

Co-Ordinator

Oak Eagle and Senuna Explorer Scout Units - Shrewsbury Prison

On Saturday 17th February the District minibus set off full to the brim with Explorers from Senuna and Oak Eagle ESUs, heading for Shrewsbury Prison. Yes, we were locked up for a while but managed to escape and then had a tour around this very old and interesting old prison.

Then it was back in the bus and off to Coetmor Mill near Bethesda, North Wales. This is a great bunk house that has been used by Hertfordshire Scouts for many years. Recently it has been updated with central heating, double glazing, a new cooker, efficient drying room and lots more. Well worth a visit.

Sunday was a big day hike with three groups walking in different directions from Capel Curig. With some rain and very soggy underfoot it was tough going in some areas. Glenn tried some Bog Snorkelling and hardly anyone laughed at all.

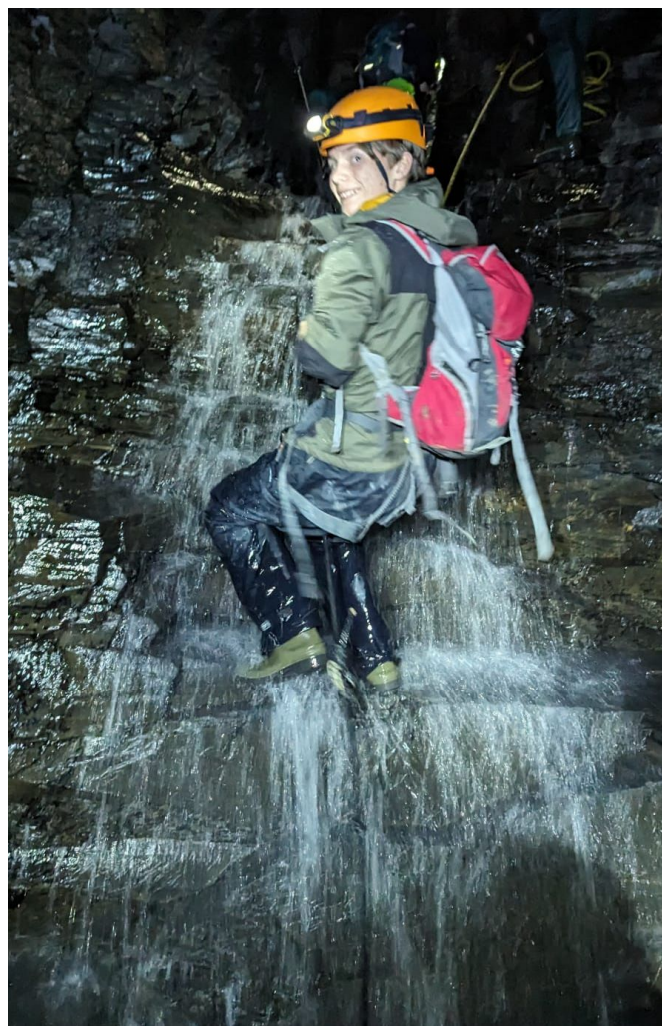
Monday was a day in Go Below slate mine. We dressed in our waterproofs and wellies and hiked up the hill to the mine entrance. Underground we waded through rivers, went across lakes by boat and zip wire, climbed waterfalls and abseiled down. It was great fun for everyone.

Tuesday heavy rain was forecast so we set off early for a morning hike to avoid the storm. Map reading skills were tested and the wind definitely blew away the cobwebs. Then it was uniforms on and back on the minibus for the journey home.

Big thanks to all the Leaders who came from near and far to help. You all worked so hard and we had lots of laughs along the way.

Very well done to all the Explorers. You were great company, worked well together and rose to the challenges.

Clair Calver - DESC





Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell Scouts

Census Return 2024

Leader Appointments
2023 2024

Adults	Young People totals	Adults	Young People totals
11	80	9	87
14	119	20	114
9	67	10	88
13	71	17	86
12	41	14	40
6	43	6	32
7	48	7	57
7	40	8	41
7	61	9	44
7	40	4	54
0	0	0	4
	1		18
	0		0

Letchworth Baldock and Ashwell Scouts
Census Return 2024

GROUP	Beavers			Cubs			Scouts			Explorers			Leaders			Sect. Asst.			Others			Exec Mbrs			Occ Hlprs			Census 2024	Census 2023
	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I	M	F	S.I		
	12	12	0	25	5	1	24	8	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	7	2	0		
1st Ashwell	32	4	0	35	3	0	34	6	0	0	0	0	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	1	0	13	20	0	108	112
1st Baldock	13	8	0	14	13	0	30	9	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	2	0	14	17	0	173	167
2nd Baldock	18	10	0	26	8	0	16	8	0	0	0	0	8	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	17	16	0	134	101
4th Letchworth	8	3	0	6	5	0	11	7	0	0	0	0	9	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	142	99
5th Letchworth	8	2	0	10	5	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	5	6	0	62	59
7th Letchworth	14	2	0	11	4	0	11	15	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	5	11	0	52	66
8th Letchworth	11	5	0	6	2	0	12	5	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	82	69
11th Letchworth	10	2	0	15	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	9	8	0	53	50
12th Letchworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	16	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	86
Black Eagle Explorers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	47
Black Eagle (Y.L. only)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Senuna Explorers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0
Network	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	6	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	58
Active Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	11	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	29
District Personnel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	10	6	0	24	46	

