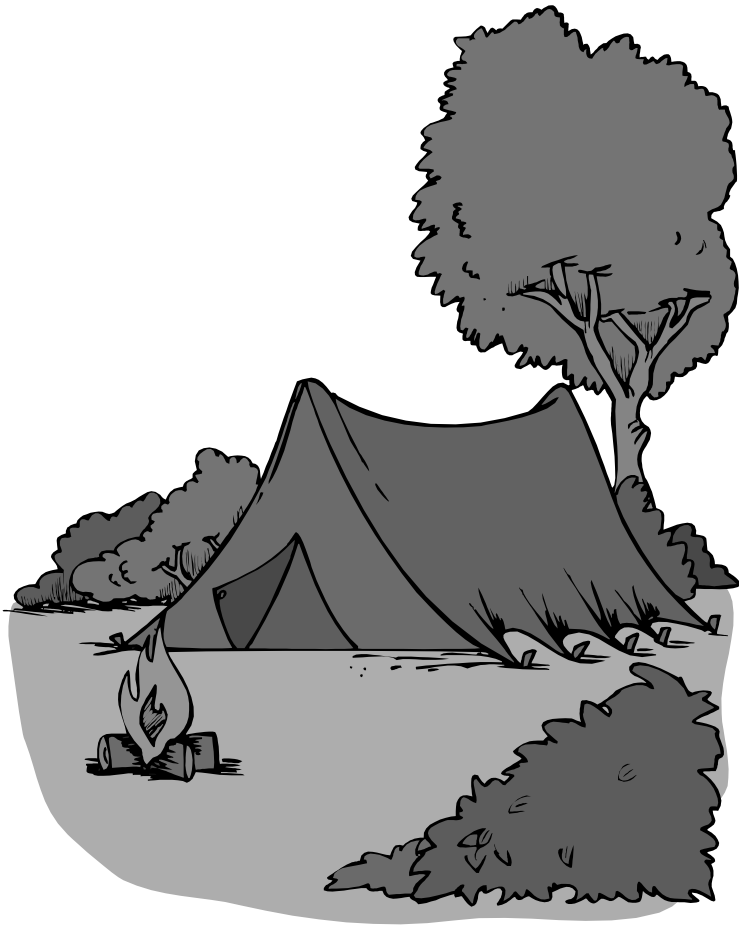


FEBRUARY 2011

Woodsmoke



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SCOUT TROOP
Achievements

Congratulations to:

Scott Denton and April Turner on completing
their Creative Challenge,

Jeremy Cannock on achieving his Community
Challenge,

Noa Davies on completing her Adventure
Challenge,

Greg Benson, Jeremy Cannock, Liam Goodman
and Sam Pearson on attaining their Promise
Challenge, and

Daniel Lowrie on completing the 10 years Joining In
Award.

Well Done Everybody!

Clive's Chat



Many congratulations to Greg Benson, Jeremy Cannock, Liam Goodman and Sam Pearson on achieving their Gold Chief Scouts Award, the highest award that a Scout can attain. Congratulations also to our

Beavers, Charlotte Clark, George Humphries, Daniel Nottage and Samuel Hines on completing their Bronze Chief Scouts Award.

I'm pleased to welcome some new adult leaders to the Group with Jan Carter and Andrew Richardson becoming Assistant Cub Scout Leaders.

The Group Family Camp, on 24th – 26th June is fast approaching. Plans are progressing well so make sure you keep it free. The event is for all the family and jam packed with activities and fun. We would very much like to have parents involved in the ideas, planning, organising and running of the event as the camp is for everyone and we are always looking for new ideas.

Well done to all the youngsters and adults who attended the village Remembrance Day Parade in November. It was a fabulous turn out with nearly a hundred uniformed members from our Scout Group. St George's Day parade is at the end of this term on 17th April so please keep it free and make every effort to attend.

A huge thank you to our fundraising team, particularly Lin and Eugene, who organised our Christmas Market in December. It was another great success and raised £700.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

Green Beret 2010



The Thursday before the competition, we went to set up the tents at Phasels Wood, so that when we actually arrived, there was little to do except pitch the 'garage tent' and unpack our things.

