

**Scouts**   
Letchworth, Baldock &  
Ashwell

# Co-Ordinator



**Scouts**  
*Merry Christmas*



## One year on ....

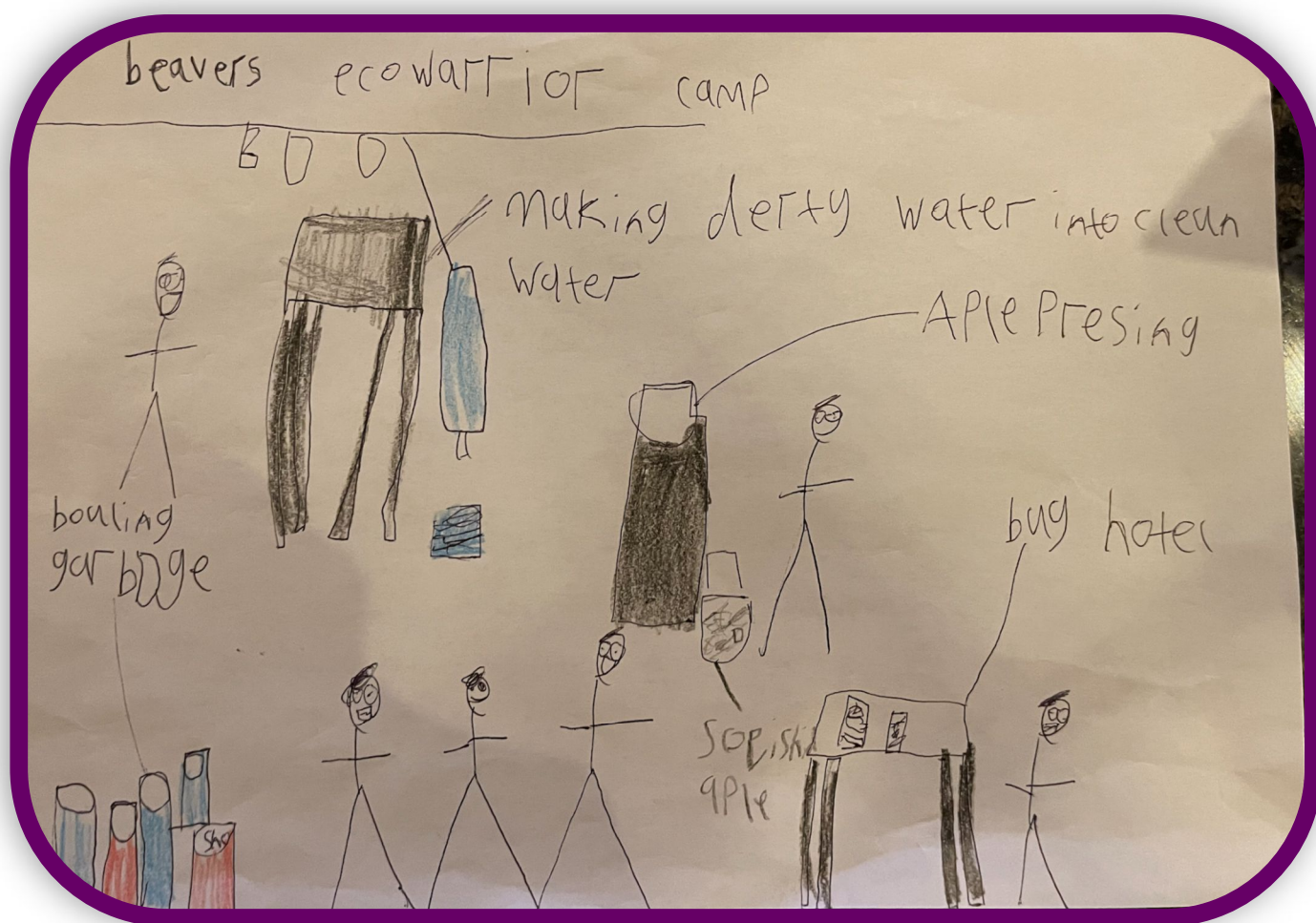
My experience of being ADC so far..... even though Amanda gave me an insight to the role before I took it on, it's still been a steep learning curve. Having my own Cub pack, looking after a Beaver colony, working 4 days a week and making sure there is family time means that I have to be even more organised than I was before. Of course I'm not superwoman and sometimes stuff gets sent out at the last minute or forgotten, but the other Cub Leaders are awesome and we seem to be a lovely big family. We had an end of year meal in November rather than our usual meeting and it was so nice to sit and chat with those who could make it and we missed those who couldn't be there. So far I have organised the Cub District Day Out to Whipsnade and overseen the Cub Quiz, both of which I have learnt from but both seemed to be a success (and it didn't rain at Whipsnade!). Next up is the Sixer and Seconder camp, but the lovely thing about that one is that all the Cub Leaders join together to make it a success. Of course one of the best things about the role is being able to present the Chief Scout Silver Awards to the Cubs and it's always enjoyable visiting the other packs in the District. So it's been interesting so far, a bit stressful at times but also fun.

