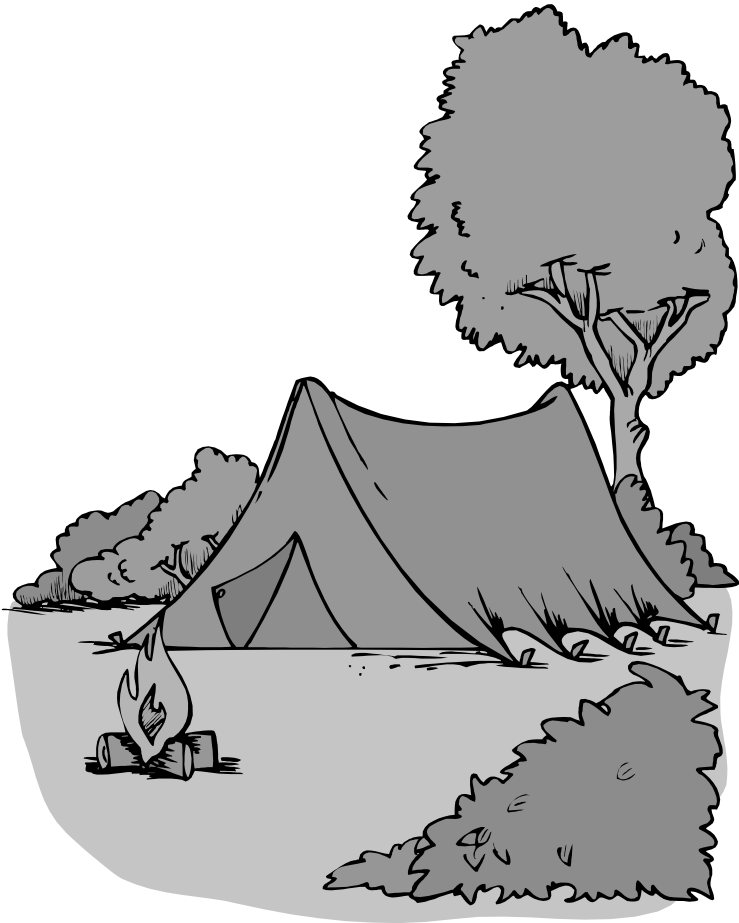


February 2006

Woodsmoke



Scout Troop Fundraising

We had a very good turn out of uniformed members of our group for the Remembrance Day Parade. 54 in all attended the outdoor parade and service. Well done the Leaders and a big thank you to the parents for such an excellent attendance, in such cold and wet weather.

The jumble sale in October successfully raised £1356. We also raised a further £970 from the hire of the Scout hall.

There were about 80 children who attended the Christingle Service on 12th December which raised approximately £130 for the Children's society.

The Christmas Fayre held in December raised £778

Well Done - Keep it up!

**Bryan Sharpe
Chairman**



BOXING DAY WALK

The Boxing Day walk started at 10.30 am by the St Lawrence's church clock. 30 people took part and more arrived by other means at the destination,



namely the Holly Bush, a charming hostelry at Potters Crouch. We believe that this is the 58th year of the walk.





After arriving, a moderate amount of beer was consumed, and some very good singing was to be heard. Leaving just before 2.00 p.m. we headed for the White Hart at Bedmond, stopping only once to view the pleasant countryside.

More of the above festivities continued in this welcoming inn, and then home for most. I believe that a good time was had by all as you can tell by the photos.



Bryan Sharpe
Chairman



Scouter in Charge's Bit

The Top Dogs

My sincere congratulations to all those who completed their respective Chief Scouts Award last term. They were:

Bronze Chief Scouts Award (Beavers) – Jordan Gadd, Harry Sherwin and Thomas Rose

Silver Chief Scouts Award (Cubs) – Ryan Burrowes, Joseph Lambert, Dhiren Solanki, Greg Turberfield and Henry Sugden.

Gold Chief Scouts Award (Scouts) – James Henderson, Tom Lambert, Tom Redmond, Fred Sugden and Julia Wood.

These Awards do not come easily. Although all the Leaders do their best to help individuals achieve their potential, there needs to be commitment from the particular person as well. The boys and girls need to attend regularly and work hard.

Well over 40, and I'm not referring to my age

Last term I raised the issue of a lack of leaders in the Scout Troop. Unfortunately, the position has been made worse as Phil Brant, who has been an Assistant Scout Leader for the last 6 years, has decided to step down. My heart felt thanks to Phil for all the knowledge and experience that he has brought to the Troop. He is a popular guy, with the Leaders and Scouts alike, and will be sorely missed. We now have well over 40 Scouts and 3 people are not enough to run a full and interesting programme, even though we have the excellent young leadership team of Adam, Karl, Jack and Ross. Until someone comes forward I have no choice but to implement a regular parent rota.

