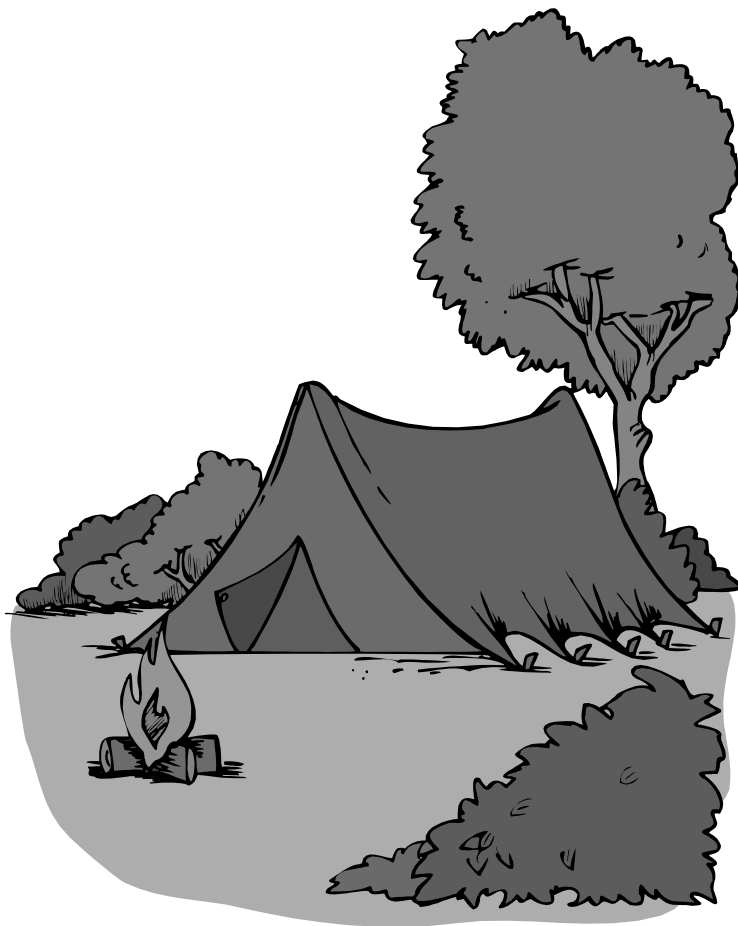


219th Edition

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Woodsmoke



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Chairman's Blog

I would like to begin by wishing all of our readers a very happy and successful 2014 and a very special welcome to all those members of the brand new Lagoon Beaver Colony.

It certainly looks like being another busy year for scouting in Abbots Langley. Apart from all of our regular events we have our Group Family Camp to look forward to June 27th -29th and our organising



committee are well underway in ensuring that the camp is as successful as those in previous years. For those of you that have attended one of our Group Camps before you will all know what a great weekend of fun and

activities they are. The booking form will be emailed shortly but you can also find one to put out in the middle pages of this edition.

Since our last edition of Woodsmoke we have had some very successful events. We raised £1459.00 at our Jumble Sale in October.

The Christingle Service in December raised £314.00 which was donated to a Children's Charity.

Lyn Lythaby and The Ladies Guild held their annual Christmas Market and raised in excess of £767.00 which was donated to Group funds.

The Village Remembrance Day Service was very well attended this year with 121 uniformed Group Members taking part.



My sincere thanks go to all those involved in volunteering and fundraising for the Group ... we couldn't exist without you!

Making the Christingle candles which is an activities for members of the group of all ages!

Our next fundraiser is The Double Jumble Sale 26th and 29th March so start sorting now!



The HQ is still being used extensively and always requires maintenance and repair. We have just finished upgrading our camping gas storage facilities and are about to carry out improvements to the fire exit lighting. Our Health And Safety Advisor is updating all of our Accident, Fire and Risk Assessment procedures at the moment to ensure that all section activities are carried out in as safe an environment as possible.

The extensive wet weather over the last few months have exposed some roofing and guttering issues at HQ which will require attention in the Summertime.

