

Co-Ordinator

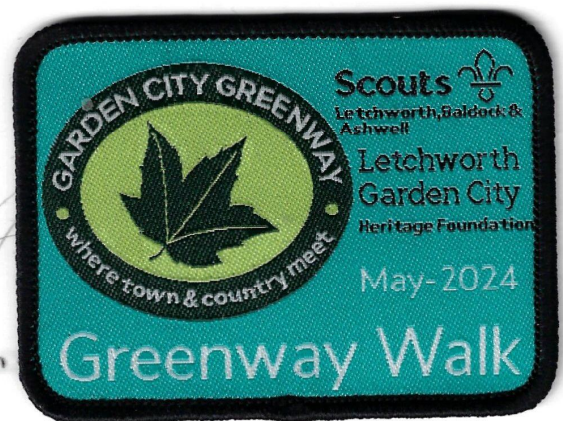
Fundraising Walk — Sunday 19 May 2024

On the 19th May over 350 Scouts, siblings and parents took to the Greenway to raise funds for their Groups. The event was ran by the District in collaboration with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. Along the way they stopped at 6 checkpoints. 4 of these (Norton Bury, 1st Baldock HQ, Woolgrove School and Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre) offered toilets, an improvement on last year and 2 of these (Norton Bury and Wymondley Wood) were providing refreshments, run by 7th Letchworth and 5th Letchworth raising additional funds for their groups.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped on the day. The event would not be able to ran without you.

Next year we plan to organise the walk again on the 18th May! More details and OSM invites are to follow. We hope to invite our neighbouring Districts and other uniformed groups in the area!

A badge and certificate was given to walkers when they signed back in at Standalone Farm.



Introduction to the Hills (ITTH) May 2024

Introduction to the Hills is a joint event between Hertfordshire Girl Guides and Scouts held on the first May bank holiday weekend every year. It is open to all 11-12yr olds and gives them a great opportunity to try some adventurous activities they may not get the chance to try otherwise. This year Letchworth & Baldock were represented by 5 Scouts, the weather was perfect and a great weekend was had by all.

Zeke Hill - 8th Letchworth GSL

A fun filled ITTH (Introduction To The Hills) camp at the peak district. Many Scouts and Guides came from all over Hertfordshire.

First we arrived wherever we were being picked up by several mini buses for the long journey to the Peak District. Midway through we stopped at a service station and bought some stuff using our pocket money (£5 max).

Some of us had to put up the tents while the rest of us just arrived and unpacked along with everybody else. Then we got some biscuits and went to bed.

The next morning we went straight to flag break and found our groups that we would be spending the days with for the rest of our time at the camp. After we ate breakfast, we were sent back to our tents to get packed for the day's activities.

The activities were cycling, climbing, caving and walking. After Kit check and we got everything we needed we went onto the mini bus and headed to our destination for our activities.

Group 9 and 10 went climbing on a cliff face in the middle of a wood, which was fun, and caving, which was very wet but still fun. Caving was exciting because we got to know the people in our group and there were lots of tight spaces and we were just being really funny by cracking up jokes. It was also educational because we learned about how the cave formed, how it's filling itself in and what it was like for the Miners. Caving was my favourite activity because we had lots of fun and because it was educational and exciting.

Returning to the camp we had movie night which was fun because we could relax after a busy

day.

On the next day we went hiking all day (everyone went hiking for a whole day at some point) and it was exhausting but the scenery was worth it.

While we were walking we were given nicknames which had something to do with Jim, like Slow Jim and Jim 'n' Tonic.

Once we were all back, we did karaoke which was fun watching everyone come up and singing along and doing dances.

On the last day I went cycling for roughly three hours, which made my butt hurt (but it was really fun anyway), and then we all packed up and went home.

