



1st Abbots Langley (3rd North Watford) Scout Group

Woodsmoke@abbotslangley



April 2002

75 YEARS OF
ABBOTS LANGLEY SCOUTS



GROUP CAMP
14TH to 16TH JUNE 2002
LEES WOOD, HERTFORDSHIRE

Friday Night Camp Fire welcome

Saturday Night Group Reunion
with
Pig Roast and Barn Dancing

Activities arranged throughout weekend

£10.00 per person with all meals provided

For more information please contact
Tracy Gray
Telephone 01442 40347

Congratulations to

Adam Bignell, Jack Courtenay, Ben Halcomb, Kriss Ford, Alastair Gabriel, Jack McCarthy, Ross Noonan and Tom Sibbit who have completed their Scout Award.

Those who participated in the District Night Trifid Competition, particularly Karl Wood, Lisa Winder, Jack McCarthy and Tom Ward who came 2nd, the Scout Troops best position for many years.

The 26 scouts who passed the next stage of their Swimming Proficiency Award, including two Stage 3 awards, and those that have continued to complete the Fire Safety Proficiency Award.

Scouter in Charge's Bit

For those of you who are not aware, following the resignation of our Group Scout Leader, Mick Welch, I have 'volunteered' to take on the position of Scouter in Charge. That'll teach me to sit at the front of an Executive meeting.

On behalf of the Group, I would like to thank Mick for all his hard work and enthusiasm during his term as GSL. He gave up a lot of time for the Group, particularly with regard to helping the Sections, and supporting scouting generally within the Group. His knowledge and efforts will be greatly missed and I wish him well for the future.

I'm happy to report that all Sections continue to remain strong with long waiting lists for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Unfortunately, this means a lot of disappointed children who can't enjoy scouting so if there are any budding leaders or helpers out there then please give me a call.

Next term starts with the usual spring jumble sale, a great fund raiser for the Group. Any help from parents, however small, would be greatly appreciated by the Executive and Scout Fellowship who put in an enormous amount of effort to organise and run the event. All Members of the Group should be prepared to contribute in some small way, and I don't mean jumble.

Finally, my heartiest congratulations to the Explorer Scouts, Ian Stanley, Jonathan Easter and Jamie Winder (I know that name), who were victorious in the inaugural District Trillium Competition, a gruelling 4 hour night orienteering exercise. It just goes to show that we must be teaching them something right.

Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge

Oh to be in England now that Aprils there. Take a country walk and see what Robert Browning meant.

Recently I acquired the late Keith Moores, Medal of Merit, and his Silver Acorn awards. Fred Dobson has had them mounted and framed, and they now hang on the wall of the Bill White room. The committee agreed that it would be nice commemorate the work he did for this group and his generous legacy.

Fred has also given a Dobson Lecture, slides of old Abbots Langley, the Jamboree fund is now £350 better off thanks Fred. A new Guide Company has started in the H.Q. they meet on Fridays, and I wish them good luck. The maintenance team has fitted a new D.G. Window in the front of the H.Q. well done.

I must congratulate the older Scouts {explorers}, who have won the new Night Trillium Trophy, also the younger Scouts who came a close second in the Night Triffid Trophy at Lees Wood. We had one person namely Ian Stanley who joined a District team in the gruelling Peak Assault Competition. Held in the Brecon Beacons, he tells me he has gained a lot of experience and most important he enjoyed it. I would like to thank the County Commissioner, for his visit and somewhat poignant talk to the committee. And finally as they say, some of the committee ran a Wide Game at night in Whppendale Woods for the Scout Troop, the Gammanauts from the constellation of Costa Del Solus won.

Bryan S Sharpe. Chairman.

Know your Cub Scout

Face — Remarkably free of facial markings compared to its relations. Perhaps only distinguished by a slight bruising obtained during the scrum for tuck.

Smile — Angelic. For deceiving parents and not fooling Leaders.

Scarf — The scarf is more usually seen trailing behind or being used to carry assorted insects.

The Cub Scout is the member of *familia Scoutus* most frequently seen outside of its normal environment. Cub Scouts on these 'trips' can be distinguished and tracked by the trails of ice cream, that are thought to mark their territory.

Mind — Inventive. A Cub Scout's vision is not hampered by anything as mundane as common sense. Remember this at two in the morning when reassuring a Cub Scout that the cow in the next field is not a lion.

Sharing many of its smaller relatives' traits, the Cub Scout is distinguished by its strong desire for freedom, amply displayed on camp by the traditional game of fox and hounds, as sightings of lone Cub Scouts followed by a pack of baying Leaders are on the increase.

Mouth — Excellent mimics. Avoid trips to sea ports and football stadiums.

Knuckles — Grazed, due to particularly frequent 'bonding' with other Pack Members.

