

Co-Ordinator

Happy New Year
2024

As we reach the end of 2023, my first year as DC, I look back at how busy it has been! I have had the pleasure of attending so many events, seeing everyone working together to deliver a full and well rounded Scouting programme for our young people.

We started the year with a stolen minibus and have ended it with the opening of an additional Explorer Scout Unit. In between we have seen every section take part in camps, had participants attend an eventful World Jamboree, seen many young people achieve their top awards and all while having fun in the process!

Thank You to each and every one of you who does their bit to make sure Scouting in this area continues to thrive. It would not be possible without you!

Next year will bring change as new Team Based Roles, Learning and Digital systems are introduced. But I'm sure we will be able to adapt to this new approach. I hope to bring you more information on this in the new year.

It will also be another year where we can continue to work together, provide #SkillsForLife and make memories!

Thank You, Take Care and have a fantastic New Year!

Robert Coldrey - DC

**You're doing
great and making
a difference**

Thank you for being there



8th Letchworth Scouts

Warhammer

On the 23rd and 30th November the Warhammer store in Bedford hosted 8th Letchworth for 2 evenings of the Scouts Model Maker badge. The store owner Wayne is very enthusiastic about introducing young people into the world of modelling and is looking for other groups to come along and take part. He can be contacted on 01234 341324.



When I went to Warhammer I got to build up from little plastic pieces to a little Minnie figurine. After we built them, we painted them with thick paints and at the next Scout session we painted the last three. We all got to make four. When I was there I thought it was very nice being talked through the steps for building and painting the figures. The figurines were very fun and cool and the whole time I was there I saw the person next to me smiling so I think other people liked it to. Overall I really enjoyed the experience of making and painting Warhammer figurines.

Amelia Biggs - 8th Letchworth Scout

It was very good. I loved the idea and the figurines and the shop itself was really cool. I could spend hours in there if I could. It was an incredible night out and I loved building and painting our own figurines. I spent really long on just filling in the little details and I truly love the ideas of the different figurine and the detail in each is so cool. I personally loved it and would definitely recommend it to someone else in the area, I would love to come again if I was in the area, and thought that the experience was very fun. Thank you for a very fun time!

Thomas Baldry - 8th Letchworth Scout





4th Letchworth Scouts Ripple Effect

The new name for Send a Cow

On the last meeting before Christmas 4th Letchworth Scouts had a party with an array of games and food to share.

Some of the Scouts came in Christmas themed clothes, others came in clothes that made them feel happy.

Christmas is a joyous time when we can all reflect on how lucky we are and reach out to help others less fortunate. With that in mind, 4th Letchworth Scouts on the evening raised enough money to purchase

1. Life -Changing Calf
2. Brilliant Beehive
3. Glorious Goat

If you want to learn about the Ripple Effect Charity - search for rippleeffect.org

Your gift will help families in rural Africa learn, grow and sell more, releasing the potential in their land and lives. They then pass their knowledge on, creating a wave of change across rural Africa. You're now part of this amazing movement that grows and grows!



Oak Eagle Explorers'
end of term fun at
Teamwork Karting.

Outdoor 24

resources and ideas for getting outdoors in Scouts throughout 2024 and beyond

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/planning-your-programme/outdoor-in-24/>

Why not get outdoors in '24' and earn this amazing badge

#Outdoorin24



Outdoor in 24 is encouraging Scout sections, from Squirrels to Network, to get outside throughout 2024. Whether it's for one meeting, going on a Night Away event or taking on the Outdoors in 24 challenge, we're hoping to get young people trying something new in the great outdoors this year.

There's even an extra 24 hours from the leap year in 2024 for you to get outside.

If you're a new volunteer wondering where to start, or an experienced volunteer looking for some new ideas, we've brought together resources to help you plan and run outdoor activities with your groups. We're also encouraging volunteers to look into getting your Nights Away Permit and Adventurous Activities Permit if you want to.

