

Co-Ordinator

Operation Ferret: The Ultimate Scavenger Hunt Adventure!

Operation Ferret was, hands down, the coolest scavenger hunt ever! It was like an action movie, but way more fun because we got to be the stars. Here's why it was so amazing: First off, just gathering a team of my friends was awesome. We felt like a real squad, ready to take on the world (or at least Hertfordshire)! Spending time at home base, planning out our routes, and deciding where to find all the crazy items on the list was half the fun. It was like our very own secret mission.

The actual scavenger hunt was insane—in the best way! Running around, hunting for the most random items, and snapping photos during the timed events gave us such an adrenaline rush. One minute we were rushing to find something ridiculous, and the next, we were cracking up because - get this - here were actual llamas! Finding them was like hitting the scavenger hunt jackpot.

The road trip part was epic, too. Traveling around Hertfordshire, checking out all the cool points of interest on the list, made us feel like adventurers. The best moment? Being the first team to find the legendary "ladder over the wall." We couldn't stop cheering when we spotted it - it felt like unlocking a secret level in a video game.

And the cherry on top? At our scout night, we got an award for everything we did. Standing there with my friends, getting recognized for all our hard work, felt so amazing. It was a

perfect end to an unforgettable experience.

Operation Ferret wasn't just a scavenger hunt - it was an adventure that I'll always remember. If you ever get the chance to do something like this, grab your friends and go for it. Trust me, you won't regret it!

Alex and Jacob Killick
4th Letchworth Scout Group



Some photos from Operation Ferret





The Greenway Fundraising Walk 2025 In Conjunction with the Heritage Foundation

18-MAY-25

Timings:

Check In: **08:00 - 09:00** Start and finish at Standalone Farm
All participants must check in within an hour of 08:00.
Complete before: **16:00**

We will send people around the course to pick up any stragglers.

Participants Will Get

- A Greenway Walk Map with Checklist.
- A Greenway Walk 2025 Badge.
- A Greenway Walk Certificate.
- Hikes Away badge points.

0. Start / End - Standalone Farm Car Park: toilets available.
1. Base - Nortonbury: breakfast food, light snacks & hot/cold drinks. Toilets available.
2. Checkpoint - 1st Baldock Scout HQ: toilets available.
3. Checkpoint - Woolgrove School: drinks, light snacks, and toilet available.
4. Checkpoint - Manor Wood.
5. Base - Wymondley Wood: hot food, light snacks & hot/cold drinks. Toilets available.
6. Checkpoint - Highfield Road: caution road crossing.

All the sponsorship money goes to Groups it's raised for, which is the way it should be, but there are substantial costs involved in organising the day. A lot of this is generously covered through our partnership with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, but this fee per uniformed walker covers the Letchworth, Baldock & Ashwell District's contribution. We invoice the Group treasurer after the event so it is not charged to walkers.

Food is available on three bases around the loop.
Cash and card will be accepted at all. They are fundraising for respective Group funds.

<https://greenway.lbdscouts.org.uk/>

Young people under 12 cannot walk on their own under any circumstances. Young people above the age of 12 can walk together without an adult, but will need to get both parental and Leader permission.



Earning the Earth Tribe Badge

4th Letchworth Beavers



Many 4th Letchworth Beavers have completed their Earth Tribe badge over the last two terms. We chose to do the Champions for Nature component, which asked them to find out what nature is, how we can help it in our area, make a plan and take action. Once the action part was completed they had to reflect on what they had done and share what they had learned.

The Beavers worked together to build a huge bug hotel, to help insects to over-winter and to provide a link as part of the wildlife corridor across Letchworth. Here is what they learned during the process:

From Daniyal

I have learnt that trees give you oxygen to breathe and if you cut down the trees there will be less oxygen for the people so we need to look after the trees.

I have also learnt that nature is a part of us and it helps us grow food to keep us alive. We need to look after it so we can be healthy and have food.

From Felicity

What helps the environment?

Not using steam trains or harmful trucks

What did you do to help nature?

We made a bug hotel

How did you make the bug hotel?

We used sticks pine cones, wood, bark, leaves and bristles.

How do you think you helped nature by building the hotel?

I think we helped nature because we made the bug hotel so nature could get in and have life and to do stuff and nice things to hibernate and sleep in.

What other things could you do to help nature and the environment?