Amy Fidgeon 8th Letchworth Scout



The ITTH is a weekend away over a bank holiday in May where scouts and guides from all over the county participate in different outdoor activities. It is held in the Peak District. People left from 3 different parts of Hertfordshire and arrived around about the same time late Friday night. The tent arrangements were assigned to put you with at least one person you knew. I was in a tent with three people I hadn't met before and enjoyed getting to know them.

We ate in our activity groups which were made in age groups and designed so you didn't know anyone in order to meet new people. I loved making new friends with the people in my group during the activities and during our free time.

The walking was an entire day and the climbing, caving and cycling were only half days. I really loved all the activities. The caving and climbing were new experiences

which I hadn't tried before.

Another highlight of the trip was the evening karaoke on the last night. We even had a special performance of how to play Bohemian Rhapsody on the musical chickens (another new experience for me).

Something that made me laugh over the weekend was that one of my group members had a birthday on the Sunday and a Leader made it their mission to sing Happy Birthday as many times as possible. We sang it 60 times! Safe to say, I am now sick of that song.

Overall, I loved the event. The best bit was definitely the food! Our leaders purchased ice-cream for us twice and the catering quantities were excellent.

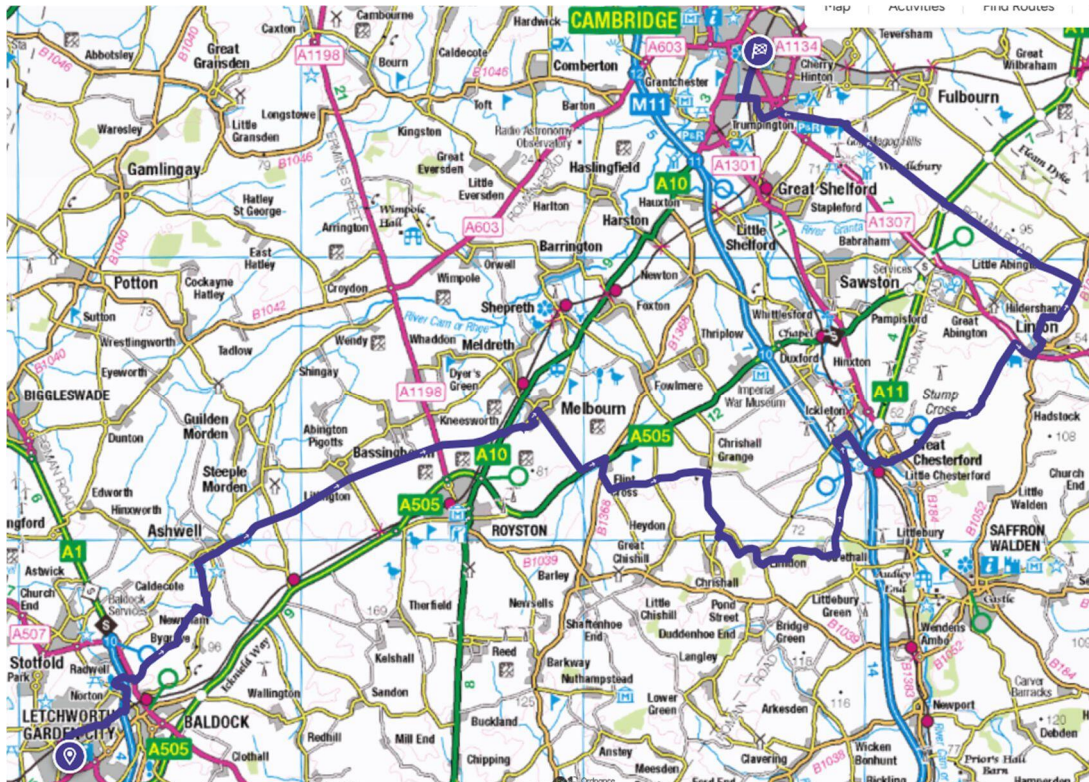
Thank you to everyone who organised it. They did a wonderful job.

