

Co-Ordinator



The Royal British Legion is recognised as the national custodian of Remembrance.

Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday in November, is the day traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

With the help of Letchworth Bid and North Herts Council this year's Remembrance Service will be taking place on Sunday 10th November 2024 at 10.30hrs. War Memorial Station Place Letchworth.

Sunday 10th November

Scouts and Explorers - Have been invited to join the Cadets on their march from Broadway Gardens. Start to meet at 10:00hrs in Broadway Gardens, March off at 10:40 hrs. Arrive at War Memorial at 10:55hrs.

Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs - Meet at the train station from 10:00hrs as you usually would and parade from there.

Colour Parties will be filtered out and placed around the war memorial.

Additional notes

All are invited to parade practice on 4th November at 19:30hrs at Letchworth Army Cadets, Icknield Way. Scout Leaders must be present if offering this out.

Colour Parties are encouraged to attend a parade practice on Saturday 9th November at 11:00 at the War Memorial.

Parades will also take place in Ashwell and Baldock .

Robert Coldrey - Lead Volunteer



Is your vehicle overweight?

In recent weeks, probably due to all of the summer camps happening, UK Facebook groups have been awash with all sorts of pictures of very full looking Vans and Trailers, followed by hundreds of people commenting "You can't do that!" or "That looks a bit full to me!". And the truth is the commenters are correct!

Why is this important? If you get caught driving an overweight vehicle it is your, the drivers, responsibility. It could lead to you losing your licence.

This interesting topic has led one person on facebook to create a great post about the subject, which I have summarised below for those who don't have facebook.

The original post is linked here for those interested. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/VqvoRs7NauYib7iY/>

Over the last few years the DVSA has increased their efforts to catch overweight vehicles. They now have an increased number of checkpoints and new WIMS (Weigh in motion) technology. There have been a few stories in the news recently of Scout groups being caught overweight.

Below shows the different classes of vans you might hire for a Scout camp including their carrying capacity. As you will see, larger vans do not mean you can carry more weight. They simply mean you can carry more bulky items.

As a reference this IBC full of water would be 1000kg.



This 3.5 tonne van has a carrying capacity of 1500kg



This 3.5 tonne extra long wheel base van has a carrying capacity of 1000kg



This 3.5 tonne Luton van with tail lift has a carrying capacity of 900kg



This 7.5 tonne truck with a tail lift has a carrying capacity of 2500kg



Trailers are the same. The MAM (Maximum Authorised Mass) of a trailer is not how much you can put in it but in fact the maximum weight of the trailer including the chassis, body and wheels. The load weight will be less than the MAM.

Another point of contention regarding trailers, did you know that no matter what your trailer is loaded with, its minimum weight is the plated MAM?

If a car can tow 1000kg and the trailer's MAM is 1100kg, that car cannot tow that trailer, even if it is empty.

Some suggestions mentioned on how to stay within weight limits are to check the weight of every item of kit you have, log it in a spreadsheet and add up the weights of the kit you will be using each time.

Alternatively you can pay to weigh your vehicle at a public weighbridge you can find the nearest one here - <https://www.gov.uk/find-weighbridge>

The approximate cost is £10-£20 per vehicle, nothing compared with the risk of losing your licence.