Clivz's Chat

Many congratulations to **Oliver Heilling** (*right*)



and **Joe Prior** (*left*)

on the presentation of their Gold Chief Scouts Awards, the highest achievement for a Scout.

Also to Alex Chase and Rudy Farrell on completing their Silver Chief Scouts Award, the highest achievement for Cubs.

Well done also to our Beavers, Andrew Grant, Katy Packman, Jamie Wells and Sam Wenzel on attaining their Bronze Chief Scouts Award.

As announced in the last Woodsmoke, Lagoon Beavers, our 3rd Beaver Colony, opened in February with Hollie Goodman as the new Beaver Leader and Alix Dunstone and Alice Swaine-Gray as the Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders.

This means that another 16 Beavers have been able to join our Group and we are the only Group in the District with three Colonies.

Well done to all the youngsters and adults who attended the village Remembrance Day Parade in November. It was a huge turn out and a great sight with 121 in uniform from our Scout Group

The St George's Day parade is at the beginning of the summer term on 27th 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 which was another great success and raised £767, and to Dot for the £500 she has accumulated from selling high value jumble sale items.

Please don't forget to put the date of the Group Family Camp in your diary as there is only room for 200 participants. It is on the weekend of 27th – 29th June.

Scout Troop



Many congratulations to -

Oliver Heilling on completing his Fitness Challenge,

Joe Woodger on the award of his Creative Challenge,

Joe Prior and Roslyn Chase on achieving their Community Challenge, and to

Oliver Heilling and Joe Prior on attaining their Promise Challenge.

Very well done!

Clive

THE 2013 GREEN BERET

The November Winter nights were setting in, colder and colder, less and less did I want to be outside. Then I remembered – it must be the right time of year for that Green Beret Challenge! Last year I had survived it and was determined to do the same again. Actually it wasn't too bad going up to HQ on Friday evening. We were all excited and pleased to meet up again. Ours bags were expertly packed into the back of the van (thanks Dave) and off we went. To Gilwell Park in Essex it turns out.

Our priority when we got there was of course putting up the tents, in the dark and freezing cold. Thanks so much to Jason and Mike who really helped us pitching our camp (and Clive and Jason for taking it all down again at the end). I was sharing a tent with the two Joe's (Prior and Woodger), Matthew Smith, George Dowding and Daniel Cameron. Some of the others had some hot chocolate before going to bed but I was whacked and went straight to bed. I slept like a log.

The next morning with our day bags packed, we headed over for a great fry up. We knew we would need the energy for the day ahead. Our other team, Hannah Trotman, Ros Chase, Lucy Packman and Charlotte Clark were also raring to go.

First up were our "bases" and problem solving. We had to build a catapult and then fire it in only a few minutes. We did that easy. My best was the archery – the helpers were really enthusiastic and taught us a lot.

As we had our sandwiches for lunch, the sun came out

and it really did begin to feel quite nice. We had orienteering and actually managed to get lost through careless map reading. Hope you didn't read that Clive! Anyhow we did much better in the assault course. We were covered in mud crawling under a net. It was a great feeling – kind of like the soldiers. One of us – no names – even got stuck there for a bit. I think this was one of the highlights.

We caught up with each other after a chicken stew for tea and chatted outside the tents for a bit. It was great to see how our girls had been doing. We'd hardly seen them. Hannah, Roslyn, Lucy and Charlotte were all raving about how well they'd done. What a good group we all made! Anyhow now, the final test had arrived – the night activities. By now it was really, really dark and absolutely freezing. We had to guide ourselves blindfolded through a maze. As we went we started making plans for a big fun night.

Well by the time we got back to the tent sometime around midnight, we were so exhausted, we all fell straight to sleep – so much for all those plans!

