

Co-Ordinator

St George's Day Parade and Service



On Sunday 21 April 2024 Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell Scouts met up at 10.00am at the Splash Pool in Letchworth. With the new section Squirrels leading the parade behind the District Flag, St George's Flag and Union Flag they walked to the Broadway Gardens. After a short service where 11th Letchworth Beavers and Cubs performed the story of St George each section renewed their promise. This year's collection was for Angels - Supporting families in our District with ADHD and Autism. The collection on the day raised £225.26.



Please see below the opening remarks delivered by Emma from 11th Letchworth Scout Group at this years' District St George's Day Service.

St George's Day Parade and Service

Scouting is something very special, it really is a privilege to wear the uniform that we do. On these occasions we use words like "honour" and "duty", we hear stories of courage and commitment, and we recognise people's service not only to Scouting but to our neighbours and society. We take pride in the fact that we are not alone but are part of something much bigger. We feel reassured that we are not the only ones who care about the future of young people and the opportunities available to them. And we are gladdened by the idea that this great Movement of ours will continue to serve young people and the community for many years to come.

Today we will reaffirm our Promise to "help other people and keep the Scout Law". Whether we provide that help working with our sections week by week, by fundraising, or by planning training events or district camps, everyone here is committed to giving something back and helping their neighbours, whether in the town or village in which they live or across this global village that we now occupy. Service to one another is key to our Scouting experience. It is one of those things that makes Scouting unique for us.

For Saint George, as we all know- service and duty meant killing a dragon. But what was important about killing the dragon? It was about freedom. The dragon was terrorizing the people, and by killing it Saint George set them free.

We are not likely to come across actual dragons in our lives. But we do come across things that stop people from being free. Poverty, hatred, fighting, prejudice. These are our modern-day dragons.

And it is up to us to slay them.



How do we slay these dragons? How do we fight against these evils that we see around us?

We can do it in all sorts of ways:

- By giving to those who have less than we do.
- By refusing to join in with teasing or bullying.
- By stopping arguments and fights.
- By treating everyone as equal and not discriminating.

These are all things we can do in our homes, schools, at Scouts or Cubs or Beavers, and wherever else we find ourselves. And whenever we do, we will be making the world a little bit better than it was.

Emma Hitchin-Reeves
11th Letchworth CSL

Scout Cooking Competition: District and County Competitions

This year, the annual cooking competition took place across Hertfordshire and many Districts took part including the Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell District. This year's theme was 'Paris' and as a result, our 12th Letchworth team decided to make ratatouille, beef bourguignon and crepes.

The District stage was out of 3 teams, in our team was me, James Sexton and Seb Carrod (Seb Jagger and William Nearney had to step out). The other teams were formidable and put up a fair fight but our team won and went through to the county competition.

The county stage was challenging to say the least. Luckily this time Sebastian Jagger could re-join us. There were 7 teams that made it through to this stage. The other teams made our cooking style look primal and ineffective. We had 2 hours to finish the task, but we pulled through. When the scores were being read out we came in third place, giving a reputation to uphold for next year.

Thanks for the Leaders' help, we couldn't have done it without you!

By Jack Adelantado

12th Letchworth Scout and team leader

Big thanks to Chris Lewis who organised the District event and supported the county one! And to the judges and for all of their tips.

Jack, Seb C and James receiving the District Cooking Competition trophy from Nick ADC Scouts



Jack, Sebastian J, Seb C and James at the County Cooking Competition

4th Letchworth Scouts - County Triathlon (Lees Wood)

First, we arrived and registered

Then, we were assigned our group number - 2, and waited around until all the Scouts had arrived

After that, a leader gave instructions on what was going to happen and where we were going to go when we finished

First was running, then straight into cycling, and then you could rest for however long you liked before shooting

Between each group setting off, there was a 2 minute gap

Group one set off and shortly after, so did we.

