

A LIFE IN SCOUTING



Clive Robert Winder

3rd June 1960 to 28th March 2020

SCOUTING BACKGROUND

Clive became an Assistant Scout Leader with the troop at the 1st Abbots Langley, 3rd North Watford in 1997, although he had been helping out with the Group for some time before that. In 1999 he took on the role as Scout Leader, probably his favourite volunteering role in Scouting. He was lured to the social side of Scouting and joined the Abbots Langley Scout Fellowship which later became the 'Abbos' Active Support Unit, a group of people he enjoyed being with particularly the social side, and especially the Boxing Day walk.

Clive joined the District Scout Executive in 2004, lending his wealth of volunteering and business knowledge to making the District run efficiently, he was never a silent member of the committee and was always happy to provide an informed opinion. In 2008 Clive stepped up once more when needed taking on the position of Group Scout Leader (GSL), an arduous one in a long-standing Group containing much history and strong characters. He was never short of advice and encouragement given freely by former members. Clive never lost his love of basic, grass roots Scouting with the troop and as well as the Thursday night meetings he enjoyed the regular weekend competition events around the County, narrow boat weekends and yearly summer Scout camps. He could regularly be found at the one of the three Beaver colonies, two Cub packs and the Explorer Unit that the Group hosted and was in constant communication with all his leader teams and young people.

In his role as GSL Clive was keen to ensure that the leaders who volunteered with him received the proper training and support required to fulfil their roles in helping young people. In 2014 he became a District Training adviser, helping and encouraging his team when and where he could. Clive led from the front never asking others to do what he could / would not, he several qualifications including permits for mini bus driving, rifle shooting, archery, narrow boating and, of course, Nights Away. In 2020 Clive became a Member of the District Appointments Committee which met and advised all potential new adults throughout the District that wished to take on a leader in Scouting.

Clive was awarded the Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service to Scouting in 2008 and was presented with the Award for Merit for his outstanding service to Scouting in 2014. During October 2017 Clive received the Chief Scouts 20 Years' Service award in recognition for his valuable time spent as a leader.

Keeping the future of the Group and that of Scouting in the local community, was a key driver for Clive. He led the team, of Scouters and parent helpers, to improve the maintenance of the headquarters and ensure that scouting was shown in a



good light to visitors. The management of the building now provides lettings for the benefit of the community and is in continuous use by many local residents in the village.

On behalf of the Group and District, Clive regularly attended local community events at schools, parks, village centres, as part of a general adult and young person recruitment campaign. Whilst his own Beaver colonies and Cub packs have long joining lists Clive ensured that places would be found for young people to enjoy Scouting by pointing parents other groups throughout the District where there were spaces.

In 2011 Clive applied to be a leader at the 23rd World Scout to be held in Japan, he was disappointed that he was not given a place. However, response was so great that long after other units had been formed, he was asked to lead a new unit created from young people across the East of England region. Being late starting the unit, CHOSEN, had a lot of catching up to do. Bringing young people and leaders together who were scattered across six counties was a real challenge. Clive however managed it and created a strong team around him with the unit becoming one of the strongest to attend, members still keep in touch almost seven years after the event.



In 2019, as a special thank you for their volunteering work and services to scouting, Clive and Sally attended the Queens Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Clive was also being nominated for the award of a Silver Acorn in recognition of his especially distinguished service to Scouting.

Clive as a friend, a confidant, a volunteer leader and a Scout will be sadly missed.

Dave Collette
District Commissioner, Watford North Scouts

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Clive

Words alone cannot express the many memories I have of Clive and the many good times that we shared over the 25 years that I had the pleasure of knowing him.

About 15 years ago, the annual Green Beret Competition took place at Tolmers and Clive and I were the Support Crew for our two participating teams of Scouts. It was wet and windy, as usual and the Friday night setting up camp was challenging to say the least. Tent pitching in horizontal rain and providing a hot meal before bedtime in very unpleasant conditions. But, that's what Scouting is all about and we just got on with it.

The main competition during Saturday was even wetter, but we coped as well as could be expected, buoyed by the general banter and good nature that these

weekends always conjure up. Our teams fared well and headed off to bed, wet and exhausted, but satisfied with their day's efforts.

By now, the temperature had dropped considerably and as Clive and I huddled around the altar fire with a glass of Graham's finest (always a favourite of Clive's), we both noticed the most amazing sky. It was absolutely crystal clear, with every single constellation visible to the naked eye. There were satellites and shooting stars in abundance and we were both in awe of what we were experiencing. We both pondered " Was that The Bear or The Plough?" and "Is that The North Star?" We sat for hours chatting about life and putting the world to rights, as so often happens around a campfire. I felt I got to know the real Clive.

We discussed our families and how they were the light of our lives. We discussed Scouting; its Past, Present and its Future. We talked about Abbots Langley and what a wonderful place it is to live in, a place neither of us wanted to leave. We discussed stocks and shares and mortgages, Liverpool Football Club, Abbots Langley Cricket Club, golf and anything and everything else we could think of chatting about that night, all under the most magnificent night sky you could imagine.

It was probably 2am when we decided to get our heads down and as we left our camp chairs and headed for our tents, we discovered that they had frozen! The temperature had dropped so dramatically that literally everything was covered in a harsh frost and ice.

Clive and I hardly slept at all that night as it was so cold, and even though his tent was some way off from mine, his snoring was so loud, I departed and tried to sleep in my van, under dust sheets, but to no avail. The temperature had officially dropped to -5 degrees Celsius overnight and we rose in the morning to the most magnificent sunrise across the frost laden campsite.

We laughed about it continuously over the years and put it down to another one of those camps ... but I look back now and realise that it was a special moment, one that I will always cherish.

Rest in Peace Clive,

Mike Benson

o O O O o

Queen's Scouts Awards presented under Clive's Group Scout Leadership

Alan Kukielka
Iain Stanley

Tom Redmond
Chris Watts

Marc Redmond
Connor Hill

Queen's Scout Award

If you had asked me when this picture was taken what I would be doing in nearly two years' time, I would never have possibly imagined that I would be here writing this message in memory of the man who presented me with this award. Even as I struggle to write this, I find it hard to comprehend. For those of you who don't know, I achieved my Queen's Scout Award and my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and had them both presented at the Christingle service in December 2018.