From making art from natural materials or sleeping under the stars to paddle-boarding across a lake or visiting a local farm, what will you get up to in the great outdoors this year?



At the Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Centre Committee Meeting in November it was agreed NOT to increase the Wymondley Wood Scout & Guide Scout Centre charges for 2025. However, the situation will be reviewed in September 2024.

If changes to charges have to be made then all confirmed bookings, with a deposit, will remain at the agreed price. Any new bookings will be subject to any increase.

Annual General Meeting Some groups have asked for some guidance on what is required from an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

This information is available via the Scout Association Website, however, a Leader in the District has consolidated this into a document which was emailed to all Group Scout Leaders and Group Executive Committees which should make it easier for everyone to find the information.

To be clear, this is not an absolute on how an AGM should be completed, Groups may have their own way that works.

This document does, however, include the minimum requirements for an AGM.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-things-locally/trustee-boards/annual-general-meetings>

Robert Coldrey
District Commissioner

Further information can be found in the attachment (11 pages) which was sent by Robert Coldrey DC, via email dated 9 December 2023.

Transition reflects Charity Commission guidelines and good practice and is the approach recommended by The Scout Association (TSA).

POR will be updated to reflect the changes. Itemised information here is taken from POR version January 2023

Trustee Boards should consist of an optimal number of 5 to 12 Trustees (replacing the old wording of Executive Committee/ members)

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-things-locally/trustee-boards>

Trustees focus solely on the governance of the charity, not the delivery of Scouting.

The delivery of Scouting is the responsibility of the Operational Support function

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5-local-governance-and-finance-of-groups-districts-counties/>

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-things-locally/trustee-boards/annual-general-meetings/description/>

For programme ideas whilst celebrating special dates in the World calendar please visit [January 2024 | Scouts](#). The month of February dates include - Time to Talk Day, National Pizza Day, Lunar New Year, Safer Internet Day, Random Acts of Kindness Day, International Polar Bear Day and many more. The calendar goes from January 2024 to August 2024. Each special day on the calendar has ideas for planned activities.

Taken from the Scout Association Website. **CENSUS 2024**

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.



Ian Hunt, GSL
12th Letchworth
Scout Group
pictured with
three Cub Scouts
after being
presented with
their Chief
Scout's Silver
Award.

Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Charlie Wilderspin

5th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Arthur Brewster

1st Baldock

Joseph Burton

12th Letchworth

Eddie Chapman

1st Baldock

Charlotte Chase

4th Letchworth

Isaac Dumpleton

1st Baldock

James Dunstan

1st Baldock

Luke Foreman

4th Letchworth

Jake Gribble

1st Baldock

Lucas Hammond

1st Baldock

Alfred Hewlett

12th Letchworth

Timothy Mutitika

12th Letchworth

William Patmore

1st Baldock

Rowan Potts

1st Baldock

Arthur Roberts

1st Baldock

Alex Sander

1st Baldock

Benjamin Sterling

1st Baldock

Lewis Walkinshaw

5th Letchworth

Sidney Walkinshaw

5th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Alex Bennetto

5th Letchworth

Millie Checkley

5th Letchworth

Daisy Griffiths

5th Letchworth

Wilbur Griffiths

5th Letchworth

Elizabeth Mann

11th Letchworth

Bridget Mann

11th Letchworth

Rowan Winchester

5th Letchworth



Diary Dates

2024

JANUARY

- 9** Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 15** District Cub Leaders' meeting
- 19-21** Tolmers Fire and Ice
- 26 - 28** Big Garden Birdwatch
- 27** County Monopoly Run - London
- 28** District Scout Cooking Competition - 1st Baldock HQ
- 30** District Lochearnhead Meeting - Wymondley Wood

FEBRUARY

- 5 - 11** Children's Mental Health Week
- 6** District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 10** Southern 50 Challenge Hike (County)
- 22** Founder's Day
- 24** ASU / Trefoil - Founders / Thinking Day tea and cake

MARCH

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

APRIL

- 7** International Beaver Day
- 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

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