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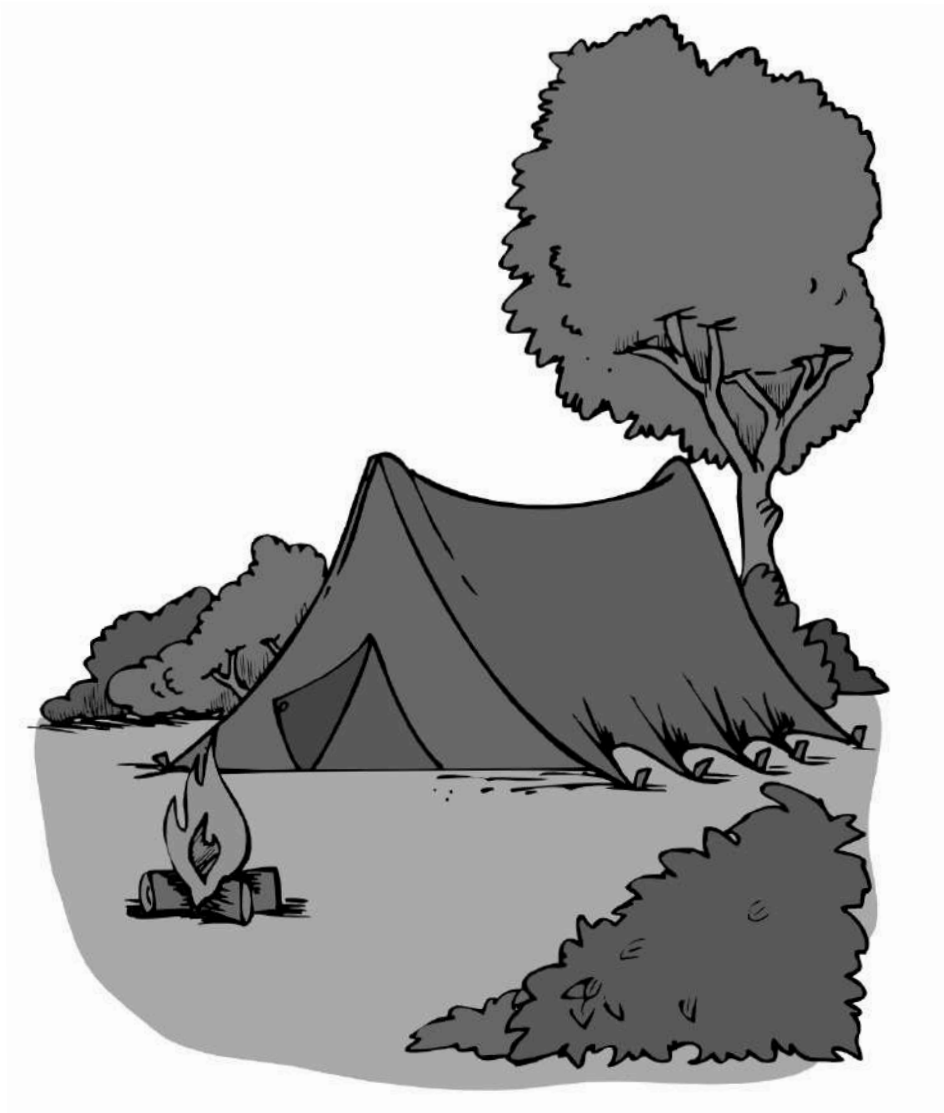
February 2019