93 610 105 665

126 48 0 148 52 2 152 60 1 54 22 0 46 40 0 3 10 0 29 29 19 21 18 0 81 91 0

Grand Total 1052 991
6% -2%

% Difference on previous year

Notes Young Leader figure does not include those doing Doffe only
Young Leader figure appears low but the majority are active in Explorers so are captured within that total
Others column contains GSL roles only

Ivel Springs Squirrel Drey

As most of you are aware, Squirrel Scouts were officially recognised as the youngest members of The Scout Association in the UK on September 1st 2021. The Section is based on the Northern Irish Scouts' model, which had been running for about 50 years, and had been piloted in various inner-city areas before the onset of Covid-19. Some people within District had enquired about the possibility of opening a Drey, but none were set up. Fast forward to a time-filling conversation with Wendy Tierney, whilst awaiting the return of the walkers doing the Greenway Walk. We were talking generally about things in the District when the topic of Squirrels came up. We agreed that the probable way forward was to open a District-centred Drey, which would take children from all the Beaver Colonies' waiting lists, give them the Squirrel experience and then return them back to their feeder Colonies.

After 9 months' work finding Leaders, a meeting place, and compiling a list of young people - plus a fairly major paperwork glitch - and we arrived at Saturday 24th February 2024... Eagle (Tara), Zeke (8th Letchworth GSL) and myself are standing waiting for our newest members of the Scout Association. On opening the door we welcomed in our young people and their parents. After reading books, finding out about Squirrel Scouts, colouring their name plaques and telling us all about themselves, we had story time, then had fun with the Squirrel Wiggle song.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with help, advice and support to get us up and running; and to anyone who would like to pop in one Saturday to find out what were doing, get in touch as we would love to see you.

Vicki ADC (Squirrel Scouts)
Ivel Springs Squirrels - 8th Letchworth Scout Group



8th Letchworth Scouts - Herts Dive Club

This term 8th Letchworth Scouts have been working alongside the Herts Dive Club to complete their Water Activities badge by taking part in Discover Scuba Diving sessions. The young people were required to complete some on-line eLearning, and a full safety briefing before taking part in an hour long session underwater. This activity was enjoyed by all who took part and is highly recommended for other groups wishing to give it a go. One of the instructors is even a Scouting DC which helped them to understand the needs of the badge.

Groups that would like to offer Scuba Diving to their young people should contact the club at steve@hertsdiveclub.co.uk

When we arrived at the scuba diving place we got told the safety measures and that we should listen and be sensible otherwise we would be kicked out. Putting the scuba diving equipment on was awkward because it was heavy and when we had the flippers on the floor was very slippery. The experience in the pool was very exciting and fun since we got to breathe pure oxygen and race to get toys. When we got out our mouths were really dry and it was handy to have a water bottle. Overall it was a really fun experience and would recommend doing it

Flavio - 8th Letchworth Scout



8th Letchworth Scouts - Herts Dive Club

A small group of us met at 8th Letchworth Scout Hut mid February at 7.15pm. From there we travelled to Hatfield in our Leaders' cars - some of us with Zeke, the others with Mike.

When we arrived at the swimming pool in Hatfield, we reviewed the hand signals that you need to know when scuba diving. After that we got changed into our swimming costumes and went into the pool. There we were assisted with putting our scuba diving gear on. This consisted of the BCD (buoyancy control device) with the pressured air cylinder and regulator, our diving masks, and a pair of flippers. Once we had all the gear on, we practised breathing under water and soon we started diving. We did some laps around the pool and played a couple of games where we had to retrieve items from the bottom of the pool. Our diving instructors were always by our side and made sure we were safe. The experience of being under water weightless was incredible and I would highly recommend it.

After a couple more laps in the pool the instructors helped us remove our gear and we exited the pool. Once we had gotten dry and changed, the Leaders drove us back home. We arrived back in Letchworth approximately 10.30pm. It was a very late night but totally worth it!

Amélie - 8th Letchworth Scout



Team Supreme are a group of District Leaders who fundraise throughout the year to support District events and to help purchase District equipment. We need to replace quite a few items of equipment before the Lochearnhead trip in 2025 such as some of the mountain tents and emergency shelters.

We have some events coming up to raise funds and need some extra adult help.

The next event will be organising the car parking at Willian Fete on

Sunday 7th July 1pm - 4pm

If you are able to help please contact Apryl, our District Secretary directly on secretary@lbdscouts.org.uk

Uniform and badge price changes from 1st March.