**Ros - ADC (Cubs)**

## 4th Letchworth and 5th Letchworth Beaver Sleepover

14 - 15 October - Wymondley Wood

22 Young Persons from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Beaver colonies agreed to a Eco Warrior sleepover at Wymondley Woods on the 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023.



All the Beavers were super excited about the sleepover and some of the most memorable moments have been captured in the poster above which was drawn by our very own Charlie who is one of the Lodge Leaders at 5<sup>th</sup> Letchworth. After unpacking our bags in our rooms we got ready for a hike to the woods and started foraging for resources for our eco activities. We learnt about collecting muddy water from a local spring which we planned to use as a water filtration experiment base station. Then we built bug hotels using things we have collected during our hike which we placed carefully in the field nearby.

*After returning from our hike we set the tables and helped the Leaders prepare the dining room for a hot meal of pasta and spag bol and then we got to wash our own plates which we enjoyed doing as a group.*

*After eventually settling down for the evening (after our meal) we were ready for bed by 9pm which Ocalot led by singing her tooth brushing song while we all cleaned our teeth as we listened to the song and some of us even got some sleep...eventually...not that the Leaders noticed at all .*

*We woke up early (yes you did....some of you were awake by 6.15am.....) and were super excited about having breakfast which was cereals followed by homemade pancakes by our lovely volunteer cook Ana who made amazing pancakes which we had seconds and thirds in some cases!*

*We were now ready to continue learning more about eco activities which took most of the morning, Other memorable moments were the apple pressing which the Beavers enjoyed doing , "basket ball" hoops to add the apples to the apple crusher and we learned how to filter the water (collected from the stream the previous day) which started out very mucky and smelly but by the end was so clear you could see through it!*

*The recycling ten pin bowling with old pringles boxes was also popular as one of the bases*

*And after an exhausting morning of bases the Beavers were ready for biscuits and before we knew it our Grown Ups were waiting outside to collect us after midday*

**Tony Burns - 5th Letchworth BSL**

## District Cub Scout Quiz

On Friday 17th November 5 Cub Packs entered a team each to the annual Cub Quiz. These teams were made up of 3 members and needed an 8 year old, a 9 year old and a 10 year old, each answering questions for their age. There were several rounds including Scouting, and science and nature with the most popular round probably being the music round. The winners, and setting the questions next year, were 4th Letchworth. Congratulations to them!

**Ros - ADC (Cubs)**





Green Beret is a County run Scout Competition, this year held at Phasels Wood over the weekend - 17 - 19 November 2023

As usual it was wet and super muddy. Lots of Scouts from around Hertfordshire get together for team challenges.

Each District is asked to run a challenge base or two. This year District Leaders Goodie, Jackie, Glenn and myself went along. We ran 4 games. Walking on blocks, gutter ball, passing flour on the head and fire lighting on a brick. Some Scouts found them easier than others but everyone enjoyed the games, especially getting covered in flour.

Well done to the Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell Scouts that took part. They were full of energy and enthusiasm and did very well.

**Clair Calver - DESC**

## Results

Overall there were 148 teams (that's nearly 900 Scouts). Letchworth, Baldock, and Ashwell entered 10 teams who should all be extremely proud of how they did.