It's become a struggle

The situation in the Beavers is even worse as the minimum number of adults required to operate is 4 and Helen and Lin suffered from a distinct lack of adult help last term. There were times when Helen felt like packing the whole thing in and I'm sure you realise who would suffer if that were allowed to happen. Everyone involved in the Group are volunteers so please give it some thought and come forward. They are your children.

Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge

Scout Troop News



The last couple of terms have seen some considerable achievement with regard to the various challenges and awards.

Congratulations to—

Matthew Bowden, Sam Chapman, Max Halcomb, Ellie Hanson, Stuart Henderson, Matthew Johnson, Jack Lucas and Andrew Sturgess on completing their Adventure Challenge.

Jonathan Benson, Joseph Bernie, Adam Clifford, Matthew Clifford, Kieran Coan, Shannon Courtenay, Samuel Gillespie, Luke Hanson, James Hendrey, Georgina Lambert, Daniel Lowrie, Grace McCarthy, Marc Redmond, George Styles, Joe Turberfield, Christopher Watts and Christopher Winder on completing their Expedition Challenge on the Summer Camp.

Matthew Gentry and James Henderson on completing their Creative Challenge.

Dominic Benson, Jonathan Benson, Jack Edwards, James Henderson, James Hendrey, Tom Lambert, Grace McCarthy, Tom Redmond, Fred Sugden, Tom Williams and Julia Wood on completing their Community Challenge.

Jack Edwards on completing 20 Nights Away.

And finally, special congratulations to James Henderson, Tom Lambert, Tom Redmond, Fred Sugden and Julia Wood who recently completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award, the highest award that can be achieved in Scouts.

Well Done
Clive

Kayak Course

Over two weeks, Dave Gray and Peter Johnson set up a two day kayaking course for twelve scouts to get our one star kayaking badge. I was one of them. But, before we did any canoeing we had to know all the basic theory about kayaking. I learnt how to tell the difference between a canoe and a kayak, how to deal with hypothermia and much, much more. After this we had to pack up the kayaks ready for the instructors to take to Clive's house.



On the first Sunday I had to get up and be at Clive's house by 9am, a time I would normally still be in bed! We all got into the minibus and we set on our way to Rickmansworth Aquadrome. I was well prepared with three sets of spare clothes; my mum doesn't take any chances and a packed lunch.

The first week it was held we did practical work. When we got there we unpacked the kayaks and all the gear needed. This was helmets, buoyancy aids and the paddles. We then took our kayaks over to the lake where we were told how to launch them before doing so ourselves. We learnt lots of things while on the lake including draw strokes and backwards paddling. We were even busy in our lunchtime because in that time we had a bit of theory practice before going back into the water, using a seal launch. In the afternoon we learnt support strokes and we did a capsizing drill. The water was freezing but it was great fun.

The following Saturday we took our kayaks over to the lake again and we practiced every thing we had learnt so far except for the capsized drill. We then had lunch and a bit more theory practice before packing away our food and readying for a test. We were tested in everything that we had learnt. The final part of the test was the capsized drill. We then had to swim our canoe to the shore and empty it out. I am pleased to say that everyone passed the test and received a certificate to prove it.

The two day course was great fun and really interesting. I would recommend it anyone who didn't do it this year.

A big thanks to everyone who helped organise the day.

Sammy Gillespie

Green Beret November 2005

By James Henderson

The Green Beret this year was held in Lees Wood, one of our closest camps. There were two teams consisting of me, James Henderson, Tom Redmond (captain of team 92), Fred Sugden, Marc Redmond, Luke Hansen, Grace McCarthy, Dominic Benson (captain of team 91), Jack Edwards, Jonathon Benson, Sam Kidd, Chris Ward and Matt Gentry. Thanks a lot to all the people who helped out including Clive Winder, Michael Benson, Malcolm McCarthy and Jack McCarthy (Explorer). Thanks also to the people who supplied us with the food and drink.

