

# Scouts



Letchworth, Baldock &  
Ashwell

# Newsletter

CO-ORDINATOR



No: 673

October 2019

## Kandersteg International Scout Centre

On Saturday 18 August, sixteen Explorer Scouts, six Scout Network and six Leaders jetted off to Switzerland for a week of fun.

Kandersteg International Scout Centre is a magical place in the most beautiful of surroundings. There is always an excitement in the air and people from around the world come to stay. During our week there were Portuguese, African, Japanese, French, Dutch, American, Irish, Swedish and many more. We even came across Sam who is the DC from Malibeni in Swaziland who was part of our trip last year.

The activities were varied and all very well run. Our first day was climbing and due to heavy rain we could not climb on the mountain which was a great shame. So we set off to the indoor climbing centre in the village which turned out to be great fun. We did easy climb and then more challenging climbs plus some very funny games.

Tuesday was still very wet when we set off for our two day hike. It was a long and very challenging day but we made it to the mountain hut to enjoy the log fire and warm blankets that awaited us. The hut was 'rustic' with a strong smell of cattle from the barn below.

Wednesday dawned warm and sunny. Another long walk with lots of height gained and fantastic views of three valleys.



Thursday was a rest day with swimming and sight seeing in the historic town of Brig. Friday was all action with white water rafting in the morning. The river was fast and bouncy with plenty of big rapids. The high ropes course in the afternoon was fab. Routes went from easy to very challenging. Oak Eagle and Balin took to the trees with style, clambering, jumping, swinging and zip wiring.

That evening was the very international camp fire with songs and sketches from around the world.

On our last day we took one of the cable cars for some tobogganing fun. As we finished a local band of alpine horns played a short concert right at the top of the mountain. A magical sound in spectacular surroundings.

When biking in the afternoon we found the ski jump and watched a junior competition. The youngsters flying through the air were amazing. During the evening we went out for pizza and played crazy golf.

As we left on Sunday morning, a team from Balin Network set off for 4 days hiking in the mountains. A great example of Scouting at its best.

This was a great international trip. Many skills were learnt. Airport and train navigation, team work and supporting others, resilience in challenging situations, and making friends without a common language. #Skills for life.

Thank you so much to all the Leader team involved for their hard work. A great team and so many laughs

Clair Calver - ESL







# Beavers in Tents (BiTs)

At the beginning of July 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock and 4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth attended Beavers in Tents (BiTs) at Well End. This is the fourth year that the County have run this event, aimed at getting as many of our eldest Beavers under canvas as possible and removing the uncertainty that some Leaders have about sleeping in tents with our youngest Section.

4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth arrived by minibus, to find 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock's tents virtually up. They quickly pitched camp and then joined the other 190 Beavers for the Teddy Bears' picnic. The afternoon passed by in a blur of ropemaking, climbing, lighting fires and investigating the tree that B-P planted on his visit to the site nearly 100 years ago. After dinner (cooked for those who didn't want to cater for themselves) there was a wide game in the woods, followed by a rather soggy campfire. Hot chocolate followed, then it was a salutary lesson about keeping tents zipped up whenever you left them (nice flood in one tent's porch), bedtime and lights out.

Sunday dawned dull but dry, and with the sun making an appearance during the morning, it was off to breakfast and Scouts' Own before another whirlwind round of activities; cooking over an open fire and archery being amongst the goodies on offer. A final get-together at midday saw everyone come together to close the camp, then camp was struck before climbing into the minibus to set off for home. The journey home was a lot quieter than the way there, as most of the Beavers fell asleep.

All who attended agreed that it had been a great experience. The children were excited about going on their next camp, whilst the adults reflected on the maturity of the Beavers coping with the change in set up and getting themselves to and from the toilet block without getting lost!

The next BiTs is being split between two sites; North and South, with the North edition being run at our very own Wymondley Wood on 11-12 July 2020. If you are a Colony

interested in camping, or a Leader who is available to help out over the weekend, please get in touch.

**Vicki Gage**  
- ADC  
(Beaver Scouts)



# Message from the District Commissioner

Now that we are all back Scouting thoughts will be moving to camps. Please can I remind you that you need to send your NAN form to Amanda and myself at [nan@lbdscouts.org.uk](mailto:nan@lbdscouts.org.uk) at least two weeks before your camp. The NAN asks for membership numbers so please could you ensure these are included. Also please ensure you have the correct ratios of adults to young people.

The District 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday camp will be going ahead 22 May to 25 May 2020. Details are being put together to send out to you all. The District Badge competition will be out at the beginning of October, look out for this. It is open to all young people to take part.

As I move around the District visiting the different sections I am seeing incorrect uniform being worn. Jeans, leggings, track suit bottoms are not uniform, neither are group t-shirts or hoodies. This is not just the young people but Leaders too. Leaders should be setting an example to the young people. Please let's sort this out as we are a uniform organisation, we should be proud to wear it in our community. There is a place to wear group clothing such as at camp.

We, as a District, have been asked to join the Royal British Legion at their Remembrance Day parade and service on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure all are in proper uniform. If it is cold and wet, then a coat may be worn.

