



Co-Ordinator

After over 30 years Nora Hitcham has taken the decision to step back from managing the Scout & Guide Shops. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for everything she has done for Scouting over this time.

We are taking this opportunity of a change in management and the Guides leaving the shop to have a bit of a shake up.

Robert Coldrey - DLV

THE HISTORY OF THE SCOUT SHOP The shop was the brainchild of Eric Oldham. It was launched in 1968 in a room at the rear of the Council for Social Services in Gernon Road. All stock was stored in boxes and the "changing room" was behind a Venetian Screen! In 1977 it moved to 1st 3rd Headquarters in Icknield Way, now the District HQ where the stock could be displayed on open tables but ever growing demand led to the opening of a purpose built shop in 1989. In the meantime Ruth and Peter Baker took over the shop in 1978 and continued to manage it in a most efficient manner until Nora Hitcham succeeded them in 1994. It is quite remarkable that in nearly 60 years of trading the shop has had only three managers showing incredible commitment on their part. The shop plays an important part in the life of our Districts. Most of those smart Scouts and Guides who we see on parade will have had their uniforms supplied by the shop. It is a place where volunteers from the Event Support Team and Trefoil Guild can meet and chat as they serve customers. In recognition of her service she has been presented with the "Chief Scout's Commendation" and a Girlguiding Hertfordshire Good Service Award. We endorse these awards by thanking Nora for her commitment and enthusiasm and for her efficiency and cheerfulness. She has been a true servant of the District and earned our respect and admiration and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

The Shops and Guide Shop - Nora Hitcham

In 1988-89 the "Shop" we have now was built; payment for this was provided by the Guide and Scout Shops profits-I am told, The last payment was in 1994 when the Bakers retired after 18 years and a new manager was required. As District Commissioner of Letchworth North Guide District I stepped in to take charge. Bob Williams, then District Commissioner for Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts asked me "How long do you think you will do the job? 3 or 4years?" My reply was "Possibly to beat the Bakers!" Now I have completed 31years.

Since 1994 new windows ,doors and fascia boards have been installed and paid for by Guide and Scout Shop profits. Other profits have been passed to Letchworth & Baldock Scout District and proportionally to Letchworth, Baldock and Stotfold Guide Districts. The three Guide Districts belong to North Herts Division to whom we are accountable. Over the years a copy of the

Accounts were included in the Scout AGM report and similarly in the Guide Accounts by request of the Secretary.

Since 2018 however the profit margin has reduced, Access to the Internet and Covid are possible reasons for this. In my 31 years profits £72,250 have been passed to the Scout District - and £54,000 passed to the Guide Districts.

Over the years many people have volunteered to help with sales, too many to name, some for very. many years. It is with their dedication we managed to keep open. I sincerely thank them all . However the "Guide Shop" has now closed due to lack of *footfall*.

Best wishes to the "Scout Shop" now under new management.

Nora Hitcham - Scout and Guide Shop Retiring Manager



Keeping It In The Family - 4 Generations



Harry Frankland aka Mr Gang Show

Harry Frankland and his wife Helen both spent many years involved in the Scouting movement. They had 4 children who all also joined the Scouting family as they grew up. Alison, Andrew, Peter and Tracy all joined local Scouting and Guiding groups. Andrew, Alison and Peter went on to become Leaders later in life. Harry produced eight Gang Shows in late 1960s and early 1970s and he was also ADC (Cubs) until he retired in 1982.



Peter Frankland

Peter Frankland met his wife Christine whilst they were both taking part in the L&B District Scout Gang Show. They both also went on to have 4 children who again all followed in the Scouting family tradition. Heather, Darren, James and Leanne. Peter was a Leader at 4th Letchworth for several years and was widely known as "Boss". For a number of years he organised the District Fishing Competition at Manor Farm Lakes. The first one being held in 1998. Also in the early days of Norton Bury he spent a lot of time helping with the painting and other maintenance jobs.

