

Co-Ordinator

Senuna Explorer Scout Unit

Our name, Senuna, is a Celtic/Roman Goddess of water and springs.

Votive offerings to her were discovered during an archaeological dig in Ashwell, close to where we meet - [https://](https://www.ashwellmuseum.org.uk/category/history/senuna-and-the-ashwell-hoard)

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The colours match our unit's necker. Royal Blue representing water, and pink representing the goddess.

The badge design shows an Ash tree and a goddess filling a well - at the Ashwell Springs.

There is a Celtic band to show the heritage of the Senuna.



District Beavers Bangers and Bash - Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre 10 July 2025

A very successful event this year, although a little warm!! Great to have the nice weather but we wanted to turn down the 30 degree heat.

Over 120 young people attended, alongside Leaders and Adult Helpers this gave us about 160 people to cater for!

The Beavers walked up from Kingswood Avenue to Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre, most taking the cooler route through the woods.

Activities were all set up for when they arrived including: Trim Trail, parachute games, glitter tattoos, field games and plastic axe throwing.

They all found some shade and a place to sit down and have a hot dog, packet of crisps and a well needed ice lolly. Beavers always enjoy socialising all together, seeing friends from school who attend a different group.

ASU came to help with serving the food, their help as always is very much appreciated to make it run smoothly. Glenn and Apryl managed the kitchen and did an amazing job getting everyone fed quickly. Even time for them to have an ice lolly!

A busy closing ceremony this year as all groups have been working really hard on badges. We had 7 Chief Scout Bronze Awards to give out to various groups. Love giving out these badges and this is a great event to show the younger Beavers what they can work towards. 12th Letchworth collected the Beaver Challenge Trophy. Rob (DLV) came and presented Apryl with her 25 years' service award, the Beavers gave a massive cheer.

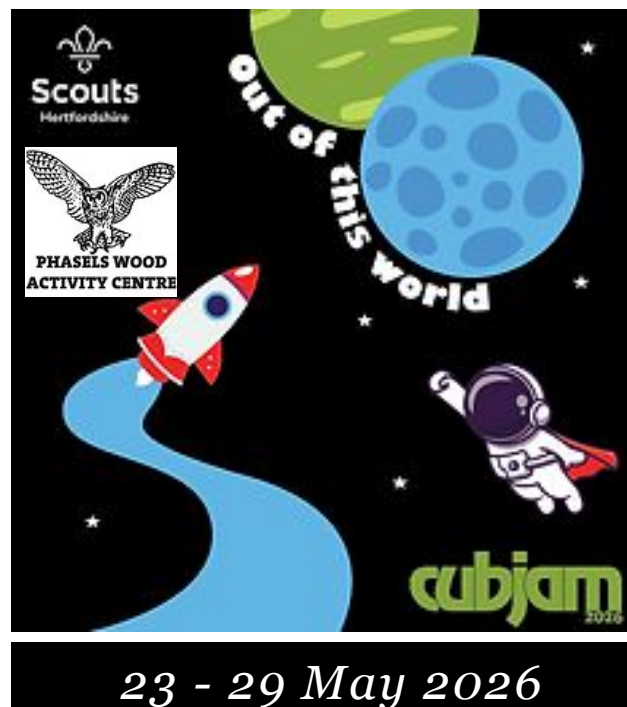
Always such a great event with wide range of ages in attendance and a great turn out by all.

Hayley
Beaver Programme Team Lead





JOTA-JOTI is the world's largest digital and radio Scout event, promoting friendship and global citizenship.





Lochearnhead 2025



At the beginning of the summer holidays 100 Scouts and Explorers Scouts and over 50 adults from Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell took part in the District Lochearnhead Expedition. This is an event that usually takes place every four years, although we hadn't been able to go in 2021 because of the Covid lockdowns. As a result we were all really excited and looked forward to it with great anticipation.