Uniform — The spotters guide awards extra points to those who are able to confidently state that they have witnessed the rare sight of a Cub Scout in full uniform.





What a busy term we have had; the year started off with some orienteering both indoor using creative pictures and then Whippendell Woods. This was as training for the Night Triffid competition as was the incident exercises we held for two weeks.

Then there were the two District Events – the Wi8de Game competition and the Night Triffid which were both held at Lees Wood. We were able to enter two teams in the night exercise and yet again one of our teams came second: we must win this competition soon.

Once again the Scout Fellowship organised some wide games for us and the scouts had great fun running around the strange planet (woods) in the dark looking for power rods (broom handles) and an engine (barrel) so they could get back to earth (the bonfire)

We have also been swimming and had our annual patrol quiz, five a side football and pioneering competition.

Phil Brant AS

Best wishes and good luck to

Tom Lovelock, David James and Adam Lambert who are leaving our happy band of Scouts to join the new Explorer Unit.

Finally, Plans for the Summer Camp to the Peak District are starting to take shape with loads of exciting activities being organised. Don't forget to pay the next instalment or else the Leaders will have to go on camp without any Scouts; come to think of it not a bad idea !!!!

Clive

THE TRILLIUM

This year was the start of a new era for the world of scouting. The new Explorer Scout troop was set up, and our troop although small consisting of four members, has proved to be the strongest in the west of the county.

The Trillium is a new competition for Explorer Scouts, it is an extension of the Night Triffid but slightly harder and extremely competitive. The Trillium was named after a flower called a trillium, it has three leaves (representing the three districts involved) and a small flower in the centre representing the 'budding Explorer Scout'.

It took place at Lees Wood, our team consisted of myself, Iain Stanley, Jamie Winder, and a fellow Jamboree contingent member Stuart Marshal to make up the entrant numbers. Each group left at 20 minute intervals, we were last to start. From the beginning we were determined to win, we were focused and ready for anything. We were given grid references where we would find a letter written on a card, we had to find as many of the cards as possible, work out the anagram, and do it in the quickest possible time. We plotted our grid references in double quick time and then we were off.

We decided that we should run, we found the first card within minutes, and then ran on to the next, Iain was in charge of map reading, I was keeping up the pace, and we all were looking for the cards. That night we covered approximately 10km. We completed all of the course and we were finished within two and a half hours. We rushed back into the base area, signed back in and we were looking around for the other teams, we couldn't see them, then the next group rushed in 3 minutes after we returned. To our delight we returned first after leaving last, and to top it off we were the only ones to get all the letters and complete the anagram. We felt great.

That night we all sat round the fire, discussing the course and joking around. All the explorers slept in the building, we laughed at all the other scouts who had to sleep in tents on what was a very cold night. (Explorer's privileges, they're great aren't they!) Next morning we eagerly awaited the results of the Trillium. They were announced and we found that we had WON!! We now hold the title of Trillium trophy holders, our unit name engraved into the first space on the shield.

The night was exhausting but great fun, an event for all you younger Scouts to aim for, and to do your unit proud.

By Jonathan Easter

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The new scout uniform means a complete change for all branches of the scout movement. To help you see at a glance what has changed for you, check the table below. For a picture and more details click on the name of the branch of the movement (e.g. Cub Scouts) at the head of each column.

☆ Key Item
● Optional Item

When you have worked out exactly what you require, why not click [here](#) to buy it online?

Note: Unfortunately, we have had some delays in supplying the uniform. To find out which items are not available - [click here](#).

	Beaver Scouts 6-8yrs	Cub Scouts 8-10yrs	Scouts 10-14yrs	Explorer Scouts 14-18yrs	Adult Scout Network	Air Scouts 10+	Sea Scouts 10+
Polo Shirt							
Sweatshirt							
Smart Shirt/Blouse							
Scarf	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Woggle	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Tie					☆	☆	☆
Belt			☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
Activity Trousers							
Smart Trousers							

Or visit our own District Scout Shop
Open Mondays & Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.00pm
St Michael's Hall, Mildred Avenue, Watford
Our Group benefits from the profits of this shop

TRIFFIC TRIFFID

On the 16th February we met at Lees Wood; after unpacking and making up tents we had Bernices brilliant chicken casserole to set us up for our night in the woods.

My team included Karl Wood, Robin Lambert and Lisa Winder.

First base was a balancing act over slippery potholes. 2nd base was brainwork with questions on scouting. 3rd was tea-break (with us making it!) Back to brainpower on the 4th with a memory game. After a flag puzzle our muscles were put to work on an assault course, for once the weather was dry so no wet feet. 6th base was fun as we had to make a fire in a puddle using only a battery and anything we could find in our rucksack. Woody's brainwave to use wire-wool worked and we carried on only missing base 8 (Clives!) We finished, and were rewarded with hot soup before bed.

