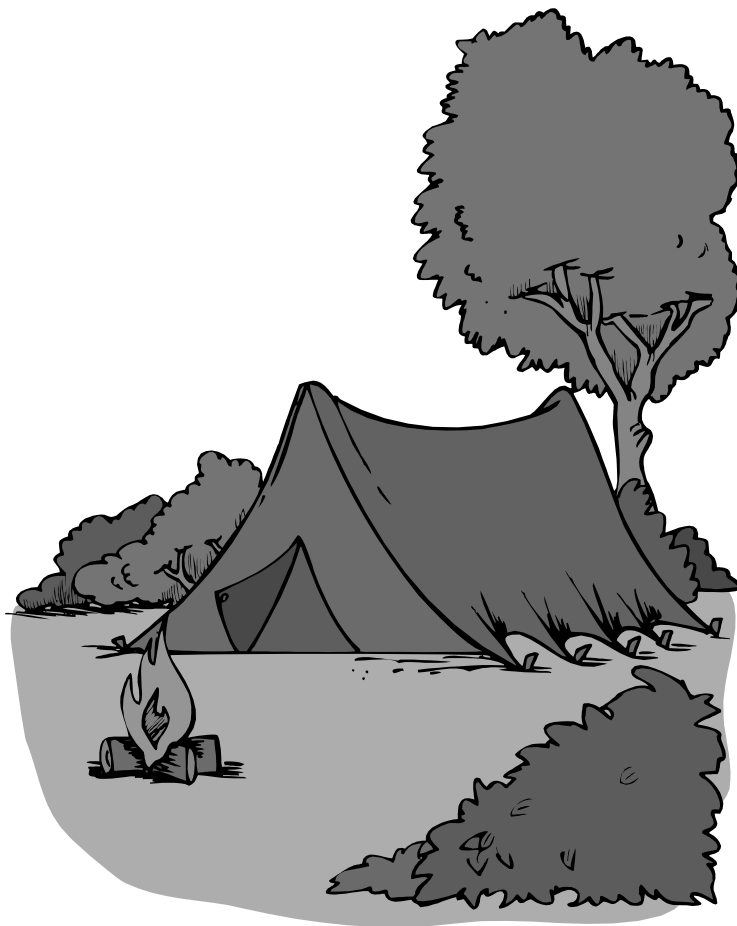


213th Edition

FEBRUARY 2012

*Founded in March 1954*

# Woodsmoke



[www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk)

# SCOUT TROOP Achievements

Congratulations to:

Josh Coulson, Miles Johnson, Nicholas Smith,  
Jamie Tearle and Fiona Walldock on achieving  
their Creative Challenge,

Fiona Walldock on completing her Fitness Challenge,

Dean Millard, Thomas Rose, Charlotte Trotman and Fiona  
Walldock on achieving their Community Challenge,

Dean Millard and Fiona Walldock on attaining their Promise  
Challenge,

Daniel Lowrie on completing his 11 years Joining In  
Award, and

Ravi Kotecha, Dean Millard, Joe Prior, Thomas  
Rose, Jamie Tearle and Charlotte Trotman who won  
the County Green Beret Assault Course, an excellent  
achievement.

Well Done Everybody!

*Clive*

## Clive's Chat

Many congratulations to Fiona Walldock on achieving her Gold Chief Scouts Award, the highest award that a Scout can attain. Congratulations also to our Cubs, Matthew Smith and Hannah Trotman on completing the Silver Award and our Beavers, Andrew Bell, Ben Culpeck, Taj Kapoor, Freddie Perry and Ross Sheppard on attaining their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Well done.

I'm pleased to welcome some new adult leaders to the Group with Marc Redmond joining as an Assistant Scout Leader and both Wendy Cousins and Hollie Goodman becoming Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders.

Well done to all the youngsters and adults who attended the village Remembrance Day Parade in November. It was a fabulous turn out with a record 120 uniformed members from our Scout Group. St George's Day parade is at the end of this term on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 £823.



The two teams that we entered for the County Scout Green Beret did extremely well. With 134 teams taking part, one of the teams came first in the Assault Course element of the competition, the first time in the Troop's history.