DIARY DATES

February

3rd	8 pm AGM, Cheese and Wine	Fellowship
21st	Quiz, Daphne Graves	Ladies Guild
24th—26th	Medieval Weekend at St. Briavals	Fellowship

March

3rd	Globe Theatre Trip—TBC	Fellowship
11/12th	District Night Triffid Competition	Scouts
20th	Executive Meeting	Executive Committee
21st	Normandy slides, Howard	Ladies Guild

April

5th & 8th	Double Jumble Sale—HQ	ALL
18th	A day at the Palace, Edna Francis	Ladies Guild
23rd	St George's Day Parade	ALL

May

5th—7th	Top Ten Scouts Canal Barge Weekend	Scouts
12th	Group AGM	ALL
15th	Executive Meeting	Executive Committee

June

10th	Abbots Langley Carnival	ALL
16th—18th	Group Family Camp—Phasels Wood	ALL
20th	Quiz, Daphne Graves	Ladies Guild

On the Friday night we got there we still had to put up two and a half tents, which we were useless at. Then our tent enjoyed a night of bundling. But it would have been better if Jack hadn't stunk out the tent.

Next morning an early start and a fry-up. Then off to orienteering for map reading, not one of our best subjects as we only got two out of about twenty points and our other team only got three. Then we did some day bases and froze to death, but it was a good laugh. After this we came back to base for lunch. Then we went again to do the assault course. The assaults course, in my opinion, was the best part of Green Beret because it was challenging, required teamwork and was fast and tiring. Our Group Fellowship ran one of the aerial walkway; it was the best base, and no I haven't been paid to say that. Then we had a lovely dinner of Spaghetti Bolognaise. After that we did the night bases. We decided we were going to do ten because Clive said he would buy us a packet of marshmallows if we did. We weren't the smartest group because we did a base where you get absolutely saturated but we got marshmallows so it was all worth it.

The next morning our tent had a big lie in, I think we were last up in the District. Then there was another nice fry up. After this we had to do the dreaded packing away of the bags and tents. I'm sure a lot of us have lost or left something behind.

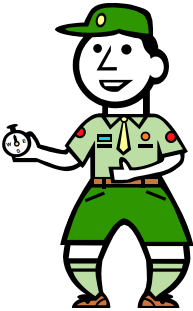
In the presentation all twenty odd of Tring's teams stole the show. In the end my team 92 came 31st, and 9th in night exercises and 19th in the assault course. Team 91 came 56th overall and came 29th in the day activities.

Overall Green Beret 2005 was a fun and exciting weekend and we came in reasonably good positions to round it off.



HELLO THERE FROM CUBS...

Chris (ACL), Jo and Aisling



Hopefully, by the time you read this, basking in the comfort of your armchairs, the Cubs, their families and leaders will all be fully recovered after what proved to be a whirlwind autumn term of activities.

Badgework was the name of the game as the evenings drew in and the call of the woods waned. Researching methods of recycling and creating art nouveau using recycled materials for our HQ notice board contributed towards the Global Challenge Award.

Next, the boys were put through their paces over a four week period to improve their levels of fitness and a close watch was kept on their eating habits to highlight awareness of a balanced diet. Perhaps we should have done the Fitness Challenge Award AFTER Christmas to help burn off the excess consumption of sweets and chocolate?



Running alongside this challenge was the Chef's Activity Badge, which was really good fun. Our thanks go to Paul Hanson, a Scout parent and professional caterer, who kindly agreed to work with the boys for two weeks, teaching them about safety, health and hygiene in the kitchen, a balanced diet and different methods of cooking. He finished up with a cooking demo, producing a variety of foods for tasting in 15 minutes flat! We were

particularly impressed as this was achieved in the HQ kitchen!

There is always time to play and the Cubs know how to do that with gusto. In particular they have benefited from new indoor hockey equipment donated by a parent. A hugely enjoyable evening was Halloween Night, playing a selection of traditional ghastly games. Apologies for messy clothing, it was only flour!

In November a team of Cubs took part in the District Volleyball Competition for the first time and finished an impressive 3rd out of seven teams. As new players they quickly grasped the rules (more so than some of the refs it has to be said) and played with great team spirit and enthusiasm. Well done to the 'Volleyball Vikings' who were - Jonathan, Sean H, Jack, Greg B, Nikhil, Sean M, Harry and Sam C.

We finished off with a fancy dress party and games and everyone had a great time. We even had a visit from Santa before he was overcome by the heat of his hair, beard and clothing and had to strip to shorts and vest.....to be fair he is used to a much colder climate back home!

At the end of term we said good-bye and good luck to Ryan, Sam E, Jo, Dhiren, Chris, Greg T and Henry as they moved up to Scouts. Congratulations especially go to Dhiren, Jo, Greg T and Henry as they all completed their Chief Scout Silver Award, which is the highest award in Cubs.

A good turnout at the Christingle Service at St Lawrence's Church led us suitably towards our Christmas celebrations with our families, away from the rush and madness of our normal lives. A chance to recharge our batteries before the New Year.

Thank you to all parents who have helped out over the term. Please continue to offer your time or expertise when you can.....it's actually more fun than you realise!