Like many retailers, we have been significantly impacted by the rising inflation costs. Every effort is made to save on what we can without impacting customer service. Despite our best efforts, we have to increase all of our products from **1st March 2024**, including **£1 increase on all uniform items** and **5p on all programme badges**. The price of other products will increase, but as these are the core products for Scouts we feel it is important to let you know.

We appreciate that this is difficult news, especially alongside other cost of living increases. We have worked extremely hard with our suppliers to make sure that any potential increase was kept as low as possible.

This year's District St George's Day celebration is being organised by

11th Letchworth Scout Group.

The event will take place on

Sunday 21st April 2024.

Meeting at 10.00am at Howards Garden (Paddling pool side).

Parade to the Broadway Gardens arriving at 11.00 am to start the celebrations.


It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ian Tycker has been appointed as the new Lead Volunteer (formally County Commissioner) for Hertfordshire in succession to Liz Walker.



Many of you will have met Ian at numerous District and County events. Ian has 19 years of volunteering in Hertfordshire. His first 7 years were as a Scout Leader, then 9 years as District Commissioner for Hertford, and the last few years as Deputy County Commissioner (People). More recently he has also been our Transformation Lead.

Mike Shurety -County Chairman

County Scout Cooking Competition Stevenage Scouts HQ - 11 February 2024 Final Results

		1st Berkhamsted Scout Group	Batchworth Sea Scouts	3rd Hertford	1st Great Amwell	2nd Ware	12th Letchworth	5th Stevenage Air Scouts
		Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6	Team 7
Menu Presentation/Content/Costings	20	12	15	14	17	12	17	20
Within Budget	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Food Preparation/Cleanliness/Cleanup	20	18	16	17	19	19	16	18
Team Dress	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
Team Work	15	14	13	14	15	14	14	14
Timing/Service	20	20	18	15	20	18	20	20
Table setting/Theme	10	10	8	7	5	7	8	9
Home Cooking	50	40	35	40	35	45	40	40
Chef's Palate Starter	20	20	12	13	10	20	18	10
Chef's Palate Main	20	20	18	18	15	20	17	15
Chef's Palate Sweet	20	18	18	18	19	20	18	18
Quantity	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Total	230	207	187	191	190	210	203	199
Position		2	7	5	6	1	3	4

The venue of this year's County Scout Cooking Competition was changed from Tolmers Scout Camp and Activity Centre to Stevenage District HQ. 12th Letchworth represented the District after winning the Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell Cooking Competition. Well done to 12th Letchworth Scouts who came third overall.



2nd Baldock Scouts - Wymondley Wood Indoor Camp



I really enjoyed my recent camp at Wymondley Wood.

Walking to the camp on the first night was fun and I was excited for the weekend ahead of me. My favourite activity was taskmaster as I enjoyed competing against the other Scouts. The large outdoor space was great for playing games such as football. I mostly enjoyed spending time with the friends I have made in Scouts..

Harry Latto



2nd Baldock Scout Group

**Celebrates its 70th Birthday with a
(PARTY) and AGM on 7th June 2024**

Were you a member of our Group?
Beaver, Cub, Scout or Leader?

Do you have Memories that you could write about?
Photos that you could let us borrow or copy?

If so please get in touch

Memories@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk

*We would like to invite anyone with a
connection to 2nd Baldock in the past to our
celebration party.*

Please get in touch for more information

ASU and Trefoil Guilds Founder's and Thinking Day Afternoon tea and cake get together Saturday 24 February 2024

Twenty Five members of the Letchworth and Baldock District Scout Active Support Unit and the Guide Trefoil Guilds of Letchworth, Hitchin and Baldock met at the Scout District HQ on Saturday 24 February to celebrate Founder's Day / World Thinking Day with afternoon tea and cake.

All had a great time. We all enjoyed the quiz, with tea and cake afterwards whilst we caught up with each others news.

Wendy Tierney - Deputy District Lead Volunteer attended the National Scout Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey on Friday 23 February 2024.



Welcome to

Zack Wake

4th Letchworth ACSL

Claire Slack

12th Letchworth Section Assistant

Beaver Scout

Diary Dates

2024

MARCH

- 7** World Book Day
- 11** District Cub Leaders' meeting
- 12** Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 16** County Cub Bushcraft Day - Tolmers Activity Centre
- 17** ASU Meeting
- 22** World Water Day
- 24** County Scout Triathlon - Lees Wood
- 27** 1st Baldock AGM - 7.30pm start at 1st Baldock Scout HQ

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
- 7** District Lochearnhead Planning Meeting No 4
- 14** District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 19** District Greenway Walk

JUNE

- 7** 2nd Baldock AGM and 70th Birthday
- 8** County AGM - Tolmers Activity Centre
- 9** County Cubs Water Activity Day - ESSA
- 9** ASU Meeting
- 11** District Beavers Bangers and Bash

JULY

- 7** Car Parking at Willian Fete (Fund Raiser)
- 11** Beavers Bangers and Bash
- 27 - 3 August** Essex International Jamboree



Editor: Rita Hawkins
1 South Close, Baldock ,
Hertfordshire
SG7 6DS
e-mail:
co-ordinator@lbdscouts.org.uk

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