

Co-Ordinator

I hope you all had a restful summer.

- You asked, Wymondley listened! - An update from Wymondley Wood Campsite.

You asked, Wymondley listened!

Last year volunteers in the District were asked what improvements they would like to see at Wymondley Wood campsite over the coming years. The committee has since been busy exploring the viability, costs and extended interest of these projects.

There is some good news on 3 of these projects!

1. Planning has been submitted to convert a section of the outside toilet block to be suitable for accessible users. If this is successful then the hard bit starts, raising the required funds to complete this work. We would be looking for your support in this.
2. A trial hammocking area has been set up on the Kestrel Camp Site. These unsuspecting wooden posts (pictured below) will make a good spot for any groups wanting to give hammocking a go. There will initially be space for 7 hammocks, if the area gets well used and proves successful Wymondley will consider expanding this provision.



3. Paving slabs and fire pits will be installed on the Kestrel Camp Site, allowing for more places to have fires at Wymondley. These low level fires could be the ideal location for a day of backwoods cooking or an alternative to the campfire circle for an evening's entertainment

**Robert Coldrey -
D.C. (District Lead
Volunteer)**

Oak Eagle Explorer Scout - Summer Expedition

Isle of Wight

We took the minibus to the ferry the Isle of Wight and arrived at Corfe Scout Camp near Shalfleet. We settled in and after dinner we did tomahawk throwing and frisbee golf. Then we had the option to sleep in our bunks or under the stars to watch the meteor shower. We were also very excited to see a glow worm which was bright green and could be seen from across the field.

On Monday, first we went to the national museum of poo, located in a public toilet! Then we walked to the dinosaur mini-golf and had a competition in our 4's and 5's. Afterwards we had our lunch and went back to camp to prepare for coasteering which we went to singing loudly in the minibus. It was fun and adventurous including scrambling, swimming, squeezing through small spaces and jumping into the sea.



Tuesday we were up bright and early ready to do some sailing and windsurfing. We did sailing first and went from Cowes around some of the nearby water. We were in keel boats which were quite large and had 6 people including an instructor. We had to help sail the boat. After lunch we went windsurfing at a small sandy bay nearby. Everyone had success and we had a great time.

Wednesday we went on a coastal walk which was 27km long. We had three groups and started at 9.30am from Freshwater Bay and walked back to camp. It was very aesthetic and we had ice creams along the way which were very refreshing.

Thursday was our last day on the island and in the morning we went fossil hunting on Compton beach with a guide. This was really cool and lots of us found fossilised monkey puzzle tree from the cretaceous period, dinosaur bones and fossilised trees on the cliffs from the ice age. Our guide showed us foot prints from a diplodocus.

In the afternoon we went to Alum Bay and which has different coloured sands and a chairlift that took us down to the beach. Then we played on the beach and some got very wet.

Written by lots of Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts



This was a lovely trip and all the Explorers had a great time. Learning skills and growing in confidence as we went. They were fun, helpful, supportive and enthusiastic plus a fab choir. Many thanks to Rob, Charles, Glenn and Apryl for coming on the trip. Their good company and support was invaluable. Thanks also, to District, ASU and Chris for their support along the way.

Clair Calver - DESC

District Beavers Bangers and Bash 20 July 2024

A very successful event with 132 young people attending, this included 8 squirrels, with Leaders and Adult Helpers this gave us about 180 people to cater for!

The Beavers walked up from Kingswood Avenue to Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre. After the opening ceremony the Beavers could choose whichever activity they wish. They had plenty to take part in including: Trim Trail, parachute games, glitter tattoos and field games, this was all before they sat down and had a hot dog, packet of crisps and an ice cream. Many thanks to Morrisons and Iceland for their help with supplies. ASU came to help with serving the food, their help as always is very much appreciated to make it run smoothly. Glenn and Apryl managed the kitchen and it was amazing how quickly everyone had their food. Everyone seemed to be munching within 30 minutes!



The fully engraved Beaver Challenge Trophy was presented to 8th Letchworth who will organise the Challenge next year. Rob came and presented Rosie Muge from 8th Letchworth with her Kings Scout Award, she has worked so hard for the award and got a huge round of applause from all the Beavers.