The run was through a nature trail, so it wasn't nice terrain and there were a lot of hills.

Just ahead of us were team 1, who we had somehow managed to catch up with but we stayed behind them to pace ourselves.

We finished the 2 laps of the nature trail in no time and we were only slightly out of breath

We walked our bikes down to the trail where we were doing two laps on and set off

Someone in team ones chain fell off so they had to wait and we were in the front (Not that it mattered because it was timed but we were clear of other people)

We agreed we had to keep together but that was hard because there were loads of toiling hills, one of them even had steps in.

Some people kept going ahead so we had to call them back.

When we finished our first lap, everyone was at the top cheering us and ringing bells.

When we did our second lap, we were so exhausted. We headed back to our bags and drank so much and ate our lunches.

Then, we went to shooting.

We shot pretty quickly and missed a lot but it was good.

We went back to our place and relaxed while all the other teams came in.

They announced the scores and we came 3rd!

We would have come 2nd if we were 20 seconds faster!

3 Good things

Coming 3rd!

Being a team

We had fun!

1 Bad thing

Didn't stick together as well in the cycling

Matthew George

4th Letchworth Scout



4th Letchworth Scouts - County Triathlon (Lees Wood)

For me, the Triathlon started at Green Beret, way back in November. I heard about it during the speech, motivated, I convinced my leaders to sign us up.

Being our first year at the event as a group, we were confused on how it was all going to work out but it made sense soon enough.

First, running. We were Team 2 so we started two minutes after Team 1 (they were staggered). It was a long, hard 2km. The nature trail we were running had several steep hills which I didn't like.

During the cycling (5km) we caught up with Team 1- they had a dropped chain - and sped

past them. We had to do 2 laps and when we had completed our first lap there were people cheering us on.

The only downside was that the trail we followed, being public, had lots of dogwalkers.

Finally, shooting. After a break we headed down to the shooting range. We didn't do great.

We came third overall.

The only bad part was the traffic getting to and from Lees Wood.

Isla Hobbs - 4th Letchworth Scouts

On Sunday the 24th March 2024, 4 scouts from 4th Letchworth went to Lees Wood to compete in Hertfordshire scouts county triathlon. We arrived and found out we were team 2. We started with a warm up, then, at around 10:30 we had our briefing. The triathlon included a 2km run, followed by a 5km cycle, then 5 air rifle shots at a target. We learned that the event was staggered, with each team leaving for the run at 2 minute intervals.

The run was 2 laps of the nature trail, and started by running down a steep hill. It was hard work, but we encouraged each other and kept each other going and we managed to finish the run in good time, almost overtaking the team in front.

We did the cycle next, which was fun but quite hard. It involved quite a lot of going up and down hills, although the hills weren't that bad. The hardest part of the cycle for me was when we had to ride up some steps, because on both laps of the cycle, I had to push my bike up them. We completed the cycle incredibly fast, completing it in around half an hour.

Finally, it was the shooting. The targets were very hard to hit, as we hadn't shot in a while and they weren't the targets we were used to. We struggled but we persevered and managed to hit the target a few times.

At the end of the event, we found out that we had come 3rd. We were very pleased as we hadn't expected to win and it had been a good experience.

Marley Earl - 4th Letchworth Scouts



4th Letchworth Scouts - County Triathlon (Lees Wood)

When we got there we had to leave our bikes in a pile and get ready for the run. When all the teams arrived they gathered us in and told us the rules and the order. We were team 2 so naturally we were to leave second. The run was 2 kilometres long and it was 2 laps of a circular track running through the woods. It was quite relaxing at first but then we went around a corner and saw a giant hill sprawling out in front of us. By the end of the second lap I was exhausted but we had to keep going because the entire thing was timed.

Next we're on to the cycle. This time around it was 5 kilometres but still 2 laps. On the cycle route there were 2 really painful hills. The first one was very short but was incredibly steep and to make it even worse there were steps in the middle of it so you had to go around them. The next hill was super long

but not that steep. It felt like it went on forever. We overtook team one at the start of the cycle and another team on the second lap.