Leanne Auburn (Frankland)

Leanne Auburn (Frankland) grew up going on many camps with 4th Letchworth whilst Peter was a Leader there before she finally joined 2nd Baldock Brownies and moved onto 2nd Baldock Scouts where Peter also volunteered as chairman. Leanne and Peter performed together in the Gang Show in 2001 and 2002. After her Scouting journey came to an end she briefly volunteered as a Young Leader and now has started to volunteer again with Beavers when needed.



Peter Auburn

Leanne then had her own son who is named after his beloved Grandad, Peter. Peter is the newest member of the 4th generation of the family to join the Scouting movement. Peter is the second out of eight grandchildren to join the scouting movement and is thoroughly enjoying it.



8th Letchworth Scouts

Scarefest 2025 - Gilwell Park

On Friday the 31st of October, 8th Letchworth Scouts went to Scarefest in Gilwell Park for two nights. We got there in the evening and set up tents in the dark and rain, but we did it quite quickly. In the morning we had loads of activities to choose from, like laser tag (which we queued early for!), a cave experience, obstacle course, inflatables, archery and funfair rides. In the evening there were fireworks and a scaremaze. It was really good fun and very cool. Thanks to the Leaders for cooking for us!

Alyssa Butler - 8th Letchworth Scout



District Cub Quiz

On Thursday 13th November 8 Packs each sent a team of 3 Cubs to DHQ. Their mission to conquer the annual District Cub Quiz and emerge victorious!

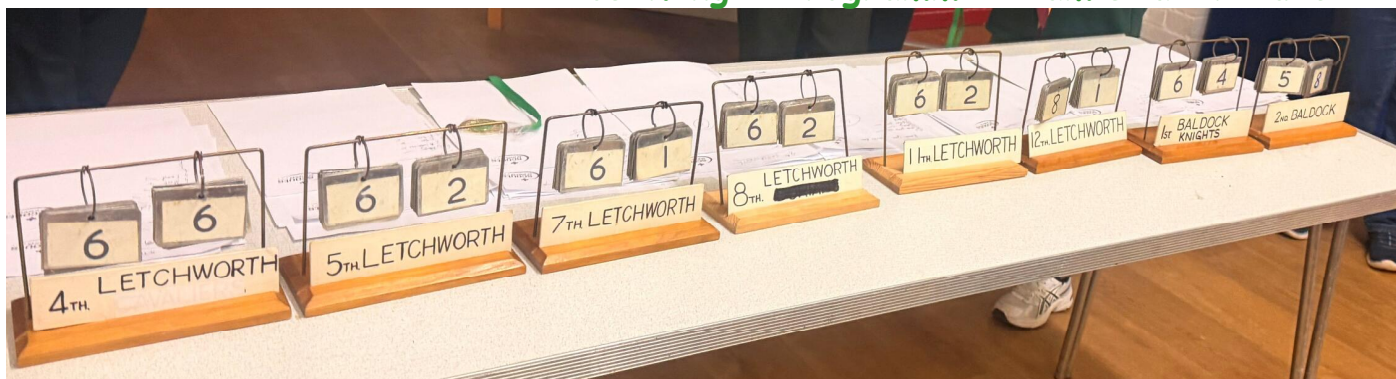
The questions were well set by 12th Letchworth under the new format, where there were no age groups and all three team members could try to answer all the questions. A more traditional quiz format.

It was a close run contest with only 10 points between last place and 2nd place but one team emerged supremely victorious.

Third place was claimed by 1st Baldock with 64 points and second place by 4th Letchworth with 66 points.

Huge congratulations to the runaway winners with 81 points, and setting the questions for a second year, 12th Letchworth

Ros Wing - Programme Team Leader Cubs



Scores / Results

12th Letchworth	81	8th Letchworth	62
4th Letchworth	66	11th Letchworth	62
1st Baldock (Knights)	64	7th Letchworth	61
5th Letchworth	62	2nd Baldock	58



Winners -
12th Letchworth

1st Ashwell Scouts

1st Ashwell have had a busy Autumn term.

We've enjoyed a varied programme including a number of evenings outdoors. One evening we had a night hike from Bygrave back to Ashwell. In Bygrave we bumped into Debs and the Baldock Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Unit setting off from Bygrave on their hike back to Baldock. It was wonderful to bump into them and see some friendly faces.