Clive Winder  
Group Scout Leader

# **Green Beret Challenge Tolmers - November 2011**

**T**his was my first Green Beret Challenge, which was about time as I am one of the oldest scouts. When we got there it was pitch black and very cold. The tent pitching was an effort and hard work as we could not see anything. That evening Miles and I decided on chips and sweets for dinner, an excellent scouting meal! After that we got some sleep. That is until 5:00am when we were woken up by a bunch of lunatics in the tent next door arguing and making stupid noises. We told them to be quiet but they ignored us. We eventually got up and had breakfast. We had a sausage and a disgusting fried egg, with dips in it full of cooking oil.

We started the challenge. On Green Beret you basically go round and complete as many bases as possible and gain as many points as you can. The 4 elements of the competition are Day Bases, Orienteering, an Assault Course and Night Bases. At first we did not have a clue what to do as we had never done it before but after a while we got the hang of it and did a load of bases. One involved making knots and another a puzzle where you needed to move only two planks to make seven squares, takes too long to explain. The Orienteering was pretty easy. We messed up at first but kept on going and eventually sorted ourselves out. We then stormed through it, only

missing two points, as we were short of time. At 12:00 we did the Assault Course. I didn't like the activity base when you walked across the pond on no more than planks of wood because I did not want to fall in as it would have been an effort to dry myself off and put new clothes on. The hardest base was the one when we crawled through tunnels and commando nets but it was still a lot of fun. The bases went into the night but we were so tired our group finished at 10pm.

We decided to try and fit 8 people in a 4 man compartment for warmth in the freezing temperature of the night and I didn't even take my hat and gloves off! At 12:00am, Clive, the spoilsport, came into the tent to kick poor me and Miles out, apparently because of health and safety regulations!! We nearly froze on the trip back to our own tent.

In the morning it was the results presentation day. Overall, out of a total of 134 teams taking part, which is nearly 800 Scouts from Hertfordshire, my team of me, Miles Johnson, Oliver Heilling, Alex Bruguier and Harry Hurdle came 32<sup>nd</sup> and achieving 19<sup>th</sup> in the Orienteering, which Clive said was excellent. The other 'Abbo's' team, consisting of Dean Millard, Thomas Rose, Ravi Kotecha, Jamie Tearle, Joe Prior and Charlotte Trotman came 37<sup>th</sup> overall but won the Assault Course element and brought home the County trophy, a brilliant result! It was a great weekend and we all had a fabulous time even though it was a bit cold.

By Joshua Coulson, Foxes Patrol



Olympic Events



## DISTRICT CAMP - LEES WOOD

For Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers

22ND - 24TH JUNE 2012

In celebration of the Olympics, Diamond Jubilee and The District's 40th Anniversary

*A day of fun  
filled events*

*The District's  
Got Talent*



**Beaver's Street Party**

*Go-Kart Relay*

*It's a Knockout*

**Bring your instruments / voices to take part  
in our entry of a Super Group in  
"The District's Got Talent"**



**Saturday night's entertainment featuring  
members from Groups in the District**

**\* popcorn \* hot dogs \***

**\* candyfloss \* marshmallows \***

**\* hot chocolate \* drinks \* and lots more \***



Help would be appreciated from Parents to support the weekend.

Look out for the letter coming soon to apply for **YOUR** place.



# Ice Skating at Somerset House

**O**n Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Albatross Explorer Unit met at Kings Langley Train Station. We boarded a train and were on our way to London in no time. We got to Euston Station, but we had to get to Somerset House so we jumped on a bus and headed off through the streets. We arrived at Somerset House just in time, so with our skates and gloves on we wrapped up warm and ventured onto the ice. Some of us were confident enough to leave the sides on the first round, other Explorers were not so confident and kept to the sides, while some just seemed to like falling over. As time progressed it wasn't long before all of us were having a great time and kept our distance from the sides. With a few bumps and bruises our ice skating venture had come to an end and we had to head back to Euston Station to catch our train home. We all had a great time and hope we can do it again year!