Always such a great event with wide range of ages in attendance and a great turn out by all.

At the event we also raised £1000 for Keech Hospice (we topped it up from the certificate photo), Grizzly (Alan from 4th Beavers) dyed his hair blue and then at Bangers and Bash shaved his head and beard. Some of us have never seen him without a beard. A fantastic amount of money raised for a fantastic Hospice which is close to Leaders' hearts.

Hayley - ADC Beavers



Oak Eagle Explorer Scouts - Isle of Wight





Roverway Expedition

22 July - 5 August 2024 Norway

On the 22nd of July, I went as an Assistant Patrol Leader to Roverway 2024, held in Norway. Myself and 7 others from Hertfordshire met at Gatwick airport and flew to Oslo for the start of an amazing international trip. Roverway began with 5 nights at the Nordtangen nasjonale speidersenter, which is a national campsite in Nordtangen, situated by a lake and surrounded by forest. The site came without showers, but

this didn't bother us as we had the lovely warm lake only a short walk away from our camp! During our time at Nordtangen, we got to know the other patrols on our path. Our path included Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Austrian and Irish scouts who we would get to know really well and spend the remainder of the event with. As a path we camped, cooked and took part in activities together. We enjoyed a range of activities such as geocaching, canoeing, hiking and pioneering. We also spent a little bit of time thinking about Sustainable Development Goals both at the event and at home.

On the 27th of July we made the very long journey to Stavanger where the main camp was being held. The main camp began with a large opening ceremony overlooking mountains and the North Sea. Here all the paths and countries came together to sing, dance and begin the next chapter of the trip. Every day at main camp was different, one of the days was Norwegian themed and consisted of activities including jewellery making, wood souvenirs and Norwegian style cooking. We also enjoyed an international day where we could get to know other cultures and also share our culture with others. Many of the patrols offered us food, showed us games and taught us common phrases. Also, as part of main camp, we spent the day in Stavanger, where we could check out the local museums, the university, shops and restaurants. Main camp provided us with lots of opportunities for trading badges, neckers, t-shirts and hoodies with other international Scouts. After 5 days at main camp,

it was time for the closing ceremony and time for us to say goodbye to the friends we'd made at Roverway.

Whilst everyone else made their way home, us and the other UK patrols headed off for the post event. We spent the day at Solastrand beach, playing games and paddling in the sea before boarding the overnight ferry from Norway to Denmark.



We woke up in Denmark and made the journey by coach to Copenhagen. In Copenhagen we were allowed to explore the city, see the landmarks and visit museums.

My patrol and I decided to look round the classic car museum, see the little mermaid statue, explore Rosenberg castle and visit Tivoli, the theme park and garden. After 3 great days in the city, it was time to head to the airport and travel home.

This was yet another amazing international trip that I've been lucky to have attended and I'm grateful to have been apart of the Expedition.

Ellie Hill- Network



Membership Fees Update

National membership fees have been announced. HQ will be increasing their portion of membership fees by £5 to £43 for the 2025 census.

This does not include the county or district levy.



For information in **2024:**

Fees for County were £15. County usually increases these every year.

Fees for District were £5. District has had the same fee for 3 years. It may increase this year.

We will inform you of the county fee for 2025 when we know it.

The District fee will be discussed at the November Trustee Board meeting and again we will inform you once a decision is made.

Robert Coldrey - DC

(District Lead Volunteer)

8th Letchworth Scout Summer Camp

27 July - 2 August Great Tower Campsite

Out of all the Scout camps I've been on so far this was the best camp I have attended. On Saturday we left the Scout HQ for our adventures in the Lake District. When we had arrived at Great Tower Campsite, we got everything set up in daylight and some of us had time to make a bridge out of logs. We had dinner and then we went to bed, eagerly awaiting the excitement of Sunday. On Sunday, we went hill walking in 3 separate groups with 3 separate routes that we'd planned in advance. The route my group followed was very muddy and around the lake, but we all enjoyed paddling in the lake and skimming the stones. Once my group had finished, we went to pick up Jay's group and then went back to camp. Once we were back it was hours till the final group returned. We all had a quiet evening while we waited. On Monday, we split into 2 groups, the older group, and the younger group. In the older group we went rock climbing first on cliffs made of slate. There were two rock faces we had to climb, one with lots of rocks and one with a mostly flat surface. I managed to get to the top on both rock faces. There was an amazing view from the top and you could see for miles. Once we had all had a go, we had lunch before canoeing. We paddled down Coniston Water to the local cafe and had an ice cream. Once we had our treat we hopped back in the canoes and headed to a jetty at one end of the lake. We spent time jumping off the Jetty and even Mike joined in. After all that fun was over, we paddled back to the base, got out of the boats, untied the ropes, and loaded it back on the trailer. We had another swim in the Coniston Water before getting dried and changed. It was back to the campsite for dinner and a nice rest.

On Tuesday, we went to the beach in Morecambe. It wasn't a sandy beach though, more of a fun mud bath, some people pay lots of money for these. We had fish and chips for dinner and then we went back to camp. On Wednesday, we did Ghyll scrambling and rafting. In the Ghyll scrambling we forced our way against the current upstream and did some jumping in in deeper parts. We had to construct our rafts as a team and we managed to get ours to float. We sat on it, paddled to the other side of Coniston water, all was going so well and then disaster struck, then the side I was on collapsed. We had to push the raft back to the other side while the people still sitting on the raft helped by paddling on their side.



On return to the shore we put the raft pieces away and all the groups ran back into the water for a splash about for 5 mins, before walking back to the base to change before we went back to camp. Back at camp it was very chilled evening to relax before bed. On Thursday, we did archery in the morning. Jay got bullseye twice in a row, mine wasn't quite so close but I had a lot of fun. In the afternoon we went to Honister slate mine. Some of the Scouts went down to the slate mine but I had chosen to do the Infinity Bridge. The Infinity Bridge was a couple of ropes between mountains very high up at about 500ft above ground, thankfully we had a harness on in case of falls. It was amazing fun, and bouncy with amazing views I'd love to do it again. Harry and Caitlin got their Chief Scout's Gold Award given to them on the infinity bridge and we were able to watch. We went back to camp for the evening, had a fun time at the Camp fire with entertainment and singing before we went back to our camp to continue with the celebration for Reece's 11th birthday with a song and dance night. Friday it was all over and we had to pack up to leave. Once we were packed and ready to go we had cake. My favourite part of the camp was the Ghyll scrambling as we got to climb up waterfalls and jump into the deeper parts of the water. I can't wait to see what the next adventures planned are.



Alex Davis- 8th Letchworth Scout



We had lots of fun on camp in the lake District. Some of the activities we did during the week were rafting where every group stayed afloat except one. We also did climbing, Ghyll scrambling, hiking where Mike made the older group climb up what felt like a cliff, archery and some of the group went in to Honister slate mine while the other half went on Honister Infinity Bridge where Caitlin and Harry got their gold awards. During the week it was also Reece's birthday so we had a disco party including cake.

Emma Rafferty
8th Letchworth Scout

District Scout Shooting and Archery Competition Wymondley Wood - 30 June 2024

First and foremost a massive thank you to the team helping making today such a success. Also a credit to our near neighbours Arlesey "Halifax" troop joining us today with their Leader joining the range team for this year.

Some very high scores and have looked back to 2019 with an incredible increase of overall team scores for both disciplines around 150 points more than 2019, so without further delay the below is today's results.

Rifle segment - Whalebone trophy

			Individual			
1st	1st Ashwell	226	1st	WA	1st Ashwell	46
2nd	2nd Baldock	202	2nd	EC	1st Baldock	44
3rd	Halifax (Arlesey)	196		LS	Arlesey	44
4th	1st Baldock	193	3rd	BB	2nd Baldock	42
5th	5th Letchworth	183		EH	Arlesey	42
			4th	OL	1st Baldock	41

Archery:

1st	12th Letchworth	268
2nd	Halifax (Arlesey)	239
3rd	1st Ashwell	216
4th	4th Letchworth	180
5th	2nd Baldock	176

Individual:

1st	BB	1st Ashwell	68
2nd,	ZS	Arlesey	64
	LC	12th Letchworth	64
3rd	JM	4th Letchworth	54
4th	SM	1st Baldock	47

Overall :

1st	1st Ashwell	442
2nd	12th Letchworth	440
3rd,	Arlesey	435
4th	2nd Baldock	378
5th	1st Baldock	363
6th	5th Letchworth	360
7th	4th Letchworth	315



These are the archery trophies, left hand is the old one, and one on the right was made by someone Sue King knows, looking to do same for rifle as well

4 Trophies will be going to 1st Ashwell, the 5th trophy off to 12th Letchworth for the next year

Chris Lewis - Organiser

1st Ashwell Scouts - Expedition Summer Camp 5 - 7 July 2024 - Cottered Guide Centre

I was looking forward to the camp because I like walking and exploring. I thought the challenging part was going to be the rain as it was due to be torrential. For once the weather men were right and it poured. Even as we arrived on Friday evening we had to put our tents up under the mess tent to keep the insides dry.

The main part of the camp was the big hike on the Saturday. I liked that the Leaders wanted us to walk parts of the hike on our own so we could take responsibility for map reading and to find our own way. Each patrol walked separately and fared differently in finding their way! But we all got back eventually....

Saturday evening we cooked up a feast of

rice and sauce and tortilla chips. It was tricky to cook for the whole troop. Plus we were all keen to find out how England were doing in their Euro 2024 match vs Switzerland - it was a nail biter ending 1-1 - going on to penalties - England winning 5-3!! Sunday morning was a shorter hike of about 5 miles and then pack up to go. Everyone was still tired from the Saturday hike but we kept each other going and spirits were high.

Cooking for the troop made me realise what hard work it is to organise everything for the whole group. The Leaders have to have everything ready for us for the entire weekend - we are very thankful that they do!

Alex Walkden - 1st Ashwell Scout





A first for me!!

From the beginning Charlie Wilderspin from 5th Letchworth Beavers wanted to complete all the badges available when he started his Scouting journey. This certificate is a fantastic achievement and shows all his hard work over the last 2 years, also the first I have ever given out!

Currently there are 33 activity badges, 6 challenge badges and the Chief Scout Bronze Award available, plus a few extra ones!!

Charlie will continue his Scouting journey into Cubs and keep working hard to see how many badges he can work on... another full house?

Hayley Palmer
ADC Beavers

Lochearnhead 2025

A massive thank you to all of the local businesses and groups that have supported our fundraising for equipment for the Lochearnhead Expedition, and to everyone who has supported us by putting their blue tokens in the Stronger Starts collection bins in Tesco. We have now raised enough to replace the worn mountain tents and emergency shelters.

Thank you to:

Tesco Stronger Starts

Team Supreme

Floyd Automatic Tools Ltd.

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation

Switchshop

Settle

Extract from an email - Scouts staying at Wymondley Wood

"One extra bit of news for you is that we had a Specialist come and set up a moth trap for the Scouts on Friday evening and this netted 15 different types of Moths including a beautiful Pink Hawk Moth. The Beavers also studied them so it was a great bit a nature for us all."

4th Letchworth and 8th Letchworth Scouts - 21 - 23 June 2024 Danesmead Camp Site

On Friday 21st June, groups of intrepid 8th and 4th Letchworth Scouts made their way to Danesmead camp site. Danesmead is in the forest around Hertfordshire zoo.

Nearly every Scout slept without a tent - and most Leaders used a tent. Some of us put up hammocks, the others built shelters using tarpaulins, string and rocks. Thankfully, it didn't rain on the first night and we fell asleep listening to the barks of deer in the woods, the snores of Zeke (also in the woods) and the roars of lions (hopefully not in the woods!)

There were no Leaders cooking for us on this camp. So, we cooked for ourselves over open fires. My favourites from the food we cooked included: sausages, bacon, French toast and meatballs with spaghetti.

We chopped and whittled wood. I made a knife. We made useful camp equipment such as a bin stand and a washing up stand using branches and string. We also made our own string out of stinging nettles. Thankfully, my group didn't have to pick the stinging nettles!

I arrived home on Sunday lunchtime having had lots of fun.

Callum - 8th Letchworth Scout

A Greenfield camp is where there are no facilities apart from clean water from an aqua roll. For our Greenfield camp we slept in hammocks and shelters we put up ourselves. We cooked our own breakfast and dinner on homemade fires, which we lit ourselves from wood we had to gather.

We went around in groups for our activities.

These were.

- rope making; from stinging nettles,
- gadget making,
- whittling, axing and sawing
- and setting up where we were going to sleep.



Our gadgets were also made from wood we found, and we used square lashings to make useful things around the camp, such as washing up stands to hold the basins. These were useful to make and developed our teamwork skills.

For our dinner we cooked pasta with homemade meatballs. Someone in our group dropped ours so we had to make some new food and cook it. Later in the evening we had a small fire and burnt papers and made popcorn and cooked baked apples over the fire.

At the end of the camp, we all had a great time but we're very tired, we helped pack up and went home.

Isla and Siobhan - 4th Letchworth Scouts



Caving camp was really fun and helped me face some of my fears. Although they were small, wet, cold and muddy, it was exciting and fun and our instructors were really nice and funny. We did three caves in total. The first was dry and you could walk most of the way, there was a challenge as well to crawl through a tight gap - Mike and Jay tried but in the end they had to get out the way they came backwards! The second cave was similar to the first except you had to crouch and crawl more and climb up and down a staircase (nearly 100 steps!) each way - but we did get ice-cream at the end. The third cave was the most challenging and the hardest for me, you had to crawl lots through wet, muddy water and even go on your belly! Although it was extremely challenging, it was interesting as the cave was a mine once. It was very good fun and was in the Peak District. I highly recommend these caves, for anyone in Scouts.

Keira Parkinson - 8th Letchworth Scout



The trip there was one of the most chaotic ones yet. Taking us 2 hours to the service station, the minibus was getting a lot of funny looks, not because of the actual minibus, but because of all the crazy people inside of it. The front row was talking about the awful music and what they would listen to instead of Taylor Swift, meanwhile Amy, me and Keira were reading our books and singing along to the music.

A few hours later we had reached the campsite. It was a nice campsite and had facilities right next to us so we didn't need to worry about the Long Walk in the freezing cold at night. We set up our tents and went straight to sleep after unpacking the crucial things we needed to sleep with.

We had breakfast and packed our day sacks ready for the day. A short minibus trip and we were at the first cave. Once we had our boiler suits, helmets and belts on we started the walk down to the cave. As soon as the mouth of the cave came into view everyone was gobsmacked! It was one of the most beautiful cave entrances I've seen and it got even more spectacular inside. I was in the smallest group which meant we could go through quite quickly and see much more. The first thing we had to do was (if you wanted to) go through a tiny gap. It was so much fun and despite everyone saying you could get lost in it, was the easiest thing I've ever done. After a little bit more walking and ducking, our group had finally managed to go to the pit of Doom where we actually have to be held on to so we wouldn't fall in because, trust me, it was Deep.

Once we had gotten out of the cave, we were going to another one so keeping our boiler suits on, we sat back down in the minibus and started talking and having our snacks. After reversing into the car park, we met our

instructors. They said this was going to be a mildly wet one but boy were they wrong! After walking down a little hill we got to a shack that had all of the equipment that we needed for this cave. There was a little door to the left that was our entrance to the cave. The instructors told us that there were 97 steps that we needed to go down in order to be inside of the cave fully. It was quite steep but luckily there were handrails. Once we'd gotten in to the cave fully, we had to duck and this was one of the wettest caves I've been in. We needed to wade through immense levels of water and keeping in mind, as I am shorter than most of the Scouts it was up to above my knees and absolutely freezing.