Robin will remember the night well he was tied to a stave by the adventure scouts, who paraded him like a trophy. Later Robin and I made a fire (using a whole note-pad and embers) to toast blackjacks and fruitsalads -also my gloves as my mum will tell you -they were so melted they had to be thrown away.

Sadly all this ended -next morning at the presentation our team came 2nd -a good result. After a hearty breakfast, more packing we headed back to HQ, tired and in need of a hot bath.

By Jack M
(FOXES)



STOP PRESS
Many thanks to all the boys
for their designs for the
Group Anniversary Badge.
The competition winners
will be announced soon



The Peak Assault, 2002.

This year we did not enter a team in to the peak assault, as there was not enough interest, so I joined with the 5th North Watford to create a team of 5 Venture Scouts. After a few training nights to make sure we had the knowledge to compete the competition then dawn upon us.

On the Friday night, we meet at Phasels Wood and awaited transport. It was not long before we were under way on route for the black mountain in mid Wales. It only took us a few hours to get bored and decided that it was time for a sing song, so one after the other venture and scout songs were sung until there was no more to sing. We arrived late, unloaded all the kit, and started to pitch base camp. Up early on Saturday as for us kit check was at 7am (too early). After a short delay we were plotting our points and were off into the steep hillsides of the black mountain. At first it was fun as we got all the as that we planned to and after jumping down a steep hill we were well on track for a good score so we stopped for lunch at a convenient place. Then headed up to the top of the next mountain that was by the way a SNOW topped mountain. As a result was very tiring but we got to the top and started to head back and on the way we had fun jumping into snow pockets. We got to a couple of minutes away from the base camp and realised that whilst playing in the snow we had lost our score card and consequently we had minus points. Cooked some bean feast and had an early night as we had to be up early in the morning.

Sunday we had a mission the complete, to get out of minus points. So we decided to storm as fast as we could back to base camp and get as many points as possible in the time allowed. When the finish line was in sight everybody started to run and we ran all the way to base camp up another small hill and imminently collapsed on to the floor. Then we cheered the rest on and helped pack up then presentation time were I had to watch two trophies that our troop had previously disappear to the hands of other troops. They must return to Abbots next year.

Overall a thoroughly enjoyable experience and addictive as I already want to go next year, but with my own team. So if any of you older scouts out there are interested see me and we will have a team next year as it is a barrel of laughs.

By Iain Stanley

Night Triffid Lees Wood

On Saturday morning 16th February we all packed into the Scout minibus, 'Old Rusty' and set off to Lees Wood for a weekend of adventure and fun. The camping tables were sliding around in the back of the minibus and we had to dodge them to keep from having our heads knocked off.

It took about two whole hours to set up camp. When erecting the garage tent for the galley we found one side was missing, nowhere to be found. For meals, we had the usual fry-up. We had the largest camp and the biggest group taking part in the competition.

We split into two teams, one of four and the other of five (4+5=10, eh, no - 9). In the first team there was David James as leader, me as map-reader, Sam Hugget for the beginning only and Tom. Tom did something, but I can't remember. The other team had Carl Wood as leader, Robin Lambert, Jack McCarthy, Lisa Winder and Nick.

Off we all went and our team proceeded to get very lost. We got stuck in a giant bramble bush in Whippendell Woods where I think we lost our instruction sheet. We found some of the bases but the wrong ones and not all in the right order. We went back again, got lost again then happily got back to base in first place.

