

# Scouts



Letchworth, Baldock &  
Ashwell

# Newsletter

CO-ORDINATOR



No: 672  
September 2019

## 24th World Jamboree - North America

### 20 July - 9 August 2019



Opening Ceremony

# My World Scout Jamboree Experience

By Rosalind Hartley - Oak Eagle Explorer Scout

I was lucky enough to get selected in October 2017 to represent Letchworth and Baldock District at The World Jamboree and I was assigned to unit 15 with Ellie and Sophie from Oak Eagle Explorers. In total there were 100 units from across the UK.

Our unit consisted of 36 Explorers and 4 Leaders from across Hertfordshire. We had lots of meet-ups to get to know each other and learn new skills. One of our first tasks was to decide on our unit name. We chose "Psychedelic Squirrels" as we wanted to be bright and colourful and because the first black squirrels in the UK were spotted in Letchworth.

On the day we departed I had to get up at 4am to join the minibus to the airport (Thanks Zeke!), where we met up with the rest of the unit. We were very excited. All of our bags and holdalls were the same so we hoped they would not get lost. We landed at JFK Airport New York late in the evening. The next day we had our first Big City Experience, which was around New York. We had 5 hours to experience as much of New York as possible. We went up the Rockefeller Tower, paid our respects at Ground Zero and took the Ferry to New Jersey as well as many other attractions.

We departed from New York to spend the night at West Virginia University before heading to the Jamboree site the next morning. This was

AMAZING!!! Including Scouts, Leaders and helpers there were 50,000 people on the site. It was huge. We did a lot of walking while we were there.

When we arrived, we could see the large centre and we headed towards our campsite. We put up all our tents and the American Scouts had arrived the day before to help us all. We got the tents up just in time before a 16 hour rain storm hit us. America does everything big including the weather.

At our base camp we met Scouts from all over the World. We camped next to Scouts from Peru and Australia. The opening Ceremony really showed the scale of the event when all 50,000 Scouts gathered together. The event was opened by the head of World Scouts and the World Scout Ambassador (Bear Grylls).

During the Jamboree we got to spend time with other Scouts from around the World and experience how Scouting is done worldwide. I was one of only 5 Scouts in my Unit who completed their Participation Award which consisted of doing the following activities whilst on site: Brownsea Island, Faith and Beliefs Tent, North American Dream, Dialogue for Peace, Attend the Opening and Unity shows, Make Contact with participants from 10 different countries and complete 5 other activities.



For the first time at Jamboree they had a smart system of watches that meant if you met a Scout from another country you could touch the watches together and you would exchange details so you can easily keep in touch.

During the Jamboree, the activities were great. The highlights were the 'Big Zip' which was a 945m zip wire which went across a large lake on the site and the 'Rocks' which was rock climbing, abseiling (which was called repelling in US) and leap of faith which involved jumping off a tower.

All too quickly it was time for the closing ceremony and the Jamboree was over, but we had another week in North America with two more Big City Experiences to come and time to spend with another Scout Group.

After the Jamboree we headed to Washington for our 2nd Big City Experience, where we got to see all of the sights, including the capitol building. The highlight of the Washington visit was all the UK Scouts joining together to watch the Baltimore Orioles take on the Toronto Blue Jays in a Major League Baseball game. The UK Contingent cheered all the way through and we made the national American news due to our enthusiasm and how loud we were cheering. The local fans praised us all on their social media saying it was one of the most entertaining games they had ever been to.

After Washington we headed to Canada to meet with our Canadian Hosts - 2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Scout Group. We increased the size of the village we were staying by 15%! In Canada we had our 3<sup>rd</sup> Big City Experience when we visited Ottawa, the capital of Canada. We visited the Canadian Scout HQ, and were guided around the city by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Leaders.

In the evening we had a massive dinner with 2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Scout Group and a number of VIPs including the Mayor of Russell. We gave them a presentation about the Jamboree and at the end of the evening we presented them with neckerchiefs from each of our Scout groups. The next day 2<sup>nd</sup> Russell took us to Canada's largest waterpark and I had lots of fun.

That evening they hosted a farewell dinner for us including mocktails, poutine (a Canadian dish of chips with cheese curds and gravy) and hot dogs as we had to leave super early the next morning.

After all the excitement we headed to JFK airport to fly home and our Jamboree experience was over .... until our Unit reunion in September and then our next reunion in December.



A key part of the Jamboree was the fundraising as the total cost for the 2019 WSJ was £3,700 per participant. District made a commitment to support up to one third of the cost and participants were asked to raise £2,500 individually, as a group and with support from our sections.