The only Queen's Scout Award presented by Clive was to Marc Redmond at the Christingle service in St. Lawrence's Church, Abbots Langley in 2019.

I chose to have the Queen's Scout presented by Clive Winder and the Gold presented by my mum, Alison Redmond because they were the two people who had supported me the most throughout each process. It seemed a small thing at the time, but looking back I am so grateful I made that choice as I since found out

that throughout his long time as a Scout Leader, Clive only personally presented one Queen's Scout Award, and that was to me. What seemed a simple gesture at the time has now become a golden memory of a time when I could honour the man who had been a leader, a mentor, and a friend for almost 20 years.

I know Clive was very proud to have presented me with this award, but the thing with Clive was that he never needed presentations or awards to show that he was proud. It could be seen shining through whenever he spoke of anyone who had been through the Scout troop. It could be seen when former Scouts returned to the group to help out and become leaders and to give back to the group that had given them so much. It could be seen when he would bump into a former Scout in the pub and even if he hadn't seen them in 10 years he would still remember their name and recognise them. Indeed, this was one of the many incredible things about Clive, he knew and could remember everyone who was not only in the group at the time, but everyone who had passed through the group, however long ago. He made the effort to learn everyone's name, he made time for everyone and treated everyone with respect, kindness, and infinite patience.

Clive was a second father to a whole generation of Scouts. He helped to nurture us and offered endless encouragement to help us grow up and grow as individuals. I have fond memories of long minibus trips with Clive's iPod playing the most random playlist possible and everyone singing along, but perhaps my fondest memory of Clive as a Scout Leader is when he informed us young Scouts something that we had not possibly imagined in our deepest nightmares... that tents were not actually soundproof! Obviously, we discovered this on a summer camp in the early hours of the morning, where our conversation was abruptly interrupted by a disgruntled Clive shouting "Right everybody out the tent now!" As we sheepishly exited the tent, we were informed that because we were still awake, we should do some exercise to tire us out and help us sleep. Honestly, looking back I am amazed at how we still managed to be cheeky and answer back as Clive put us through our paces of laps, press ups and sit ups, a workout that I would struggle through now! However, our biggest error was when he finally relented and let us go back to bed, and cold and grumpy we crawled back into our tent, immediately discussing how unfair it all was, and offering some choice words about our glorious leader. Apparently, tents are not soundproof, and Clive was still standing just outside and upon hearing all of this, immediately dragged us back outside for round two!

Somehow, despite our best attempts at being absolute nightmares throughout our time in Scouts, Clive never gave up on any of us. He pushed and encouraged, listened and comforted, laughed and joked with us and helped us be the people we are now. I would not be half the man I am today if it was not for Clive Winder. It breaks my heart that we will never again sit in a cosy pub with an ale, with you

telling me off for being on my phone while I respond that at least I can see my phone to text. You were always such a constant reliable figure, it could have been years since I had been back in Abbots and if I ventured down the Unicorn on a Thursday night you would immediately shake my hand and buy me a drink and we would sit and chat about old times and usually be the last ones there!

You were quite simply the best of us Clive. You brightened every room and every soul and every single person that knew you is the better for it. I shall miss you more than I could ever hope to put into words, and I will still sit with an ale in a cosy pub from time to time and reminisce about old times, just maybe a little older and a little sadder. I am so proud and so lucky to have known you and am so grateful for the influence you have had on my life. I shall endeavour to continue to make you proud and to cherish your memory.

Goodbye my dear friend, and thank you, for everything.

Marc Redmond



I was shocked to hear of Clive's passing from Covid 19. It will be a huge blow to the Abbots Langley Scout Group.

I believe him to have been one of the most dedicated Group Leaders I have ever known and a major contributor to Scouting in this area and Hertfordshire at large. He planned thoroughly and built his various teams carefully making sure that new leaders and assistants received training and guidance before working with their chosen sections, hence they served for longer, becoming integral parts of the wider Scout Group.

Personally, he was good to be around and always made visitors to the Group welcome, always happy to give us his time and show us how the Group ticked, never taking any personal credit for success!

As a Leader of young people, he was excellent. His over-subscribed Scout Troop is a shining example of how it should be done, with its reputation going before it. His contribution as Leader to the success of the "Chosen" Hertfordshire contingent to the Japan World Scout Jamboree is further testament to his skills. Picking up the role later than most, his was a mixture of Scouts and fellow leaders from all over the Eastern Region of England. He travelled widely in the area in his own time and at weekends and built a highly successful unit, giving everyone a truly memorable life changing experience.

An example to all, he will be missed by a wide circle of respectful colleagues across a wide area, not least by his loyal family and Scout Group.

Rest in Peace.

Roger Sands
District President

What can I say about “Mr Wonder” - Our Dear Clivey ... So many stories and happy memories to tell, so this is a potted history of my connection with Clive through the years and from my perspective. It started out as a couple of pages, but turned into a little more ...

Pauline Styles

Clive was born in Maghull near Liverpool, the middle of three brothers, Garry and Robin. The family moved to Shenleybury Cottages, Harperbury, when he was 7 years old as his father got a job at the hospital there. He went into the Shenley Cub Pack at aged 8 and stayed with the Cubs and then the Scouts at Shenley until he was 14 or 15. During his time as a Cub and a Scout, Clive fondly remembered having a great time in scouting and therefore encouraged his three children to get involved from an early age. When his eldest son moved up from Cubs to Scouts a letter came home asking for help and of course, he volunteered.

I first met Clive in the 1980's when we both worked at BACS, the payments clearing services in Edgware. I had been there since 1977 and I think Clive joined around 5 years later. I remember him popping typing into the in-basket in our Secretarial office, and one late afternoon, he appeared in his scouting uniform. We all thought it was a bit odd as I had no connection with the scout movement at the time, but he was clearly proud to be wearing it.