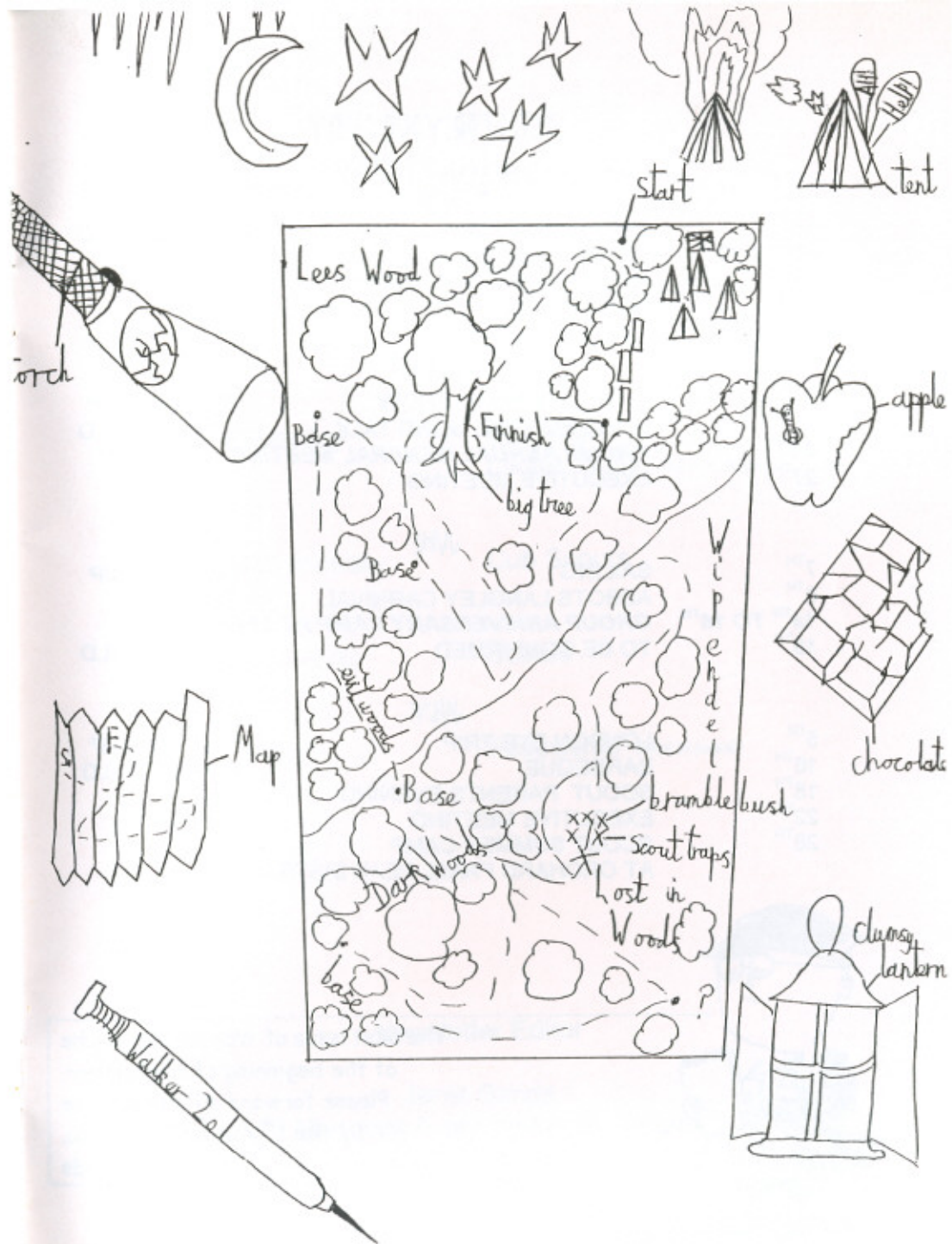
And so to bed. I tried to get some sleep but found that difficult. It was cold. I was awake early next morning and passed the time playing cards - Solitaire, Patience and ate my chocolate ration. The outside of the tent (and the inside) was covered in ice, as it was so cold.

The competition results were announced at 11 am and surprise, surprise our teams did not win. Third North Watford Venture Scouts did very well and won their own competition but they did not find the big bramble bush.

Next time, perhaps better torches would help. We also found that our compass was not very accurate - anyway that's my excuse!!

I have drawn a map below showing the route we took around the bases. Can you see the big bramble bush, where we lost the instruction sheet and Sam Hugget?

*Alastair Gabriel-Map Reader 2nd Class
Otters Patrol*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

16 TH	LETTERBOX TALK	LADIES GUILD
17 TH & 20 TH	SPRING DOUBLE JUMBLE SALE	GROUP
21 ST	ST GEORGES DAY PARADE	
28 TH	SCOUT DISTRICT TRIATHLON	

MAY

10 TH	ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW	FELLOWSHIP
21 ST	DOGS FOR THE BLIND TALK	LADIES GUILD
24 TH	GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
27 TH	EXECUTIVE MEETING	

JUNE

7 TH	SAILING	FELLOWSHIP
8 TH	ABBOTS LANGLEY CARNIVAL	GROUP
14 TH TO 16 TH	GROUP ANNIVERSARY CAMP AT LEES WOOD	
18 TH	TO BE CONFIRMED	LADIES GUILD

JULY

5 TH	LONDON EYE TRIP	FELLOWSHIP
16 TH	BARBEQUE	LADIES GUILD
18 TH	SCOUT PARENTS EVENING	
22 ND	EXECUTIVE MEETING	
28 TH	SCOUT SUMMER CAMP AT ORCHARD FARM, PEAK DISTRICT	



The next issue of Woodsmoke will be at the beginning of September. Please forward all items to me by the 1st August. Thank you.
Janet Sands

..... Hall Happenings

Monday	Brownies
Tuesday	Beavers Ladies Guild <i>Third in month</i>
Wednesday	Cub Scouts
Thursday	Scouts
Friday	Fellowship <i>First in month</i>

Newsletter Editor

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