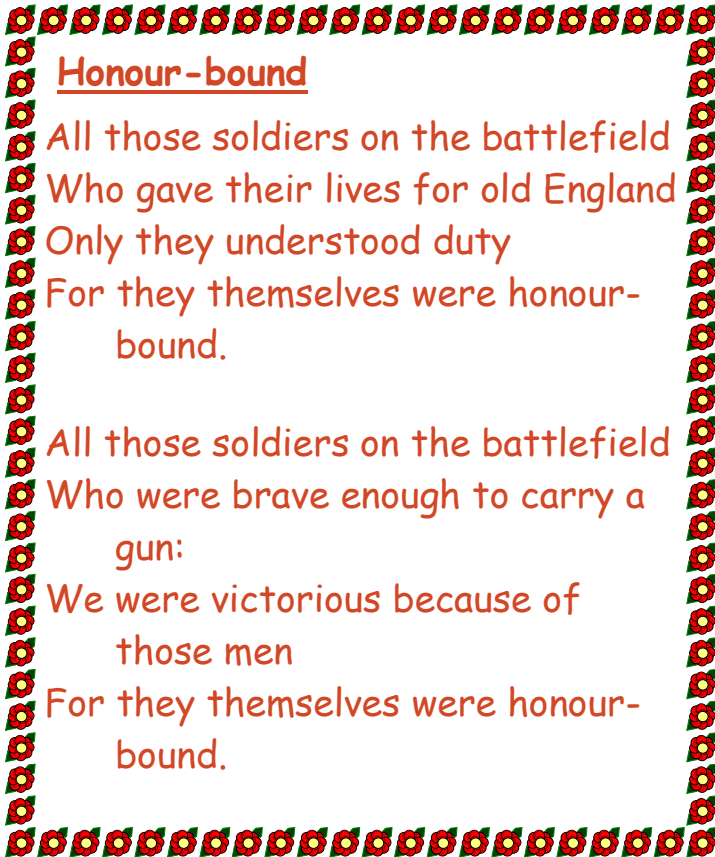
Sunday morning we were up bright and early to pack up and attend the presentation. Neither of our teams won but we all agreed it was a great weekend – maybe even a tiny bit better than last year. My thanks to all the helpers, but especially to Alison who gave up her whole weekend to support us.

We arrived home about 1pm. We were tired and dirty but happy.

I poured myself a lovely bath and as I eagerly stepped in – realised that the hot water had run out!

Leo Farrington, Patrol Leader, Otters

Inspired by the Remembrance Day Service, **Charlotte Clark** of Eagles Patrol penned these few lines:



In the Spotlight....

Your chance to meet a different person from the Group and learn a bit about them and what makes them tick



Pauline Marett

It's not What you know but WHO you know, they say. So when Pauline met Tony Dabson because their other halves Peter and Joy worked together, Tony asked Pauline whether she would like to go on a weekend trip with the Fellowship to Huntshaw in Devon in 1991– and the rest is history.



She then joined the Fellowship and helped on weekends away particularly when Butch was teaching canoeing on the river or sea. Where would we be without the dynamic duo of Tony and Pauline catering on trips and camps?

In 2008 she became the Fellowship Treasurer and helps to organise meetings, with a particular speciality for cheese and wine! Pauline has helped on numerous Fellowship trips, assisted at jumble sales, carnival stalls, Christmas markets and various camps.

In 2012 she received her 20 years service badge and is invaluable to the group. We just need another 10 like her - any volunteers ...

Pauline Styles



Getting ready for The Christmas Market



The Christmas Market was held on 23rd November 2013 and was well attended by many loyal locals and we took just over £700.

It would be nice to see more parents and children attend this event, remember any monies raised help to make the HQ, family camps and other activities possible.

Hope to see you this year - November 22nd 2014 at 10am.

Lin Lythaby
Ladies Guild/
Exec Committee

Active Support Christmas Meal



There was a very good turnout for the Christmas meal which was held at The Royal Oak, Kitters Green, and saw members of Active Support, Ladies Guild, Exec and Leaders attending.

Tracy had organised a secret Santa of no more than £5 a gift. It gave the evening an air of mystery and excitement and there were some very ingenious presents gratefully received.



Other events that Active Support and Ladies Guild supported around this time were the Jumble sales, making Christingle candles and the Christmas market setup.