Isla Hobbs- 4th Letchworth Scouts



12th Letchworth Scouts: Cycling Expedition - Icknield Rider's Way 27th-28th April

We cycled 48 miles - often off road - from Fortescue Hall in Letchworth to Cambridge Station via Ashwell on the Icknield Rider's Way and then using the Roman Road into Wandlebury from Linton. We climbed a total of 2,000 ft. We stayed overnight at Chrishall Village Hall - thank you to the hall committee who let us stay. Those of you who were lucky enough to be camping over the weekend will remember there was an overnight deluge so while we escaped being in the rain, we all had wet feet (at least!) from the new streams and massive puddles on the Sunday and were covered in mud... still a long way off Green Beret levels though!



Well done to all nine Scouts and one Cub who did the expedition, and especially to Luca and Sebastian who got their Explorer Challenge Awards. Here's what they had to say...

From left to right
Jack, Sebastian, Luca
and Daniel



Sebastian Jagger, 12th Letchworth Scout and Expedition Co-Leader:

Introduction/Purpose

When the fearless 12th Letchworth Scouts were given a rather challenging task of cycling 50 miles (Letchworth to Cambridge) it is with no doubt that they decide to take up on this opportunity not just for the thrilling feeling of being awarded a badge but to experience a weekend of fun and games with friends and to face unfamiliar and problematic challenges.

Preparation

For such a difficult expedition it is obvious that heavy amounts of equipment and planning will be needed to sustain a higher chance in succeeding. Planning: I myself writing this report and a fellow Scout were given the chance to be leaders of an older scout expedition where we got to cycle most of the way without leader supervision. Because of this, me and the fellow Scout were given extra work to do e.g. marking waypoints on paper maps, planning the route, and then learning it, learning first aid. Equipment: Because of the route's extreme terrain and length, it wasn't possible to do in one day. Therefore, not all the equipment needed could be taken with the bikes, so the majority went straight to our overnight stopping point and only minimal day supplies were carried along.

Day 1 Expedition

The first day was the easiest of the two. All the Scouts arrived at Fortescue Hall in Letchworth at 1 o'clock all prepared for a long day ahead of them. The older Scouts were the first to leave at 1.15 and then the younger ones who set off 20 minutes after. The terrain on the first day was certainly worse than the second although it made up to this by being 4 miles shorter than the second day. 5 hours was the expected time for the

first day but lots of problems occurred that set the older group behind by 2 hours. These setbacks include 3 stops to fix a tyre puncture, snacking, drinking, and more snacking.

The Hall, Dinner

After a long 7 hours of cycling, we had finally made it to our midway point where we would be sleeping the night. Although, sleep wasn't dawned upon us so soon as we had to prepare our own dinner and then clean up. But finally, after all that hard work it was time to get a good night's sleep and get prepared for a even longer day tomorrow.

Day 2 Expedition

Breakfast was a nice awakening for all the scouts on the second day as it's what everyone needed for an extensive 28 miles. Luckily, breakfast for the Scouts was just cereal so no cooking was needed, and the Scouts could focus on getting prepared for the pain to come.

As with the first day, the older Scouts set off 20 minutes earlier than the others so they could get a nice head start before the younger ones raced after them. An annoying problem arose on the 2nd day as during the night it rained heavily. Obviously, this problem was the rain mixing with the dry soil to create sloppy, sticky mud. This didn't stop the older Scouts though as conveniently they had bursts of energy to help force their way through this tough terrain and eventually, they made it to the end point in a whopping 5 and a bit hours.

Conclusion

Overall, the expedition was tough at points but I think what helped many make it through was the company of their friends and knowing what a great achievement was ahead of them if they just pushed through the pain.

12th Letchworth Scouts: Cycling Expedition - Icknield Rider's Way 27th-28th April 2024

Luca Clarke, 12th Letchworth Scout and Expedition Co-Leader:

Preparing

Me and Sebastian prepared by getting OS maps and learning the route. Also, Sarah (our Leader) showed us the route beforehand and told us what places to stop at.