Chris (CSL)

Aisling (ACSL)

Jo (helper)

Holly (helper)

OUR CHEF'S BADGE -

For our Chef's badge Paul (a professional chef) came and taught us about how to cook. In the first week Paul taught the group how food can get contaminated and what we shouldn't do around food. In the second week Paul taught us about different foods and how we should take the temperature of cooked foods. At the end of the evening all our cub leaders gave us an assignment to make a two course meal and clean up after ourselves (at home). We all finished that. On the third and final week we all had to make cakes and biscuits. We all had fun, even Paul and the leaders.

By Jonathan Waller

CHEF COMES TO CUBS



Over the last few weeks a chef has come to cubs and talked to us about food. Last week we took the temperature of some foods. The foods were pasta, bacon, cheese on toast, sausage and chicken. Once we had taken the temperature to check they were hot enough to eat, we all got to eat some. The week before this we talked about food and how to keep it fresh. If you have something that says on the packet to put it in the freezer it means to keep it frozen. You must keep raw meat away from cooked meat when storing in a fridge.

By Bradley Weston

HALLOWEEN

On Halloween at Cubs we played loads of games. We played pin the nose on the witch or on Frankenstein, apple bobbing, marshmallows in flour and doughnuts that you had to get off the string.

By Tom Green



RECYCLING

Over the recent weeks the cubs have been working on recycling. They got a sheet to take home to record what they recycled over a period of four weeks. Things that you could recycle were cardboard, glass, paper, plastic, certain cans and garden waste like grass cuttings and bushes. Recycling also made us think about what we throw in the bin and what we recycle, and how it can help lower the amount of rubbish going into landfill sites.

Glass is crushed and melted to create new glass. Glass bottles are washed, sterilized and reused. Paper is soaked with water and then put through a pulper, then squeezed until the water is out. Then it is put into a special sieve. It is left to dry out completely creating new paper. Also, by recycling paper, we don't have to cut down trees. Plastic gets washed, melted down and formed into things like bowls. Tin cans get melted and made into new cans.

By Dhiren Solanki



Well done to the three Beavers who have achieved their Bronze Chief Scouts award namely, Thomas Rose, Jordan Gadd and Harry Sherwin. They have now moved up to Cubs.



Last term 16 Beavers got their Stage 1 Swimming Badge.

In December we visited the Watford Palace Pantomime – Cinderella. Everyone behaved well and we all had a great time.



This term we shall be working on our Outdoor Challenge. We are hoping to arrange a trip to Willows Farm as part of this challenge.

We are also hoping to participate in the District Arts and Craft Competition.

With lots of activities and things planned for the future, please, please, please think of giving up a bit of your free time to come and help me run the programme. It's so much easier for me when parents pitch in, and you might even find it's fun!

Helen Welch
Beaver Leader

GERRY WILSON
25.5.1950 — 16.1.06

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Gerry Wilson on 16th January. He was Cub Scout Leader of our Pack for nearly 8 years and had decided to step down due to his deteriorating health. He joined the Scout Association at the age of 23 when he took on the role of Assistant Cub Scout Leader at the 5th North Watford (1st Langleybury) in 1973, a role he filled for 10 years. He came out of retirement to join our Group in 1998, and proved to be a great asset to the Group putting in a lot of time and effort for the benefit of the Cubs. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Clive



ANNOUNCEMENT

CO-EDUCATION IN SCOUTING

This is an announcement of the changing policy of the Scouting Association. After lengthy discussions and consultations, the Scouting Association has agreed to go fully co-educational. This means that from January 2007 all Scout Groups, with a few exceptions, will take girls into all sections of the Scout Association.

This will come as no great shock to most of you as girls have been involved in the Scout section at our Group since 1998. I have had discussions with all section Leaders and have agreed to implement this policy with immediate effect. I assure you that there will be no impact on your child whichever section they are in. Any girl wishing to join our Group will be put on the waiting list, in date order, assuming there is no place immediately available in the section they wish to join. This has always been the process for all sections and therefore does not alter in any way.

Hall Happenings

Monday	3rd Abbots Langley Brownies
Tuesday	Beaver Scouts Ladies Guild (Third in the Month)
Wednesday	Cub Scouts
Thursday	1st Abbots Langley Brownies Scouts
Friday	Girl Guides Fellowship (First in the Month)

I hope you have all enjoyed reading this issue of the Woodsmoke! If you receive more than one copy, or want to pass on read copies it would be useful if you could pop spares back in the plastic folder pinned to the notice board in the Scout Hall Lobby. Similarly if you miss getting one, you can pick one up from there.

Many Thanks

Pauline

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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