Some years later, I was sitting in the garden of the Royal Oak in Abbots Langley, as you do on sunny Sundays, when I bumped into Clive, who I hadn't seen for a while. "What are you doing here?" I asked him with surprise, and he told me that he had bought a house in Abbots Road and just moved to. One day as I was driving along the road I glanced across to see the house Clive had bought – and what a house! It has to be one of the most impressive in the road, with a large front garden big enough to drive right around. He used to refer to the circle of grass in the middle as his roundabout, and all the lost property from scout camps was ceremoniously displayed there each year for parents to collect!

It was in September 1997 that Paul Seekings, the Scout Leader at the time, put out an appeal for more parental support, and Clive volunteered to referee an evening of Troop football at the Watford Leisure Centre in which his son, Jamie was taking part. He obviously showed a keen interest, and began assisting with other scouting activities on a regular basis, and the rest is history. Russell Whiteley took over from Paul as Scout leader in 1998 and Clive became his Assistant Scout Leader, along with other ASL Phil Brant, with Tony Dabson and Eddie Chalk assisting him on the Thursday evening sessions.



Forest of Dean Scout Camp 1998

Typically, Clive threw himself into his role of Assistant Scout Leader and kicked the Troop into shape with programme planning, which greatly assisted Russell in his role. Within that year there was another turn around and Russell resigned as Scout Leader. Clive obviously took up the role as the next in seniority and continued as such until his untimely passing. Under his guidance, the Scout Troop grew from 16 to well over 30 and had as many as 44 at one time, which he admitted was very hard work! He was a master of the spreadsheet and kept meticulous records. He instigated a rolling programme of termly activities which made forward planning a lot easier, as well as making the Scout summer camps rotate over 4 years so that each scout saw a different location during their time in the troop.

My son, George, joined the group as a Beaver at the age of 6 in 1999, along with several of his school friends - Alison Redmond's son Marc and Michael Benson's son Jonathan to name just a few. There was a bumper year of boys born in 1992/3 and so the ranks of the Scout Group were swelled for many years to come, and especially during their time in the Scout Troop. George went up through the ranks as most children do if they enjoy Beavers, and by 2003 started in Scouts, which was the time that there were 44 in the Troop.

It was in the February of 2004 that the current Group Scout Leader stepped down and, as the senior Scouter in the Group, Clive was left to take on the additional role of Scouter in Charge for the group.

I did my voluntary parent rota helping out in the Scout Group as we all did, and in 2004 the call went out for someone to take over Woodsmoke, the termly newsletter for the group, which had been running since 1954. Clive thought it highly unlikely that someone would want the role, but from my secretarial background, I was familiar with document formatting and relished taking on the project. What I wasn't told, rather sneakily by Clive, was that the position also had an Executive Committee position, and meant I was a Trustee of the Scout Group charity. After being appointed at the AGM on the Friday night, Clive's parting quip to me was – see you at the Exec meeting on Monday!

I then became more involved in the Group with regular contact with Clive. Executive meetings were always interesting, and the ethos was usually a lemonade afterwards, which helped reinforce the teamwork, and where many of the plans continued to be discussed. Clive was pretty keen on keeping a happy Exec committee together!

One of the events Clive really enjoyed each year was the **Scout Group AGM**. He liked to get as many of us together as possible to give out awards, and to show the trophies the group had won during the year.





I have so many photos of Clive giving awards over the years from Woodsmoke publications, so here is one from 2014 looking proudly on as Cubs receive their Silver Chief Scout Awards.

Thanking the Beaver Leaders for the time in running Lake Beavers



At the same AGM Clive received the Medal of Merit.

And then there were the St George's Day parades. These were taken in 2007 in the big District parade in Watford to mark the centenary of scouting.



And Remembrance Day parades



Another of Clive's favourite times of the year was the narrow boat weekend with the Top 10 Scouts. Here is the group of **2005**.



And this is the trip of **2007**, with our current day Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Chris Watts next to Clive, and Christopher Winder top right. 10 of the 44 Scouts.



Steering into a lock in **2008**.



I had joined Active Support, or the Fellowship as it was called at the time, around 2006 and my first experience of a camp was when I was involved in the District Centenary Camp in mid 2007 at Lees Wood. I was part of the catering crew with parents and leaders supporting, and here we are with Clive, proudly displaying our camp gate which of course, was Greece. As you can see by the blotches on the photo, the weekend started rather damp.



It continued to rain most of the weekend too, and at one point there was a river running through the catering tent into the tent we used for dining. Clive said “grab a pole” and they walked the whole tent and put it in a drier area for us to set it out again.



The culmination of the weekend was the Saturday night banquet where we dressed up in our national costumes for the feast. Clive, of course, was one of the Greece Gods.





Shortly after that camp, in the August of 2007, we spent a lovely day at the 21st World Scout Jamboree which marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of Scouting on Brownsea, which was held in Hylands Park, Chelmsford.



It was an extremely hot day, and we had split into groups. Amazingly at lunch time we all seemed to congregate at the same place - the German tent which was designed as a Beer Keller! We enjoyed sausage würost and non alcoholic beer, which was very refreshing in the heat of the day and even Clive didn't seem to mind that it wasn't real ale.



In 2008 Clive's Scouter in Charge role was formerly acknowledged when he became the Group Scout Leader. As GSL, he had overall responsibility for all the youth sections, the leaders and administering the waiting list of those wishing to join. This was a very time-consuming role, with 150 youngsters in the Group, but he formed an excellent team of leaders, Active Support and group of parents who help to run the Group; together with a supportive Executive Committee to steer the charity. With a group that large there was still more work than he had to cope with. Clive made his roles look easy and he was a natural at getting the most out of people. I am not sure we will be able to keep his standards up, but we can only try.

In the July of 2009 when the Herts 100 Camp was to be held at Tolmers, Clive asked if I would be in charge of catering for the whole camp as Tony Dabson, who usually organised it was going to be on holiday. Yikes, I thought but rose to the challenge with my oppo Rachel, and assistant Sarah. The theme of the camp was Disney's Pixar films and our base was Star Wars.

The three of us had the food under control and on the Saturday morning everyone went off to their activities. We were preparing the rolls for lunch and musing about the scarves we had been given to wear at the camp, when we had a bit of a silly moment and starting demonstrating how you could wear them more creatively about the body. There we were pranking about the campsite showing our neckerchiefs off in various salubrious ways, when unbeknown to us, Clive had appeared back in camp, and was amusingly watching us! We were embarrassed about being caught out playing like kids, but we still laugh about it today, and it is one of my best memories remembering Clive face at the time. He, of course, just loved the fact we were enjoying ourselves.