On the first day

The first day we all went together until leaving Letchworth. The four of us (Luca, Jack, Daniel and Sebastian) went on our own. I really liked cycling in the countryside and the nice views. But when we got to the small hills some of our team got off and started walking and that slowed us down. As it got late Darren rode next to us and unluckily, I got a puncture in my front wheel. Darren helped us with it, but we could not find the puncture. Even after 45 minutes we could not. We did find the hole in the end and placed a sticker on it. We cycled on. Because (we didn't know at the time) there were two punctures my tyre deflated again after 10 minutes. We were in a town when it deflated

so it was not as muddy when checking everything. Darren decided to change the inner tube and some kind people helped us with it. After half an hour we were going again. It was smooth from there.

Evening

Finally, at 8 o'clock we arrived at the chapel in the village. The chapel was nice, and we made our own meal. It was rice and curry with naan bread.

Second day

In the morning everyone made a promise to me not to get off their bikes up hills. As we were going everything was wet because it rained all night. I preferred it because it was super fun going downhill and finding out a river is at the bottom and riding through it. The landscape was even better than day one. We were quicker than the day before and were ahead of schedule. After the halfway point some of the team started to walk up super small hills! That was very annoying. Even when there was barely any elevation they walked up it. Before they

could walk up anymore "hills" we got to the flat lands of Cambridge. It was easy from there. The train back was a plus too.

My thoughts

It was my favorite expedition we have done so far. The ride was pretty easy and I think we should have done 100 miles.



12th Letchworth Scouts: Gliding experience with Hertfordshire Scouts

We were lucky enough to get a place on the Hertfordshire Glider for 10 Scouts. We'd like to thank Colin from Hertfordshire Scouts for organising this for us, the pilots - Stewart and Jim and Tracy who provided training and ground support - it was a fantastic opportunity and all of the Scouts had an amazing experience, and especially Stanley who flew alongside a Hurricane. They even enjoyed cleaning the plane!



From Stanley Carrod, 12th Letchworth patrol leader:

On the 14th of April, 12th Letchworth Scouts visited Cambridge Gliding Centre in Little Gransden. When I arrived I saw all the gliders and felt the anticipation and excitement. I have always wanted to fly a plane because I have been interested in them since I was five. The weather on this particular day was sunny but cold with a gentle breeze - which made the experience much more exciting.

Firstly, we were met by the organisers who briefed us on all the facts and knowledge we needed for the airfield and how to fly the plane. Following this, they asked us some questions to decide the order of flying because there was one plane and ten of us. Luckily, I answered the third question correctly! Once your turn came around, you were taken to the airfield where you were greeted by the pilot and loaded into the cockpit. He explained the controls to me and then gave me a headset so we could communicate on the flight. Shortly after, we taxied to the runway and took off! I was overjoyed when the wheels left the ground! During the flight, I was very lucky to see a Hurricane (thankfully not the weather kind!) which was most likely from Duxford. We waved to each other and continued our flight. After about ten minutes, the pilot let me take the controls and I was thrilled to do so. He instructed me to fly forwards towards

some windmills, then bank and fly towards a yellow field. My flying time lasted ten minutes before he took the controls back and landed the plane - I was overjoyed to complete my first flight but sad it had ended.

We rounded off the day with some quick quizzes and model plane building. I was also lucky enough to refuel the plane and clean it when all the Scouts had flown. Despite the cold weather making my hands numb, it was an incredible and an amazing once in a lifetime experience.