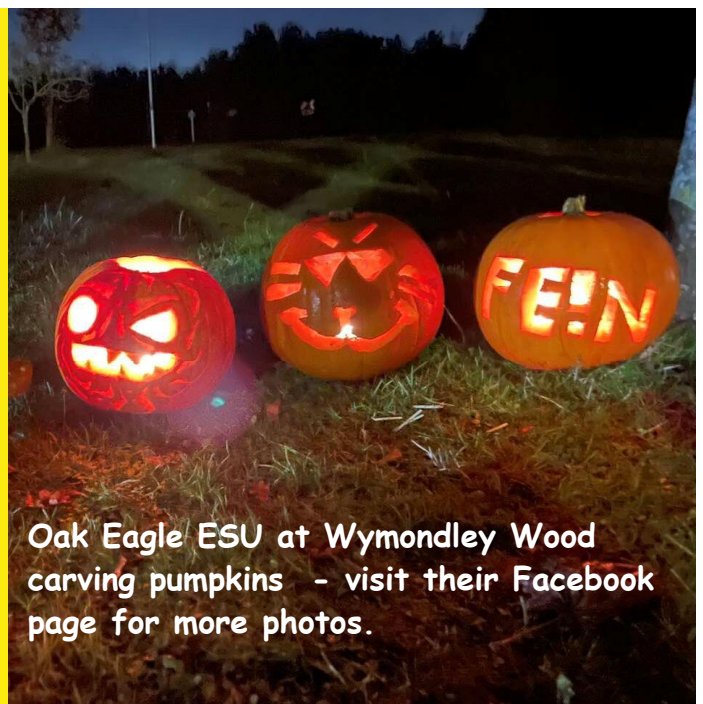
Remember to always leave an allowance for returning with wet tents!

None of the above replaces the need to check the actual weights and manufacturer recommendations of the specific vehicles and trailers you are using and does not replace the need to read up on the rules yourself should you be using a Van/Trailer.

Robert Coldrey - District Lead Volunteer

27% of parents and carers of our young people said they'd volunteer.

However, 49% said they'd never been asked.



Oak Eagle ESU at Wymondley Wood carving pumpkins - visit their Facebook page for more photos.

5th Letchworth Beavers explore the wonders of chalk streams with Affinity Water

Affinity Water is excited to announce it's participation in an educational session with local Beaver Scouts at the River Ivel, aimed at inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. On 2nd October, Affinity Water's team engaged the young Beavers with hands-on activities highlighting the importance of chalk streams and water conservation. Led by Beaver Leader and environmental advocate Glynn Holt - who also served as a volunteer task leader with Friends of Baldock Green Spaces (FOBGS) - the visit kick-started the Beavers' journey towards earning their Earth Tribe Award. This award encourages young people to learn about protecting the planet and inspires them to become "planet champions." The visit marked the beginning of their "Champions for Nature" badge pathway, aimed at fostering appreciation for local habitats and how they could be preserved.

Glynn Holt, Volunteer Task Leader said:

"As a Beaver Leader and environmental advocate, it's incredibly rewarding to see the next generation get excited about protecting our natural world."

"This visit to the River Ivel marks the start of an important journey for these young Beavers as they work towards their Earth Tribe Award. Through hands-on activities and learning about the importance of chalk streams, we hope to inspire them to become true champions for nature, ensuring our local habitats are preserved for the future."

Affinity Water colleagues Chloe Bench and Sarah Caleb, who has a background in education, along with Mike Pagonas from the Catchment Team, delivered interactive demonstrations during the session. Chloe organised and led the kick sampling and water quality testing, giving the Beavers the chance to see and learn about aquatic invertebrates up close. Mike also demonstrated a borehole dip, providing the Beavers with hands-on experience in water



management and environmental science. These activities offered a unique opportunity for the group to engage with key aspects of environmental conservation.

Chloe Bench, Project Manager at Affinity Water said:

"We're thrilled to collaborate with the Beaver Scouts and ignite their curiosity about chalk streams, which are such a vital part of our natural environment. Seeing their enthusiasm for hands-on learning is inspiring, and it's a real privilege to guide them through this journey of discovery."

"By engaging with them at this young age, we're not just teaching about water conservation - we're planting the seeds for a lifelong commitment to protecting the environment. It's essential that they understand the impact they can have on our planet's future, and experiences like these are the first steps in becoming true guardians of nature."

Affinity Water's involvement underscores its ongoing commitment to protecting chalk streams and fostering community awareness of environmental conservation. Chalk streams are one of the world's rarest habitats, and through efforts like this, Affinity Water hopes to inspire local communities to take active steps in preserving these vital ecosystems.



District Beaver Day Out

21 September - Shepreth Wildlife Park



On the 21st September 112 of us arrived from across the District at Letchworth Station for the Beavers District Day Out, we decided to travel by train to add to the experience. Letchworth station were amazing having extra staff available to help us travel to Shepreth, cross the road to the wildlife park and met us on the way home to do the same.