DIARY DATES

March		
7	Beer Festival - Cricket Club	Active Support
17	Executive Meeting – 8pm	Exec Committee
18	Meeting—2pm	Ladies Guild
26 & 29	Double Jumble Sale	All
April		
4	Bedmond Past and Present Meeting	Active Support
5 at 7.30 pm		Ladies Guild
27	St George's Day Parade	All
May		
9	Meeting TBC	Active Support
2-4	Top Ten Scouts Narrowboat Trip	Scouts
16	Group AGM	All
19	Executive Meeting – 8pm	Exec Committee
20	Meeting—7.30pm	Ladies Guild
June		
6	Meeting TBC	Active Support
14	Carnival	All
17	Meeting—7.30pm	Ladies Guild
27-29	Family Camp - Phasels Wood	All
July		
4	Meeting TBC	Active Support
15	Barbecue—7pm	Ladies Guild
21	Executive Meeting – 8pm	Exec Committee
26 - 2 August	Scout Summer Camp	Scouts

August		
1		Active Support
September		
5	Meeting TBC	Active Support
15	Executive Meeting -- 8pm	Exec Committee
16	Meeting--7.30pm	Ladies Guild
October		
3-5	Forest of Dean Weekend	Active Support
15 & 18	Double Jumble Sale	All
21	Meeting--7.30pm	Ladies Guild
November		
7	Meeting TBC	Active Support
9	Remembrance Day	All
14-16	Green Beret	Scouts/Active Support
17	Executive Meeting -- 8pm	Exec Committee
18	Meeting--2pm	Ladies Guild
22	Christmas Market	
December		
1	Christingle	All
5	Christmas Meal	Active Support
9 at 2pm	Christmas Party	Ladies Guild

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The walk left promptly as usual at 10.30am by the St Lawrence Church clock on a fine dry Boxing Day morning. The walking was not too boggy for the 15 walkers but some stiles were more challenging to the “short-legged” people and elders, so gates were opened instead. This is the obligatory photo at Kitty Corner where the whip is counted.

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LtoR back row Clive, Kevin Fancourt, Steve Flowers, Marc Redmond, Eddie Chalk, Tony Bail, Tony Dabson. Next: Pauline Styles, Rachel Drake, Sue Jarman, Alison Redmond, Amaelia Parmenter, Sara & Edwin Chalk and Dave Gray with the “swag”.

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The pub was full to bursting and the St Albans contingent had bought their daughter who was 21 that day, so of course we had to sing her Happy Birthday. Bib was in good voice but threw several

people by handing out verses of Rule Britannia to sing. Don't worry you've got several years apprenticeship before you get the job full time! Steve Flowers managed to get his song right for the first time since taking over from the "Music Man Linskey" although Sir Jasper went horribly wrong when those in the pub couldn't see the hand signals. Kevin was in good voice and the "oggies" were loud and clear.



The noticeable absence of girls meant our section was down on vocals but helped out by Louise's classically trained resonance.

A special mention to Amaelia on her first boxing day walk. And to Alison for her company on the way home and the lovely bottle of Bolly and supper when we got to her house. Worth celebrating as I think we were the only two who completed the whole walk.



Bib conducting Ging Gang Goolley

See you again next year
people ...

Pauline Styles

Shelter Box



A man came in to talk to us about a charity called Shelter box. They send boxes full of all the things you might need if you have lost your homes and belongings in a disaster (e.g. like the floods in the Philippines). It even has a tent where you can live in until your house is rebuilt. It was a very interesting talk.

Athletics

We went to Woodside leisure centre and played some athletics games. We had to try and earn our athletics badge by getting 8 points from 4 events. It was a lot of fun!

Halloween Party

At the Halloween party in October, we all had to get dressed up in our scariest costumes. We played some games and had a lot of fun! In one of the games we had to go under a piece of string and try and bite a party ring off and in another we had to bob for apples. We also carved a Jack o' lantern using a pumpkin.





Christmas Party

At the Christmas party in December we made some Christmas cards with Santa on them, and some of them had pop up bits on them. We also decorated some fairy cakes using icing pens, icing and marshmallows. We couldn't wait to eat them as they looked so delicious!

By Jack Gillett



Lake Beavers

Excited about starting to help out at Beavers, I arrived at the scout HQ, not knowing what to expect. I was introduced to Paula, Lisa and Amaelia; the Beaver leaders and then the Beavers themselves.