Place	Name
25th	5th Letchworth Scouts (Send The Fifthtorious)
36th	1st Baldock Scouts (Baldock on Tour)
43rd	4th Letchworth (St Pauls) Scouts (Go Fourth)
45th	5th Letchworth Scouts (Making Fifthtory)
54th	1st Ashwell (Puma)
74th	1st Baldock (Baldock Away)
83rd	12th Letchworth (The Black Squirrels)
92nd	8th Letchworth (Potato Heads)
93rd	1st Ashwell Scouts (Eagle)
95th	2nd Baldock (Baldockians)





## 8th Letchworth Scouts at the County Green Beret Challenge 17 - 19 October 2023







"From first light to 11pm" to achieve the Green Beret Challenge, teams of six Scouts compete in four main elements:

- ♦ Orienteering
- ♦ An Assault Course
- ♦ Day activity bases
- ♦ Night activity bases

Green Beret was very cold, and very wet! We could say we definitely battled all elements of weather apart from possibly snow. The walks were long but worth it in the end, we had to complete at least 10 **day bases** in order not to be disqualified, ranging from seeing how fast you could put marbles in a jar, to tug of war being lucky if you didn't fall over in the mud funny for the others though. And walking on wooden planks as a team. You also had to complete an assault course and, in case you couldn't guess, it was extremely muddy as 1000 scouts had already had their fun on it. The first obstacle we had to lift was a tractor tyre filled with water. Well it was safe to say we completely failed that one. We all jumped over a rope to dive into the mud and crawled under nets to just get even muddier. By this point you didn't care if you were muddy but you just wanted to get muddier. Then after 5pm you could go back to camp and have dinner. Back out at 7pm for the night bases. These were all very fun, again walking on more planks but in the dark this time definitely more tricky, and pulling a tractor along with ropes connected to an even bigger tractor and the one that was worth it all (even though you had to do it otherwise

you would get disqualified) was drinking a cup of hot chocolate in front of a worker basically to let them know you were going to still be alive.

**Chloe - 1<sup>st</sup> Baldock Scouts**



It was my first time at the Green Beret, and I participated in the **assault course**. Some parts were really fun, but others were more challenging. We were quite high up and we were not attached, and I was worried I would hurt myself! My

favourite bit was when we crawled under the obstacles in the mud!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock Scout**







As 1st Ashwell Scouts, we completed the mud **assault course** at Green Beret. We started by using a pulley system to lift a tyre up a tree. It was tough, but we managed to do it 5 times. Then was a base where we had to climb over a tall wall by pushing each other over, followed by a climb over a rope cargo net. Then was a walk on some thin walkways in the trees, and a fireman's pole at the end of that. After that was a mini obstacle course, and a rope which you had to get over without ringing the bell.

The final challenge was to lift full petrol cans as a team around a track as many times as you could, before a final sprint back to the start. We all really enjoyed it and can't wait until next year's camp!

**Ben B - 1st Ashwell Scout**



I had lots of fun on the Green Beret Camp, although it was extremely muddy! There was rain on the Saturday which made the **assault course** a mud bath. Some scouts even had to be jet washed clean! The breakfast was lovely and gave me enough energy for the activities. By the end of the day, I was tired, wet and muddy and was looking forward to my tea of chili con carne. Loading the trailer for the journey home was interesting, not least because I fell in the mud. Mike wasn't there to stop me on that occasion!

**Daisy - 8<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Scout**

The **orienteering** task at the Green Beret Challenge was really fun and we only got lost about 20 times! We had to go around a wood and tick off bases that we located on the map. We all worked together really well and near the end we sped up and started running back to make sure we wouldn't be late and lose points. We were all very surprised that we came 11th and had a lot of fun doing it.

**Daniel A - 12<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Scouts  
Team leader**







Once we were at Green Beret we had to put up the tents in the dark then decide who we were going to be sleeping with. After that we had some hotdogs and hot chocolate. We then put our things in the tent and went and sat round the campfire.

The next morning we got up at 6:00 in the morning and had cereal for breakfast. Then we went to do the **assault course** at 7:30. It was really fun and very muddy. They had set up different challenges on the route around it. I really enjoyed doing the obstacle course.