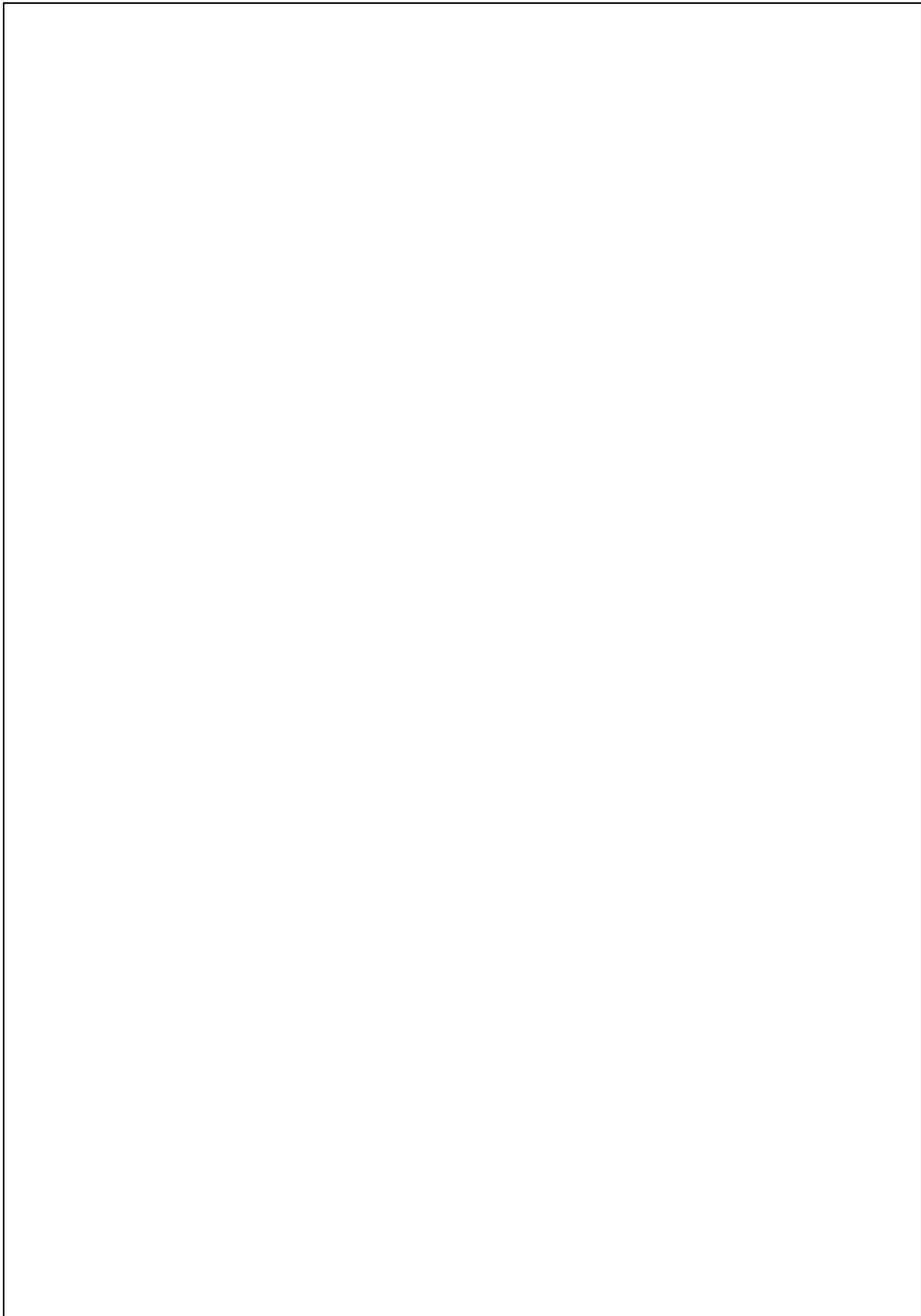
**Scouts**

# Woodsmoke

**CELEBRATING THE GROUP'S 110TH  
ANNIVERSARY YEAR  
15TH JUNE 1909 TO 2019**



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



## Chairman's Blog



Welcome to another Scouting year in Abbots Langley and 2019 looks like being another busy one! We have several up and coming events to look forward to. Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> is a fundraising Quiz night at HQ, in support of our mini-bus fund and Ros and Alex Chase who are 'Abbos' Explorer Scouts going to The World Scout Jamboree in America this summer. All are welcome to attend the quiz and tickets can be purchased from Polly Chase at [porchtz@btinternet.com](mailto:porchtz@btinternet.com). Donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

Our first double jumble sale of the year is booked for March 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> so start sorting out your jumble now!