My biggest fundraiser was a sponsored walk along the Icknield Way with 2 other participants. This was organised by 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock (one of my old Scout Groups) and between us we raised nearly £2,000. Another fundraiser four of us did was bucket collections at train stations which raised almost £500, although some days were far better than others. I also made £200 making and selling Paracord Keyrings, Lanyards, Woggles and sold these at various AGMs and events.

Along with Sophie, the other participant from 4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth, we did a number of events supported by our group as such as the 4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Quiz Night, AGM, and Armed Forces Day event as well as running a stall at Baldock Festival and providing refreshment stands for Ashwell Cycle Club.

In total I managed to raise over £3,000 towards the cost of my Jamboree. I would like to thank the following people who helped with fundraising or provided grants and donations: 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock, 4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth, The District Team, District ASU, Baldock Rotary, Hertfordshire County Council, Baldock Beer Festival, Ashwell Cycle Club, and everyone who purchased paracord key rings, bracelets, woggles and raffle tickets from me.

The next World Scout Jamboree is 2023 in Scout Korea and I am already waiting for Adult applications to open so I can join the International Service Team to help support the next generation of Scouts.

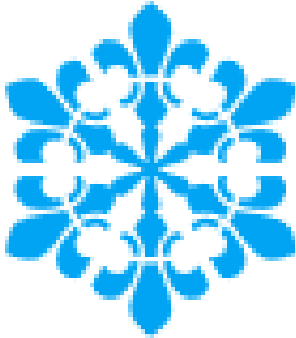
I really encourage everyone in Scouting to apply for all camps either local, national and international as it will always be worth it and you will make friends and memories for life.



# Message from District Commissioner

I hope you have all had a good summer break and are now refreshed to start another term with a fun packed and enjoyable programme for the young people.

Some groups have been away over the summer. I hope all went well and lots of fun was had by everyone.



**Kandersteg  
International  
Scout Centre**

Thank you to the Explorer team who invited me along on their trip to Switzerland. A good time was had by all. The Explorers and Leaders did very well with their night hike despite the very bad weather. The rest of the week the weather was sunny, and all activities could be enjoyed. While in mid-flight at 35,000ft I presented Clair and Goodie with their Award of Merit, neither of them was expecting it, and the whole plane cheered as they got their award. Congratulations to Ruby from Network, who was invested 2,700ft up a mountain. Thank you to the Explorer Leaders for organising an enjoyable trip.

Hopefully by now you will all have in your diaries the date for the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Camp for 2020 at Body Field Henlow - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. More details will be out soon. There will be a competition to design the Birthday badge details will be out shortly

**Wendy Tierney - DC**



What do Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts do at 35000ft over France? Present the Award of Merit of course ! Clair Calver, Explorer Scout Leader, Wendy Tierney, District Commissioner and Simon Goodwin, District Scouter.



Ruby was invested into BaLiN on 22nd August at 2700ft on route back to Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) after their night in the mountains



# District Beavers Bangers and Bash

## 9 July - Wymondley Wood



On a warm Tuesday evening Beavers from all over the District descended on Wymondley Wood - it was the annual District Beavers Bangers and Bash.

This is an opportunity for the Beavers to enjoy the facilities, to have fun and enjoy each others company.

Before going home they were treated to a hot dog, a drink and ice cream.

Thank you to Chris King and Jeremy Croxford for cooking the sausages, the ASU members for serving the food and to all the Leaders and Helpers for helping out on the evening.



# **District Scouts Barton Challenge**

## **7 July 2019**

Nine Teams of Scouts and Explorers competed in the District Orienteering Competition. Teams had four hours to plot a route and cover as many checkpoints as they could and then return to the start/finish within the time period without incurring any penalties. The competition this year was based around Holwell, covering countryside through Pirton, Shillington and Lower Stondon.

This year's winners are:

### **Scouts**

1st Whitethorn Wanderers (12th Letchworth)

2nd Baldock Baddies (1st Baldock)

3rd GRU (2nd Baldock)

### **Explorer Scouts**

1st JOOK (Oak Eagle ESU)

2nd MEE (Oak Eagle ESU)

John Rand Recreation Ground in Holwell village  
the starting and finishing point.



# 8th Letchworth Scout Summer Expedition

## Powburn - Northumberland





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## Powburn - Northumberland

We went canoeing on the first morning and played games like Simon Says and Water Polo. Most of us got very wet and then we got our wetsuits on and drove to the sea for Coasteering. It was really fun and we jumped off the rock pools into the sea, and sometimes we would swim through the different caves there were.

