



Scouts

Letchworth, Baldock & Ashwell



Co-Ordinator

We have taken delivery of a new (to us) minibus! Exciting times!

This one is silver and can be driven by anyone with a standard car licence opening its use up to a wider group of people within the District.

We hope it will be well used.

For costs, booking information and a photo (before it was written) see the link below to the District website.

<https://lbdscouts.org.uk/resources/district-minibus/>

Robert Coldrey - District Lead Volunteer



CO-ORDINATOR DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE 731

Membership Fee

The District fee was discussed and agreed at our District Trustee Board meeting 14 November 2024

Below is a summary of the fees.

The decision to keep the District fee the same has only been made possible due to the income generated by the Scout Shop, Badge Shop, District Minibus and DHQ lettings. To continue this subsidy please ensure the continued and increased use of these resources over the next year.

The following is the breakdown of total cost to be paid for each young person on your census returns next year:

National	£43.00
County	£21.00
District	£ 5.00

Discount for prompt payment - £0.50

Total £68.50

Below is some information from County regarding their increase.

"The County Trustee Board have considered their Scouting costs and unfortunately due to increasing salary, safety and energy costs involved in running the County Support Centre have agreed that the County membership subscription will need to increase by £6. The increase is split into 2 sections, £3 to cover the County Development Manager role and £3 to cover the increased staffing costs and other overheads. Whilst the increase sounds a lot, the combined TSA and County increases are less than £1 a month or 25p a week and compared to other organisations Scouting still provides incredible value for money. County had held their Subscription levels down over many years, but now are faced with the inevitable need to increase them to meet rising costs."

Robert Coldrey - District Lead Volunteer



Remembrance Parade



On 8th November, five members from 5th Letchworth Scouts took part in our school remembrance parade. We were one of many uniformed groups to take part in the parade, with several group flags, and I was honoured to be able to carry the flag for 5th.

Charlie - 5th Letchworth Scouts



County Green Beret Challenge 2024 Scouts

As a District, we had 8 teams of Scouts.

Results:

Out of a huge 150 teams!

Competing teams:

95th	2nd Baldock
65th	5th Letchworth
63rd	4th Letchworth (Go Fourth)
30th	1st Ashwell (Eagle)
&...drum roll pls	
19th	1st Ashwell (Puma)

Non-competing teams

Teams with 5 Scouts can't compete, which is a real shame. However, if they had been competing they would have finished:

137th	8th Letchworth
81st	1st Baldock
21st	4th Letchworth (May the 4th be with you).



Nick Howell - ADC (Scouts)



County Green Beret Challenge 2024

Scouts

My friends and I were in a patrol called The Eagles. One of the many activities we had to do was orienteering. We had 40 minutes on Saturday afternoon, to go round lots of check-in points that had numbers. You had to punch a ticket at all the check-ins within the time, to gain points. The walk wasn't actually that far on the map. We came 20th out of 150 competing teams.

Including orienteering, there was loads of challenges, like shooting and the assault course. One compulsory basic challenge was drinking hot chocolate and talking. The assault course wasn't as muddy as last year, but it was fun. It's more about teamwork than actually strength and endurance. Overall for the weekend, we came 30th as a team, which is really good. I already can't wait to go back next year, to see if we can get a higher score"

Ronnie Berry, 1st Ashwell Scout

Another fantastic Green Beret.

It was lovely to camp as a District again. We were brilliantly lead by Nick Howell who showed true Scouting prowess by suddenly appearing with a big axe in one hand and a whole tree in the other hand. What an absolute legend. The chefs were amazing as always, thanks Paul and Chris, and James and Jacob for keeping us fed and watered all weekend. The whole weekend had a wonderful Scout festival vibe to it, and is a definite highlight of the year."

Pete Repka, Scout Lead Volunteer, 1st Ashwell





12th Letchworth Beavers

At 12th Letchworth Beavers we have been celebrating the autumn season with a flurry of creative activities inspired by different traditions from across the world.

We started our exploration in September with an autumnal walk which began in Willian, went through the arboretum up towards Wymondley Wood and back again across the recently ploughed fields. During this autumnal walk, the Beavers collected natural materials and practiced identifying trees from their leaves. We talked about the seasons

changing and what happened in nature at different times of the year, ending with a discussion about the seasons.



In October we picked this theme up again and spent two weeks making crafts inspired by autumn. First we reflected on the colours of autumn that we had noticed a few weeks prior and, with paper paint, pegs and cotton wool, created colourful paintings of trees with vibrant foliage. Celebrating the autumn equinox, showcasing the stunning transformation of nature.

Next we thought about Halloween and the Day of the dead.

The Beavers decorated some truly terrifying gingerbread ghouls inspired by modern Anglo-American depictions of Halloween. Finally, we turned to the Dia De Los Muertos, a Mexican festival which honours deceased loved ones. The Beavers coloured some mindful skulls, and discussed how different cultures remember and celebrate the lives of those closest to them.



Leading up to Remembrance Day we at 12th Letchworth Beavers wanted to develop our understanding of Remembrance Day.

First, we explored the idea of Remembrance. The Beavers noticed that it is easy to remember things that happened recently but much more challenging to remember things that happened a long time ago and said that the best way to remember things was to talk about it



After this discussion we thought about what images helped us remember different things and moved on to explore poppies as a symbol of Remembrance and a hope for a peaceful future. We made Remembrance Cards with fingerprint poppies representing the individuals involved in conflict.

Next we read fact files about the lives of inspirational people who fought for our futures on the front and at home. Finally, we walked down to the War Memorial to have a closer look. We noticed the outlines of the soldiers, and the names of the soldiers on the Great War and the Second World War memorials and read the names of some of those who are remembered there. Walking back to the hall the Beavers were excited and proud to have been invited by the Royal Legion to come to the Remembrance parade that Sunday.

Beth Aird - 12th Letchworth Beaver Leader

District Cub Quiz -15 November 2024

On Friday 15th November, 6 teams of 3 Cubs settled in at 4th Letchworth for an evening of questions. The 4 rounds of questions covered Scouting knowledge, science, nature and space, local knowledge and history. The break questions covered emoji nursery rhymes, sport brand logos and car brand logos. The event was closely fought and it was the knowledge of car brand logos that eventually decided the winners.

The winners were 4th Letchworth with 12th Letchworth as runners up (and who will be setting the questions next year).

1 st	4 th Letchworth	73 points
2 nd	12 th Letchworth	64 points
3 rd	2 nd Baldock	52 points
=4 th	7 th Letchworth and 1 st Baldock	51 points
5 th	5 th Letchworth	47 points



The winning team:
George, Clara and Eleanor

Ros Wing - ADC (Cubs)

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



Census 2025 timeline. Here's the timeline for our 2025 annual Census:

- **Week commencing 9 December 2024** – Password emails are sent and the Census site opens
- **31 January 2025** – The deadline for all submissions and Census closes
- **14 February 2025** – Deadline for approvals

This year, there are two extra questions around the support requested for youth sections to inform local growth plans for the year ahead.

Notable dates**VE Day 10th May 2025**

80th Anniversary of the war ending - Afternoon Tea Party at the Mrs Howard Memorial Hall, Norton Way South

13:00 hrs–16:00 hrs

Armed Forces Day

Date: 28 June 2025

Time: 10:00 hrs - 17:00 hrs

Venue: Broadway Gardens



St George's Day 2025 - Next year's service will be hosted by 12th Letchworth Scout Group. No date has yet been fixed. More details to follow when available.



rd



Charles Hartshorne



Graeme Price



Nick Howell



Merry Christmas to all our Members and Families
and wider Scouting family. Letchworth, Baldock
and Ashwell Scouts

Achievements



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Eliza Richards

1st Ashwell



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Harriet Berry

8th Letchworth

Davide Santoro

8th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Good Service Award

Charles Hartshorne

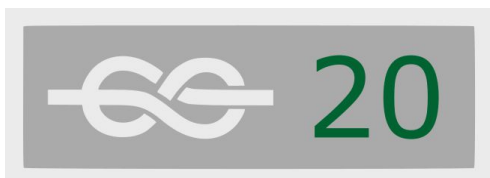
4th Letchworth ASL

Graeme Price

2nd Baldock ASL

Chris Tyler

4th Letchworth ASL



Length of Service Award

Nick Howell

ADC (Scouts)



Wymondley Wood - Working Party

On a wet and damp morning of Saturday 30 November eight volunteers turned out to help tidy up the outside of the Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre. Jobs included cleaning and fixing the gutters, removing leaves, pushing back the woodpile, tidying up the back of the lean-to including the stores. Thank you to all the individuals who give up their time to help out on the day. There will be another working party early spring. Watch out for details.

Diary Dates 2025

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 Activity 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

MAY

- 2 - 5** County Introduction to the Hill (ITTH) - Foundry Adventure Centre
- 18** District Greenway Walk

JUNE

- 7** County Scout and Explorer Water Activities Day
- 8** County Cubs Water Activity Day
- 14 & 15** Squirrels in Trees 1 (SITS)
- 21 & 22** Squirrels in Trees 2 (SITS)
- 14—15** Beavers in Tents 1 (BITS)

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