

Co-Ordinator

Another year comes to an end... One of excitement, change and of course fun! I have had the enormous pleasure of attending some wonderful Meetings and Events this year that you have all worked together in delivering to provide good scouting experiences for all of our young people.

This year we have seen lots of camps take place and loads of young people achieving their top awards. Some of the highlights for me this year have been starting the first Squirrel Drey in the District, having two well attended events involving the whole District and of course buying the new Minibus!

Thank You to every one of you who does their bit to make sure Scouting in this area continues. It would not be possible without you!

Robert Coldrey - District Lead Volunteer



1st Baldock Cubs (Knights) Baldock Fire Station

1st Baldock Cubs visited the Baldock fire station. They had a tour and got to see the shiny red fire trucks. Oscar said "they looked big and powerful". The Cubs got to look inside the cab and even got to go in the fire engines. After this the Cubs got to have fun with the fire hoses. Logan said "it was super fun spraying the other Cubs". The Cubs also learnt essential fire safety skills such as S.D.R. This is used when you are on fire - you need to Stop, Drop, and Roll on the floor. The Cubs also got to see all the equipment a fire fighter needs. Samuel said "It was a very fun visit". Many thanks to Baldock Fire Station.





1st Baldock Cubs (Knights) Christmas Visit

1st Baldock (Knights) Cubs went to Temple Court. We had a great time. When we arrived we saw all the residents smiling and greeting us as we walked through the door to the room where they were sitting. After we finished taking our coats off we walked back in and chatted to everyone there.

They were very kind. After that, we played some instruments and sang some songs. Then it was time for gifts. All of the Cubs made little place mats to give to everyone there. It was great fun and we really enjoyed it. We made a difference and are planning to go back next year.

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



ARMED FORCES DAY LETCWORTH

**Show your support
Saturday 28 June 2025
Broadway Gardens**

Parades ■ Live Music ■

Stalls ■ Performers ■

■ Raffles and Games ■

■ Military Vehicles ■

■ Demonstrations ■

Scouting in Letchworth

The Scouting Movement started in 1907 when R.S.S. Baden-Powell led the first Scout camp at Brownsea Island. His book "Scouting for Boys", followed in 1908.

Scouting in Letchworth Garden City began after the first camp, with Norman Saunders as the first Scoutmaster. In the early days Scouting was an activity taken up by established groups such as the Boys' Brigade.

Scouts have had much involvement in the Garden City's activities. They have also made international connections and contributions to the wider Scouting community, with a number of Scouts awarded the Queen's Scout badge.

In 1911, the Scouts were chosen to carry the Flags of the Colonies in the Garden City's procession to celebrate King George's V's coronation. A week later they paraded before the King at Windsor.

In the First World War the Scouts became very involved. Few people had telephones, so they acted as messengers. A Scout would also call in at the Police Station three times a day to ask for orders and they transported dispatches to Hitchin. More surprising was that they helped guard the Weston Hills reservoir against spies and saboteurs. Both 1st and 2nd Letchworth took part in the Peace Day parade in July 1919, where they displayed their speciality of bicycles adapted for carrying stretchers.

In the Second World War, leader numbers dwindled as people were called to National Services. Scouts, as before, often acted as messengers. A large number of evacuees from Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex arrived, some joining Scouts troops. The then defunct 2nd Letchworth was re-started to accommodate these arrivals,

On 19th January 1941, Letchworth and Baldock Scouts and Guides paraded in the snow to St. Paul's Church for a memorial service to mark Lord Baden-Powell's death.

In 1944 the Letchworth and Baldock District was formed. Letchworth had formerly been part of the Hitchin District.

The first Gang Show was in 1955 in the Co-op Hall. These variety shows, with songs, sketches and dancing are still popular. Since 1955, there have only been 10 years without one. However, there has not been a District Gang Show since 2019.

From 1966-67, Senior and Rover Scouts became Venture Scouts, Wolf Cubs became Cub Scouts; and Boy Scouts became Scouts. Beavers Scouts were officially recognised in the UK in 1986. Venture Scouts was replaced by Explorer Scouts (14-18 year olds) and the Scout Network (18 - 25 year old) in 2003.

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There had been complex series of groups forming and terminating. For example, in 1971, 10th Letchworth commenced, to serve the Jackmans Estate, but was closed in 1988 due to Leader shortages and vandalism at their Headquarters. In 1967, 1st and 3rd Letchworth merged to become First-Third Letchworth. There has been a wide variety of troops e.g. the 4th Letchworth Air Scouts and the 5th Letchworth Sea Scouts. In 1913, 3rd Letchworth were formed to run according to pacifist principles. Today there are around 25 Beaver, Cub and Scout sections in Letchworth, Baldock and Ashwell with additional Explorer Scout Units and the Scout Network. Squirrels (4 - 6 year olds) joined the District in 2024.

Achievements



Wood Beads

Sarah Sexton 12th Letchworth Scout Team Leader

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service Award



Jay Lamb 8th Letchworth Scout Team Leader

Award for Merit



Helen Howard
5th Letchworth Group
Lead Volunteer



Cheers for volunteers

Thank you for the scarves rolled, songs sung, and memories created. Most of all, thank you for the difference you're making to young people's lives.



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Achievements



Andrew Laing

Chief Scout's Service Award



Andrew Laing 5th Letchworth
Scout Team Leader



Ed Hartley 2nd Baldock
Group Lead Volunteer



Paul Tyler 4th Letchworth
Scout Team Leader



Chief Scout's Gold Award

Molly George 4th Letchworth



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Miles Hohenkirk 2nd Baldock
Elliot Janes 2nd Baldock
Hari Mann 2nd Baldock



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Toy Lewis Assalino 2nd Baldock
Lily Beadsworth 2nd Baldock
Edward Burgess 2nd Baldock
Arthur Duce 2nd Baldock
Louis Fraser 2nd Baldock
Phoebe Ladbrook 2nd Baldock

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 (week 1 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 Hills (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) - Well End
- 21 & 22** Squirrels in Trees 2 (SITS) - Well End
- 14 - 15** Beavers in Tents 1 (BITS) - Well End
- 21 - 22** Beaver in Tents 2 (BITS) - Well End

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