We were based at Lochearnhead Scout Station in the Southern Highlands. This is an old, disused railway station that was bought and refurbished by Hertfordshire Scouts for use as a base in the mountains. The loch where we sail is a short walk away and the mountains start right outside the site gates. There is more information on the District Lochearnhead page [Lochearnhead](#) |

Young people and adults went sailing, mountain biking, white water rafting, canyoning, climbing and abseiling. They went out in the mountains and climbed some of the Munros in the area. Many of them were able to high camp in the mountains although some of this was curtailed during the second week as Storm Floris battered the Highlands. Luckily we came out unscathed apart from the loss of the marquee and a tree.

It was a fantastic trip and the young people wrote a daily newsletter to read at breakfast, and also to send home to parents. Here are some of the articles:

Claire Greener - Station Master, District Lochearnhead Expedition 2025

The Railway Magazine January 1978

Hertfordshire Scout Council which in 1962 leased from British Railways the closed former Caledonian Railway Lochearnhead Station, on the line between Balquhiddy and Crieff and refurbished it at a cost of £6,000 as Lochearnhead Scout Station, a sailing and mountaineering training centre, has been informed by BR Property Board that the station is to be sold. If they wish to remain there they must purchase it. An appeal for £13,000 has been launched and contributions are invited by Hertfordshire Scout Council (Lochearnhead) Scout County Office, rear of 78 Fore Street, Hertford.



To find out more about the history of Lochearnhead please visit:-

<https://www.lochearnhead.org.uk/history>



Climbing up a storm

First full English breakfast got us ready for a hard day of climbing. 3 climbs and 1 abseil. There were small spaces and 19m cliffs. I got stuck near the top of the chimney climb. Abseiling, at first you stand right on the edge, it was knee shaking and my teeth were chattering. But once you get going you feel calm. The ropes are held by 2 trees and 1 person and yourself.

- Benjamin

Climbing started easy and then got harder. Foot holds were smaller than my feet. Climbing up rocks is easier than climbing down a river.

- Luke

Alfred thought video games moves to bounce across the wall would help. Not as easy as it looks on a screen. Harrison said 'I'm not a ninja warrior' The climbing rocks were very high. We wore a harness and a chest harness and a helmet. It is peaceful at Bennybeg crags. There are woods and a breeze and it was sometimes sunny. Hayley said that her abseiling demo was outstanding and filled the group with confidence and excitement.

- Patrols J & K

Extract from Lochearnhead 2025

Newsletter 03 - Tuesday 29 July



Walking on the hills

Day One

To begin our walk we sat around on the station, waiting for the minibus to come and take us away. When at long last Jacob finally arrived he was accompanied by an iced coffee that we were assured was from the station and not Costa. Once we made it to the car park, we took our packs and walked a little until we got hungry and ate lunch. We then did some more walking and a bit more walking, until we reached the location that was deemed suitable for us to camp on. Then we got hungry and ate tea. Then we slept.

Day Two Many

To start the second day we... got hungry and ate porridge "food of the gods?" for breakfast. After which we walked up a hill, and another, and then we got hungry and ate lunch in the spacious and comfortable group shelter. After this we proceeded to walk down to camp and stand around until we got hungry and ate tea. Then I unfortunately had to utilise 'the bag of doom'. Then we slept.

Day... I Don't Know!

At long last to complete our hike we ate MORE porridge and wandered down through the valley after striking camp. We then set up a singular tent and Trangia to sit around while people were up 'Ben something or other' and we scrambled around on some rocks and accidentally burnt things onto a pan until we got hungry and ate lunch. Then we walked down to the farm and saw the beautiful sight of Glenn in the minibus to take us home.

- Issac (Patrol C)

"A Truly Moving Experience - Rustic, Raw, and Windy"

Visited: July 2025

Location: High Camp, Somewhere Perilously Vertical

I've dropped deuces in some wild places, but this one really peaked my interest. After a brutal climb, our patrol set up camp just below the summit. The views? Majestic. The toilet? Conceptual.

Facilities included:

- One biodegradable poo bag
 - A "privacy rock" offering minimal shame protection
 - Several sheep watching with what felt like quiet judgment
 - A breeze strong enough to exfoliate your soul
- Toilet seat? Nope. Just a squat and pray situation while Owen laughed from a safe distance.

