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Youth Organisations

1st Ashwell Guides



The Guides have completed lots of badges this year, including their First Aid badge, which entailed completing a practical resuscitation course. Some did the Outdoor Pursuits badge, which they mostly completed at a weekend away in the Peak District, organised by Herts Guiding and Scouting.

More recently, some of the Guides did the Camper badge at this year's county camp at Lees Wood in Watford. It was a big camp, with over 600 guides attending. Activities at the camp included bushcraft, pioneering, a circus day, climbing, archery, shooting, water activities, a camp challenge and a live band on the last night, to name just a few. Some of the things the Guides had to do to earn their Camper badge were: pitch their tent, look after the equipment and their own kit, and cook for themselves — and for the leaders, of course.



Canoes at Hertfordshire County Camp, Lees Wood.

To help us complete the Science badge we went to The Big Bang Science Fair at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. There were plenty of hands-on activities and exciting shows, and talks covering a huge range of subjects from theatre to crime scene investigation.

A young engineer came to one of our weekly meetings to tell us more about careers in engineering, and she had organised some great activities for us too. To finish the badge, we then did some science experiments at another weekly meeting.

The Guides like to do their bit in looking after the environment, so we planned a trip to Southend-on-Sea to take part in a beach clean, organised by the Marine Conservation Society, and went to Adventure Island and had fish and chips afterwards as a reward for our hard work.

Guides are for girls aged between 10 and 14. We are hoping to start a senior section for girls 15 and over. If you are interested in joining, or if you are an adult who would like to get involved in guiding please get in touch. We meet on Mondays between 7:00 and 8:30 pm in Ashwell School Hall.

Sue Long ☎ 01223 208337
 ✉ ashwellguides@gmail.com

1st Ashwell Brownies



2018 has been an exciting year for the Brownies, with a few changes along the way. In addition to our weekly meetings, we also went to the County Camp

in July. The Ashwell Brownies joined other units from all over Hertfordshire to sleep in the woods for two nights. Highlights included the opening disco and a whole day of circus antics.

We were sad to say goodbye to Brown Owl, Rebecca Ward, over the summer and welcomed our new Brown Owl, Natalie Terry, to the group in September.

In the last few months the Brownies have been incredibly busy, earning their Healthy Heart, Toy Maker and World Traveller badges. They even had a fascinating visit from a member of the British Airways cabin crew, who answered all the Brownies' questions about what goes into getting a plane ready for a trip and what you need to have with you.

Brownies is for girls aged 7-10 years. The meetings are held on Tuesday nights in the Village Hall from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. If you would like to indicate an interest in joining, either for a child wishing to be a Brownie or as a volunteer yourself, please visit the website www.girlguiding.org.uk to register. If you have questions for any of the Brownie Leaders or need to get in touch with the Ashwell unit, please email us.

Brownie Leadership Team
 ✉ ashwellbrownies@gmail.com



Go-cart fun at the county camp. Photo by Sally Fletcher

1st Ashwell Scout Group Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Ashwell Scouts have over 70 young people in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and a waiting list for new members. Please get in touch if you have young people under 14 who would like to join.

All three sections organised camps under canvas in 2018, including our local favourite campsites at Wymondley Woods and Henlow, the latter providing rafting, river swimming and target shooting. There have been plenty of other opportunities to get outdoors: walking, hiking, map skills, orienteering and exploring in the dark. We also enjoyed beautiful sunshine for our annual barbecue and awards evening in the open air at Loves Lane.

Beavers have triumphed again in the District Beaver Scout Challenge. Cubs have led the way in badgework on everything from helping at home to riding their bikes. Scouts have enjoyed every opportunity to build fires, and even designed, built and incinerated their own guys for bonfire night.

1st Ashwell remains an active participant in the village community, with this year's activities including participating in the Remembrance Day parade and Christmas concert, and accompanying the Baldock Rotary Club around the village as Santa's Little Helpers.

Beyond the village, we remain active participants in district activities, including the Founder's Day parade, Gang Show, Fun Days and competitions, including cookery, quizzes, shooting and archery.



Scouts Rafting at Boyd Campsite in Henlow - Photo by Stuart Kendrick

We are indebted to the leaders, almost all of whom also have work and family commitments and who generously find time to support our village's young people. We always welcome new helpers to make sure we have room for as many young people as possible. It's very rewarding. There is a fantastic support network and your level of commitment could vary from once a month to weekly. If interested, please get in touch. To find more information about the Scouts, go to www.lbdscouts.org.uk

Phil George (Scouts)
Ben Constable (Cubs)
Louise Young (Beavers)
Stuart Kendrick (Chairman) ☎ 743036



Ashwell Beaver Pack at Boyd Campsite in Henlow. Photo by Stuart Kendrick

1st Ashwell Rainbows



1st Ashwell Rainbows is for girls aged between five and seven. We meet on Thursdays during term time, between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. The Rainbows have had another busy year of activities, crafts and fun and games. We started the year achieving the Roundabout Festivals badge, creating star constellations, making puppets and having a teddy bears' party. We also talked about our community and decorated and planted pots to give as presents.

In the summer we enjoyed completing the roundabout get healthy badge and the Herts 100 Walking Challenge badge. Among other things, we learnt about the Green Cross Code and the Countryside Code. We made energy balls to eat and did some circuit training, went on a sensory walk and visited Ashwell Quarry, where we learnt a lot about what can be found there.



Teambuilding exercise at the Fit 4 OCR obstacle course. Photo by Helen Hardy

Our autumn term started with a whole new programme from Girlguiding UK, which included some great new activities for us and some new badges for us to achieve. For the first time, Rainbows are now able to get interest badges by carrying out activities at home. Some of the girls have already taken full advantage of that.

This term we have worked towards our Know Myself Networking badge, which has required a lot of teamwork and sharing. The Rainbows do that brilliantly. We started the term with a team-building exercise at the Fit 4 OCR obstacle course. What fun the Rainbows had, with lots of cheering each other on and fears being overcome, along with a mud run, which they really enjoyed!

We are always looking for adult volunteers to join our Rainbows team, as either additional leaders or unit helpers. For more information, please get in touch or visit the Girlguiding UK website: www.girlguiding.org.uk. This is also the website to go to if you would like to add your daughter to our waiting list.

Helen Hardy ☎ 742980
✉ ashwellrainbows@gmail.com

Asheteria Youth Club



Our youth group, for young people aged ten and over, runs every Saturday in term time between 5:30 and 7:30 pm, at either the Parish Room or the United Reformed Church hall. We regularly have games and craft projects, and try to choose activities that appeal to boys and girls of varying ages. Snacks and drinks are also available.

Some of the highlights this year have been pond dipping at the Springs, rounders at the rec, slime making, and baking and serving cakes for Sunday afternoon teas in the Parish Room. Other popular activities have been music sessions, film nights, roller skating and creating marshmallow constellations.

Asheteria provides a safe place for young people to hang out and chat to friends; participation in the games and activities is entirely optional. Our friendly youth leaders are available for them to talk to and to help make sense of any worries they may have.



Baking cakes for Sunday afternoon teas in the Parish Room. Photo by Jo Adams

We are grateful to St Mary's Church for supporting and facilitating Asheteria, and to Sam and Dawn for running the sessions.

For more information about Asheteria or any other youth events, please go to www.stmarysashwell.org.uk/youth, or see our notices on the village noticeboards, or call me.

Jo Adams ☎ 01763 241587