Amaelia Parmenter



# Pete Linskey

22.9.59 - 9.11.11

As a child Pete spent a lot of time in hospital having his feet smashed about and reset to cure club feet. Wheelchair bound with metal pins sticking out of his toes, he would instigate chariot races in the ward. At least, until the Matron caught him. It was whilst he was recovering from one of these operations, as he was so bored at home, his mother asked Bryan Sharpe if he could sit and watch the Abbots Langley Scout Group climbing on the wall they had built on Mansion House Farm. Although still too young to join the Scouts, because of his size, they taught him how to belay whilst sitting on the ground and within weeks he was shouting commands and instructions to the climbers himself.



After one operation he was climbing a tree when he fell on wounds not yet healed. He carried on for a few days but found himself with the crippling agony of infection down to the bone that very nearly cost him dearly. Being kept back a year at primary school and the realisation on moving to Secondary that he was not going to join his friends was another blow. But this was the time he was lucky enough to meet Tony Bail, a lifelong friend who enjoyed many an escapade in Scouts with Pete.

Undeterred by the things he might not be able to do, Pete's philosophy in life was never to complain about your lot but make the most of what he had. At the age of 11 in 1970, he became a member of the Scout movement and made new friends who stayed with him for a lifetime. Scouts enabled him to enjoy outdoor life and challenge himself outside of a conformed environment.

Tony recalls Pete introduced him into the Scouts in 1971, and how miffed Pete was when Tony became a patrol leader before him. On their first trip to Lichtenstein the coach was waiting to go and guess who was the last to arrive. Then as the coach set off he realised he'd left his passport at home and they had to make a detour to collect it.



There are so many stories of fun and always mishaps, to be told about Pete's life, and always lots of laughter. "Do you remember the time when ..."

February 1975 in a stay at Coetmor Mill in Bethesda. Pete managed to fall out of the top bunk onto Bryan Sharpe, which resulted in fellow bed-mates making a "special cot" for him the next night.

*1973 Harrison Rocks, Tunbridge Wells, at the age of 14 free climbing in loon pants and green flash plimssoles.*



His culinary skills were also legendary. One Venture camp in 1975 the boys cooked for themselves all week on alter fires. The “piece de resistance” came when they were issued with a frozen chicken in the morning and instructed to use their imagination in preparing a meal. Pete produced Chicken a la Spit, where in the absence of a mechanical method of rotating the spit, a scout staff was covered in foil and the bird rotated manually by smokey faced boys with streaming eyes patiently turning it at a steady 10 revs/min to ensure it was cooked through. Another time Ed Chalk recalls Pete showing him how to make Duck a L’Orange using a chicken and half a jar of marmalade.

His aversion to vegetables came from working on his grandmother’s fruit and vegetable stall at Euston. He once put his finger in a mouldy tomato and never got over it. Don’t eat any vegetables you can’t swallow hole, was his motto, so he tended to stick to frozen peas, but almost choked on a brussel sprout trying to use this method.

In February 1977, Pete, Tony Bail and five others successfully climbed Kinder Scout in about 6 inches of snow and later completed the Lyke Wake Walk of 39.5 miles in 15 hours 50 minutes. The trophy was presented to him by Fred Dobson. And the next January the Ventures were back to North Wales where they walked around the back of the **Devils Kitchen**. Up in the hills there were patches of snow and they reached somewhere that Pete could try out his crampons. But when he finally got them on, somebody pointed out that he had them on the wrong way round!

On a caving trip to Swildens Hole around 1980 Steve Flowers recalls donning their wetsuits and helmets for the drain type entrance to the cave. Everyone had electric lamps, but the intrepid Mr Linskey was using a carbide



Mark Stead, Pete, Ed Chalk

lamp with an acetylene flame. Unfortunately the route involved a sump dive and obviously with the lamps total immersion in water. it went out. Surfacing in the dark on the other side Pete found a group of other scouts were already there, and so he nonchalantly strode up to them and pinched a light from one of their lamps.

Climbing on Stannage Edge one Easter he fell and broke his back. He was later to claim it was because he ate meat and so it was fish on Good Friday forever after that. Undeterred, after doctors told him he shouldn’t ever climb again, he took up canoeing instead, but was later to achieve many Grade .. climbs in Scotland, which remained his favourite place.