They stopped the timer after the cycle so we all sat down and tried to calm down before we did the shooting. None of us were very good at shooting. Personally I didn't hit the target once bearing in mind each miss was a penalty so that wasn't very good for our team.

Out of the 15 teams overall we came third which to me was a success and we were only 22 seconds behind the team ahead of us. I would really recommend this and would like to go again.

James - 4th Letchworth Scouts

Greenway Fundraising Walk 24

This is a fundraising event and will cost £2 to enter. It is taking place on Sunday 19 May 2024 starting at 09:00 hrs at Standalone Farm. Get sponsored by friends, family and work colleagues to walk all the way around Letchworth Greenway (or as far as you can).

Participants twelve years old and under must be accompanied by an adult over eighteen.

There are bases to stop at en route which offer an assortment of things to eat and drink and toilet facilities where possible.

Walking the Greenway not only helps with fundraising but it is a fun day out, a huge sense of achievement and a fitness boost.

8th Letchworth Scouts - Caving

This year 8th Letchworth Scouts are aiming to complete the Caver badge with the help of the Leicestershire Scouts Caving Team. When we first made contact it was suggested that the Scouts go up to the Peak District for a taster session before taking part in a 15hr underground marathon later in the year. With the loss of Glenbooke Girlguiding Centre this year we took the opportunity to try a new campsite Spitewinter in Chesterfield, who would have thought we would face heavy hail in March??? The Scouts took the opportunity to go for a cheeky Hillwalking session on the Saturday while we were there, then the following morning we went to the Devonshire

Cavern in Matlock. The Scouts were lucky enough to stay dry if a little muddy, a great time was had by most and we are definitely going back to finish the badge.

**Zeke Hill - Lead Volunteer
(8th Letchworth GSL)**



On the caving taster weekend, me and 8 other Scouts had a brilliant time. Even though some bits were quite tough, we still enjoyed the challenges.

We got there on the Friday at about 10pm but didn't get to sleep until 12-ish as we had to put up all the tents. We woke on the Saturday to find there was snow all over the ground and on our tents. After we got to the hills, we got out of the minibus and it was freezing. We walked a total of about 8 miles and when we got to the top of one hill, it was so windy that some of the people in my group got blown over or into the mud. When we got back down to the end, we were offered hot chocolate or ice cream with some people so cold that their fingers were thicker than usual! In the end we had multiple different weathers in one day; there was snow, hail, sun, wind, rain and fog.

On the Sunday there was much nicer weather and there was no snow. We got to

the caving place and had to put on the boiler suits. The boiler suits made it really hot as I thought it was going to be cold and had about five layers on underneath. After we had got our boiler suits and helmets on, we had a safety brief. Then we went to where the cave was and split into two groups. Once my group got into the cave, we looked up to see the other group looking down at us from a hole above! Whilst in the cave we discussed why you never go into a cave with less than four people. I was often quite petrified but I made it through with the help of the leaders and my group. The really brave people in the group went on top of a rock and then lay down on their stomachs to drop down onto the other side.

Overall, it was really fun and it has made me look forward to the summer camp.

**Jessica Searle
8th Letchworth Scout**

8th Letchworth Scouts-Caving

On Friday 22nd of March at 6:30 p.m. we set off from Scout Headquarters. After a long ride we made it to the Peak District at 10 o'clock, we struggled setting up the tent in the light of our head torches but eventually we managed to settle down after a long day and get to sleep.

The next morning we got up and it had been snowing in the night explanation mark lovely weather for hike! We ate our breakfast and took a short trip in the bus to the hills. Some of the hills were brutal and it was very windy and high but we all survived without being blown away... JUST!!! That night I slept like a log.