Our group name for the camp was the Golden Lions. So, on the Sunday everyone had their faces painted and we wore something yellow.

Clive, of course, was the ring master.

Cub assistant Holly





A touch of wood smoke in the air, and a cigar by the camp fire.

Over the years I had been producing the Woodsmoke, I had slowly read all the back copies and understood the Groups history, so I took on the mantle of group historian. The Chairman at the time, Bryan Sharpe, was always keen to tell me stories of their antics when he was a Rover Scout, and so we hit upon the idea of celebrating 100 years of Scouting in Abbots Langley, as we had discovered that its original start date was 2009.

A team of the Exec planned an event which culminated in a dinner/dance at Hunton Park on 16th October 2009 with around 120 attendees, including Explorers.





Clive gave one of the speeches, and as he hated giving them, used his style of rhyming couplets instead.

He was then presented with a ball and chain with GSL on it as a souvenir from the sub-committee.



At this time, we realised that Bryan Sharpe would not be able to carry on as Chairman for too many more years.



After the Christmas meal in 2009, a few people back went back to Clive's house.



Those who were there will clearly remember sitting around Clive's lounge on sofas and chairs, except for Pete Linskey who was given a kitchen stool, so was perched about 2 feet taller than everyone else looking like an overgrown elf!

We continued the merriment, and of course, the talk was usually about Scouts in some way. It was here that Mike Benson announced that Bryan had asked him to take over as Chair and shadow him whilst in office. We all encouraged Mike to accept, and made the pact "One out – All out". It's something we've said again and again to each other when times have been tough in the group never expecting that Clive would be the first to go.

An event that Clive loved each year was the traditional Boxing Day Walk which leaves from Love Lane over the fields to the Holly Bush Pub at Potters Crouch. There we sing and imbibe a glass or two, before walking back to Abbots Langley. Faces change from year to year, but the traditional things hold.



The Pete Linskey “Music Man” song, now performed by Steve Flowers, is an action song with some very silly verses.

One of Clive’s favourite verses was “I can play the Group Scout Leader”.

Boxing Day 2019 – the walk’s 70th anniversary.



Back in 2004 the group had started organising Family camps that were held around every 3 years. In 2010 I got involved in organising the afternoon activities bases. Although quite a lot of hard work, meeting planning was always a laugh as we explored what games we could make up for families to take part in.



We devised the Go-Kart challenge which Michael made and in later years Human Hungry Hippo.

Clive thoroughly enjoyed these events, and especially the camp fire songs. It always seemed to me to be a lovely way of everyone in the group coming together to embrace scouting over a summer weekend.

That is why we thought one way to commemorate Clive would be a family day, for all to come together in the things he enjoyed. Or perhaps dedicate a Family Camp to him once we are allowed to meet again in a large group.

Clive particularly enjoyed the camp fire on the Saturday night of family camp with



everyone sitting around after enjoying their day, singing, roasting marshmallows and just socialising.

It was because Clive held archery, shooting, narrow boating and nights away permits that the group were able to benefit from him providing these activities, at no extra cost to the group. So, these skills were used countless times over the years for Scout troop activities, as well as during family camps, and active support evenings.



Pauline Marett looking like she means it on an Active Support evening at Lees Wood.

From about 2007 to 2011 Clive worked for Out of Town Action Sports, which was run by Pete Linskey at Phasels Wood and Rickmansworth Aquadrome. This suited him down to the ground as he was able to interact with school parties and use his archery and shooting skills for activity bases.

Pete and I had been a couple for 3 years, when Pete sadly passed away unexpectedly in 2011. It was only through the friendship and support of Clive and all my other friends within the Group and Active Support section, in particular, that I managed to get through the first few years after his death. I often met up with the Scouters at the local on a Thursday evening for a bit of company. Clive never asked questions, and would patiently listen to all my ramblings and emotional turmoil. As my own brother had emigrated to Australia when I was 20, Clive had become a sort of brother figure to me. Whenever he could see I might need support the same line would always come out "You know where we are Sweetie".

Here we are – Pete, Clive, Holly and then me on our way to the Active Support Weekend in Derbyshire in 2009. We have to drive via this pub as it was in Clive's Good Beer Guide and was also the same name as the Boxing Day Walk pub!



The next event I remember getting involved in was the District Camp of 2012 at Lees Wood to mark the District's 40th Anniversary. By this time, I was an old hand and Clive didn't need to persuade me to do the catering. It was a fun weekend, and again rather wet at some points I seem to remember!





Clive, Cheryl, Alison and Amaelia having fun.



But Clive enjoyed participating in all the group games!



Along the way there have been Scout camps each year. You can hear a tale about Ross Noonan, the tall blond boy in the middle in Holly's story later on.



“Raquel” and Clive with their cross word before dinner at scout camp



My son, George, enjoyed all of the Scout camps, and along with Marc Redmond, would have been one of those boys Clive put through their paces when they were up late at night. It was on one Scout camp where there was a stream running next to one end of the field. A big rope swing trailed from an overhanging tree and the boys couldn't wait to try it out. Ross Noonan, was the oldest, tallest and heaviest of the boys who went across and he shouted to Clive to give it a go. Clive's thinking, as he recounted the story to me years later was, "if Ross had managed it, I might be ok".

George Styles

Clive was a huge inspiration to me throughout my childhood and actually met my mum back in the 1980's when they worked together at BACS. He was such an incredibly kind-hearted, generous and warm individual. Absolutely larger than life. The funeral was held on Friday 29th May and hundreds of people lined the streets of Abbots Langley to pay their respects as the funeral procession passed. I was there at the end of the High Street with mum and some of the other Scout Fellowship. The funeral service was broadcast online so we could raise a glass to his memory.

Immediately after the service, I took my guitar to the studio and wrote a song. One of the many fond memories I have of Clive was a scout camp we had at Beaver Lodge in the Forest of Dean. Somebody built a rope swing over the campsite stream. Anyone who knew Clive was aware that he was a rather robust individual, and so it was to our great amusement when he decided to have a go on the swing, dutifully snapping the rope and falling flat on his back in the middle of the stream.