We then went back to camp and had sausages with beans and mushrooms. After that we all sat around for a bit. We then went back out to do some **day bases**. We did quite a few bases which involved rolling a ball between guttering without letting it touch the floor. Also, we did a few activities using tyres.

After that we went back to camp and had some lunch. Then we went out to **orienteering** which was a hard walk what with all the slippery mud covering the hill. When we got there, we were given a map and had to copy down all the points on the map. Once we had done that we went into the forest to find the points that we needed to find in the woods. During this we got a bit lost in it and didn't get many checkpoints. We then went back and had some of the cakes we brought with us. Then left to do some day bases.

Next, we went out and did some **night bases** which were mostly the same as the day bases only harder as they were in the dark!

Overall, in night bases 5<sup>th</sup> Letchworth came second and in day bases we came third!

**Elwen - 5<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Scouts**





### Shout outs!

I must say a huge thank you to all the Leaders who gave up their time to make Green Beret possible! To our knowledge, this was the most teams entered by our District, and it was a fantastic District event. Thank you to the advanced 'setting up yurt city' team, the catering team and everyone who helped transport kit!

Biggest thank you goes to all Scouts who were great fun, super well behaved and a credit to our District! Well done!

**Nick - ADC Scouts**



### Last laugh,

On Green Beret this year we found the world's biggest block of cheese - even the Leaders needed two hands to cradle that bad boy.

**Pete & Stiofan - Legends**

## District Scout Nightjar Hike

7 October 2023

### Reports on the District Nightjar Hike from some of 4th Letchworth Scouts who took part. .

On the 7th October I took part as a trainee. In the event we walked all over Baldock and Letchworth . I enjoyed completing each checkpoint. One person had to go home but the rest of us carried on for the walk. I feel like next time it would make it easier to have a bit more time as we ran out of time at the fourth checkpoint which was the last.

**Rosie**

On Saturday 7th October I participated in the District Nightjar Hike. On the competing team we walked some of the Greenway and through a few urban areas. I enjoyed trying to navigate my way around with my friends. I think they could have highlighted the path a bit more on the map as it didn't look much different to the rest . It all went well and only one person didn't finish on foot.

The hike really makes you pay attention to details of your environment that you wouldn't usually notice. I think next time we should have a bit more time by starting earlier so it is light for longer.

**Megan**

Charles taught us how to double check where we are going so we didn't go the wrong way. In between two of the checkpoints there were two posts in different locations that had a certain amount of glow sticks hanging from them, The glow sticks were there so that we could count them and write it down in our notebook so that at the end we could prove we were there.

I have got a pair of hiking socks. I have learned that it is best to use proper hiking socks as it doesn't rub your feet with them on. If I was to go on another hike or the Nightjar I would like to learn how to reach destinations with a map better and faster. Once I had finished I was proud of myself. Also when we got to the end it is really worth it because you get hot chocolate and chocolate brownies.

**Amy Larke**

On Saturday 7th October I went on a Nightjar Hike and I was in the training team. Once we had got checked in and we had got checked for our kit. We started with checkpoint 4 going on to 3 then 2 then 1. The hike took us in the about 6 hours to get from 4 to 1. In the hike we had to find out a way to get from checkpoint to checkpoint. We started with a map, compass and a book and pencil. The Leader in one training team helped with the map. The Leader in our group, Charles, asked us where we thought we needed to go then if we were right we could go, but if we were wrong he would explain it and make us understand., which we did every time we got to a new turn,





Nightjar Hike  
winning team (8th  
Letchworth) being  
presented with the  
trophy by  
Nick Howell  
- ADC (Scouts)

Nightjar Hike  
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team  
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with their trophy  
by Nick Howell  
- ADC (Scouts)



## 1st Baldock Cubs (Templars) meet the Army Cadets

I was invited to help with Cubs this evening as a member of the ASU (Active Support Unit). ASU are a section within the Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell District made up of members who are able to be available when sections and scouting activities need support.

The evening was organised and lead by Ryan who is the Young Leader with 1<sup>st</sup> Baldock Cubs (Templars), Ryan is also an Army Cadet. The evening was to work towards the Cub's Teamwork Challenge and Our Skills Challenge Awards. There were four bases and a relay.