The final day of our weekend away we went to a cave. It was really fun being underground and going through tunnels. It was also really muddy, luckily we had boiler suits. After the cave and it was help time to pack up and set off for home for a rest.

George - 8th Letchworth Scouts.



8th Letchworth Scouts-Caving

When we arrived it was dark and we needed to put our tents up, each in a group of three. When we finished all of us helped with the mess tent. In the morning we packed our things we would need on the hill walking and drove to the location where we would hike. It wasn't the best weather, but it didn't rain at that moment. We split into 2 groups and started walking. At the start the sun came out and the view was amazing. Then was the best part of this day over... It started hailing and it rained all the time. But when we finished we got a hot chocolate or an ice cream.

The next day we got ready for caving... We firstly had to walk all the way up a hill again and went in the cave. There we walked and crawled around till we got to some bits which were harder, but we all could master them.

Sadly it was time to pack all our stuff and drive home...

Lea - 8th Letchworth Scout



5th Letchworth Scout Group Parent Evening and AGM - 20 March 2024

Parents joined in with a campfire activity song about Joe, who works in a Button Factory. Most managed to keep up! We used this later, to demonstrate how busy Leaders are, and why we need more people on board.

Refreshments, savouries, and cakes were served, made by 5th's young people.

Glyn updated us all, with information about the preloved uniform, kit, and boot shop, and how to keep that self-perpetuating.

Nick explained essential kit information, personal dining kits (PDK) what to look for and how to store kit.

Explanations about menstruation and hygiene at camp had been sent out, and eye care was briefed, along with the topic about what Bears do in the woods, and how parents can help their young person. It is essential they know where to put clothing and can assume the position - that's a job for parents!

We had a great evening, looking back at 2023, and forwards to the next adventures.

Wood Badge awards were presented to Tony Burns and Andrew Laing, with apologies to Patrick Tyler who completed before these two, and we are still waiting for his Beads.

Well done to all. AGM done, now we can get on with using the lighter evenings for more fun!

**Helen Howard - Lead Volunteer
(5th Letchworth GSL)**



Left photo - Tony Burns



Above photo - Andrew Laing

12th Letchworth Cubs

12th Letchworth Cubs had a fantastic visit from Guide Dogs UK in February as part of the Disability Awareness badge. Grace the guide dog stole the evening.

We completed the badge 2 weeks later and had a really successful cake and cookie sale and tombola for Cubs and parents. We forwarded the proceeds to Guide Dogs UK.



On holiday last month in Ruckinge, Kent I wandered to the end of the garden of the property that we were staying in, an old Post Office. Talk about a busman's holiday. At the end of the garden is the Scout and Guide HQ for Ham Street and Ruckinge. On Friday, I went up and bumped into their Scout GSL, and joined the Scouts for the evening. Melvyn made me welcome, and I had a great time watching the Leaders Lucas, Ben and Steve deliver a challenging indoor scout assault course competition. Ruckinge is close to the Royal Military canal, where the Scouts get to kayak regularly. Their Scout HQ benefits

from acoustic ceiling panels - I was impressed with these too! In the photo, proudly wearing the necker presented to me, along with some of the Scouts. Proud too, to be part of the Scouting community and family who welcome and look after each other. So, a big "Thank You" to Ham Street and Ruckinge Scouts.

Helen Howard
Lead Volunteer
(Group Scout Leader)
5th Letchworth



Annual General Meetings

	DATE	TIME	VENUE
1st Ashwell	13 May	19:00 hrs	Village Hall
2nd Baldock	7 June	19:00 hrs	Church Hall
4th Letchworth	10 May	18:00 hrs	Wymondley Wood
7th Letchworth	8 May	18:15 hrs	Wilbury Hall
11th Letchworth	16 May	18:30 hrs	11th Letchworth HQ
12th Letchworth	TBC		
Wymondley Wood	8 May	19:30 hrs	Wymondley Wood
District	16 May	20:00 hrs	District HQ

2nd Baldock will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary which will start at 18:00 hrs

4th Letchworth will be holding various events including a BBQ, bonfire, treasure hunt.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an opportunity for members to meet with the Trustees and hear their report on the charity, review of the accounts, and other administrative business. It's a compulsory yearly meeting that happens within 6 months of the end of the charity's financial year, and where the Scout Council appoints their Trustees.