I thought it made a rather good analogy for life.

Life is a river. Everyone chooses what to do with it. Some people like to fish. Others enjoying sitting peacefully beside it, or swimming within it. Some people will spend their time polluting it and taking it for granted. And some people will build a rope swing, to have as much fun as physically possible with their time. Unfortunately, sometimes, the rope breaks before we reach the other side. But at least we have as much fun as possible on the journey...



A sketch by George's friend Thomas Elliott from a photo of Clive for the song artwork.

Life is a river
Build a rope swing
Come tumbling down

You don't know
How many lives you've skimmed a stone upon

But I do
Loads and Loads

Got a real neat bivouac
I built
But I couldn't sleep

For the bear is
Right outside my tent

Or is it you?
Or is it you?
I couldn't do half
Of whatever you could do

Life's a stream and
You're supreme and
Still I dream of
That old rope swing
Come tumbling down

You can hear it on the Scout website - <https://abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk/WinderWall>
All proceeds from the song were donated to the Clive Winder Wall Fund to build a climbing wall in the HQ building in his memory.



When Dave Sturgess couldn't commit to fully organising the 2014 camp, Clive asked if I would do it. It was another whole big chunk of commitment for me, and I felt a bit overwhelmed, but looking back I appreciate how much trust Clive had put in me to carry it out, and I was pleased I was able to deliver it for him, of course, with all the support of the rest of the group.

The same year Clive was selected by the Country to be the Unit Leader of a new regional unit of 36 youngsters, aged 14-17, from the 4 counties of Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015. Whilst this was a huge honour, I know that it gave him an enormous amount of extra work as he brought these youngsters together as a team when they didn't know each other, and he gave them the confidence to really enjoy their trip. He embarked on fundraising and training weekends which all meant for a lot of work and commitment from him.

Here he is during a quiz night in aid of his Unit CHOSEN.



Then there were all the Active Support weekends away we had.

Surely we're not lost already ...







The Christmas meals –





Paul Seekings and Clive – always joking “how he’d left him in the lurch when he resigned as Scout Leader!”



And other activities that we all enjoyed together – The Tring brewery tour



Globe theatre visit (Nicola Trotman, Alison Redmond, Sally and Clive)

And of course all the non-scouting social event events – birthdays, weddings and funerals.







In 2017 we had another Family Camp and I took up the mantle of organising as I had learnt a lot from the first one. I came up with the idea of a Human Hungry Hippos game and Clive is just about to take part in the Leaders race.



One of the things that always made me chuckle about Clive was the fact that he had a nickname for some people. It took me a while to realise that he was calling Rachel “Raquel” when he addressed her - I just thought he’d got her name wrong when she joined.

My nickname was “Sweet Pea”, but some were less flattering

2018 was the commemoration of 100 years of the end of World War I. As Clive was also interested in history, and particularly that of Abbots Langley, he wanted the Group to be part of the celebration. He introduced me to Roger Yapp from "Back to the Front" who were researching the war and putting on events during the year. It was a fascinating project, and Rachel and I took it on and put together the history of those boys who started the original scout group in 2009 and traced their war careers.

We were able to provide our own exhibition, with tea and cakes, and I was very pleased we were able to give Clive, as well as Mike Benson our Chair, a fuller history of our group than before.

Jane Lay giving one of the history talks in St Lawrence's church yard with Clive looking on



This is Clive's last AGM in May of 2019 where we celebrated 110 years of Abbots Langley Scouts, with all the trophies won in the year on display.

The cover photo of Clive cutting the cake was also taken at that time.



In June of 2019 Clive and Sally were invited to one of the Queen's garden parties at Buckingham Palace in recognition of his voluntary services over the years, and you will have seen the photo of them attending on earlier pages.

Things I shall remember fondly about Clive, are his love of -

Real ale

Peanuts

Sudoku

Games

Socialising

Crosswords

Sending emails at 2am

Staying up late and talking into the night

Quizzes

Whisky tasting

Monty Python quotes

And so much more

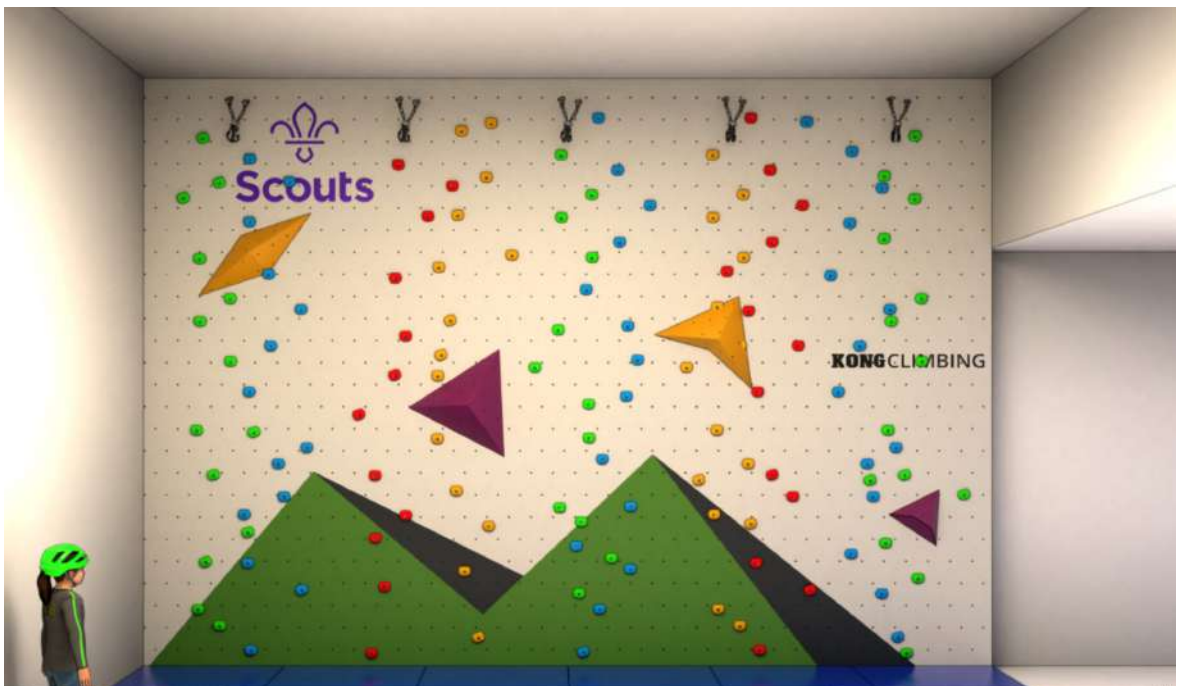


At the Scout Camp in Arundel in the summer of 2019 Clive and Alison were very interested in the indoor climbing wall that had been installed in the Scout building there.