### Will Honeysett and James Hazzard

We went crabbing, Ben caught the biggest crab. We carried on rock pooling until it was time to go fishing. Aimee, Kieron, Ben, Will and Alisha got onto the boat, one of the fishermen looked like Jake Paul with spots. We then went fishing. One the way back the boat was rocking in the big waves. The other group went fishing while we had fish and chips.

### Alisha Reeve and Ben Collen

We went to the rock climbing. We split into our walking groups and went climbing while the other group went abseiling. In abseiling we were about 20 metres up and there was a massive drop at the bottom (that part was quite tricky).

### Keiron Reeve

With an early start everyone got their bags packed for a half day of hillwalking. For a change it was raining on arrival but, of course, this did not stop us. Halfway through our walk we were to discover we had missed our first turning. In the process of finding our way back Sean and I decided to complete our swimming badge falling in a river. Everyone made their way through three fords on our journey back to the minibus.

### Mae Reader



## 2nd Baldock Scout Summer Camp

### Come To Tolmers - CTT



Sixteen 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock Scouts went to Tolmers for their prehistoric adventure. On the first day we arrived at 2 pm and started to put up the tents despite it raining. Once we had finished putting up all the tents, we had dinner. At 8pm everyone went to 'flag'. This is where we all gathered around a stage to be told which activities were on the following day and what the weather would be like. Each night they would show a

film. On the first night they showed Captain Marvel. My friend and I went to see it and really enjoyed it. When we went back to camp everyone was playing Dobble and arguing over who had won!

The next day we woke up at 8am. For breakfast we had a choice of what we wanted from cooked breakfast to cereal. Then at 8:30, after breakfast, we went to morning flag where we chose our activities for the day. Each day you would choose four activities, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, with a 30 minute break between and an extra 30 minutes for lunch. Molly, Lily and I chose sweeper which was where you were on an inflatable and had to jump over an arm that would swing round and you had to jump over it as it came at you. Next we did grab and dash which was really fun because you were attached to a bungy and in the middle were plastic balls that you would grab while being pulled back by a bungy. Evveryone did it from 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock. After lunch Sarah, Molly, Lily and I did slippery slope which was so funny because you went on an inflatable slide but either side was a slope and to make it much harder to get up, there were bubbles. Once you got over you were swamped in bubbles, then you would go through the inflatable washing machine which at the back was filled with balls you would collect; our team won both times. For our last activity we did land-zorbs where you were in an inflatable bubble that you could run at people and they would go flying. There were small and big zorbs. Lily, Molly and I got small ones and kept being knock over by a boy in a big zorb. But then we all ran at him at the same time and we all went flying, it was hilarious.

On the second day we made a fire after flag and stayed up till 10:30. It was windy so the embers from the fire were going everywhere, this did not stop us all trying to roast marshmallows but the fire was really hot. That night I woke up and found a lump under my roll mat, but I went back to sleep. In the morning I found out it was a mole hill under the tent.

On the third day my friend Lily auditioned for Tolmers Got Talent. If you got through the auditions, you would perform at evening flag, to go against 4 others acts. Whoever got the loudest screams from the performance won and got a free slush from the sweet shop. Lily performed History by One Direction and won!

On Wednesday we did an 8-mile walk which was tiring because my group and another group got lost in a field for an hour, so we were behind everyone else. There were two different groups in 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock and the other group beat us by 1 hour which was frustrating. If you got back to Tolmers before 3 you were in with a chance of winning a slushie. Our group arrived back at Tolmers at 2:58. Neither team won a free slushie

On the last day we played volleyball (girl vs boys). I think the girls won. At 9 pm there was a disco that everyone went to, while the Leaders went to a café that was on site. After the disco we all slept outside which was a great experience and meant we could clean our tents easily. Thank you to Ed, the Scout Leaders and parent volunteers for making this camp possible.

**Kate - 2nd Baldock Scout**



I'm Lily, I joined Scouts in early summer 2018 and I thought Come to Tolmers was really fun and I enjoyed it a lot! At CTT, we did a variety of activities and we had a great time! In the morning we had flag break where the hostesses would announce the weather for that day and we raised the flag. Then we got to wander around choosing activities to do that day but you had to do it fast or the queue would get too long and you'd miss out. You could do activities such as sailing, laser tag, shooting, climbing, land zorbing and more! Tolmers got Talent, CTT FM and Journalism are for showing off your skills to the other campers.

In TGT you can show off your talent on stage and the crowd gets to vote who wins. All the crowd have to do is scream as loud as they can for the contestant that was their favourite performer and if your scream is the loudest you win a free slushie! CTT FM is Tolmers radio station where you and a group of friends can make an advert to be played 30 minutes before flag! Finally Journalism, you basically have a keyboard and screen and you have to write an article for the newspaper called 'Follow the Bear' and it was handed out in the morning just before flag began. It was super fun to read! CTT is a fun camp to do during summer and I know you'll love it as much as I did!