June 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> is the District Scout Camp at Lees wood where all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers will be given the opportunity to attend the camp. Parent volunteers will also be required as these camps take a lot of work to organise and run. Please keep the date free and get involved if you can. Our camp committee have already met and more information will follow in due course.

June 15<sup>th</sup> this year will be the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting in Abbots Langley and will be celebrated at various events throughout the year. It is hoped that a special edition polo shirt will be available to purchase, at some point.

We have recently purchased and installed a new projector and screen for the Hall and both can be used by all Sections and fundraising events in the future.

Since the last Woodsmoke, our October Jumble Sale raised £1545.00 and the Christmas Market £1230.00. My sincere thanks go to all of those volunteers who helped at these events. In December, the annual Christingle service collected £372.00 worth of donations for the Children's Society. The Beer and Wine festival in November, contributed £523.00 towards the new mini-bus and £523.00 for the World Scout Jamboree. A further £560.00 was generated by the solar panels.

The Centenary Remembrance Parade in the village saw 131 of the Uniformed Group Members take part. All were impeccably turned out and a great credit to this Scout Group.

The November maintenance day was very successful and I would like to thank David Watts, Richard Tamsitt and Andrew Lyons who assisted me in erecting scaffolding to enable bird protection to be installed onto our solar panels. Our next maintenance day is planned for July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The HQ fire drills were successfully carried out in November by Clive and Bib and I have it on good authority the new alarms were heard in Bedmond!

Don't forget the AGM at 8pm in the HQ on Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>, where I will look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Bye for now  
Mike Benson

## *Clive's Chat*

Congratulations to Harry Renphrey, Sean Lambert and Jack Woodman on completing their Silver Chief Scouts Award.

I'm pleased to welcome 4 new additions to our adult leadership team. Having completed 4 years as a Young Leader with Rainforest Cubs, Hannah Stephenson has taken on the adult role of Section Assistant. Nicola Trotman has got back involved with Cubs after a break from scouting and is now an Assistant Cub Scout Leader with Rainforest Cubs.



After suspending Lake Beavers for a year, due to lack of leaders, we have now re-launched the Colony this term on a Saturday morning with Dani Chalk as the Beaver Leader and the addition of Stacy Ward as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader. Welcome also to Geeta Agarwal who has taken out an appointment as an ABSL with River Beavers. Both Stacy and Geeta are new to scouting and the Group. Welcome to them all.

The sad news is that a few leaders have stepped down from active involvement. My sincere thanks to Dave Goodman, Aisling Benson and Karen Taylor for all their support over the years.

Well done to everyone that attended the Remembrance Day Parade in November. There was a total of 131 uniformed members, the highest number ever from the Scout Group. The Christingle at St Lawrence's church was also a very enjoyable and successful event with the church full and £372 being raised for the Children's Society.

And finally, a big thank you to all our Group members that were involved in the various fundraising activities last term. Our new policy of parents becoming more involved in fundraising resulted in a much greater turnout of helpers.

**Clive Winder**  
**Group Scout Leader**

## **SCOUTS**

### **Troop Achievements**

Many congratulations to -

- Luke Bond, Lucy Newman and Emma Renphrey on the award of their World and Teamwork Challenges,
- Emma Pinchbeck, Lucy Newman and Katy Packman on completing their Skills Challenge,
- Lucy Newman and Emma Renphrey on achieving their Creative Challenge,
- Emma Pinchbeck, Ben Chase and Leila Whiting on attaining their Teamwork Challenge.

Very well done.

# **JAMBOREE QUIZ NIGHT**

## **New Date**

Friday 1st March 2019  
7.30pm

**1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley Scout Group HQ**

**Langley Road, Abbots Langley, WD5 0EH**

**Profits in aid of the 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley  
(3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford) Scouts Minibus fund & 1st  
Abbots Langley (3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford) Scouts  
attending the 2019 World Scout Jamboree**

**Tickets are still available. Please contact Polly on  
[porchtz@btinternet.com](mailto:porchtz@btinternet.com)**

# Lagoon



Last term at Lagoon Beavers we were working very hard towards our World Challenge Badge. We learnt about and discussed endangered animals, looking particularly closely at the different types of tigers that are endangered. Also, as part of our World Challenge Badge, we got to try lots of foods from around the world (crackers from Thailand, flavoured rice from China, poppadum's & naan bread from India, pizza from Italy, waffles from Belgium with maple syrup from Canada). The last part of our badge was to try three activities from around the UK.