They decided to look into getting something similar for our own Scout HQ, but sadly, Clive passed before plans really took off on this project.

The Executive Committee decided that it would be a fitting tribute to Clive to fundraise and have an indoor climbing wall built in his memory. Fundraising began in earnest in the Winter of 2020 with the Scout Christmas Post project. This was followed up by receiving generous donations from the Group and Clive's friends and family. Lisa Winder took part in a local radio show to highlight the fundraising, and later George promoted Clive and the Rope swing on the same show. We received several larger donations from Local Councillors, the Parish Council and the Alpkit foundation and we are yet to receive notification on a grant from Tesco Bags of Help. The virtual race night in February also boosted the target amount, and I am pleased to say that we have now reached our goal of £10,000.

We hope to see the wall installed during the Summer of 2021 with its unveiling in September, dependent on covid restrictions. Here is an example of what it might look like.



Our memory of Clive

I'm **Harry Moore**, one of the current 1st Abbots Langley Scouts and I knew Clive since I was roughly 6 or 7 year old, but my main memory with him was the last scout camp. We were in Derbyshire, Matlock during 2019 Summer Camp and although it was raining it was a great time Clive, me and two others on our hike made a diversion towards this waterfall place I cannot remember the exact name. Anyway, the reason why I picked this is because it was a really happy moment for me and I saw Clive smiling and really happy and joyful and then it struck me what a nice, kind gentle man he was it also struck me how valuable he was to everyone not just in scouts, but to everyone who knew him so I know that he will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

I'm Harry's Mum-Vicki.

Clive – well what a decent, kind and caring man- whom I could trust with my son implicitly. I will remember Clive fondly for his sense of humour. Several times over the years he has made me smile.

I recently asked Clive if there would be any chance of a space for my youngest daughter. On reflection she is far more a cub than a brownie. His reply made me chuckle. She had no hope as they are packed at the moment. However he could be open to bribery if I wanted to become a leader! Ha ha.
😊

Hi, I'm **Jack Woodman**, I'm 11 and I live in Abbots Langley. I have been in beavers all the way to scouts so that means since I was 6! I am currently in Otters. Clive organised many activities like games, going to Lees Wood and Phasels Wood, visits to all kinds of places. I have so many badges. 😊 Clive always made sure we were very proud of being a scout especially for parades and Remembrance Sunday. He was very funny and made us laugh all the time. I saw him every time at scouts. Overall I feel very sad 😞 and he made me feel like he was part of my family and I will miss him. Scouts will never be the same but I will still make sure I try my best as that is what Clive would want.
Love Jack.

Clive was an inspirational man who introduced my son to Beavers in 2014. As the first point of contact, he was so reassuring to parents that Abbots Langley Scouts was such a great organisation to be part of. He led the first parent meeting and explained how everything was organised and that things were run safely and so effectively as a wide team of volunteers.

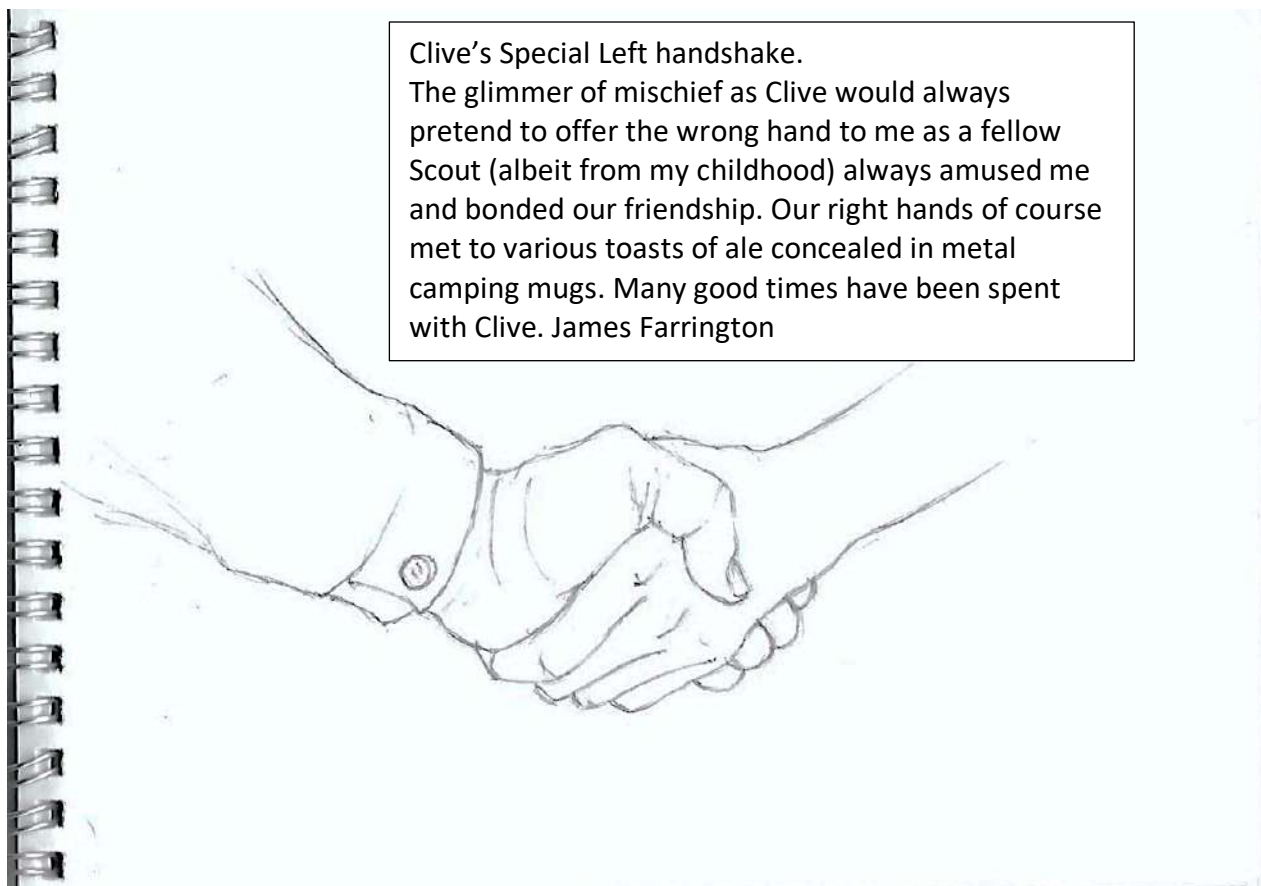
He encouraged so many people to lead and help run groups and it was so obvious how many people love being part of this community, adults, and children alike. This was evident on the family camp in 2018 (correct date) which we found to be the best camping holidays we have ever had. Every aspect of the camp was amazing from activities to the food, what a fabulous team effort.