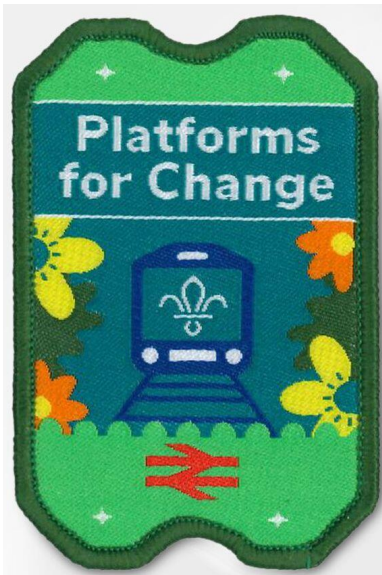
Platform for Change

Community Rail Network is collaborating with the Scouts and the rail industry to deliver Platforms for Change, a programme to engage and empower Scout groups across Britain through community rail activity, station projects and rail confidence trips.

Scouts groups from Squirrels (4 year olds) to Explorers (up to 18 year olds) will get involved with local station friends groups and community rail partnerships, through activities such as painting, gardening DIY, making bug/bird boxes, fundraising, promoting the group, recruiting volunteers, rail confidence trips and travel awareness.

As well as a 'Platforms for Change' badge specially designed for the programme, the groups can work towards other badges including gardening, volunteering, nature, photography and writing.

4th Letchworth Cubs



Cubs have been getting involved with the Scouts Platform for Change programme.

Platforms for Change is a great way of getting the Cubs involved with the local community.

4th Letchworth have been learning how to stay safe on the train and the platform.

The Cubs made some Bug Hotels for that Station Fencing, planted some bulbs and had a litter pick.

They all had a good time and enjoyed getting involved to help out.

Thanks to Sarah Grove from the community rail partnership for putting it all together.

If any groups are interested in finding out more Sarah can be contacted on sarah.grove@scambs.gov.uk





1st Ashwell Scouts had an evening of 1st Aid training at the end of April. Making use of Choking Charlie and practicing with a de-fib"

As read at St George's Day, by Kacey, 11th Young Leader and Explorer Scout

IF (with apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

If you can light a fire with soggy matches
While standing in a steady stream of rain,
And see it fizzle out before it catches,
And hold your tongue, and light the thing
again;
If you can fix a brew for all your brothers
When they are in their blankets, warm and
dry,
And rather you get wet than all the others,
And laugh when you are tired enough to cry.

If you can tie a knot that never fails you,
And trust it, if the worst comes to the
worst,
To save your life when nothing else awaits
you,
But put the other fellow's safety first;
If you can give first aid to those who need
it,
And treat for shock when you are shaken
too,
And though you suffer badly, never heed it,
Until you have done the best that you can do.

If you can go on working when you're weary,
And go on singing till your throat is dry;
If you can meet with sadness, and be
cheery,
And when you fail, just have another try;
If you can trust your friends and those
about you,
And yet forgive them if they should forget,
And though the whole world sometimes
seems to doubt you,
Be loyal to the task which you are set;

If you don't put yourself before the others,
And never your Patrol before your Troop;
If you salute all races as your brothers,
In one united, universal group;
If you can see the aim, and help to win it,
And never falter till the job is done:
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in
it,
And which is more you'll be a Scout, my son!

M Hill



Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre

Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for 50% of the cost of a defibrillator. The defibrillator has been installed, registered and is now working. We have also been offered a bleed pack from Hearts for Herts to go into the cabinet. The defibrillator is available for use by the residents and the general public.



2nd Baldock's 70th Birthday and AGM

Friday 7th June
6-8pm

St John's RC Primary School field
SG7 6TT

If you can make it, please drop us an email at

memories@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk so we can get a rough idea of the numbers.

The BBQ will be donations, but we would like people to preorder, so we have enough and avoid wastage. So, if you could also let us know if you would like one of the following choices, please let us know:

- Meat Hot Dog
- Meat Burger
- Veggie Burger

**BBQ, bouncy
castle, family
activities
and cake!**

Scouts 
2nd Baldock

District Beaver Challenge - 11 May 2024

11th Letchworth HQ, Rushby Mead

Beaver Challenge 2024 took place on the 11th May, luckily another year with good weather. 11th Letchworth hosted as they won the trophy the year before. We had a great turn out with 45 beavers attending the event.