One evening we practiced our fire lighting skills, and toasted marshmallows to make S'mores.

Another evening we had our annual 1-pot cook off challenge. 3 patrols made risotto and 3 patrols made chicken and noodles.

The Leaders tasted all the meals, took a vote and Kestrel won this year !

Pete Repka - 1st Ashwell Scout Leader



Facts and Figures

District Beavers

Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers)

1988 - 1988	Alison Wilson
1989 - 1998	Sheila Staines
1998 - 2001	Deb Dilley
2001 - 2004	Maggie Miller
2004 - 2013	Vicki Luker (Gage)
2013 - 2019	Liz Taplin
2019 - 2022	Vicki Gage
2023 -	Hayley Palmer (Programme Team Leader)

CENSUS FIGURES (BEAVERS)

Year	Number
1987	54
1990	109
2000	115
2020	182
2024	169

Beavers celebrated their 10th Anniversary on Saturday 6 June 1996 at Knebworth Park. They had use of the Fort, a magic show, a circus show and a wonderful sing song.

Beavers celebrated their 20th Anniversary at the 2006 Gilwell Park Funday - Saturday 17 June 2006

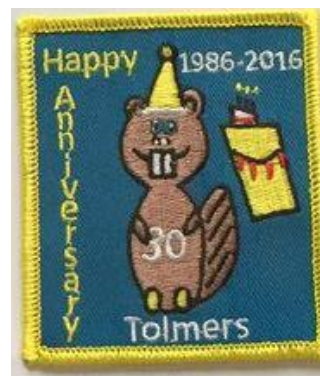
The District celebrated the Beavers 30th anniversary with a sleepover at St Nicholas School, Norton on 16 / 17 July 2016. Over 125 Beavers from **ALL** the colonies in the District took part.

8th Letchworth were the first group to have a Beaver Colony. 1st Baldock were the first colony in the District to invest girls as recorded in the Census Returns 2001

County Beaver 30th Anniversary Badge Winner

2016

Robbie from 5th Letchworth Beaver Scout Colony designed @HertsScouts #Beavers30 badge. How cool is this?



Scouts Green Beret Challenge 2025

District Success

In November, Scouts from across our District took on the **Green Beret Challenge**, one of Hertfordshire Scouts' toughest and most exciting events. This annual competition brings together **150 teams** from across the County for a full day of challenges designed to test **teamwork, resilience, and Scouting skills**.

The event includes four demanding elements:

- **Day Activity Bases** - practical skills and problem-solving tasks
- **Assault Course** - physical endurance and determination
- **Night Activity Bases** - mental agility under pressure

Our District entered **10 teams**, and every single one did us proud. Here are the final results:

- **24th - 4th Letchworth (Mighty 4th)**
- **66th - 5th Letchworth Scouts (Fifth Dimension)**
- **72nd - 5th Letchworth Scouts (5th Dimension)**
- **78th - 4th Letchworth (May the 4th be with you)**
- **85th - 2nd Baldock (Baldockians A)**
- **100th - 2nd Baldock (Baldockians B)**
- **117th - 1st Baldock (A)**
- **127th - 8th Letchworth (We are Gr8)**
- **132nd - 4th Letchworth (Go 4th and prosper)**
- **144th - 2nd Baldock (Baldockians C)**



With **150 teams competing**, these are fantastic results and a real credit to the Scouts' hard work and determination. What stood out most was the attitude of the young people: upbeat, positive, and full of Scouting spirit all weekend, even after Friday's torrential downpour left challenging ground underfoot. There were no complaints, no dramas - just teamwork and smiles all round!



Benjamin from 1st Baldock Scouts summed up the spirit of the weekend perfectly in his own words:

My Green Beret Report

It happened on a cold, muddy weekend at Green Beret. It was extremely heavy rain on the previous night, but despite the tricky conditions we still pushed on. It was a very hard competition, but we worked very well as a team and had a very good time.

