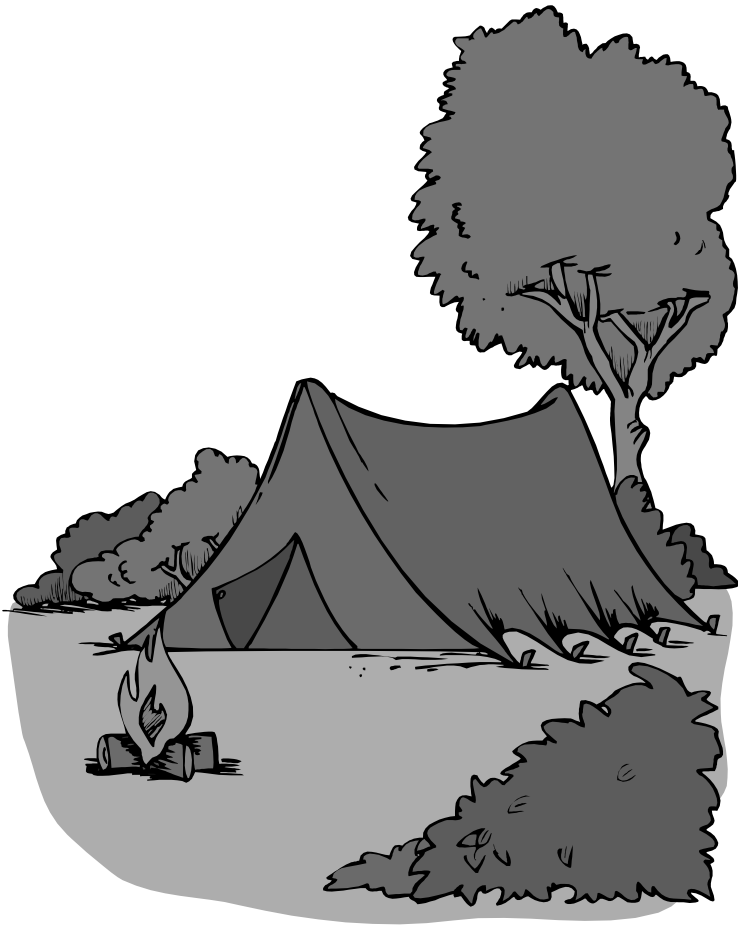


FEBRUARY 2010

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Achievements

Congratulations to:

Nikhil Kotecha and Amaelia Parmenter who attained their Gold Chief Scouts Award as mentioned in my GSLs report.

Toby Gamble, Ravi Kotecha, Nicholas Smith and Jamie Tearle on completing their Adventure Challenge.

Amaelia Parmenter on attaining her Creative Challenge.

Congratulations also go to the Chairman, Bryan Sharpe on the birth of his latest two grandchildren, bringing the grand total to 8. Harry being born to his daughter Jolene and Charlotte to his son Matthew.

Lastly, our hearty congratulations to Hazel Butcher and John Harkin, Fellowship members, who were engaged at Christmas.

Well Done Everybody!

Clive's Chat

Many congratulations to our Scouts, Nikhil Kotecha and Amaelia Parmenter who completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award last term, the highest award attainable in Scouts. Well done also to Connor Hill who was the only Cub this term to complete his Silver Chief Scouts Award.

In addition to the success of our Beaver Scouts reported in last terms Woodsmoke who were 1st and 3rd in the District Beaver Bangers competition, our Scout Troop were victorious in the District Triathlon. Congratulations to the participants Nikhil Kotecha, Greg Benson, Sam Pearson and Robert Armstrong.



It has been an extremely successful year for our Group as a whole, especially in the District Swimming Gala, but in particular the Scout Troop. The Scouts made a clean sweep of all of the District trophies in 2009 with victory in the Cooking, Night Owls, Swimming Gala and Triathlon.

In October, the Group held its Centenary Dinner at Hunton Park attended by over 100 people associated with the Group past and present, young and old. My thanks to Aisling and Michael Benson, Rachel Drake, Rob Sheppard and Pauline Styles for organising and running such a superb event that was enjoyed by all. Many have asked that it becomes an annual event.