Tara from 11th organised a quiz with questions and picture rounds followed by a challenge of building a structure from dried spaghetti and marshmallows. Points were awarded for the strength and height of the structure. Teams worked well with each other and should be proud of everything they achieved together. The winners this year were 8th Letchworth Beavers with 52 points. Everyone seemed to have a great time along with all the Leaders!!

Hayley - ADC Beavers

8th Beavers have written some pieces below explaining what they took part in and what they enjoyed the most.

Lottie - We had to answer questions and some picture questions. They were all very easy. I had lots of fun with my team mates and then we won a humongous trophy

Tommy - We worked in a team to answer questions, some were easy and some were hard. We got 52 points, I really enjoyed it. I did a very fun task. We had to make something out of marshmallows and pasta. I was very proud of myself and my group, Thank you for choosing me.

Martha - My favourite thing was the marshmallow stack competition. It was hard when they rocked the tables as we thought ours would fall, but ours didn't and we won. I also liked the flag challenge because I knew lots of them.

Dexter - My mum dropped me off and I played with the others from my colony till it was time to go in. We got shown to a table and took it in turns to introduce ourselves. Last year's winners asked us lots of questions and we had to write the answers on our sheets. We had a picnic of fruits including apples, melon and oranges. The apple was my favourite.

After our snack we played a fun game of "what's that object?" We had to guess what the zoomed in picture was, which was quite hard, our colony worked as a team together.

Then we played another game of building a structure out of spaghetti and marshmallows. It had to be big and strong as everyone wobbled our table to try and make it fall down. I think ours was the only one left standing which made me feel surprised.

My favourite bit of the day was the marshmallow structures, I really wanted to eat them but couldn't as I would have been disqualified.

At the end we all went outside for photos and we were told we had won so got to hold the big shield trophy, which made me really happy and proud. I hope they have as much fun next year.

Abi - Why the District Day was fun.

1. I had Redwood as my Leader
2. Redwood kept nodding if you got it right
3. 8th Letchworth won
4. We got a gigantic trophy
5. We got a picture holding the trophy
6. We got food
7. I had a good team
8. We get to lead it next year
9. Leaders from 8th and 7th Letchworth swapped and somebody in my class is in 7th Letchworth



8th Letchworth Beavers holding the trophy. with Liz Taplin, BSL and Hayley Palmer, ADC (Beavers)

Achievements

Commissioner's Commendation Award

This is a local award that is used to recognise youth members, adult members and non members for their contribution to the Scouts.



Rita Hawkins for 25 years service as Editor of Co-Ordinator. The District monthly news letter and the

longest running Scout news letter in the Country. The first edition was published on 1st June 1959.

Rita was also presented with an engraved Spiral Conical Vase.



District Cub Sixers and Seconders Weekend - 27—28 April 2024

Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide centre

This year, the District Cub Sixers and Seconders camp was on Saturday 27th April, and 56 intrepid Cubs, over 20 hardy Cub Leaders, a few other Leaders and a couple of Active Supporters from across the District converged on Wymondley Wood praying hard that the rain would stay away. The weather was not looking good for the weekend. But when did a bit of rain stop the Cubs from playing and learning?!

During the Saturday the Cubs rotated around 6 different bases, learning new skills and challenging themselves. They made rope and did a blindfold trail, tried out shooting and angel throwing, learnt some new knots and lashed poles to create chariots to race, tested their investigative skills in the puzzle room and learnt how to light a fire with damp wood. Thankfully the rain more or less stayed away with only a few small showers. The camp fire in the evening



was a little damp but the songs were sung with gusto and the fire roared.