In the late 1980s the Venture Unit had a period of being leaderless and while there was plenty of interest and enthusiasm from the Ventures, they still needed some guidance. Around 1988 Pete, rather reluctantly, agreed to take on the task, providing he didn't have to take out a warrant. Not Pete’s

style really - all that paperwork and stuff - he just wanted to get out and have adventure. Although he may have been reluctant, it never showed. His trained team came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Peak Assault competition which was a very big achievement. He was already a very accomplished canoeist, climber, and mountaineer and he encouraged everyone to have a go at them all. They might say that a lot of his skill was largely down to brute force and ignorance but Pete possessed an uncanny logic that helped him think through each climbing move or stroke of the paddle.

Each Venture unit in the District was known for being particularly good in one activity - along with Butch, Pete made sure for the Abbo's it was canoeing. Butch and Pete had similar approach - they both had a healthy respect for danger and risk, but equally were willing to push the boundaries and ensure a good time. Abbots had a reputation for being ever so slightly rebellious and this suited them both.



Some rules are just meant to be broken.



Abbots was often a refuge for boys whom other groups had found to be too much of a handful - Pete took them in and tried his best to ground them and give them a purpose. Pete always claimed that these young people were the ones who really needed Scouting and all it had to offer.

Easters were spent at Huntshaw in Devon, canoe surfing and kayaking. Later the trip expanded and included cliff climbing, with Pete taking the lead and encouraging



development. In the summer of 1989 Pete ensured we were away literally every weekend from June to September - climbing in Derbyshire, walking in the Pyrenees, canoeing in Wales - or simply having fun on the Isle of Wight.



Pete also helped to ease the transition from Ventures into Fellowship and ensured that they remained in Scouting, whilst welcoming younger people into the unit all the time.

*LtoR - Mark Stead, Tracy Reeve, Brian Hawkins, Pete, Ed Chalk, Pete Johnson*

*and Chris Frith/ All of whom are still actively supporting the group*

Pete was generous with his knowledge and time, and always delighted when he saw his scouts blossom and excel in something. Many of them remain in Scouting today because of the wonderful opportunities and adventures they had in the Venture Unit with Pete, and stay in order to hope to pass some of that on.

Pete's philosophy in life was that work should fit around his weekend activities. So in 1991 he decided to turn the hobbies he enjoyed so much into a business teaching others the things he loved most. He ran "Out of Town Action Sports" over the last 20 years based at Phasels Wood with the watersports section at the Rickmansworth Aquadrome teaching and instructing schools, clubs, scouts and corporate companies in climbing, abseiling, orienteering and canoeing. Thousands of children have benefitted from his teaching and expertise and he always tried to help those who struggled to achieve their full potential.

And he thrived on socialising and telling jokes and stories. He loved nothing more than a group of kids around a camp fire where he would string The Noddy Story, or Old Man Phasel out for hours, not to mention the mosquito jokes.



But his favourite day of the year was Boxing Day when the Scout Fellowship meet to walk across the fields and sing in the Holly Bush. The Music Man and Oh Sir Jasper, which were his specialities.

Over 300 people attended the funeral and representatives from various groups of the District and County lined the road as the funeral procession left for the graveyard. An old scout friend flew in from Australia particularly to attend and hundreds of well wishes were received.

"Pete you were one of the good guys. I learnt so much from him about being tolerant and seeing the good in everyone."

"He was a lovely guy and helped to teach me lots in the short time I knew him. He really knew how truly

lovely a simple walk in a beautiful place could be."

"If you spent just a couple of hours with Pete you would come away with a lasting memory."

"A strong man with a heart of gold, always had time for people, always keen to learn."

The Legend that was Pete Linskey has packed his climbing gear for the last time for his final ascent into the misty mountain tops never to return. Cliché, I know. But that's probably the way that Pete would have chosen it, and wished to be remembered.