Pros:

- ✓ No queue
- ✓ Deeply introspective
- ✓ Amazing views mid-squat

Cons:

- X Wobbly footing - danger is real
- X Bag warmth is temporary and deeply wrong
- X Sheep make unsettling eye contact

Final thoughts:

Primitive. Humbling. Slightly traumatic. But unforgettable. Would recommend - once.



Extract - Newsletter 05

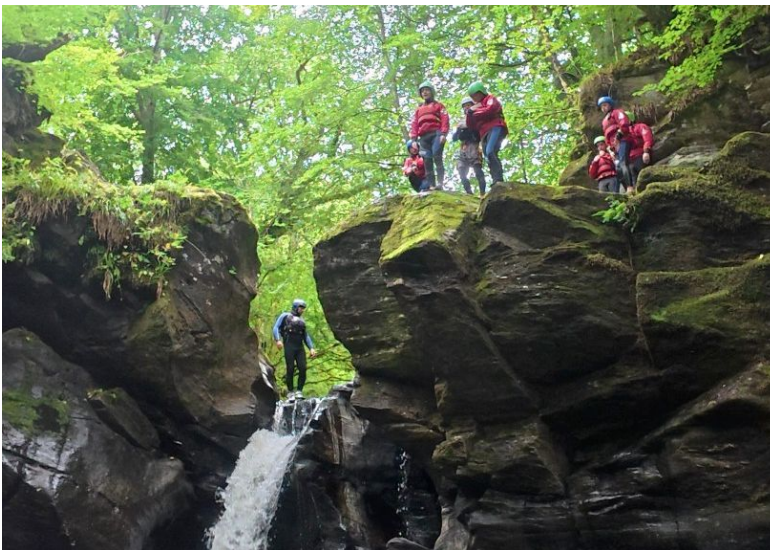
Thursday 31 July 2025

White Water Rafting



Patrol E & F went white water rafting in the morning and canyoning in the afternoon. After a 50 minute bus ride we got to the Activity Centre in Aberfeldy and then split up into 2 groups after we put our wetsuits on. The white water rafting went great: nobody got injured (badly anyway) and most people had fun. Then we had lunch and joined up again for canyoning. After a further 15 minute bus ride, we got to our canyon. The main thing that we did there were the jumps. They ranged in height from 1 metre to almost 10 and most people did at least one of them.

- Alex W, James H (Patrol F)



Today me and my group (Group E) went to Splash. It was a fun experience. During Splash we went white water rafting. Most of it was calm but as we drifted toward some strong currents I knew things would get more intense. When we entered the fast flowing current we picked up speed, crashing into rocks before entering calmer water once more. Then after around an hour

and a half the instructor declared that we were entering one of the fastest currents in the river we were in. It was extremely thrilling and the current consisted of multiple drops and speed boosts. At one point one of the waves covered me entirely (not that it mattered, I was already drenched from swimming by the raft.) In the end of that part of the activity we swam to shore. Side note, there was a cute dog who loved to play, she also officially turned 4 whilst we were there. The second part of the activity was where we went to a canyon-ish place (basically 2 walls that made a long lengthways strip. It also had a current flowing through it.) There were 5 jumps which got higher and higher at the 3rd/4th jump. I hesitated for at least 4 minutes before jumping. It was at least 6 metres tall and I am afraid of heights so you can't blame me...The last jump was tall, I am not sure how tall, but I jumped in the end so I wouldn't regret it later. Overall it was fun all together.