Sadly the rain set in with a vengeance during the night and the Cubs woke to a very wet Sunday. The sheer amount of water falling and already on the ground meant the Cubs were restricted to being inside and although fun was still had, a decision was made to finish the weekend slightly early. Huge thanks to all the Leaders who helped over the weekend and to Amanda and Emma who kept everyone fed and watered. The camp was a success because everyone got stuck in and were a fabulous team. Thank you all. (Here's to a drier camp next year!)

Ros Wing- ADC (Cubs)



Jeff Robson

February 1939 - May 2024



It is with sadness that we report the death of Jeff Robson.

He was a stalwart of the District whose service goes back to the 1950's.

He was a Scout Leader at 1st Letchworth and 2nd Baldock and moved on to become District Scout Leader and Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts).

He was awarded the Medal of Merit and the Bar to the Medal of Merit in reward for these activities.

He had a genial personality and loved to talk about Scouting.

He would recount stories of the District Expedition to Lochearnhead in 1964 which he led alongside Ken Johnson (KJ). Letchworth and Baldock were the first District to visit the station as residential guests.

He was a member of the Rover Scouts who played a leading role in the development of Co-Ordinator from its inception in 1959 and in later years he digitised all back copies he also helped Frank Brittain with the County Archives.

He helped with the opening of Norton Bury Activity Centre when Scouts and Guides rolled up their sleeves to repair and decorate the old farmhouse ready for use.

Later on he became a member of the Management Committee and ultimately completed his Scouting days as a member of the Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre Management Committee.

His enthusiasm for Scouting was infectious and he will be missed by his many friends in the movement.



Deirdre Williams

December 1935 - May 2024

It is with sadness that the District has been informed of the passing of Deirdre Williams. Deirdre was the wife of Bob Williams who held many roles within the Letchworth and Baldock District, including District Commissioner for over 10 years and Chairman of Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre for 20 years.

Deirdre while supporting Bob was also very much involved in Guiding. She started in 1942 as a Brownie. When their daughter joined Brownies in 1972 Deirdre volunteered as District Secretary and also joined the Trefoil Guild. She held many roles including Assistant County Commissioner, Chairman of the Management Committee at Cottered. She also had time to sing in the St George's Church Choir, did flower arrangements, Chair of Governors at Wilbury and Icknield Schools, Meals on Wheels and much more.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob and his family at this sad time.

There will be a memorial service at St George's Church, Letchworth on 6th June 2024 at 4.00 pm. All are welcome.

Diary Dates - 2024

JUNE

- 1** County Explorer Cooking Competition
- 3** World Bicycle Day
- 6** National Fish and Chip Day
- 7 - 9** The Big Help Out 2024
- 7** 2nd Baldock AGM and 70th Birthday
- 8** County AGM - Tolmers Activity Centre
- 9** County Cubs Water Activity Day - ESSA
- 9** ASU Meeting
- 22 - 23** Beavers in Tents 1 (BiTs) - Well End **(NEW for Squirrels - Activity**
- 29 - 30** Beavers in Tents 2 (BiTs) - Well End **Session in BiTs)**
- 29** Armed Forces Day / Tour de France begins

JULY

- 6 - 7** County Explorer Chilli Fest
- 7** Car Parking at Willian Fete (Fund Raiser) - 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
- 8** District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 11** Beavers Bangers and Bash - Wymondley Wood
- 18** Scout and Guide Shop closes at 8.00 pm for the Summer
- 26** Olympic Games in Paris 2024
- 27 - 3 Aug** Essex International Jamboree

AUGUST

- 17 - 26** Come To Tolmers (CTT)

SEPTEMBER

- 9** Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 13 - 15** Activity Specular at Phasels Wood (ASAP)
- 17** District Lochearnhead Planning Meeting

OCTOBER

- 1** District Scout Leaders' Meeting - Online
- 6** District Cub Day Out
- 13** District Cub Shooting Competition - Boyd Field, Henlow

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