One of the things you had to do was an assault course. There were lots of stages to it. The first stage was a wall, and we had to get as many people as possible from our group over the top in an allotted time. We got three people over; it was very hard. The next trial that awaited us unsuspecting scouts was where there was a multitude of hurdles, we had to pass but if any of us hit one singular hurdle, the person that hit it

had to go back to the start. We were the first team to reach the end in time. Next, we had to drag a tyre up and down a hill as a team. The tyre was massive, and the hill was extremely high and steep. After that harrowing challenge, we had to carry a log down the hill and then back up the hill again. Then we had to crawl along a rope upside down and we had to carry 5 jugs of water in a circle as many times as possible. The final thing we did was where we had to climb under a net and then through a tube/tunnel. We did very well on the assault course. There was a group from London who did the assault course with us. We encouraged each other whenever we saw each other after that. It helped us keep pushing forward on the long but fun day.

Benjamin, 1st Baldock Scouts

This was truly a **district effort**, with leaders from multiple groups pulling together, sharing equipment, and making sure every Scout had an amazing experience. A huge thank you to all the leaders for your time and energy, and to the young people for giving up their weekend and behaving brilliantly. It was wonderful to see so many friendships rekindled after Lochearnhead - the camp buzzed with laughter and camaraderie.

Well done to everyone involved - you made this one of our best Green Berets yet!

Nick Howell

District Scouts Programme and Events Team Leader



Membership Fee 2026

The District fee was discussed and agreed at our District Trustee Board meeting in November.

Below is a summary of the fees.

We have made the decision to increase the District membership fee this year returning to a pre-pandemic level, having helped where we can to weather the price hikes from national and county over the last 5 years.

Again this has been helped in no small part by the income generated by the Scout Shop, Badge Shop, District Minibus and DHQ lettings.

To continue this subsidy please ensure the continued and increased use of these resources over the next year.

The following is the breakdown of total cost to be paid for each young person on your census returns next year:

National :	£44.00	
County :	£21.00	
District :	£ 6.50	
	- £0.50	Discount for prompt payment
Total -	£71.00	

Robert Coldrey - District Lead Volunteer



Achievements / Awards



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Emily Shaw

8th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Amelia Biggs

8th Letchworth

Daisy Collen

8th Letchworth

Neil Whitaker

8th Letchworth

Scouts 
Letchworth, Baldock & Ashwell

THE SHOP

is having a shake up!

The space is getting a makeover
We're making it easy & fun to volunteer
New POS systems (tills) Scout shop going solo
Bringing Pre-Loved uniform, boots, etc. in
Returning to more frequent opening hours

LAST OPENING 2025
27-NOV-25

STOCK SORT
20-DEC-25 to 21-DEC-25
Open invite to join the fun.

REFIT WORKING PARTY
02-JAN-26 to 04-JAN-26
Open invite to join the fun.

BADGES

Please note during the shop renovation badges can still be ordered via email. dhawkins@lbdscouts.org.uk and will be delivered if address is provided within Letchworth and Baldock and any others will be posted. I never close.

Dave Hawkins
Badge Support Team
Leader

Diary Dates 2025 / 2026

DECEMBER

6 District Beavers - Imajica - a pantomime performance of
The North Pole Elves

9 Scout Section Christmas Social

JANUARY 2026

12 Cub Leaders' Meeting

16 - 18 Fire & Ice - Tolmers

26 County Explorer Monopoly Challenge - London

FEBRUARY

3 District Scout Section Programme Team Meeting

8 County Scout / Explorer Cooking Competition

MARCH

14 County Cub Bushcraft Activity Day

17 District Scout Section Events Team Meeting

22 County Scout / Explorer Triathlon - Lees Wood Scout Camp Site

APRIL

18 District Scout Barton Challenge

18 - 19 District Cub Sixers and Seconders Weekend

MAY

JUNE

6 County Scouts / Explorer Water Activities Day

7 County Cub Water Activities Day

20 / 21 County Squirrels in Trees (SITS) & Beavers in Tents (BITS)

22 County Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Well End Activity Centre

27 / 28 County Squirrels in Tress (SITS) & Beavers in Tents (BITS)

JULY

3-5 County Cubs in Tents (CITS) - Well End Activity Centre

3-5 District Scout FIRE Quest Camping Competition **NEW**

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