There's a formal part to the AGM, but it doesn't mean it has to be a lengthy or tedious meeting. This is an opportunity to celebrate the things you've done in the past year, show what the young people have achieved, thank volunteers and connect with the local community.



Thank you to Ian Buck, part of the maintenance team, trustee and Wymondley Wood warden for manufacturing two new sign for the camping sites.



Lochearnhead Fund Raising

We have been selected as one of the charities for Tesco Stronger Starts Community Grants. If we win the vote, this will be used to buy some of the new tents and equipment needed for the Lochearnhead trip. After the trip the equipment will be stored at DHQ and available for all Groups within District to borrow.

Please help us by voting for us with your blue chips in Tesco. The voting containers are available in Baldock Tesco Superstore as well as the smaller branches on the Grange Estate and Bedford Road Letchworth

Thank you for your support

Claire Greener
District Scout Leader
Letchworth, Baldock & Ashwell Scouts



TESCO

TESCO COMMUNITY GRANTS

TESCO

TESCO COMMUNITY GRANTS

Over the weekend of 27 / 28 April Sections in the District were out about. Scouts from 1st Baldock, 2nd Baldock and 5th Letchworth enjoyed a weekend at Boyd Field in Henlow. The District held the annual Cubs Sixers and Seconders weekend at Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre (Can you guess what the weather was over the weekend!)



Achievements

Congratulations to the following Leaders who were presented with their awards at the District St George's Day Parade and Service - 21 April 2024 held at the Broadway Gardens.

Service Awards



Nichola Killick 4th Letchworth



Mark Brewis 12th Letchworth
Katherine Chennells 1st Ashwell
Alan Mann 4th Letchworth
Stuart Kendrick 1st Ashwell
Russell Wake 4th Letchworth
Ros Wing District



Hayley Palmer District

Congratulations to

Jennifer Dean 12th Letchworth ACSL
Nichola Killick 4th Letchworth ACSL
Emma Millichamp 11th Letchworth ACSL
Lisa Wake 4th Letchworth ACSL



For completing all their relevant training and achieving their Wood Beads

Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Pandora Bruce	2nd Baldock
Summa Dowle	2nd Baldock
Teilo Rees	2nd Baldock
Isla Shinh	2nd Baldock
Beatrix Wetherman	2nd Baldock

Chief Scout's Silver Award

Scarlett Coppel-Rose	12th Letchworth
Henry Keel	2nd Baldock
Ben Mitchell	2nd Baldock
Edward Moon	12th Letchworth
Harrison Swift	12th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Gold Award

Ethan Dodd	12th Letchworth
Max Harvey	12th Letchworth



Ian Hunt -
GSL (Lead
Volunteer)
Presenting
the Cubs with
their Chief
Scout's Silver
Award.

Diary Dates - 2024

MAY

- 3 - 6** Introduction to the Hills (ITTH) 11 - 13 year olds - Peak District
- 7** District Lochearnhead Planning Meeting No 4
- 8** Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre AGM
- 8** 7th Letchworth Scout Group AGM
- 10** 4th Letchworth Scout Group AGM
- 14** District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 16** 11th Letchworth Scout Group AGM
- 16** District AGM
- 19** District Greenway Walk
- 20** World Bee Day
- 29** National Biscuit Day
- 30** Scout and Guide Shop Closed (Half Term)

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
- 11** Beavers Bangers and Bash - Wymondley Wood
- 18** Scout and Guide Shop closes at 8.00 pm for the Summer
- 26** Olympic Games in Pairs 2024

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