We had a go at cheese rolling, wellie-wanging and tug-o-war!



At Halloween we had a fancy dressed Halloween Party, playing lots of party games and winning prizes. Lots of very scary costumes, and some creative hand-make costumes which went the extra mile.





The two big group events this term were Remembrance Parade and Christingle. We had a fantastic turn out to both events and excellent behaviour to present to the community.



In December, we bid farewell to our wonderful parent-helper Karen, and to young leader Becca, who is off to university. Thank you both for all your help; we will miss you!

Finally, we say goodbye to Lewis, Sammy, Braden and Harry as they move up to cubs. We wish them the very best of luck on their Scouting journeys.

As ever, a massive thank you to our fantastic leadership team; Nikki, Emma and Taj. Thank also to the parent helpers who provide additional support to our evening meetings.

Hollie

## Autumn Term with Rainforest Cubs

In September we did a village hunt in Abbots Langley. The challenge was to find a word or two hidden in lots of different places around Abbots Langley. It was very fun! We used the pictures of these places to find the words and then un-scrambled them to make a sentence about Rainforest Cubs. The next week we un-scrambled more words, but this time we were using words from the cub scout Promise and Law.

The week after, we mapped our local services. We had to find locations in Hertfordshire and use coordinates on the map. It was very interesting.

In October we split into two groups and delivered leaflets to the local people advertising the jumble collection. A week later, the Sixers and Seconders returned and collected any jumble that the people could donate. It took about an hour to empty the trailer because we had so much jumble!

We watched a video clip on how to create a gift box with things like: teddies, soap, little toys and other useful things that people with not enough money need. We had the choice to create a Shoebox of our own or as a Six, then the following week we brought in the items we chose, packed our Shoeboxes carefully and we wrapped it up and sent them off.

After half term we had a Halloween Party based on Mexican Day of the Dead. We played lots of party games and had LOTS of party food! The funniest part was when we were throwing the toilet rolls around the room and the best part was that we were allowed to!

It was very interesting when we visited Watford Jamai Mosque, but I really enjoyed the chess night because it is my favourite board game.

I really enjoyed Christmas crafts night because we made our family Christmas Cards and we made miniature snowflakes and Christmas trees with paper. Also, we took part in the Christingle service. It felt very Christmassy. But my favourite part was when we got to eat the sweets off of the oranges.

At the end of term, we had a movie night. It really was quite fun because we got lots of party food and we watched my favourite film ELF! The really funny bit was when he takes all the chewing gum off the bottom of the railing and eats it when Santa specifically said not to eat it! YUCK!!!

By Daniel Perry





Key details:

- From 21 to 23 June 2019
- Disney Pixar theme
- Hog/lamb roast on Saturday night
- Badgework covered
- Campfire
- Film and disco
- And loads more!

Watford North is holding a District Camp at Lees Wood, with a Disney Pixar theme and hog roast. Each Group will camp as a Sub camp, and we have been allocated Coco as our theme. The Group is also celebrating 110 years of Scouting, and we hope to include this during the weekend.

The weekend camp is open to all Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and Helpers and catering is included in the cost. Beavers are invited for the day on Saturday 22 June and will be able to fully participate in the activities, however, we may not be able to provide Leaders to accompany the Beavers on Saturday so any Beaver attending must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**The cost for the weekend camp is £50 for 2 days camping, £30 for 2 days not camping, £15 for a Beavers for Saturday, and all Leaders, Active Support and Parent Helpers are free.**

Please download the bookings forms from [www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk/districtcamp](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk/districtcamp) to complete. The closing date is **3 May**. All parents must be DBS checked by the Scout Association.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley (3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford) set off to go to Tolmers for the County Green Beret challenge. There were 15 of us in total. In Abbo's A (Team 72) were Andrew Grant (Team Leader), Emma Renphrey, Harry Moore, