

Co-Ordinator

Senuna Explorer Scout Unit

The 1st Ashwell Scout Group has been recognised for encouraging young people to try, see and do more. They opened the Senuna Explorer Scouts due to demand from local teenagers and provide young people with the chance to "dream big, find their place, make memories and friends that will last a lifetime".

The Senuna Explorer Scout Unit has enjoyed taking part in local community projects and adventurous trips including sailing around Mersea Island, camping, hiking in Snowdonia, and they are looking forward to an expedition to Lochearnhead in Scotland this summer.



Dwayne Fields, who replaced Bear Grylls as Chief Scout in September said "I'm incredibly pleased that the Senuna Explorer Scouts has opened. This means more young people in the local community are making friends, building their confidence, and gaining skills that will prepare them for life and work."

When I was young, as quite a shy kid, I remember walking into my local Scout meeting place and getting such a warm welcome. I found people who believed in me, and that helped me believe in myself. This set me a path to adventure – taking me to Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands and even the North Pole.

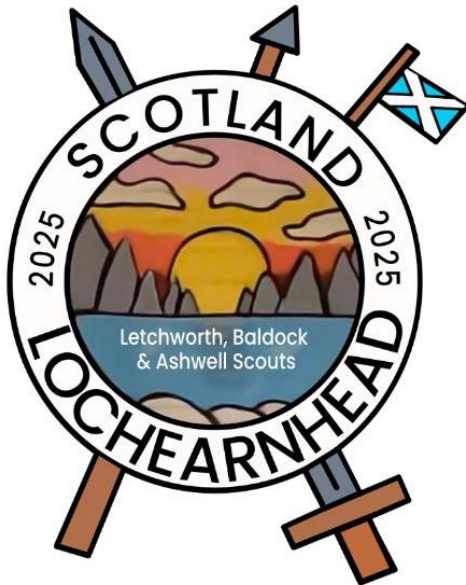
What made the difference were inspirational volunteers who became role models for me. I'll also never forget the kindness and friendship of the other Scouts.

I'm so pleased that young people in Hertfordshire are getting the same chance I did – to discover their talents and find their place in the world.

A massive thank you to everyone at the 1st Ashwell Scout Group and Senuna Explorer Scout unit. You're making all the difference to young lives and bringing people together. Well done to you all"

Lochearnhead 2025

Badge & Graphic Design Competition



1st Place

Thomas Norfolk

12 years old

4th Letchworth



2nd Place

Elwen

Holt

12 years old

5th Letchworth



3rd Place

Amélie

Boulstridge

12 years old

8th Letchworth



3rd Place

**Alex
Davis**

12 years old
8th Letchworth



Runner Up

Ben Mitchell

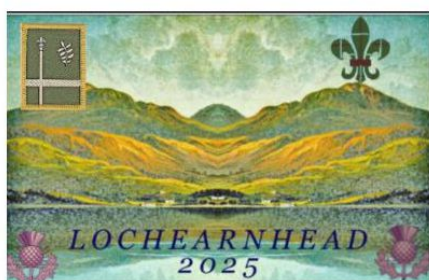
11 years old - 2nd Baldock



Runner Up

Benny Howell

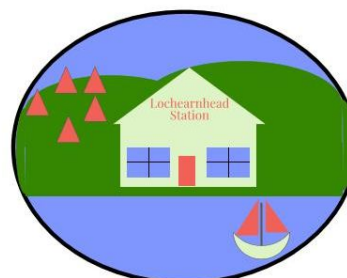
10 years old - 5th Letchworth



Runner Up

James Hill

11 years old - 1st Baldock



Runner Up

Hamish Earl

10 years old - 4th Letchworth



Runner Up

Edgar Chapman

11 years old - 1st Baldock



Runner Up

Lewis Walkinshaw

11 years old - 5th Letchworth

Beaver Space Sleepover

On Saturday afternoon we went to Space Camp with Beavers from 5th, 11th and 12th Letchworth. When we arrived we went to the rooms which were called Earth, Neptune, Saturn and Jupiter. We made our beds and put our bags away. Then we went on a scavenger hunt around the field. It was really cold and the ground was still frosty even though it was the afternoon, so we put on our wellies and our coats and our gloves and our hats and went out. When we got outside we split into groups and started looking for space facts that were hidden all over.



After we finished our scavenger hunt we came inside and then we made collages to decorate models of the planets in our solar system. We used magazines and chocolate wrappers to decorate the huge cardboard cut-outs. Monkey and Eagle helped us to sort the colours to match the colours of the planets. Next, we made telescopes and decorated them with things you might find in space like: rockets, stars, aliens, planets. We then chose a constellation and stuck it to

the end of the telescope. The constellations were all made using holes in paper so when you look at something light it looks like you are actually looking at the stars! Then Parrot helped us to make mini marshmallow models of our constellations.

Later on we went outside and looked at the stars. There were quite a few that you could see even though there was a lot of clouds. We saw Pisces and Cassiopeia which looked a bit like a sideways "W". The sky was really dark because we were so far away from streetlights and Harry pointed out that "the light pollution was less". Also, we saw something in the sky which "look[ed] like stars" but were actually "planets". Eagle helped us see Jupiter which was near the moon and we also saw Mars and Venus! Then we went inside and it was time for astronaut training. We navigated a cardboard model replicating what it is like going through air chambers on the International Space Station. "It was my favourite activity because we had to hold our breath and get through each box before taking a new breath". We talked about how in space oxygen has to be saved and used thoughtfully because in space there isn't any air.



Then it was time for dinner and we had sausages! After we washed up our plates and put them away we got our torches and went outside for a campfire which Monkey, Panda and Zach had built. The fire was hot and crackly but it was cold outside. We sang lots of campfire songs including; Campfires Burning, 40 Years on an Iceberg (very fitting), Alice the Camel, Old Macdonald (which included a turtle, a giraffe, and a hedgehog just to name a few), There was a crocodile, and a very fast Head Shoulders Knees and Toes. All the songs kept us toasty. As we went back inside we looked through the telescope that Koala had set up and looked up close at the moon. Then we went inside, brushed our teeth and went to bed.



In the morning we were woken up by Parrot, we got dressed for the day and packed up our things. Neptune were very well rested and proudly told everyone "we slept very well". Then we had breakfast and quickly moved on to our final activities. Half of us went outside with Panda and Monkey and let off bottle rockets and air rockets. The bottle rockets worked using an air pump and water. Kira was the best at bottle rockets and knew exactly how much water to put in to get it the highest. However, the air rocket went so much higher. We tried lots of different ways to get the air rocket to go further. We found jumping into the air and landing on the pump made the rocket go really high, higher than the trees. So high we moved further onto the field. Lynx said "mine was the best because it went the highest".



Then we went inside and swapped with the other group and made solar system fruit skewers. Fox helped us look at the model solar system we made on the previous day and we used that to help us put the fruit into size order like the planets. We then cut up the fruit using child knives and put the slices onto skewers. Finally, we used space stickers to put out names on our models so we could take them home.

Finally, it was time to clear up and get into a dam so we could share our favourite things about camp before we went home.



To list the best bits of camp we would have to re-list everything above, but we all agreed we had lots of fun, made loads of memories and friends, and cannot wait till the next camp!

**written by Beavers from
12th Letchworth, 11th Letchworth and
5th Letchworth and typed by Beth Aird**

Making Camp as Green as Possible

While away on Space Camp we did not forget about our very real responsibility to look after our planet: Earth. When we arrived at Wymondley Wood we set up a recycling system which would ensure we came away from the weekend with as little general waste as possible. This included having a household recycling bag, and a flexible plastic bag so we could recycle as much of our packaging as possible. We also separated our food scraps into cooked and uncooked, which have now been composted and fed to "the pigs" from a local household small holding. Coming away from this weekend we are confident that not only did the Beavers have a fantastic experience but it is also one which has not cost the earth. This effort also went towards our Earth Tribe-Award which has three main aims: to help young people understand the world around them, and the challenges our planet faces, to become environmentally conscious, active global citizens and be a #PlanetChampion, and to take action now and in the future to protect our planet and create a better world that we can all live in.



12th Letchworth Beavers Go Ice Skating

12th Letchworth Beavers arrived at Letchworth Ice Rink full of enthusiasm and unbounded energy and only slightly apprehensive. We traded our trainers for bright blue ice skates and listened carefully to the safety talk. Then the barrier was removed and it was time to get onto the ice.

Largely unskilled at ice skating, the first few steps on the ice may have looked more like a baby deer stuck than an elegant figure skater. But with their on-brand perseverance the Beavers did their very best, held on to polar bears and penguins, and tottered on the ice.

After a little while some of us abandoned our skate aids and gave it a go without them. Others traded their penguins and polar bears for the banana boats powered by the skating of parent helpers and our Young Leader Molly. The time on the ice flew by and soon it was time to take a final lap of the ice and give our skates back. We were very excited to see Scouts from Hitchin getting ready to take our place on the rink. (photos on page 7)

Beth Aird

Operation Ferret

Are you and your children ready for an adventure like no other? **Operation Ferret** is here, and it's time to rally your teams for an exhilarating and mysterious scavenger hunt spanning 27 hours!



Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to uncover the weird and wonderful treasures hidden within 'The List'. But beware, these items won't be easy to find. Some may require you to delve into the depths of your attic, seek wisdom from grandparents, borrow from a neighbour, or even negotiate with a local business for assistance!

For example, can you source a **rubber chicken** or **take a selfie with a garden gnome**? These could be worth 1 point. How about finding a **VHS tape** or a **menu from a Letchworth-based restaurant**? These could be worth 3 points. Or how about snapping a **photo of a Leader (in uniform) riding a combine harvester**? Now that could be worth a whopping 10 points!

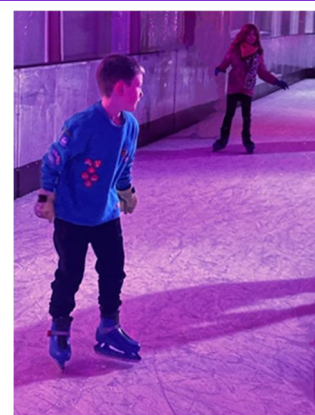
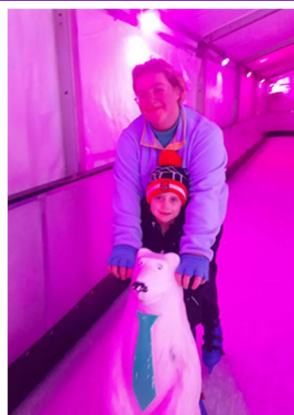
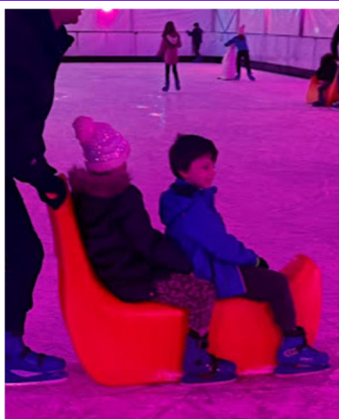
Team Formation: Teams must be formed of between 8 and 20 people. Four team members must be invested members of Scouting (any section, including Leaders). Young people must be accompanied by their parent/carer.

Date: Saturday 1st March until Sunday 2nd March (midday close)

Timings and collection of Registration Packs: Team Leaders are invited to collect their Registration Pack between 9am and 10am on Saturday, 1st March. Operation Ferret finishes at 12pm on the Sunday.

For more details and to sign up, visit <https://forms.office.com/e/FTtu9EBzxk> or scan the QR code on page 8.

Let's make this an unforgettable adventure for everyone!



Diary Dates 2025

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 1** Monopoly Run 'Live'25 - Scouts
- 1 - 2** District Operation Ferret - open to all
- 11** Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 11** LEH25 Leaders' Planning Meeting
- 13** 2nd Baldock AGM
- 15** County Cub Bushcraft Activity Day
- 21 - 22** LEH25 Training weekend (week 1 attendees)
- 22 - 23** LEH25 Training weekend (week 2 attendees)
- 23** County Scouts and Explorer Triathlon - Lees Wood
- 26** 1st Baldock AGM

APRIL

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

MAY

- 1** 8th Letchworth AGM
- 2 - 5** County Introduction to the Hills (ITTH) - Foundry Adventure Centre
- 9** 4th Letchworth AGM
- 10** District Beaver Challenge
- 13** Programme Team Meeting (Scouts)
- 18** District Greenway Walk

Operation Ferret 1st & 2nd March
2025 Information and Team sign
up form



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