The train driver waved and beeped the horn pulling into Letchworth station. When we arrived at Shepreth station they did a special announcement on the Tannoy telling the Beavers to have a great day out.

Once we arrived at the Wildlife Park the Shepreth staff met to give us a briefing for the day. We split into four groups where we did a different activity for 45mins each. We had a conservation quiz around the park, looking at various animals and how endangered they are. I wrote a quiz with questions about different animals, so the Beavers had to read the signs and find out information. Shepreth staff put on two activities in the education centre, designing an animal enclosure poster and learning about the diet of carnivores and herbivores. They even did a game with photos and the Beavers had to decide which animal would eat the meal in front of them. It was great to see the Beavers so engaged in all the activities. After the activities the Beavers had free time in the park with their Leaders.



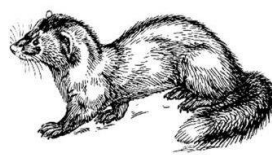
The Beavers had a great time seeing all the animals, favourites were the bats which you can see flying around you in the dark, tigers and red pandas. The weather was great and we missed all the rain which was forecast.

The train home was a lot quieter as the Beavers were all very tired after an exciting day out!!

Hayley
ADC Beavers

Save the Date

Operation Ferret is back!



Saturday 1st – Sunday 2nd March 2025

The exciting Scavenger Hunt that takes your team far and wide over
24 hours.

Operation Ferret is open to all – get your teams together

Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network, Leaders,
Parents, Grandparents, Friends and Neighbours!

Put the dates in your diary now.

More details to follow in 2025



District Cub Shooting Competition
Sunday 13 October 2024 - Boyd Field

RESULTS Congratulations go to 8th Letchworth Cubs for winning the team shooting competition with a score of 91/200 and Hallie White of 2nd Baldock for winning the individual competition with an impressive score of 39/50

Group	Score	Group	Score	Team Score	Group	Score	
1st Baldock		8th Letchworth		1st	8th Letchworth	91	
Oscar Willoughby	8/50	Logan Martin	27/50	2nd	12th Letchworth	87	
Samuel Harlow	9/50	David's Santoro	37/50	3rd	7th Letchworth (Mix Team)	83	
Oscar Caton	6/50	Joshua Blake	27/50	4th	2nd Baldock	81	
Oliver Cherry	2/50	Elliot Birch	0/50	5th	4th Letchworth	73	
Total	25/200	Total	91/50	6th	11th Letchworth	53	
2nd Baldock		11th Letchworth		7th	1st Ashwell	47	
Hallie White	39/50	Noah Wilderspin	9/50	8th	1st Baldock	25	
Evelyn Burton	11/50	Lewis Williams	14/50	9th	5th Letchworth	0	
Imogen Purcell	6/50	Alex Kowalski	6/50				
Ollie Freeman	25/50	Billy Bates	24/50	Individual Score	Name	Group	Score
Total	81/200	Total	53/200	1st	Hallie White	2nd Baldock	39
4th Letchworth		12th Letchworth		2nd	David Santoro	8th Letchworth	37
Oliver Norman	32/50	Zayden Kissima	26/50	3rd	Oliver Norman	4th Letchworth	32
Liam Shields	12/50	Lorca Prino	9/50	4th	Henry Lynam	2nd Baldock	31
Aurelia Kobzar	0/50	David Sexton	26/50	5th	Eleanor Thomas	4th Letchworth	29
Eleanor Thomas	29/50	Reuben Leake	26/50	6th	Callum Bannister	1st Ashwell	28
Total	73/200	Total	87/200	7th	Logan Martin	8th Letchworth	27
5th Letchworth		1st Ashwell		7th	Joshua Blake	8th Letchworth	27
Christopher Lawson	0/50	Callum Bannister	28/50	8th	Zayden Kissima	12th Letchworth	26
Zishan Jellany	0/50	Alfie Avalon-Wise	19/50	8th	Reuben Leake	12th Letchworth	26
Ffion Holt	0/50			8th	David Sexton	12th Letchworth	26
Total	0/50	Total	47/200	9th	Ollie Freeman	2nd Baldock	25
7th Letchworth (Mix)				10th	Billy Bates	11th Letchworth	24
Trevor Harmer (7th)	6/50						
Elabie Coling (4th)	23/50						
Dexter (8th)	23/50						
Henry Lynam (2nd)	31/50						
Total	83/200						