That Friday night we mixed with the other troops and had hot chocolate. We entered two teams, Liam was leader of my team which also included Oliver, Timmy and Connor. The other team consisted of Sam, Scott, Greg, Jamie, Nicholas and James.

The following morning the challenges began. The idea was to do as many challenges as you could and get good marks. The criterion for getting good marks were team work and task completion.

The tasks were mainly puzzles and some of them involved one member of your team of 5 or 6 being blind folded and the rest of the team telling him/her what to do, whether it was to put together a Winnie-the-Pooh puzzle, or making a model out of plastic blocks. Liam gave me directions to copy the modelling and unbelievably ours was almost finished when the clock beat us!

My favourite challenge was the assault course. The course was set up in the woods so it was quite muddy in places. Oliver did an awesome jump/roll over a rope obstacle which he made in some style – we were very impressed by that! (Our opposing team had a friend of mine from Bedfordshire in it so I was secretly pleased that we thrashed them). In the afternoon we had an orienteering course to complete through the woods, this was challenging for most of us.

Activities continued throughout the evening when the temperature dropped sharply. By the time we had finished we were ready for our nice warm sleeping bags and a good sleep.

Sunday morning was bright and sunny and we packed up after a good breakfast of bacon and beans, followed by the presentations.

All in All it was really good fun and we all had a great time, thanks to Alison, Mike, Dave and Jason for taking us and for providing us with lots of lovely hot food when it was really needed and appreciated.

Thomas Rose
Assistant Patrol Leader, Eagles

**The 6th bi-annual Weekend
Group Family Camp 2011**
Friday 24th to Sunday 26th June, 2011
Phasels Wood



This successful camp has been run since 2000 and has grown in popularity each time with over 250 attending the last camp.

Its open to all members of Abbots Langley Scout Group - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, and their parents, brothers and sisters.

There will be some **great food** and **lots of activities** planned for the weekend including **zipwire, abseiling, shooting, archery, crate stacking, a wide game, a treasure hunt, campfires, challenges, games**, and much more - it's a weekend you don't want to miss!

Join us this year so that we can make it yet another weekend to remember.

Watch out for the application letter from your section leader soon and sign up straight away as places are limited!

Dave Sturgess
Organiser



Many of you might be aware of a small band of people who actively support the Scout Group throughout the year who belong to either the Fellowship or Ladies Guild sections.

There is no requirement to have been involved in Scouting before joining. All that is required is to be over the age of 18 with a willingness to volunteer some time to support but also to meet up on a monthly basis for the purpose of having fun!

The **Fellowship** meet on **the 1st Friday** of each month and the **Ladies Guild** the **3rd Tuesday** of the month. They support events like the Family Camp, Carnival stalls, the Green Beret weekend, jumble sales and fundraising. Each section also has their own programme of events for the year which are in the middle pages of this newsletter. These include things like kite flying, ghost walks and weekends away as the Fellowship like to have fun and challenges. The Ladies Guild tend to hold most activities nearer home at headquarters with quizzes, talks and barbecues.

If you are interested in joining a group please contact the newly elected Fellowship Chairman **Pete Linskey** (p_linskey@hotmail.com) or Ladies Guild member Lin Lythaby on 01923 675201



The 60th? Boxing Day Walk 2010



With Christmas day over, presents given and received, the excitement has ended and all that remains is the excess inches on the waist. These musings are not the sad thoughts of the lost or lonely, but the hearty chit chat of some 20-30 people meeting on Boxing Day morning to retread the steps of forefathers of the Abbots Langley Scouting movement who instigated the walk in 1950. Repeated in fair-weather or foul the walk crosses the lanes and paths from Abbots Langley to Potters Crouch and back again. This year was a special celebration for the 60th anniversary, and the weather was exceptionally kind with bright sunshine, crisp snow all around and everyone in great spirits. The walking condition-ns were rather tricky for some who would opt to join the group later, but for those fit enough to cope, it really was a seasonal scene fit for the occasion.