*Pauline. With special thanks to Bryan and Tracy for sharing their memories and to everyone for their love and support over the last few months. This truly is the hardest article I have ever written.*

# DIARY DATES

## February

21st	Meeting at 2.30pm	Ladies Guild
25th/26th	Scouting Skills	Scouts

## March

2nd	Pancake Games 8pm HQ	Fellowship
3rd/4th	Chiltern Challenge	Explorers
10th	District Swimming Gala	All
11th	Beaver Handicraft Competition	Beavers
11th	County Triathlon	Scouts
13th	District Curry Night—Forest of India	All
19th	Group Executive Meeting	Exec
20th	Meeting	Ladies Guild
28th & 31st	Double Jumble Sale	All

## April

13th	TBC	Fellowship
15th	St George's Day Parade	All
17th	Meeting	Ladies Guild

## May

4th	TBC	Fellowship
4-6th	Top Ten Scouts Narrowboat Trip	Scouts
15th	Meeting	Ladies Guild
18th	Group AGM	All
21st	Group Executive Meeting	Exec

## June

1st	TBC	Fellowship
9th	Carnival	All
19th	Meeting	Ladies Guild
22—24	District Camp - Lees Wood	All

## July

6th	TBC	Fellowship
16th	Group Executive Meeting	Exec
17th	BBQ	Ladies Guild
21st-28th	Summer Camp at Beaver Lodge	Scouts

# Fellowship Autumn Trip 2011

**I**t was with a mild feeling of trepidation that Ruth & I set off late on Friday afternoon on 28<sup>th</sup> October to spend the weekend with other members of Fellowship at Dalehead NT Bunkhouse near Edale in the Peak District. As the bunkhouse was in the middle of nowhere with no phone would we spend the whole weekend roaming around the lanes and bye ways of the Peak District trying to find it, and if we found it, would we have a good time? What were Fellowship members really like?

Despite being relative new comers to Fellowship we were looking forward to a weekend of bracing fresh air, good food and drink and plenty of bon homme. We were not to be disappointed. Having criss-crossed back and forth over the pitch black fells, up hill and down dale scaring the sheep as well as ourselves along the way we eventually met up with others in a similar plight and, more by luck than judgment, together we finally (around 11.00 pm) came upon the farm gate leading to Dalehead NT Bunkhouse which was to be our base for the next 2 days. No lights were showing but our polite knock at the substantial front door was greeted by a shout of "COME IN" and by a welcoming ring of contented faces before the wood burning stove in the lounge. A late supper, washed down with various liquid refreshments capped off the evening before retiring to bed in the wee small hours.

Not everyone was so fortunate though. Dave Gray & Sue Jarman did not make it to Dalehead on the Friday night due to car engine problems and were not able to join us until late the following morning.



*Bunkhouse can be seen in the middle of the picture*

The breaking sunlight the following morning revealed Dalehead to be just that; an isolated converted farm building with outbuildings nestling in the folds at the head of a farm track and at the very foot of a ring of imposing hills. Breakfast was a well organized affair as were the rest of the main meals with everyone allocated their tasks to help share out the work evenly. Then it was time to put on the walking boots. That was the reason we were there after all. The party split up into groups with some choosing to head up for the nearest summit, others to career off on their mountain bikes whilst the remainder plotted a level walking route to the nearest pub to take in a relaxing lunch. Ruth & I joined the stalwarts heading up the hills. The higher we climbed the more the view grew grander until, at the very top all was laid out before us in perfect harmony including little Dalehead Bunkhouse with its promise of comfort and refreshment at the end of the day. Before that there was serious walking to be done. The weather was mostly fine and plenty of other walkers were out taking advantage of it. Those familiar with the area will of course know the names of the various summits along our route. For me it was just sufficient to count them off as we went along. Eventually, it was time to make our descent back down into the



*Pete, Ruth, Richard, Tony and John (nicknamed "Doc" for the purpose of this walk.*



*Pete & Richard were the only ones mad enough to tackle the last summit*

valley, with a break for lunch before meeting up with the others at the nearby Rambler Inn. Going down we encountered an enchanting whirlwind of autumn coloured leaves suddenly stripped from the trees by a strong gust that swirled around and engulfed us for a few memorable moments, never to be forgotten.