**Lily, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock Scout**



# 1st Ashwell Scouts Suffolk



The editor and her hubby were pleased to visit 1st Ashwell Scouts on their weekend camp at Herringfleet Scout Camp Site. It is part of the Somerleyton Estate and used by kind permission of Lord Somerleyton, this 12-acre site consists of a section of woodland by a lake.

Clearings among the trees provide the camping areas for up to 60 people with indoor accommodation for a further 25 available. The lake may be used for swimming and boating and good walking country surrounds the site.

After a lovely lunch at The Village Maiden in Lound we met the Scouts and their Leaders who were hiking from the Campsite to Hopton on Sea. They had their lunch by the village pond opposite the pub. After lunch they continued their hike, whilst we went by car meeting up

on the beach at Hopton on Sea. Though it was a cloudy day the Scouts were soon in the sea and having a great time. The afternoon passed all too quickly and it was soon time to pack up and start hiking back to the campsite via the amusement arcade.

On our way home we drove via the campsite and met the catering team who were busy preparing the evening meal of venison and muntjac with carrots and potatoes.

Thank you to the Scouts and Leaders for making us very welcome. We enjoyed the day in their friendly company.



## Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre GEOCACHING CHALLENGE



Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre has created a Geocaching challenge that is suitable for all sections and takes place around the local fields.

With thanks to Letchworth Scout ASU for donating the funds to purchase four hand-held Garmin Sat Navs, we have created our own challenge that can be done in four groups or alternatively you can borrow the equipment to look for some of the millions of caches around the world!

Booking enquires can be made via the Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre website.

[www.wymondleywood-scoutandguide-centre.org.uk](http://www.wymondleywood-scoutandguide-centre.org.uk)

# ASU Annual Cream Tea Sunday 11 August 2019



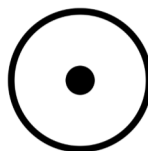
Sixteen members of the Scout Active Support Unit enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon at DHQ - the inclement weather kept us indoors but that did not dampen spirits. We were pleased DC Wendy Tierney was able to join us at this ASU annual event.



## LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY ARMED FORCES DAY

Letchworth Garden City — 29 June 2019

Some of the team fund raising at AFD to attend the trip to South Africa in August 2020.



### Christine Moys 18 February 1934 - 29 June 2019

Christine passed away peacefully at home on 29 June 2019 aged 85 years. Our Thoughts are with John and the family at this difficult time. John is a member of the Scout Active Support Unit and he served as the District Chairman for many years, as well as Vice President of the Letchworth & Baldock District Scouts.

# Achievements

## Chief Scout's Bronze Award



Josh Baldry	8th Letchworth
Daisy Collen	8th Letchworth
Oskar Masters	8th Letchworth
Madison Ovenden	8th Letchworth
Ben Powles	8th Letchworth

## Chief Scout's Silver Award



Ben Hodgkiss	12th Letchworth
Elizabeth Robson	12th Letchworth
Jamie Sinclair	12th Letchworth
James Sneddon	12th Letchworth

## Chief Scout's Gold Award



Alfie Jeffrey	2nd Baldock
Ethan Robins	2nd Baldock

## Award of Merit



**The nominee should have a minimum of 12 years (exceptionally 10 years) outstanding service.**

Clair Calver	Oak Eagle Explorer Scout Leader
Simon Goodwin	District Scouter

# Diary Dates 2019

## September

- 9 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 10 Scout & Guide Shop reopens
- 12 District Beavers Leaders' Meeting
- 12 District Executive Meeting
- 14 District Beavers Sports Day - Wymondley Wood
- 16 - 20 Jeans for Genes Day
- 20-23 Great British Beach Clean
- 24 District Scout Leaders' Meeting
- 24 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 27 - 29 County Scout Born 2B Challenged



## October

### Scout Community Month

- 6 County Cub Cyclo Cross
- 10 District Executive Meeting
- 18 - 20 County Peak Assault
- 26 ASU General Meeting Annually - District HQ
- 27 Diwali
- 29 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 31 Halloween



## November

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 5 Guy Fawkes Day
- 10 Remembrance Sunday
- 11 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 14 District Executive Meeting
- 15 - 17 County Scout Green Beret
- 23 County Monoploy Run
- 26 Wymondley Wood Committee Mtg.

# Badges

To contact the Badge Secretary or to order badges please use the following email:

[dhawkins@lbdscouts.org.uk](mailto:dhawkins@lbdscouts.org.uk)

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