chorizo, tofu, cheese and then we played Uno and Saboteur card games.

In the morning, after porridge on the patio we set off again. George helped Amrit up the steep mountain and both groups walked at a good pace. After a tiring climb we reached a beautiful peak and then a cave with running water which was cold and tasty. The descent was nice, we could see some sheep and pretty lakes. After lunch and an ice cream at the hotel we soon reached the cable car which had a swing outside. Then we were soon back to KISC ready for a nice hot shower.

Wednesday we travelled by train to the swimming pool at Brigerbad. The pool was really nice and fancy. There were many pools to go in including a lazy river, a big rock to jump off, an inflatable obstacle course and a massive slide. We raced around and played it. The pool was very good and much fun.

When we departed the pool we went to explore the town of Brig and we all bought gelato. When we arrived back we said goodbye to some friends from Spain and then played Uno with Scouts from Cyprus. For dinner we all went to the Pizza restaurant which was lovely. This trip has been so much fun and so many memories have been made.

Written by most members of the expedition





Dear All at ASU

Thank you once again for your donation to our trip to Kandersteg.

We had a very successful expedition with 9 young people attending. They all had a great time, taking part in the activities, working well as a team and supporting each other when needed. We chose the higher level of activities to stretch their capabilities and each person stepped up to the challenge.

They came home buzzing with excitement and full of confidence.

Your donation paid for our stay in the mountain hut during our two day hike. Each person was awarded a badge to show they had stayed there. During the week we also gained a High Adventure badge and a Swiss Explorer badge that are unique to KISC.

Many thanks for your continued support of Oak Eagle ESU

Clair - District Explorer Scout Commissioner



5th Letchworth Scout Group

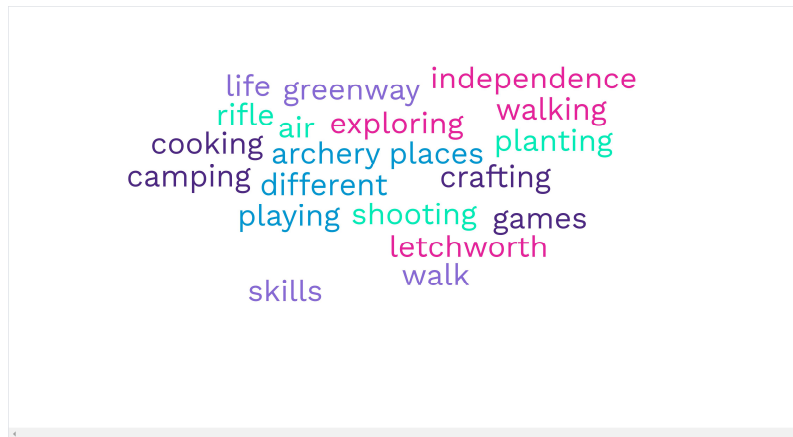
5th Letchworth held a Scout's Own at their Group Camp May 2023

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/a-scouts-own/>

Scouts and Cubs each read a line from the two readings; Who are Scouts? and Here's
to our Scouts

And a camp activity later saw all Sections, and parents, reflecting on what Scouts
means to them

These are just a few of their answers:



I love Scouts, I have made some amazing friends, and learned lots of skills that have
helped me in school

New skills, like how to put up tents, and made FRIENDS

I enjoyed the shooting, something I would not normally be able to do

Love of nature and the outdoors

Because it's fun

The good times and meeting new people

Scouts teaches you new skills, and you make lots of friends

The skills I learn, the people I meet and friends I make

Scouts has given me confidence to try new things

I love Scouts because it is so fun, and something to be proud of

The friends I have made, and the amazing memories



**Members of the ASU held a cream tea at
Wrayfield Farm on Saturday 19 August**

The music was provided by a fairground organ (see photo). There was a quiz, set by Deb Dilley, on naming sweets and biscuits from cryptic clues. The afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mick and Deb for providing the venue and marquee. Thank you also to Rose Ellmer for making such lovely scones and Jackie and Christine for their hard work.

2nd Baldock - Walesby Forest - Forest Fest 28 July - 2 August 2023



At the end of July, 2500 scouts from groups all over the world came together at Forest Fest 2023 at Walesby Forest campsite. We were a small group, but we enjoyed every moment!

There were lots of activities available, such as archery, climbing (indoor and out), tomahawk throwing, kayaking and ziplining. After trying most of them, I decided I liked the archery and the cave maze the best. The cave maze was an ideal shelter when it was wet. Half-way through the event, a few more activities opened - laser clay shooting and a simulator. The queue was huge for the simulator every day. The laser clays were

amazing because there was always a short queue and it was really fun.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening performances, including tribute acts for ABBA and Queen, and "The Big One" for the final night. Lots of the Scouts joined in with the dressing up themes for each evening. Some of us called the performances "peg fests", due to the number of labelled clothes pegs which were distributed. We collected a decent number of pegs from other groups, though a small number compared to the over 300 we gave out!