We departed as always spot on 10.30 am from the top of Love Lane off towards the fields on the far side of East lane and on to the crossings over the Motorways. The numbers were 20 on departure, and as the walk continued late comers caught up and the numbers swelled. We strolled through a number of farms and on the bridges waved at the traffic, not entirely in keeping with the original walk as the route was adapted to take into account the motorways which didn't exist at the time. Merry beeps and

waves from below were sent back and we progressed to a vital point in the route. This was "Kitty Corner" where photos were taken and cash collected for the traditional beverage at the nearby Holly Bush Pub. We hastened in the direction of the hostelry where we met those who could not make the walk and en masse entered to be greeted by many locals and visitors from afar, many seen only on this day each year.

Once the bones had warmed up, the voices needed to follow, and as the count went on 1, 2, 3, 4 ... the whole pub became quiet for a toast to "absent friends" and the first of the afternoon's songs burst forth appropriately "The Holly Bush song" followed by many Christmas Carols and finally traditional songs passed on from our elders around many camp fires and long journeys in years gone by. Pavarotti can rest in peace, Songs of Praise may not want to visit, but there's no disputing that the singing in the Holly Bush would put many a church to shame, with its full and hearty voices bringing all of the pub together as one - sometimes in tune, sometimes not - but always in harmony (in the true sense of the word). Time runs away as always and at approx 1.45 the walkers regrouped to set off along the long lanes to Bedmond which were extremely icy this year and saw many, full of good cheer, take a tumble. Usually a quick stop at the White Hart to say hello is in order, but not this year as unoccupied it stood eerily lifeless, and thus to the Bell where the walking stops again for a short time while old friends chatter and really late arrivals can catch up. As day turns to night, one by one the party depletes and most are heading back to Abbots Langley to complete the walk, some are collected from there to travel to all parts near and far to be reunited with family or friends and not seen again until next year. New friendships are made each year and as people come more and more this very special reunion is reinforced. I have no doubt it will continue for many years to come, and evolve as it has in the past, but the best spirit of Christmas, is experienced by many out in the cold, on a walk in the country, on Boxing Day.

Pete Linskey, Fellowship Chairman

DIARY DATES

March

4th	Quiz night— A Langley Cricket Club	Fellowship
15th	Songs of the Shows	Ladies Guild
21st	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
30th	Jumble Sale	ALL

April

1st	Bang & Twang—Venue tbc	Fellowship
2nd	Jumble Sale	ALL
17th	St George's Day Parade	ALL
19th	Andy Boyce talking about plants	Ladies Guild

May			
6th-8th	Narrowboat weekend		Top 10 Scouts
6th	Walk to meet Narrowboat		Fellowship
13th	Group AGM		ALL
13th	Deadline for Woodsmoke Articles		Section Leaders
16th	Executive Meeting		Exec Committee
17th	Quiz night—TBC		Ladies Guild
June			
3rd	Butch's Walk		Fellowship
11th	Carnival		ALL
21st	Quiz night—TBC		Ladies Guild
24th-26th	Family Camp—Phasels Wood		ALL
July			
1st	Pitch & Put Golf—Penfold's		Fellowship
18th	Executive Meeting		Exec Committee
19th	Barbeque		Ladies Guild
24th-31st	Scout Summer Camp		Scouts

Rainforest



Last term we had a fun-packed programme and worked on our Global Challenge Badge, which involved learning about another culture, what charity's do, and how technology works.

We welcomed Ben Perris, Bella Hurdle and Jaygo French to Rainforest Cubs and they soon settled into the Pack. We started off the term by watching 'The Jungle Book,' as the founder of Scouting, Robert Baden-Powell, based Cub Scouts on this book. We now call our leaders by names from the story, such as Akela, Baloo and Bagheera.

One of our Young Leaders, Jonny (Kaa), talked to us about his experience on Jamboree, which is an International Scout Camp where tens of thousands of Scouts learn about each other's cultures. We got to look at all the memorabilia he had collected and swapped while at the Jamboree and it was very interesting.

Also as part of our Global Badge we each filled in a booklet about a piece of technology that we had chosen. We then told our friends at Cubs what it was used for, how it worked, as well as its history. We learnt about the charity Water Aid, and how they help people in less developed countries gain access to clean, safe water. We collected lots of coppers, and after making 'penny pictures' we donated the money to Water Aid.

We had a lot of fun on The Italian Job night – we dressed in the colours of the Italian flag, as well as sampling Italian food and playing traditional Italian

games. Our Halloween evening was as spooky as ever, with some fantastic costumes and fun games such as 'make a mummy,' donuts on a string and decorating Halloween cakes and cookies.