A survey will be coming out for you to have your say about the District. I would like you all to fill it in so that I can see the views of Leaders and see where as a District we need to improve. Keep up the good work of delivering good programmes for our young people to help them have Skills for life.

**Wendy Tierney DC**

**Remembrance Sunday 10 November - Scouts will be present at Letchworth War Memorial, Baldock War Memorial, Ashwell and St Paul's Church, Letchworth Garden City.**



Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces and veterans of Britain and the Commonwealth.

We pay tribute to the special contribution of families, as well as the emergency services. And we acknowledge those innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism. We will remember them.

# 8th Letchworth Scouts - Great British Beach Clean



## n - Sunday 22 September 2019-Scratby Steps Beach

We started off at the Scout HQ on Saturday morning, where we loaded up the mini bus for our weekend adventure. Once all packed and ready we were on our way. On route we were treated to the tree top adventure at Go Ape in Thetford . It was fun climbing through the trees. At the end of the course there was a zip wire to glide down. When we finished at Go Ape we were on our way travelling to Norfolk. When we arrived at our destination (Patteson Lodge Girlguiding Centre) the tents were set up by everyone. After a long drive we all enjoyed some fish and chips for supper in Cromer. The next day we were driven to the beach (Scratby Step near California Cliffs, Great Yarmouth) ready to start our big clean up. As we were collecting the litter we saw seals swimming in the sea. Four big bags of litter were collected. We could not believe how much litter there was on the beach. I feel happy knowing that I have taken part in something good for the environment, and will continue to do my best in the future to cut down on waste, re-use, and recycle where possible. Thank you to all the Scout Leaders for giving us this opportunity.

### Ryan - 8th Letchworth Scouts







# District Beaver Sports Day



Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September dawned bright on the District Beavers' Sports Day, which was a relief after the rain of the previous few days.

Only three Colonies, out of 10, were able to attend this year so it ended up with a combined 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock/8<sup>th</sup> Letchworth team battling it out against 4<sup>th</sup> Letchworth. The Beavers had a fantastic time, taking part in a variety of races and activities. These included an obstacle race, egg and spoon, space hoppers, welly wanging and even an alternative sack race (with the Beavers using Lidl's reinforced shopping bags rather than the enormous sacks we had found in the shed).

The finale, once the trophy had been presented, was the Beavers' favourite, if rather wet, water race which they loved. The winning team on the day was 2<sup>nd</sup> Baldock/8<sup>th</sup> Letchworth, by a margin of 20 points in the end, so they get to share the trophy for the year.

My thanks go to all the Leaders who turned up to help and bring their children; the parents who were press ganged into helping with the scores; Dave, who lent us his Lidl bags from his car on the spur of the moment; Chil, who provided a lot of the equipment to supplement the stores, for the event and finally Badger who did a great job on making sure the Beavers had plenty of refreshments.

**Vicki Gage - ADC( Beaver Scouts)**



# Baldock Scouts out and about in the Community



A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated and everyone who helped make the day happen!!

And special thanks to Baldock Scouts for an amazing BBQ and Baldock Events Forum for commentating and the use of your PA system as well as helping with our raffle and prizes - The Organisers

## 2nd Baldock Scouts

We are delighted to share with you that over the Baldstock weekend we raised an impressive £856. This will go towards keeping Scouting affordable.

Thank you to all the volunteers over the weekend, the customers, of course, and the Baldstock team for their support.



1st Baldock Scouts were out helping at the Baldock 5K Rat Run - Samantha Holland - Race and clinical director of Hollinton Health said " There was an amazing BBQ, provided by Baldock Scouts. ( I had a lovely bacon roll in the morning and a burger in the afternoon). The total raised by the 2019 Baldock 5K Rat Run was a MASSIVE £1,800 for the Garden House Hospice Care! (extract taken from On Our Doorstep Baldock magazine).

## Congratulations to

Geoff Smith      5th Letchworth      ASL

On being awarded the **Award for Merit** - given for outstanding service of not less than 12 years.





# Diary Dates 2019

## October

### Scout Community Month

- 6 County Cub Cyclo Cross
- 7 ASU Book Club 2.30 pm
- 10 District Executive Meeting
- 18 - 20 JOTA /JOTI
- 18 - 20 County Peak Assault
- 19 ASU General Meeting Annually - District HQ—2.00 pm
- 26 Diwali
- 29 Scout Shop Closed
- 29 Wymondley Wood Committee Meeting
- 31 Halloween
- 31 Scout Shop Closed



## November

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2 GDPR Training - ASU Members District HQ 2.00 pm — 3.00 pm
- 4 ASU Book Club 2.30 pm
- 5 Guy Fawkes Day
- 5 Scout Shop reopens
- 10 Remembrance Sunday
- 11 District Cub Leaders' Meeting
- 14 District Executive Meeting
- 15 - 17 County Scout Green Beret
- 23 County Monopoly Run
- 26 Wymondley Wood Committee Mtg.



## December

- 2 ASU Book Club 2.30 pm
- 3 District Scout Leaders' Meeting

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Editor:  
Rita Hawkins  
1 South Close. Baldock  
Hertfordshire  
SG7 6DS

Tele: 01462 643432  
e-mail  
co-ordinator@lbdscouts.org.uk