By the loud talk and wide grins that greeted our entry into the Rambler Inn it was apparent that some of our group may well have been there since pub opening time. Suitably refreshed, we set off again on our different ways back to Dalehead Bunkhouse. The mountain bikers enjoying the fact that they were all now well splattered in mud. Our return route took us along a short stretch of the Pennine Way. Even at that late time of the year we encountered



several groups of intrepid walkers, young and old out to complete the whole of the long distance foot walk. Our rambling path took us past tumble down farm buildings some of which appeared to be still occupied; over and through stream beds and eventually around to the back of the bunkhouse. Stopping only to collect

replacement logs from the wood store we rejoined the others to compare stories of our exploits during the day and to imbibe a warming drink or two before dinner.

Whilst most of us took our leisure in the lounge or in the dining room reading a book, dozing off or participating in various games the designated “cooks” battled it out in the kitchen over preparing the evening meal. Conversation turned around whether to attempt to intervene directly and try and put an end to the tumult that was emanating from the kitchen next door or ignore it and act as if nothing out of the ordinary was going on and just hope that something to eat would eventually come out of the kitchen that evening. Discretion proved the better part of valor and we left the cooks to just get on with it and sort matters out between themselves. Dinner was, eventually announced. Evidently, all that had gone on before had been put to rest and we tucked into a most enjoyable meal. Much, much later John Noonan announced he was going to bed. John’s impression of Christopher Robin, dressed in his blue stripy pyjamas was a hoot.

The weather early on Sunday morning surpassed all expectations and promised a great day. First though, we had to clean the bunkhouse before we could make tracks. I shall not forget Clive Winder standing with his mop and a bucket of hot water ready to swab down the floor of the gent's toilet whilst giving everyone who approached a very black look indeed daring anyone to cross his threshold and delay him from carrying out his deep clean of the men's toilet.

Finally, with the sandwiches made and the log pile rebuilt we were ready for the off. Just time for group photos to record the occasion. Whilst some set off directly to make their way back home by way of various detours some decided to linger and sample more of the delights of the surrounding area.



Those taking part were: Pete Linskey, Pauline Styles, Tony Dabson, Pauline Marett, Clive Winder, Eddie Chalk, Tracy Reeve, Dave Gray, Sue Jarman, John & Hazel Harkin, Bib Butcher, Bob, John Noonan and Richard and Ruth Gabriel

Ruth & I joined Pete & Pauline to walk up to Stanage Edge undertaking a circular walk back into Hathersage. We had a grand time. Pete already knew the grit stone crags well from his earlier climbing days. He was clearly reliving his memories and proceeded to volunteer advice and assistance, whether asked for or not to any





poor climber who looked just for a second in his direction. We had lunch out of the strong wind in Robin Hood's cave, a narrow slit in the face of the crags whilst much younger and more able bodied persons carried on all kinds of leisure pursuits all around us. Pete & I chatted away together as we walked along covering a whole load

of interesting subjects. It was a pleasure to share in his knowledge and also discover his general outlook on life. I only wish there could have been further such opportunities to get to know him better but, sadly that was not to be. I am so glad that Pete and Pauline could share that Fellowship weekend away together before his most untimely death that occurred just a short while later.



On the way back down into town we stopped off at a church yard to view Little John's grave. I didn't believe a word of it but it was interesting all the same. Back at the car, boots off, a change of socks and hearty cheerio's we said our goodbye's to Pete & Pauline who headed off to Sheffield for an overnight stay. Ruth & I travelled south, north, east and then west taking in the sights, but mainly lost, sampling traditional Bakewell tart and other local culinary delights before finally turning on the Sat Nav (hurrah). With a cry of "We're southerners, get us out of here" we pointed the bonnet of the car directly towards home.

I feel that I must record, for the record, that as far as I know, no blood was spilt, no one got food poisoning and that everyone has now kissed and made up. A big thank you to those who put a lot of effort into arranging and making the week-end such a great success. Next year's venue has, I understand already been booked by Tony and I for one am looking forward to it.

Richard Gabriel

# cubs

# Rainforest



## Festive Fun!!



First of all on behalf of the Rainforest Cubs let me wish you all a very Happy New Year!! I am sure it will be another fun-packed year with heaps of new and exciting activities and challenges for all!