- Alex K (Patrol E)

The Epic Of The Storm

I was woken up this morning by the heavy downfall cascading from the stars above. As I walked to breakfast the huge gusts of air jet-streamed down the scenic valley towards us. My breakfast had never felt warmer with the catering team's delicious food nestled in my belly like a fire within me. After our yummy breakfast we made our way to the minibuses and headed down on a "long perilous journey" to the Lochearnhead village hall. [Editor's note: the village hall is maybe 300 meters as the crow flies]. From there the leaders had prepared an escapade of taskmaster questions for us to complete including famous scene re-enacting where some star favourites included Issac Newton's discovery of gravity, the fall of the Berlin wall and the battle of Hastings where Jacob acted king Harold and got shot in the eye. Other tasks included dot to dots where group B's Rowan drew an inspiring gallant Garfield, which won us a mighty 4 points for the team. After morning tasks it was time for lunch which was soft bread baps with soup that dissolved in our mouths. After this, groups A, B, C & D had some spare free time in which some groups played games such as poker which some avid explorers had brought along a full poker set including mat and chips and all. As the swirling tempest raged around us like the devil himself trying to steal our souls protected in our bubble of warmth and tranquillity that was the village hall we sheltered within. As the thundering storm ensued around us, unleashing its wrath on the tapestry of mountains and forests nearby. As the day carried on the Leaders set up more jovial taskmaster games such as a bee fashion show in which many fuzzy bees were adorned in a spread of the latest fashion including paper plane bees, bees playing Quidditch and motorbike rider bees. Not long after a valiant fleet of minibuses braving the journey of a lifetime through the now deadly village of Lochearnhead to deliver our scrumptious goodies for dinner. Dinner was met by a ravenous group of Explorers hungry for the lasagne and healthy vegetables that had braved the storm outside. We gathered outside in the

torrential rain unable to see a mere foot yonder ahead. As we plucked up the courage to traverse yonder across thou dangerous car park towards our safety beyond. As we arrived back at base camp we came across a scene of the gargantuan marquee that had been turned asunder by a storm giant, mistaking it for a tasty morsel. In essence us brave Explorers against the storm saved only by the wits of our astute Leaders.

- Patrol B (The winners of Explorer Taskmaster)





Six Cubs from 12th Letchworth pictured with their Chief Scout's Silver Award certificate and badge. Presented at their last meeting in July at Jurassic Golf.

Membership Fees Update



National membership fees have been announced. HQ will be increasing their portion of membership fees for all members under 18 by £1 to £44 (£43.50 for prompt payment by 23rd April 2026) for the 2026 census. This does not include the County or District levy.



Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts at Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre July 20205

Achievements / Awards



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Katherine Beardsall | 4th Letchworth |
| Siena Degrez | 11th Letchworth |
| Ossian Earl | 4th Letchworth |
| Rupert Fletcher | 4th Letchworth |
| Rowan Middleton | 11th Letchworth |
| Robyn Powell | 11th Letchworth |

Chief Scout's Silver Award

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Arthur Carrod | 12th Letchworth |
| Henry Cloote | 12th Letchworth |
| Jude Elliott | 12th Letchworth |
| Noah Hewett | 12th Letchworth |
| Zayden Kissima | 12th Letchworth |
| Reuben Leake | 12th Letchworth |
| Lorcan Prino | 12th Letchworth |

Chief Scout's Gold Award

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Daniel Ardley | 12th Letchworth |
|---------------|-----------------|

Wood Beads

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Stuart Kendrick | 1st Ashwell GLV |
|-----------------|-----------------|

Length of Service Award

Apryl Goodwin - District Trustee

Diary Dates 2025 / 2026

SEPTEMBER

- 9** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 11** Scout Shop opens for new term 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
- 12 - 14** Activity Spectacular at Phasels (ASAP)
- 19 - 21** County Hillwalking and Climbing Training Week-end
- 20 - 21** Scout Team Leaders and members social camp
- 21** Beavers and Cub Activity Day - Tolmers
- 27** District Scout Nightjar



OCTOBER

- 7** District Scout Section programme meeting
- 17 - 19** County Peak Assault
- 17 - 19** JOTA / JOTI



NOVEMBER

- 9** Remembrance Sunday
- 10** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 14 - 16** County Scouts Green Beret - Phasels Wood

DECEMBER

- 9** Scout Section Christmas Social

JANUARY 2026

- 16 - 18** Fire & Ice - Tolmers
- 26** County Explorer Monopoly Challenge - London

FEBRUARY

- 8** County Scout / Explorer Cooking Competition

MARCH

- 14** County Cub Bushcraft Activity Day

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