We could scoot, roller skate, skateboards, walk and go on bikes to help the environment. We should put rubbish in the bins instead of littering. There are certain bins you have to put it in. Paper. Recycling, bottles recycling, usual stuff just in the normal bin, cardboard and leave in the bush bin.

Why is it important to help the environment and nature?

Nature because we don't want the animals to die and we want them to stay safe, and the environment because we want people to live.

Bees are important because they make food like honey. They help to spread the seeds from the flowers they get their food from. Bees are nearly extinct, I think there are probably only 21 or 32 bees left. And 37 wasps.

From Leo

It is important to look after nature and protect our world. At Beavers, we made a bug hotel. We had to bring in sticks and leaves and put them in the bug hotel so the insects can have a home.

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Earning the Earth Tribe Badge 4th Letchworth Beavers



From Leo

In my garden I could put out food for the animals. I can also do litter picking to look after nature.

From Theo

When we built the Bug Hotel at Beavers we put in lots of leaves and moss and twigs so lots of different bugs have a warm and cosy place to live and to survive. It was a really big hotel so it will help lots of bugs and their families.

Bugs are good for nature so it is important to help them. Other ways to help are planting wild flowers and not killing them.

From Ossian

I have learned that nature is the wild, plants, insects, birds and animals. It is important because we need bees and other insects to help make food for the ecosystem. Humans have been a threat to nature over a number of years and sometimes humans have caused extinction in the wild. Humans can also save and protect nature.

I have built a bug hotel for bugs and insects to live in.

I have been doing lots of eco things like litter picks with my family and helping to feed the birds in our garden. I can plant more flowers for the bees and butterflies. I can build a hedgehog house and put up bird nesting boxes.





Earning the Earth Tribe Badge 4th Letchworth Beavers



From Olly

Bugs need space where they can live. To help the bugs we built a bug hotel. I can do litter picking to help nature even more.

From Kip

If you make a bug hotel you can save animals. I made a difference to the animals because they can have a good place to sleep. I can help them more by giving them food.

From Gunde

We built bug hotels to stop the animals from eating them. I can also plant flowers in my garden to attract bees in summer and help them. I can measure the trees to see how old they are. I can collect rubbish to stop the animals from eating it. I can grow a flower bed in the garden so the butterflies can have a home. I will always put rubbish in the bin because it is good for the animals. I will always take care of nature because it is important.

From Leon

I used a recycled tin can to create a bug hotel. Firstly, I washed it then, painted it dark brown and added leaves to the outside and rim to make it softer and camouflaged. I then added leaves, bark, moss, twigs, and bamboo to the inside of the can. This was to create a comfy home for the bugs using natural elements. I have placed it in my front garden for the bugs to visit.

From Remy

I used a recycled tin can to make my bug hotel. I washed the can to make sure it was clean, dried it and then painted dark green. I attached leaves to the outside and rim to make it habitable for the bugs. I then added leaves, sticks, bamboo, bark and moss inside the can. I did this to create a nice comfy home for the bugs to rest.



At the time of going to press the only information I can find about the District St George's Day Celebration is that it will be held on Sunday 27 April 2025 and it is 12th Letchworth Scout Group turn to organise the event.





District Lochearnhead Training Camp

On the weekend of 21st and 22nd March the District held it's Lochearnhead expedition training camp at Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre. Scouts and Explorers spent the time learning essential camping skills, including map reading, mountain hygiene and how to pack a rucksack correctly. For lunch participants prepared the food they would be taking when they camp overnight in the mountains cooked on Trangia'. The camp was a great opportunity for patrols to get to know each other further while getting comfortable with the skills they will need for the expedition into the mountains. The evening was spent round the campfire with everyone getting involved in a great sing-along. Luckily the weather was kind to us and made the weekend a great success. Everyone is really looking forward to their time in the Scottish mountains.

Zeke Hill

Deputy Stationmaster, Lochearnhead Expedition.



I really enjoyed putting up the new hike tents, it was a lot of fun working together as a group. Lunch with the Tangiers was a highlight too, especially the Frey Bentos packets, which were surprisingly good!

During the weekend, we took part in five different bases on rotation. My favourite was the micro navigation base, where we had to walk around with a bucket on our head! It was challenging and hilarious, and definitely one of the most memorable activities!

Looking forward, I'm excited for the upcoming Lochearnhead trip. I can't wait for the mountain hiking and wild camping! I think it's going to be an incredible experience!