Despite of the cold, this was definitely a fun cave to go through as there were loads of twists and turns wading through the water and quite a bit of mud too so you can imagine what the Scouts would do when there's mud around: of course smear it on their faces.. which I did as well to be honest.

After watching the football and having dinner (which Harry ate most of) we were told to go to bed.

The next morning, we had to leave to go to the final cave of the weekend. I have actually been in this cave before at ITTH camp. Due to this, I got to abseil down into the cave and climb a ladder to get back out. This cave was the most mentally and physically challenging so far and after many hours in the cave, we emerged and made our way back home.

Overall, this was definitely an experience I would do again. Thank you Eighth Leaders for giving us this opportunity.

Tabitha Wandless -8th Letchworth Scout



Kings Scout's Award

Rosie Muge

8th Letchworth ABSL

Wood Badge



Congratulation to: -

Charles Wade - AESL on gaining his Wood Beads presented by Robert Coldrey - DC (District Lead Volunteer) and also congratulations to Beth Aird - Section Leader on being presented with her Wood Beads at the District Beaver Bangers and Bash.

Welcome to



Nichola Jagger
Simon Miller
Steve Mills
Jacob O'Keefe
Dale Wandless

12th Letchworth ASL
1st Baldock Cubs ACSL
Senuna Explorer Scout Unit
11th Letchworth ACSL
8th Letchworth ACSL

Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Leo Batchelor	5th Letchworth
George Bland	7th Letchworth
Scarlett Butler	7th Letchworth
Imogen Cross	1st Ashwell
Ishaq Jellany	5th Letchworth
Elijah DeLacey-Mould	7th Letchworth
Martha Gearing	1st Ashwell
George Holdway	7th Letchworth
Sylvie Webster	5th Letchworth

Chief Scout's Silver Award

Fearne Auty	4th Letchworth
Aidan Barry	1st Baldock (Knights)
James Barry	1st Baldock (Knights)
George Boulter	4th Letchworth
Rose Corney	1st Baldock (Knights)
Jayden Dement	4th Letchworth
Freya Evans	12th Letchworth
David Hammond	1st Baldock (Knights)
James Hill	1st Baldock (Knights)
Benny Howell	1st Baldock (Knights)
Annabel John	4th Letchworth
Cyril Kapetanios	1st Baldock (Knights)
Tomek Kazubek	1st Baldock (Knights)
Lizzie Makin	1st Baldock (Knights)
Fern Middleton	12th Letchworth
Tommy Pile	1st Baldock (Knights)
Max Robinson	1st Baldock (Knights)
Scarlett Schaffer	4th Letchworth
Jude Scott	4th Letchworth
Pippa Whelan	12th Letchworth
Daniel Williams	1st Baldock (Knights)

Chief Scout's Gold Award

Caitlin Cook	8th Letchworth
Harry Gribben	8th Letchworth
Samuel Parkinson	8th Letchworth



Diary Dates - 2024

SEPTEMBER

- 9** Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 10** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 12** Scout and Guide Shop 6.00 pm opens for the Autumn Term
- 13 - 15** Activity Spectacular at Phasels Wood (ASAP)
- 17** District Lochearnhead Planning Meeting - Wymondley Wood
- 18** County Beaver and Cub Activity Day - Tolmers 10 am - 5.00 pm
- 21** District Beaver Day Out
- 22** ASU Meeting

OCTOBER

- 1** District Scout Leaders' Meeting - Online
- 5** District Scout Nightjar (Night Hike)
- 6** District Cub Day Out
- 11-13** County Peak Assault - Phasels Wood
- 13** District Cub Shooting Competition - Boyd Field, Henlow
- 20** 12th Letchworth registered 20 October 1981



NOVEMBER

- 10** Remembrance Sunday
- 12** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 15 - 17** Green Beret

DECEMBER

- 10** Scout Leaders Christmas Social
- 15** ASU Christmas Dinner

JANUARY 2025

- 14** Wymondley Wood Meeting
- 17 - 19** Fire and Ice - Tolmers

FEBRUARY

- 22** ASU / Trefoil Guild Founder / Thinking Day Tea & Cake

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