Felix Purcell - 2nd Baldock Scouts



2nd Baldock - Walesby Forest - Forest Fest 28 July - 2 August 2023



At forest fest, I enjoyed a lot of activities such as cave maze, tomahawks, mini tanks and many others.

Some of my favourites are:

Cave maze as I love mazes and I got to help others through the maze.

Tomahawks because on my first turn I got all three axes in the target and I was the

only one who did so.

Archery because I like firing arrows at things.

It was great that they always had something on even though the queues were really long!

Ben - 2nd Baldock Scout



Brilliant Boyd Field Camp: 1st Baldock Cub Packs Knights and Templars

If you want to have a sensational time Boyd Field campsite is the way to go. We did paddle boarding, climbing and fire lighting and much more! We had the best time ever. On the first morning there was food, fire lighting and fun - in small groups we lit our own fires and cooked our own breakfast: it was better than a party at night! We all had a go at toasting things on hazel sticks, trying out heating up cans of hoops in the embers, foil wrapped bananas (yum!), boiling eggs, making our own hot chocolate, soup in a mug and some cubs even had a go at scrambling eggs on an open fire.

Breakfast/brunch gave us lots of energy for our afternoon activity - paddleboarding! We had paddle boarding battles on the pond and even played basketball with a (golden) ball. King Louie and Young leader Theo set us racing challenges...of course part of the fun was falling in.



Brilliant Boyd Field Camp: 1st Baldock Cub Packs Knights and Templars



We even had time to practice putting up our own shelters and washing line when we weren't in the water!

On our last day we had a busy morning on the climbing wall, the cubs had fun deciding which was the hardest to climb and challenging themselves to try all the walls.

Our last surprise was meeting a fellow group of Explorer Scouts - all the way from The Netherlands! Whilst chatting to each other and sharing badges, we discovered that they were in

fact Air Scout Explorer Scouts. Akela and Skipper even compared their camp blankets - we all spotted Skipper's helicopter badge. After we had all shared lunch together the Air Scout Explorers even helped us to decamp.

It was the best cub camp ever!

Tomek, Matthew, Benjamin and Cyril
1st Baldock Cubs

Letchworth and Baldock District Scout and Guide Shop

The shop will reopen after the summer break from 6.00pm until 8.00pm on Thursday 14 September 2023 and every Thursday during school term time.

Unfortunately we will be without our Shop Manager, Nora Hitcham for a while as she is recovering from an operation. However, she will be working in the background from home keeping the stock and books up to date. We all wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her back behind the counter soon.

2nd Baldock Guardian Camp 23 - 25 June 2023

Leslie Sell Activity Centre, Bromham

On the weekend of the 23rd of June around 40 parents, guardians and Scouts went camping at the Leslie Sell Activity Centre in Bromham.

As a family we wanted to share our experiences of the trip and thought it would be fun to share it from the view of the parent and Scout.

Parent's View - Laurent

As a parent it was lovely to see how the children interacted all weekend. The energy was positive and ALL the Scouts genuinely got along and worked well together as a team. As a group they were inclusive and made decisions collectively without any one Scout wanting to take charge. You could really see the Scouts values in motion of integrity, respect, care, belief and co-operation.

In terms of the camp itself it was incredibly good fun, well organised and safe. The Scouts were given freedom to explore within the parameters set by the Leaders. When I got home I went online to check when the next camp was going to be, then had the reality check that the camping trips were organised for the Scouts not the parents!

One of the aspects I enjoyed most of the experience was being able to spend some quality time with my son away from the day to day distractions of every day life. It was good to see first-hand what the Scouts did on their camps and how these skills could be transferable in terms of life-skills.



Scout's View - Xavier

On Friday night we arrived and set up our large canvas tents, which could sleep a lot of Scouts. Over the weekend we did lots of activities but also had lots of time to relax and explore. It's difficult to say which was my favourite activity as they were all fun. Me and my dad had lots of opportunities to spend time together. We promised to go camping together again soon and we might even invite my Mum and little sister.

During the weekend we did lots of cooking over open fires and made fresh bread and a cheesecake in a Dutch oven. We all become experts on how to light a fire using flint and steel and cotton wool.

I enjoyed making a single A-frame bridge and was surprised how stable you could make a bridge using only wood and rope. Initially I was scared to go over the bridge but my friends helped me overcome my fears.

There were lots of activities during the weekend. Some of them were team games like capture the flag, some were educational like learning about different tree types and what they could be used for, like building houses and boats and making handles for knives. I told my Dad that I was surprised how many different types of trees there were. One of my favourite activities was shooting.

I cannot wait to go camping again both with my family and Scouts.

Article written by Laurent & Xavier
Lemaitre - July 23



12th Letchworth Scouts and Cubs Camp

12th Letchworth Scouts and Cubs - Cuffley Camp 29 June - 1 July near Potters Bar

Rock climbing

Rock climbing was the most popular activity at Cuffley Camp, having four vertical climbing walls and being very tall. The rock climbing was quite intense and competitive with some people racing to see who could get to the top first.

Everyone was able to climb most of the climbing towers but some of the towers were much harder to climb! I would personally recommend going for the hardest first as after several climbs your hands and fingers will ache making gripping harder and the climbing more difficult.