Herts Peak Assault - Phasels Wood 2024



Herts Peak Assault

11 - 13 October 2024 - Phasels Wood

In mid October Herts County Scouts organise a weekend called Herts Peak Assault. This is an orienteering competition for Explorers, Network and Leaders.

Due to rising costs of coaches, the organising team decided to run the event in Hertfordshire this year. It was still a challenging competition in the local countryside around Phasels Wood. Not many mountains though.

Oak Eagle ESU had one competing team and two training teams. We shared our support camp with Senuna ESU who also entered a competing team. It was great to have a joint event

The weather was changeable and the teams walked many miles collecting points along the way. Very well done to all those who came along. It was good to see you all rising to the challenges and working well as a team.



Peak Assault had a little holiday this year and took place locally in Phasels Wood. This didn't stop the young people, with 50+ teams of 14-25 year olds taking part.

District Scouts Nightjar 5 October 2024

Recently I took part with ten other teams in the NightJar night hike challenge. The challenge was to do a long walk around Baldock and into Weston on a cold early October night. My patrol, Puma, set off in the wrong direction at first, perhaps it was not going to end well. But we got the hang of reading our map and using our compass, and were enthusiastic to go as quickly as we could. To prove that we had gone the whole course we had to go to two locations and answer questions that were there. It was great fun, despite the close encounter with the entire county's cows, in the darkness. We did end up getting lost once. I really enjoyed nightjar as we tried to get around as fast as we could. After around three and a half hours of hiking we finally made it to the finish, and were extremely excited that we were the first team back. After a hot chocolate and cake to refuel, we returned home to the warmth and comfort of our homes. We woke up the next morning to the news that we had been the fastest round the course, 1st out of 10 teams! Perhaps the running from cows that allowed us to grab victory!

Stanley Simons, 1st Ashwell Scouts.



Date for your 2025 calendar

Nightjar - 27 September 2025. The plan is to head out into the Ashwell countryside.

Achievements



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Tommy Newland

12th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Gold Award

Ben Busby

1st Ashwell

Jacob Chandler

1st Ashwell

Megan Richards

1st Ashwell

Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Austin Constable

Senuna ESU

Henry Peacock

Senuna ESU

James Vickerstaffe

Senuna ESU



Nightjar Winners Trophy



One of the bases on the Nightjar Competition

Diary Dates - 2024 /2025

NOVEMBER

- 10** Remembrance Sunday
- 12** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 15** District Cub Quiz
- 15 - 17** Green Beret - Tolmers (40th Anniversary)
- 30** 8th Letchworth Scout Group Race Night

DECEMBER

- 4** County Explorer Party 24 - Tolmers
- 10** Scout Leaders' Christmas Social

JANUARY 2025

- 7** Lochearnhead (LEH25) Leaders' Planning Meeting
- 14** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 17 - 19** Fire and Ice - Tolmers
- 19** District Scout Cooking Competition
- 25** County Explorer Monopoly Challenge
- 25** LEH25 Training Day (week 1 attendees)
- 26** LEH25 Training Day (week 2 attendees)

FEBRUARY

- 4** District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 9** County Scouts and Explorer Cooking Competition - Tolmers
- 22** Founder / Thinking Day Tea & Cake

MARCH

- 1** Monopoly Run 'Live'25 - Scouts
- 1—2** District Operation Ferret - open to all
- 11** LEH25 Leaders' Planning Meeting
- 15** County Cub Bushcraft Day
- 21 - 22** LEH25 Training weekend (week1 attendees)
- 22 - 23** LEH25 Training weekend (week 2 attendees)
- 23** County Scouts and Explorer Triathlon - Lees Wood

APRIL



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