The final term of 2011 was fast, furious, not to mention festive! We started off with a whopping 6 new cubs joining the pack. Welcome to Louis Geard, Oliver Greaves, Adam Munn, Luke Quinn, Ben Rutherford, and Matthew Wilkins!

We worked on the Creative Challenge Badge last term and kicked it off with Problem Solving in the Park towards the end of September. The evening was made up of several activities including a Tanagram-effectively a giant puzzle; Kim's Game-the cubs had to memorise as many items as possible; The Bomb-the cubs had to tie several lengths of string to an elastic band and adjust the size of the band together to pick up items; and The Balloon Pop-they had to fashion poles out of wooden canes, elastic bands and rope with a pin at the end and try to pop a balloon at various distances. The overall aim was for the cubs to get creative and work together to solve the puzzles. A big thank you goes to the weather for making the evening possible!



In the second half of the term the Pack had to enlist the use of their design skills to create chess sets using white and black card intricately woven together for the boards and coloured plasticine for the pieces. There were some fantastic sets made and all were used the following week for the big Rainforest Cub Chess tournament of 2011! We then rounded off the Creative Challenge activities with a Christmas Craft evening in early December.





Rainforest Cubs Matthew and Gabriella locked in competition at the Chess Night

Aside from the Creative Challenge Badge we had a whole host of other wonderful and fascinating evenings throughout the term. In October we visited the Apsley Paper Trail at Frogmore Mill and learned all about making paper and printing. The cubs got to make their

own piece of paper as well with brilliant results! Well done all!

In November we had a spooooky Halloween party with compulsory fancy dress and freaky games! The costumes were all petrifying and sent shivers down my spine to be sure! And also in November we took the time to learn about disabilities with a 'Know Your Senses' evening followed by an inspirational talk by a representative from Guide Dogs for the Blind the week after.



In December we joined tons of other Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and attended the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' Pantomime at the Watford Palace Theatre. A fabulous evening was had by all and there was even an opportunity to show off some dance moves at the end!



To finish off the term we had a rather glitzy affair with the Rainforest Cubs Oscar night-a chance for all to get glammed-up and enjoy copious amount of sweets and pop and of course the obligatory popcorn and watch the film 'Despicable Me' in a Premiere-style surrounding. Before I end I would like to wish Leo Farrington and Matthew Smith the best of luck as they make the hop, skip and jump to Scouts. Please come back and visit!!

So that wraps up another thrilling term in the life of the Rainforest Cub Pack! Once again a big thank you goes out to all of the parents that helped out-we couldn't do it without you!! Until next time...

Andrew Richardson (Rama)  
A.C.S.L Rainforest Cub Pack

## Cubs have Fun at Night Hike



On a Saturday night in September the Rainforest Cubs took part in the County Cub Night Hike in the countryside between Abbots and Hemel. When we first arrived at Hobbs Hill School in the afternoon we put our kit in the classroom that was going to be our bedroom – shared with about 20 other cubs, it was difficult to find space for the bedrolls. After the opening ceremony we played outside until it was our turn for dinner.

Before we set off we put on fluorescent jackets, got our emergency supplies, team instructions, and posed for the official team photo before getting on a coach which took us to our start point (there were six different start points with half the teams walking clockwise and the other half anti-clockwise). We had an easy walk to start with, downhill through a large field in the last of the daylight.

**Base 1** A grid marked out on the grass with rope. We were shown which square to stand in, and then had to follow NSEW instructions to find the square with the

hidden treasure. We got it right and found some sweets hidden under a cone. As night arrived we had a long walk along the canal tow path to the next base.

**Base 2** We had to find various features and locations on a selection of maps, each time we got one right we had to clamber over some apparatus to retrieve a token. Once every member of the team had one we could exchange them for a pack of biscuits. It was then a slog uphill along a lane.

**Base 3** We had to build a hill using shapes cut to match the contours on a plan we had been given. I can't remember what we got for completing it. More walking up hill, we were finding it tough, and I am sure we didn't take the most direct route. We arrived in Bedmond, but it took us at least another twenty minutes to reach the next base in Potters Crouch Woods

**Base 4** The best base, a BBQ and a map quiz. By now it was very late and we realised we didn't have time to complete the course, a shame as base 6 Wheelie Bin Racing sounded like fun. We continued though the forest to the pickup point, and a coach took us back to the school.