Water wars

Water wars was a four team game in which different teams of people using a slingshot would fire water balloons at the other team in rows of 2. It was a very enjoyable event which was also extremely competitive.

As well as being extremely wet, lots of Scouts were caught off guard by the amount of mud splattering everywhere as a result of the exploding water balloons hitting the ground. It's fair to say a lot of Cubs and Scouts' clothes were in need of a washing!

Rifle shooting

Rifle shooting was very fun. Lots of people were able to hit the target and some hit the bullseye! The rifles used lead pellets and had an accurate line up system that allowed precise accuracy.

Overall, using the firearms was very enjoyable and required lots of focus to hit the exact target on each shot, which some people did.

Orienteering

The orienteering was certainly the toughest of all the challenges with some Cubs and Scouts getting stuck in woodland for quite some time. It involved lots of navigation and map reading skills, with most groups able to complete the challenge. Everyone also enjoyed exploring the woods around the surrounding area and running around the hills.



Peak Assault - 13th - 15th October 2023

We've all been waiting for it, Peak Assault is back for 2023

What is Peak Assault?

Peak Assault is a navigation competition for teams of young people and adults in an upland area of England or Wales. The location is traditionally kept a secret, but in the past Peak Assault has visited many upland areas including: The Peak District, The Lake District, North Wales, Dartmoor, Exmoor and the Brecon Beacons. The competition takes place over a weekend and teams must navigate to checkpoints around the course to collect as many points as possible throughout Saturday and again on Sunday morning. Peak Assault has been taking place almost every year since 1968 and attracts more than 300 people in over 60 teams.

Full information, entry requirements and registration details can be found via the link below.

<https://www.14-25.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/peak-assault-2023>

Open to Explorers Scouts Scout Network, Adults and visiting teams from Girlguiding and other youth organisations

Our District Minibus is back in action and off on adventures around the country after it was stolen from us earlier in the year. To celebrate this it will now be available for use by our Scout and Guide friends outside of Hertfordshire! This comes with some other changes to the hire conditions. Please make sure you are familiar with these if you will be using the Minibus, the hire conditions are available for anyone to view at

<https://lbdscouts.org.uk/resources/district-minibus/>





Presentation time at Kandersteg International Scout Camp, camp fire. Charles Wade and Glenn Read being presented with their Service Awards by Rob Coldrey, District Commissioner.

Service Awards



Nick Cooke
Charles Wade

District Trustee Board Member
Oak Eagle ESL



Glenn Read
Jacqui Wakefield

Oak Eagle ESL
1st Baldock GSL



Deb Simpson

1st Baldock SL



Welcome to

Ollie Gearing
Ashley Scaiffe

ASL 1st Ashwell
ABSL 1st Baldock

Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Elliott Brown	5th Letchworth
Thomas Campos	2nd Baldock
Ollie Freeman	2nd Baldock
Alice Hampton	5th Letchworth
Jack Hardy	2nd Baldock
Ffion Holt	5th Letchworth
Mila Kotecha	2nd Baldock
Reuben Leake	12th Letchworth
Amelie Lemaitre	2nd Baldock
Remy Mohabeer	2nd Baldock
Matylda Niblett	2nd Baldock
Georgia Spencer	2nd Baldock
Samuel Taylor	12th Letchworth
Lewis Williams	5th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Harriet Austin	8th Letchworth
Aaron Coggins Eversden	2nd Baldock
Lilly Gearing	2nd Baldock
Taylah Hohenkirk	2nd Baldock
Maximilian Kilby	2nd Baldock
William Nearney	12th Letchworth
Meal Osborne	2nd Baldock
Keira Parkinson	8th Letchworth
Paxton Rasche	12th Letchworth
Florence Roullier	2nd Baldock
Isaac Shinh	2nd Baldock
Oliver Sutton	2nd Baldock
Ella Tyler	2nd Baldock
Riley Williams	12th Letchworth

Diary Dates

2023

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 14 District Scout Shop Reopens
- 15 -17 ASAP (Activity Spectacular at Phasels)
- 16 District Beavers Orienteering
- 17 ASU Meeting at DHQ
- 19 District Lochearnhead Planning Meeting
- 24 County Cubs Activity Day - Tolmers



OCTOBER

- 7 District Scout Nightjar Competition
- 8 County Cub Cyclocross
- 13 - 15 County Peak Assault
- 20 - 22 JOTO / JOTI
- 23—27 School Half Term
- 26 District Scout Shop Closed



NOVEMBER

- 2 District Scout Shop Reopens
- 14 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 17/19 County Scout Green Beret



DECEMBER

- 9 or 10 District Beaver Day Out (Provisional)
- 17 ASU Christmas Dinner TBC

Printed by: Print Factory,
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JOTA-JOTI is the world's largest digital Scout event taking place online and over the air. The educational event brings together more than 2 million Scouts every year in October for a weekend of Scouting and friendship. Young people can learn about communications technology and connect with fellow Scouts from over 173 countries.