Some more great news, the Group will be opening a 2nd Cub Pack in February operating on a Friday under the leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand, our new Cub Scout Leader. Cheryl has been involved in the Guide and Scout movement for a number of years but is new to leadership. I would like to welcome her to the Group and ask that you all give her your full support.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader



Hertfordshire Scouts
Green Beret Challenge 2009
Gilwell Park

It was the evening of Friday 13th November when I had to leave my house for the weekend. My Mum and Dad drove me up to the Scout HQ to board the minibus as we were going to use it to get to Essex. We had a team of 6, which was made up of me, Scott Denton, Greg Benson, Ellen Hurdle, Fiona Walldock and Nikhil Kotecha. Once we arrived in Essex we drove past the campsite twice and then we drove in and we were on Campsite 7. It was a long and hard weekend as it rained everyday and wind speeds of up to 70mph. We set up our tents and then helped Alison, Jason and Michael put up theirs. In the boys tent there were two sleeping compartments with Scott and I in one and Greg and Nikhil in the other. Fiona and Ellen had their own tent. It was then morning and the boys tent was blown down by the wind and had flooded both sleeping compartments so Greg went in with his Dad and we had to put up another small tent for

me, Scott and Nikhil. After breakfast we went out to our activities. We started off with the assault course, which was great, then we did some bases, which required teamwork and co-ordination and then we went back for lunch of soup, a roll with butter, crisps and cake. After lunch we did orienteering but we only managed to get seven points. After we handed in our card we spotted one we didn't get. After orienteering we only had enough time for a couple more bases as we needed to get back for dinner which was mince stew, mash potatoes and peas. During the night bases we had an aim of ten bases including the hot drink base, which was crucial as if you didn't do that base your team would be disqualified. We reached our target plus one extra base as we thought it didn't include the hot drink base. On Sunday we got our results on our way back to the headquarters. We didn't do very well but the leaders thought we did considering the weather conditions. Thanks to the leaders for supporting us over the competition.

By Sam Pearson (APL, Otters)

Centenary Dinner Dance

1909 to 2009

Friday 16th October saw past and present members associated with the Group gathered at the Hunton Park Hotel to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Abbots Langley. About 120 people attended the event, ranging from current Explorers aged 16 to Senior members whose ages are safely guarded. The party received a welcome drink and the opportunity to look around the Group's memorabilia spanning the decades that had been put together for the event. A film showing the building of the present day HQ ran in the reception room, along with videos of parents and children participating in previous family camps.



Above Chairman, Bryan Sharpe, seen here with some of the trophies on display



The event organisers L to R Rob, Rachel, Mike, Aisling and Pauline

The party then entered into the chandeliered marquee for a 3 course dinner and dance. Special thanks to Eddie Chalk for being MC for the evening, seen here to the right of the picture.



Members of the Ladies Guild and Fellowship



During the evening Bryan Sharpe and the Clive Winder gave speeches on the past and present Group. They were then

presented with special awards from the Executive Committee of a regal crown, and ball and chain which they were requested to wear at ceremonial occasions!



The first group of three boys scouts met on 15th June 1909 under the leadership of the first Scout Master, Mr Bonaker. By the end of that year they had grown to 27 scouts and in 1910 they all subscribed money to buy a bugle which was obtained for 4s 5d. Patrol Leader R. Welland was voted to be the Bugler. Here they are with Welland on the right carrying the bugle.



The outbreak of World War I sadly saw the demise of these Boy Scouts. But on the 20th July 1927 the first troop meeting of the present Scout Group was held in the Wesleyan Chapel Schoolroom where 13 boys attended, under the leadership of Alan Macdonald. Two patrols were formed and first investiture took place in September followed by the first recorded minutes on November 8th 1927 noting that the Treasurer held the grand sum of 10s 2d.

And so the group will celebrate 100 years of the present day Group in 2027, 17 years from now, but I don't think I will be part of the organisation committee for that one!

Pauline Styles

More photos of the event can be seen on the website
www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

DIARY DATES

February

6th	Ten Pin Bowling	Fellowship
16th	Talk on Rolls Royce - TBC	Ladies Guild
21st	County Cooking Competition	Scouts

March

5th	Fellowship AGM	Fellowship
6th	District Sports Gala	Scouts/Cubs
15th	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
16th	Elizabeth & Tony Manning's talk - "Who do you Think I Am?"	Ladies Guild
20th/21st	Night Trifid	Scouts
24th & 27th	Jumble Sales	ALL

April

9th	TBC	Fellowship
18th	St George's Day Parade	ALL
20th	Talk on Plants	Ladies Guild

May

7th	TBC	Fellowship
7th-9th	Narrowboat Trip	Top 10 Scouts
14th	Scout Group AGM	ALL
17th	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
18th	Quiz	Ladies Guild

June

4th	TBC	Fellowship
12th	Abbots Langley Carnival	ALL
15th	TBC	Ladies Guild

July

2nd	TBC	Fellowship
19th	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
20th	TBC	Ladies Guild
24th to 31st	Scout Summer Camp	Scouts

The Fellowship held a marksmanship competition at Phasels Wood in October consisting of archery and rifle shooting which was very well attended.

Almost all of the Fellowship were at Hunton Park for the centenary celebration and a VERY good time was had by all, and some more than others!

Wirkworth, Derbyshire Autumn Weekend 30th October to 1st November 2009

At the end of the autumn half-term week I went on the Fellowship weekend away to Wirksworth in the Peak District with my sister Charlotte, Mum and Dad. The accommodation we stayed in was fantastic, there were lots of bunk beds, a ping-pong table, a snooker table and a television.

On Saturday Mum and I went for a walk with my Auntie Ali and her daughter Tilly who is only three. We walked over the hills and far away to a trig point on Cromford Moor where we stopped for a snack after meeting the other bunch (Daddy, Charlotte Clive and everyone else) who were out on an all day hike. It took us a long time to get back to the car, I think we got lost.

In the afternoon Tilly slept in the car as we drove to Bakewell where I ate a huge piece of chocolate cake and Mummy had Bakewell Pudding with her pot of tea.

On Sunday it was windy and raining hard so after we had packed up we drove to Carsington Water where we ate our Sandwiches in the visitors Centre car park, before heading home.

I'm looking forward to this year's trip and wish to say a big thank you to Tony and Pauline for organising this one.



Whilst Tracy, James and Natalie opted for a flat walk for the day where they could take the push chair, and an intrepid contingent of four headed out on their bikes, the rest of the motley crew went off for a full day's hike over hill and dale.

We are obviously somewhat hampered by the sun here so you can tell it was

a nice day for October.

"Laurel and Hardy",

Holly, Charlotte, Pauline, Rachel, Clive, Alison

Tony and myself (Mike T on camera) headed on out

for a very steep climb meeting up with Hannah

and Co at the trig point at the top. Then there was a

steady descent where we met some piglets, followed

by an

adventure

into a cave

aided only by the

light of a

phone.

Here we

are just in front of

the entrance after our

miraculous exit. Then we

had a very slippery slide

down which was great fun,

followed by, yes you've

guessed it ... another steep

ascent!





A brief respite of flat walking along the canal and then we were on the home stretch back across fields.

All of this was rewarded by a superb Halloween feast from Pauline and Tony followed by a trip into town and some spooky graveside antics.

“Ed”

Sunday

Early one morning just as the day was dawning, I heard a number of young girls jumping up and down and calling, "breakfast is ready and the chef's are busy serving sausage and bacon, mushrooms and beans, all hot and steaming".

Leave me alone and I will get up at breakfast time. Another hour or two would have been great, but group dynamics don't allow for Sunday mornings in bed, so reluctantly, but not as reluctant as Clive who was doing his best to imitate a corpse, I arose for brekkie as described. The day was looking foul as promised the day before but there was evidence that the clouds may reduce the precipitation from downpour to merely



raining so a number of the braver bodies present in the hall set about planning a walk. As the plans developed, the participants dwindled, the phrase "and then there were two" came to mind. As Clive emerged from his tomb there was the possibility that we would become three, but the rain soon put a damper on that, so Pauline and myself, having gone to great lengths to plan a walk and take provisions and emergency rations along with the torch which was needed for yesterdays cave exploration (but sadly forgotten) set off for the great walk around the lake.

As we drove the few miles to the car park which was our destination for departure, the weather broke and the sunshine even poked its head out for a while, the path was very easy underfoot and the options for navigational errors were reduced to almost zero. There were lots of people on the route and some were on a sponsored event for a local hospice. Everyone was hospitable and the old ways of greeting strangers with a polite hello or nod of acknowledgement was evident throughout the day. The most impressive passers by were a couple of teenagers dressed for a pleasant stroll in the summer, but jogging and trotting their way around the whole lake for the said hospice fund. A few pleasantries exchanges and a little rested off they went again happy as Larry soaking wet and full of the joys of spring - I've no doubt that they made it all the way round but they looked very wet and ill prepared.



Our pace was a little more sedate but we were on a different mission, survival and taking in the scenery. At one point after about an hour into the walk we came across an RSPB viewing hut where we

were allowed, nay, encouraged to look through the telescopes at all sort of water fowl all listed as they were seen on the day and we even managed to spot something new for the list. Once we had seen enough of the birds on the lake and had a quick look around the centre, it was back to the ardours of our demanding hike. 20 minutes or so later we happened upon another much larger centre, that of the tourist info with shops, café, an interactive museum for water toilets, and more shops, a climbing wall and all manner of entertainment for small people and me. Then there was the same little voices from the hall, not offering breakfast this time but none the less wanting to know how we had got to the centre as they hadn't seen the car. Walking was such an old fashioned way of travelling, they had overlooked it as an option.

The Trotman family had dropped in on their way home. It seemed like quite a good idea really but as we had left the car some many miles behind and their car was full we were going to have to walk back to it, and after completing the obligatory shopping, we set off back to the car, overtaken by some very bizarre electric powered bicycles. As we had turned to floral observations we had failed to keep an eye on the weather, the skies were darkening and the sun was running for cover, we made it back to the car just in time to avoid the deluge that ensued. We got back to the hall and found that those who stayed behind had done almost all the clearing up (well done chaps) and Dave and Sue were just leaving on their bikes, well they hadn't been out long anyway. We had a well earned cup of tea or two and packed up and helped with the last of the clearing up. The car was loaded and the four intrepid travellers set off on the long journey back to the south just as Dave and Sue turned up. very wet and soggy looking, I was glad I had got up early and done the walk before ending up like that, good effort guys.

Thanks to the Tony and Pauline M team for organising and catering for us, a good weekend and well worth repeating in the future.

Pete Linskey

Boxing Day Walk 2009

No New Year edition of the Woodsmoke would be complete without a mention of the traditional walk held each Boxing Day. 27 people walked with many more joining for the sing along in the Holly Bush at Potters Crouch.



Tom Dabson, Lisa Sharpe, Matthew Sharpe, Clive Winder, Jack McCarthy, George Styles, Kevin Fancourt, Eddie Chalk, Sara Chalk, Tony Bail, Courtney East, Iain Stanley, Holly Noonan, Steve Flowers, Karl Wood, , Sue Jarman, Mark and Alison Bramley, Pete Linskey, Dave Gray (kneeling) and Bryan Sharpe (Chairman) crouching, complete with crown.

Fun at.....

cubs

In September we visited the Paper Trail at the Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley. The Cubs made their own paper, had a tour of the mill, and used a big stamp to print some lettering. They learnt how paper is made and the different processes.

Then it was onto knots and woggle making in October when each of them made a woggle in the colour of their Six using the Turk's Head knot. Thanks to Tony Bail for helping us.



Another visit out from HQ was to the BRE Innovation Park where they had the opportunity of looking around the houses at different building styles and materials.

There was a Spooky Halloween Party in November where we had games such as donut rings, pin the wart on the witch's nose and making a mummy. This was using toilet rolls so, was quite funny! Heather Cripps won the best costume prize for her schoolgirl zombie outfit.



For part of the Creative badge we teams making a tie-dye hanky, code wheels to decipher messages and built towers using jelly babies and spaghetti (dry not cooked!).

We finished the term with a Blockbuster Night. The Cubs voted for their favourite film to watch, which was Simpsons The Movie. The red carpet was laid out and the Cubs and leaders, dressed up all very smart, were able to purchase drinks and nibbles, with the proceeds going to charity.



Thank you to all the parents who helped out this term. Your support is invaluable.

Lastly congratulations to Connor Hill who gained his Chief Scout's Silver Award and has moved up to Scouts. We wish him all the best and will miss him.

Chris Frith (CSL)

Holly Noonan (ACSL)

Chris Watts, Jonny Benson, Josh Hill (YL's)



The autumn term began with preparations for Christmas, and all the Beavers planted hyacinth bulbs ready to be the perfect Christmas present, which was tremendous fun as we had soil everywhere! Continuing on the outdoor theme, the Beavers also made wild bird feeders, which in the past have been a great success, despite being very sticky to make.

Also this term was the infamous Beaver bangers competition, which WE WON for the second time in a row, for our awesome banner (decorated with coloured in spaceships, a gigantic cardboard planet and paint splattered canvas) and themed activity. The theme this year was 'space', meaning the Beavers got to make epic deely boppers, attack invading aliens with bean bags and many more fun packed activities. We also learnt how to sing some old campfire songs with a space twist, and enjoyed traditional bangers and mash.

The Beavers also started work on their computer badge, learnt about the traditions of Divali including how to make authentic looking diva lamps, and discovered creative ways of making musical instruments. As a reward for all their hard work, there were also two parties giving the Beavers an excuse to dress up. The first of these was for Halloween, which was followed by a space-themed Christmas party; full of cybermen, spacemen and even a transformer! We were also joined by Adam Munn at the start of September, and are looking forward to our six new arrivals next term.

A big well done to all the Beavers who turned up for the Remembrance parade, and the Christingle service and a huge thank you to Helen, Lyn, Julia and everyone who has helped this year.

Helen Welch
Julia Wood

Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	6.00 - 7.30 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.45 - 9.45 pm	Explorer Scouts
	8.00 - 10.00 pm	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts
Thursday	5.15 - 6.45 pm	1st Abbots Langley Brownies
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	8pm	Fellowship (1st in Month)

Don't forget to look at the website for more photos of this term's activities and you can download Woodsmokes to read

www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

We would like to be able to email to let you know when updates

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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