Felix - 5th Letchworth Scouts



District Lochearnhead Training Camp

Last weekend we took part in the second Lochearnhead training camp. It was great fun, and allowed us to meet with and get to know the other people going, especially those in our patrol. We took part in 5 activity stations which helped us develop skills to be used whilst on camp and especially on our overnight walk/ wild camp section of the trip. The stations included bag packing, emergency shelters, tents, mountain hygiene, navigation, and map skills. As well as that, we got to try out a meal similar to what we would be eating on the expedition, such as boil in the bag meals. Everyone enjoyed them! Overall, it was great fun and everyone is really looking forward to the real thing!

**Molly and Matthew George,
Explorer Scouts - Oak Eagle ESU**





Allan Patterson 1944 - 2025



We were sorry to hear the sad news that Allan Patterson has died and send our condolences to his family.

He was Secretary to the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. In this capacity he met local organisations and loved to talk about his exploits as a young Scout in Manchester. IN 1993 he was asked to become District Chairman, a post which he willingly accepted and held until 2019. In addition , he was also served on the Scout and Guide Shop committee.

Allan was an enthusiastic and energetic leader of the District Team. He was an experienced business person and was able to support the District Commissioner with sound advice on a wide range of matters from personnel to property. He was able to stand back from day to day Scouting issues and give impartial advice.

His ability to Chair a good meeting together with his understanding of Scouting ensured an effective District Executive which provided guidance and support to Scouting in the District.

He was a well known figure in the local community and a good ambassador of Scouting. His promotion of Scouting enhanced our reputation and goodwill amongst local businesses and voluntary organisations.

He had a friendly personality and got on well with both Leaders and young people, .



In recognition of his service the Scout Association awarded him a Long Service Commendation and the Award for Merit.

**Ivor Thomas,
County
Commissioner
presenting Allan
Patterson with the
Award for Merit.**

Achievements



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Dominic Mattia	12th Letchworth
David Sexton	12th Letchworth
Prabhjas Singh Jandu	12th Letchworth



Award for Merit

Irene Coldrey - Event Support Team Member

New Chief Scout's Award (CSA) process.

The County has introduced electronic certificates for all CSAs.

The County office currently posts congratulatory cards to the young people it has been notified about, who have achieved a Chief Scout Award (Acorn, Bronze through to Diamond, and Young Leader). Last year, County wide just over 800 cards were sent, at a cost of approximately 90p per card.

The County would like to make the process more efficient, in the hope that, apart from making cost savings, more Districts will participate so they can get a better picture and celebrate the awards presented to all our young people throughout the County.

Going forward the current hard copy postal system will stop and will be replaced by a digital certificate.

The District has revamped the current online form to be compatible with the County process. The new form can be found by following the link: <https://lbd.org.uk/s/csa>

Leaders / parents / carers can complete the form and submit it. Once submitted I will complete the necessary County form and an electronic certificate will be generated and sent to the email provided.



Dave Hawkins
Badge
Secretary

Diary Dates 2025

APRIL

- 1** Scout Section Events Team Planning Meeting
- 5** Sixers and Seconders Weekend
- 18** Good Friday
- 21** Easter Monday
- 24** District Trustees' Meeting
- 27** St George's Day Celebration
- 29** Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre AGM

MAY

- 1** 8th Letchworth AGM - Wymondley Wood
- 2 - 5** County Introduction to the Hills (ITTH) - Foundry Adventure Centre
- 7** 7th Letchworth AGM - Wymondley Wood
- 9** 4th Letchworth AGM - Wymondley Wood
- 10** District Beaver Challenge
- 12** 1st Ashwell AGM - Ashwell Village Hall
- 13** Programme Team Meeting (Scouts)
- 15** District AGM - District HQ
- 18** District Greenway Walk

JUNE

- 7** County Scout and Explorer Water Activities Day
- 8** County Cubs Water Activity Day
- 8** District Scout Archery and Shooting Competition
- 14 & 15** Squirrels in Trees 1 (SITS) - Well End
- 21 & 22** Squirrels in Trees 2 (SITS) - Well End
- 14 - 15** Beavers in Tents 1 (BITS) - Well End
- 21 - 22** Beaver in Tents 2 (BITS) - Well End
- 22** 12th Letchworth AGM
- 23** County AGM - Well End

JULY

- 4 - 6** Cubs in Tents (CITS) - Well End
- 12** LEH Leaders social evening



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