We arrived back at midnight for hot chocolate and biscuits. I've only been to bed this late before on New Year's Eve.

We woke early, and had a long wait for breakfast, which was followed by the closing ceremony. There were 120 teams, and we all got a whistle, a map reader badge, certificate, county cub night hike badge, a copy of the official team photo and an invitation to next year's event – unfortunately I will be a Scout by then.

Thanks to the leaders for making it the best twenty four hours we have had with Cubs.

Hannah Trotman  
Yellow Sixer, Rainforest Cubs

Jungle

**cubs**

**MY BEST MOMENTS AT CUBS!!!**

**At Cubs, we have been doing lots of EXTREMELY GREAT things, from Pantomimes to the Night Hike and the awesome badges. Overall Cubs IS FUN, Guaranteed!!!**

**My best moment was going to the Christmas pantomime, Sleeping Beauty when someone actually starred in it FROM Cubs. Well done Katie!! Also the Panto had its funny moments, 'It's behind you, Boo Hiss, Hoorah! To sum it up, it was a great time.**

**Thanks to my friends for telling me about the fun they were having every week or, I would have never known about the Scout group. Thank you for taking me here as part of the pack, it is a great time.**

**Hope you enjoyed taking time to read this article remember you too could have a great time in the Scout group!**

**From Benjamin Garrett (Jungle Cubs)**

**cubs** **Is the BEST!!**



## Lake Beavers

This year at Lake Beavers, we have had a jam packed term. To mark Halloween everyone made a grand effort dressing up in weird and wonderful outfits for our



Halloween party. We played many games such as 'Apple Bobbing' and 'Find the Sweets in the Icing Sugar'.

To celebrate Christmas, we made beautiful Christmas decorated 'Pine Cones' to decorate Christmas Trees at home, and we also planted daffodil bulbs in planter pots for Christmas presents. We visited Margaret House Care Home to sing Christmas carols which was enjoyed by all. We all sang our hearts out and were rewarded with juice and biscuits. To top the term off, we celebrated the grand year with our annual Christmas party, which was enjoyed by all.

Happy New Year from all at Lake Beavers.

Amaelia Parmenter

Explorer, Scout Young Leader and Beaver Young Leader

## River Beavers



Last term we had an activity-packed programme as we worked towards a number of badges; including our global challenge badge. This involved investigating the many different types of beaver scouts that meet worldwide, and hand crafting authentic looking African monkey drums. For our outdoor badge we planted some hyacinth bulbs into decorated plant pots, and also worked hard to create some sticky bird feeders to take home for the winter.




Getting into the Christmas spirit we also made some exquisite Christmas cards, and walked down to Margret House for some carol singing; enjoying an enchanting solo by Lucy. We ended the term with a Christmas party, and a visit to the Watford palace theatre.

This term we have been working towards our promise challenge badge, which involved writing scouting orientated prayers, helping our six new beavers to learn the beaver scout promise, and taking part in investiture ceremonies. In addition to this, we are also progressing with a 'healthy eating' badges and following some splendid healthy sandwiches are looking forward to Pancake Day, to complete the badge.

Well done to all the beavers who attended the Remembrance Parade and Christingle Service, and a huge thank you to Helen, Wendy, Lin, Glen, Ravi and Jamie for their help this term.

Hollie Goodman (ABL)






**The group is lucky enough to have a strong team of dedicated fundraising volunteers who spend hours rummaging through jumble, organising events and cooking hotdogs to boost group funds.**

**Recent additions to the coffers are:**

- The Christmas Market £823.45
- Double Jumble Sales £1344
- Donations made in memory of Pete Linskey £590
- Hall use from a youth group sleepover £100

Also the Christingle Service raised £312 for the Children's Society.

**Volunteers mainly come from the Ladies Guild, Fellowship and Group Executive Committee, so thank you all very much, but the Group would appreciate any help from parents.**



## Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.45 - 9.45 pm	Albbatross 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)

[www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk)

**Woodsmoke Editor**

Pauline Styles



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