I got stuck in straight away, from making goo on science evening to helping host the Christmas 'onesie' party; I had a go at everything. The one thing that did surprise me was how much fun the gambados night was. I had not been to what used to be called 'the play dome' since I was as old as some of the Beavers, and despite the change of ownership, the activity center was still a lot of fun. I never thought that I would be





crawling through tunnels and getting chased through a hall of mirrors again, how wrong could have I been?



Another event that stood out to me was the Halloween party. Dressed as a clown, I was not sure what the Beavers would make of me; I was worried that they may be too scared. To my surprise, they found the costume more amusing than scary. The Beavers had fun playing an assortment of Halloween games throughout the evening.

With the last event on the Beaver calendar being the Christmas party, I turned up wearing a giraffe 'onesie' to the scout hall.

Quite embarrassed after walking the streets of Abbots Langley dressed as a giraffe, I was relieved to see that I wasn't the only one supporting the 'onesie look'; Paula, Lisa and Amaelia had dressed up too. With more and more Beavers arriving the lights dimmed and the movie started, the Beavers seemed to enjoy it.

With the movie over it was then on with the food, which many of the Beavers appeared to enjoy. As the evening drew to a close another term was over for the Lake Beavers. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself this term and will be looking forward to coming back to help next term. From all of us here at Beavers we also wish all of those who moved up to Cubs the very best of luck for the future.

James Cresswell



Well the Christmas period is always very busy and this year has been no exception over at River Beavers!

In October we all visited Woodside Leisure Centre, and had great fun earning our stage 1 Swimming Badge. A big thank you to all the mums who came with us (and got very cold and wet in the process!). We had great fun playing with the floats and are in great shape for this year's Swimming Gala!



This term we also had a go at the Environmental Partnership Badge, which requires joint efforts from two groups or organisations. To



do this we joined up with AIMS to help them plant tulips bulbs ready for the spring. Unfortunately the weather was not on our side, so after two failed attempts Laila from AIMS came to visit us and we decided to plant them in pots instead!



We then set to work on our THIRD badge this term; our Global Challenge Badge. We started this with a massive feast, tasting 13 different foods from around the world and choosing our favourites. We then learned about the many different types of beaver scouts around the world, such as Joey scouts from Australia, Grasshopper scouts from Hong Kong, and Tiger Cubs from America. Our final task was to make a musical instrument from another culture, so we created some fantastic African Monkey drums using recycled materials.



Next came a Halloween Party where we dressed up in the scariest costumes you have ever seen (check out the picture if you're feeling brave!) We made our way around a number of bases where we bobbed for apples, scoured through layers of goo, and turned several of our Beavers into mummies! We then had ANOTHER party to celebrate Christmas and had all the over Beavers in the District join us at our Scout HQ. We played lots of party games and then got to watch a gripping magic show! Our last event of the year was the Christmas Pantomime.



This year we went to see Aladdin over in Radlett where one of our very own Scouts is a professional performer! Well done Katie as always a fantastic performance and we all loved it!

In the spring we are looking forward to a lots of exciting events including a MINION THEMED SLEEPOVER! This

will be held at our Scout Hut and is sure to bring many exciting surprises (although I'm not sure sleep is one of them...!).



Christmas Party

Once again thank you to Helen, Lin and all of our amazing helpers.

Hollie Goodman
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 7.45 - 9.45 pm 8.00 - 10.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River) Albatross Explorer Scouts Ladies Guild (3rd in Month) 2pm Winter/7.30pm Summer
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Rainforest)
Thursday	5.30—7.00 pm 7.30 - 9.30 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lagoon) Scouts
Friday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 8pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle) Active Support (1st in Month)

And that completes my 30th Edition of Woodsmoke - my where does the time go? Many thanks as always to those who have contributed articles and photos - there would be no magazine without your content so keep it up!

Huge thanks also to Mark Bramley and the men at his company Red Engine for printing the last Edition for us, and hopefully many more to come. This has taken a load off of my time in printing and collating each issue. So much so that they've found me another job to do!

All the best

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



1st Abbots Langley (3rd Watford North) Scout Group
www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

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