### Base One – Looking after your kit and uniform.

Cadet Combarro talked about the importance of looking after their kit and demonstrated how to clean and polish shoes. The Cubs were then asked to have a go! It got a bit messy!!



### Base Two - Cam Cream

Cadet Gibbs talked about why they used Cam cream, demonstrated how to put it on and then in pairs the Cubs had a go!! Even our parent helper joined in!



Halfway through we had a relay, where the Cubs had to use fieldcraft movements to get to the end and run bac. The Cubs found some of the moves harder than others and it was lovely to hear the Cubs shouting encouragement to their team.





**Base Three** – Cadet Evans spoke about the different team activities within the Army Cadet Force explaining how teams work and the different skills needed within a good team.

**Base Four** - run by Cadet White was a great team building exercise where the Cubs had to stand on a tarpaulin and then fold it as small as they could without touching the floor. They soon realised that they needed to work together and hold onto each other for support – I think this was probably their favourite activity of the evening – it was certainly the most fun to watch!



At the end of the evening the Cadets spoke about how the Army Cadet Force is different from Scouts and Cubs and their experiences within it. This discussion also highlighted similarities within the two youth organisations.

Thank you to all the Army Cadets for a fun filled evening and to Akela for organising it with Ryan.

**Irene - ASU member**

## CENSUS - 2024

The District fee was discussed and agreed at our recent District Trustee Board meeting. The following is the breakdown of total cost to be paid for each young person on your census returns next year.

National	£38.00
County	£15.00
District	£ 5.00
Discount for prompt payment	-£ 0.50
<b>Total Due (with discount)</b>	<b>£57.50</b>

Both National and County have increased their cost but we have taken the decision to leave the District levy the same as the last 2 years.

Census returns have been brought forward this year and we can expect the process to start in early/mid December.

**Robert Coldrey - D.C.**

Taken from the Scout Association Website.

### Census 2024

The next census will take place in January 2024 and follow the timeline below:

- **Between 6th and 13th December 2023- Census passwords sent out**
- **20th December - Census opens**
- **14th January 2024 - Census approvals open**
- **14th February - Census closes.** All returns must be complete and approved.

Please note that local Scouting will have its own deadlines for census to ensure all returns are approved locally ahead of the census closing on the **14th February**. Please check local deadlines with your relevant District or County commissioner.



## Long Service Award



Simon Goodwin, District Scouter, being awarded his 25 year Long Service Award at the County Scout Green Beret Challenge by Robert Coldrey, District Commissioner.





## District Expedition to Lochearnhead 2025



26th July - 2nd August 2025  
2nd August - 9th August 2025

We have now completed all of the Group launches and bookings are open.. Your Group contacts will have sent out further information. We have had a lot of interest from both Young People and adults. If you would like to put your name down it is not too late. The forms are on these links.

Young Person application form <https://lbd.org.uk/s/loch25-sign-up>

Leader application form <https://lbd.org.uk/s/loch25-adults>

District Lochearnhead webpage

<https://lbdscouts.org.uk/about-us/lochearnhead/>

# Achievements



### Chief Scout's Silver Award

Daniel Prowle      1st Ashwell



### Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Kacey Butler      Oak Eagle ESU  
She also received her Young Leaders Belt.

## Service Awards



Lisa Wake      4th Letchworth



Jacob Tyler      4th Letchworth  
CSL

# Diary Dates

## 2023 / 2024

### DECEMBER

- 12** Scout Leaders' Social  
**16** ASU Christmas Dinner

### JANUARY

- 9** Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting  
**15** District Cub Leaders' meeting  
**19-21** Tolmers Fire and Ice  
**27** County Monopoly Run - London  
**28** District Scout Cooking Competition - 1st Baldock HQ  
**30** District Lochearnhead Meeting - Wymondley Wood

### FEBRUARY

- 6** District Scout Leaders' Meeting  
**24** ASU / Trefoil - Founders / Thinking Day tea and cake

### MARCH

- 11** District Cub Leaders' meeting  
**17** ASU Meeting

### APRIL

- 21** St George's Day Parade and Service  
**27 - 28** District Cub Sixers and Seconders Camp

### MAY

- 3 - 6** Introduction to the Hills (ITTH) 11 - 13 year olds - Peak District  
**19** District Greenway Walk

### JUNE

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