He was always cheerful and willing to chat. He had a positive attitude and he gave so freely of his time to organise the Scouting organisation.

The scouting movement in Abbots Langley have all lost a loyal friend and we are sorry for his family and friend as they will also have a large void in their lives.

However, Clive has left behind a legacy of work that has helped to shape young people's lives, a supportive community with engaging activities and the learning of new skills, but more importantly friendship.

Sarah Sheehan (mum of Daniel Sheehan, aged 10 Beavers – cubs currently)



Dear all

I thought I'd send a few words about my limited but valuable experiences with Clive.

My son, Daniel Perry, has been to beavers, cubs and has attended Scouts since September.

Clive was always super welcoming to me as a new parent helping at cub camp and scouts. He'd make a point of saying hello, checking I was happy with any activity or making sure I knew where to get a cup of tea from! When you're a newcomer this is often missed, but he made me feel like a valued helper and made me look forward to returning!

My son, who joined scouts in September, was initially super excited to go to summer camp and was signed up straight away. But when his closest friends hadn't signed up, he became anxious and wanted to back out. I informed Clive of his nervousness and Clive not only emailed to reassure me about the fun he'd have there, but also to let me know as soon as his friends had paid, in order to encourage my son's interest again. What a kind thing to do. With so many scouts, leaders, parents, events and activities to think about, he still went out of his way to encourage one individual child.

I know these notes aren't the most exciting, but in my limited experiences of Clive, he really did make an amazing impression on me as a Scout leader. A lovely, kind-hearted man who will be sorely missed.

Kerry Perry

Obviously we were never in the same group but we exchanged a lot of emails and attended a lot of meetings, events and Green Berets together over more than 15 years and I've always greatly respected the dedication and commitment he gave to the 3rd North Watford.

I would watch what he was doing and consider whether to pinch ideas for our group! I also used to wonder whether the clock on his computer was wrong or if he really did do his emails in the middle of the night! A big loss to Scouting, sympathy to all in the group and of course to his family.

Andrew Saunders
GSL- 6th North Watford

I was shocked to hear the devastating news about Clive. He played such a huge roll in my life as a young boy, teenager and young man. I hadn't seen him for a little while but whenever we did meet, usually in the cricket clubhouse at beer festivals, he was always happy to catch up and always greeted me with a very firm, left-handed hand shake!

I was in cubs, scouts and then explorers from the year 1999 through to 2009 and I even worked with him for a period of time with OTAS up at Phasels. I worked through the ranks of being a Second, Sixer, Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader and achieved an awful lot in my time at 1st Abbots Langley. One of the proudest moment was when I was asked to lead the St George's Day Parade carrying the Union Flag. Thinking about it now, I'm not sure where I found the confidence to fulfil these roles but Clive saw something in me and he was able to nurture it and help build my character.

Even though I finished scouting over 10 years ago, I still speak regularly, and very fondly, of all the experiences and opportunities that Clive gave me. The influence that Clive had on my formative years was huge and the person I am today is, in part, thanks to Clive. I have long maintained that the experiences I had in my scouting years were the most important in my life. Words cannot do justice to just how positively Clive impacted my life and countless others, I am sure.

I have so many happy memories to call upon, such as the toasts we made and the jokes we told on banquet nights at the end of summer camps. And of course, Clive's 'airbed', Lyla! Another time, myself, Ross Noonan, Jack McCarthy and a full minibus of other scouts were all sat on the bus, in the sun, having our lunch and playing Guns n' Roses - Sweet Child of Mine on full volume. The song always seems to remind me of that moment now.

Having spoken to Ross since hearing the news, we are both in agreement that Clive was an incredible man with an incredible legacy who had a very long-lasting impression on us both. We both hope that everyone gets a chance in, hopefully, the not so distant future to honour Clive's memory and pay him a tribute that he deserves so much.

Kind Regards,
Dominic Benson

I was sorry to hear that Clive had passed, as he was my Scout Leader; I just wanted to share one of my dearest memories of Clive, and that was when we went camping in the Peak District last year.

He was supervising our group of four (including me), and we had two of the younger with us, so they had map duty (Being a challenge to get a badge). And so I had lots of time to talk to Clive and see what his interests were. It was the most engaging experience I have had. It remains a dear memory to me as it opened my eyes to what Scouting offers and how it shapes a person, and it could never have been possible without people like Clive.

Ben Newing.

I was incredibly sad when I found out that Clive had passed away as he was a great scout leader. I think that everyone has many fond memories of Clive as he was a great man and fun to be around.

One of my clearest memories of Clive is when I went on Scout Camp last year, and we were driving to Alton Towers, and he was driving. We were on the minibus, and it was packed full of sixteen scouts, including myself and Clive put the music on. By the time we had arrived at Alton Towers, everyone had lost their voice from singing.