We ended the term with a trip to Hollywood Bowl, which was our prize for being the winning team at the Medieval Camp in the summer. Our Top Six Cubs with the most stars this term were Alex, Oli Munn, Hannah, Leon, Cal and Kieran, with 2 or 3 Cubs very close behind. Well done!



Holly Noonan (Baloo) ACSL

Jungle



Wow! It's almost been a year since Jungle Cubs opened and boy have we had fun! Since our last update the Jungle Cubs have been busy building junk models of cars, cities, robots and dragons, penny pictures from the masses of coins they brought in to donate to WaterAid, and a really creative collage for our noticeboard which is looking beautiful on the wall in the main hall now.



Our numbers are growing really nicely since the first 12 joined us last February. In the Autumn we were joined by Sam Gatsky, Katie Welch, Ben Thompson, Ben Garrett & Thomas Williams. Then Winter term brought us Marcus Birch, George Humphries, Samuel Hines, Daniel Nottage & Alex Caplan - Congratulations all of you! We also held a Moving On ceremony for Joe Prior who moved up to Scouts in September.



The cubs are doing really well with their Challenges so there will definitely be some more badges for them to sew on this term. Ethan Merrique is top of the leader board at the moment, so well done Ethan! Keep up the good work cubs, you are all doing really well.

Ta-ta for now,

*Akela Cheryl
Jungle Cubs*



River Beavers



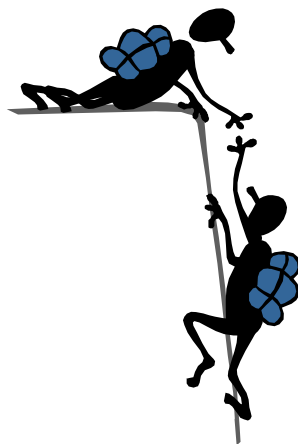
*Would you like to know what's
been going on in The River Beavers
over the last few months?*

Well so would we ...

If there is a parent or supporter out there who would be prepared to fill this page with news and photos, please either contact Helen Welch (Beaver Leader) or Pauline Styles (Editor).

There are only 3 issues a year which takes up minimal time. Everyone gets to see what's been going on and Helen gets more time to plan and devote time to your child's Beaver activities.

**Please consider giving a
helping hand**





Lake Beavers

On Saturday 14th November I went to the Remembrance Sunday parade with the Beavers. When I arrived, I was shocked that Lisa invited me to be the standard bearer. I accepted it of course. I was given the flag and told what to do.

I joined the other standard bearers at the front of the parade. Then we marched to the War Memorial. As we went through the village, it seemed like everyone was staring at me, so I self a little embarrassed, but also very proud.

At the War memorial, we all lined up as wreaths were laid. We lowered our flags as the bugler played "*The Last Post*". We had a 2 minute silence whilst we thought about the soldiers, sailors and airmen who died and got injured in the wards.

I felt honoured to be asked to carry the standard and I hope I did a good job. Thank you to Lisa for asking me and especially thank you to our Armed Forces.

Charlotte Clark

Editor's Comment

I am very proud to say that I have produced the Woodsmoke over the last 7 years, and this was my 21st Edition. My, doesn't time fly!

The Newsletter's history goes back to 1954 when it was started by Bill White who remained Editor for 10 years, followed by Jack Ridgeway for another 10 years and Derrick Flowers for 6 years. There were others along with way, but I appear to be the next longest serving Editor after these three, and I must admit I'm not sure how I managed to make it to those lofty heights.

Over the last few years I have also been compiling the history of the group in its first 100 years and if you have any old photos or stories to tell, please get in touch so that they can be recorded for posterity.

Although the newsletter is written predominantly in Sections anyone can submit an article, so, don't be shy ... The next edition is due in **June** with copy required **by 13th May**. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and I would particularly like to thank Beaver Charlotte Clark for taking the time to submit her article on the Remembrance Day Parade, which summed up the event admirably.

Best wishes, *Pauline*

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 (Rainforest)
Thursday	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	5.30—7.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
	8pm	Fellowship (1st in Month)

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Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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