At Alton Towers, we experienced dreadful weather leaving the park nearly deserted and the queues for the rides empty. Halfway through the day, we experienced the worst storm of the day, making most the rides close. But did that stop us, no! In the group, we were in we were accompanied with a particularly annoying scout (at the time) who didn't want to go on most of the big rides. Somewhere along the day, this scout wondered off (in the mostly deserted park apart from us), and we couldn't find him anywhere. We then phoned Clive, and he said not to worry and carry on going on the rides.

At the end of the day, the scout had been found, and everyone had enjoyed themselves. Clive was respected and liked by everyone in Scouting, and I cannot imagine going to scouts and him not being there. Clive helped us get involved in everything in Scouting and was supportive of everything whether that has been us wearing bin bags, goggles and swimming caps on the Green Beret obstacle course to helping us with readings in the Remembrance day Parade and the Christingle.

Overall Scouting is only made possible by people like him, and he has helped us become better people by supporting us and wanting every single scout to do well and not just at scouts but for the future.

Ellie Newing

Our son **George** joined the 1st Abbots Langley Group as a cub in 2007.

When we think about Clive certain words spring to mind – energy, enthusiasm, generosity and then there was the smile. In all the years George was a member of Cubs and then Scouts there was never a week when he didn't want to go and this was largely down to Clive – the array of activities, the inclusivity in everything he did. George was quite shy when he joined Abbots Langley and Clive's encouragement was instrumental in George's development. He felt valued and challenged, which helped him to become a confident teenager, enabling him to become very involved in every aspect of scouting life.

We were fortunate enough to attend family camp and we had never experienced anything like it. It was obviously a great group effort, but behind it all was Clive, leading, co-ordinating, encouraging, laughing and smiling.



George has very fond memories of his time with the 1st Abbots Langley Scout Group and credits Clive with engaging him and challenging him to achieve his best.

Always giving – whether to the many youngsters who passed through the Scout movement in Abbots Langley, the Cricket Club or those who loved a beer festival!

Clive was a great leader who took those along with him on whatever journey – jamborees, hikes, camps, matches, boat trips, beers and many more, with fun and laughter along the way.

He will be missed by so many.

Simon, Nicola and George Isherwood

I was a great admirer of Clive's enthusiasm. It does seem that frequently the best get taken first.

It must have been over 15 years ago that I was one of the parents accompanying Clive on a Scouts cycle trip (because James is now 30). We went along a hidden valley that I had never discovered before, between Commonwood (TQ053006) and Langleybury (TQ075003) that I have since used regularly on my cycle trips. I had come to think of it as Clive's Valley, even before this terrible happening but now it will most definitely be that to me.

I hope that some permanent scouting memorial to Clive can be set up once life returns to normal.

Regards
Tim Sidaway

Clive Winder was my scout leader for many years. He taught me lots and helped to shape who I am today. He was a wonderful person. He was kind, funny and full of joy. I was fortunate enough to go on camps with him, such as both the Green Berets I participated in. Even though on both occasions we had the most horrendous weather, Clive managed to keep a smile on our faces and kept us going with his liveliness.

I also participated in the summer scout camps on two occasions with Clive, in 2017 and 2018. This is when the scouts camp away from home for a week, which is filled with lots of activities which help improve many life skills such as teamwork and communication. I remember after a long hard day of activities, as a group, we would sit round the campfire telling stories and jokes. Some days we would roast marshmallows after dinner. Clive was the life of the night, sitting comfortably in his chair and making everyone laugh. Telling us stories of his adventures from when he was younger, and reminding us how lucky we are nowadays.

Clive made a great scout leader and I am and will be forever grateful for the time and effort he put in to make it a great Thursday night. He always checked up on everyone to make sure they were alright and made the activities more enjoyable, trying to involve everyone. I was also lucky enough to go on the narrow boat trip, which Clive also went on. He taught me how to steer the boat and control it as well as open and close the locks. It turned out to be a great weekend, with lovely sunny weather. I remember the night when we all sat down and Clive gave us riddles to solve and made jokes that we were to keep to ourselves so he could play them again next time to the new ones.

These are just a few of the many memories I have of Clive. I joined as a beaver in January 2010 and that was when I first met Clive. In 2014 Clive was my leader when I moved up to Scouts. I am now an Explorer at 3rd North Watford.

Taj Kapoor

The best memory I have of Clive, which sums up his mischievous side, was a story my brother told me about his Scout camp....

When my brother Ross was younger he had a lot of energy and could be a bit hyper.

When on Scout camp, the Scouts had to go on a long hike one day, with their big ruck sacks on.

They hiked all day and when they got back to camp my brother was as lively and energetic as ever.

This was much to Clive's surprise as he had put a number of large rocks in the bottom of Ross's rucksack, to try and wear him out, but to no avail!

Haha. 😂😂😂

Love Holly x x x

Clive was a cool Scout Leader.

In the time I knew him, I had had a blast at scouts. Also he helped my team at night owls. He had a great sense of humour, even when I stuck a peg on his ear. He was a great Scout Leader who always helped everyone out.

Theo Hunter

Both of my sons are part of 3rd North Watford - one in cubs and one in Scouts - and they have been since the age of 6. So, while we were not personal friends, we have had many interactions with Clive throughout the years. He was such a huge part of Abbots scouting community.

Theo joined Clive's scout troop in September 2019 and both the scouts and the parents had nothing but affection and respect for him. He was able to control a bunch of active teens and he dedicated so much of his time to them. In the few months Theo was in the scouts before lockdown he won a cooking competition, camped overnight on a cold March weekend, helped at a jumble sale, went on many interesting outings and was looking forward to Summer camps and more. This was all down to the dedication and hard work of Clive and his personality taking the group forward and engaging young people in an inspiring way.



Theo and Clive when he was invested not too long ago.

The passing of Clive is such an enormous loss to Abbots and to scouting and the sadness of it was felt by us all. Long may his outstanding record as a leader live on and inspire those who now have to find a way forward without this excellent role model for the youth in the village. RIP Clive - you will be very much missed.

Jo Hunter

So this is a compilation of a very full life, well spent, and a few stories that make it up.

If you have a special memory that you would like to share and include here, please email me on pauline@abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk and I will include it.

Pauline
11/3/21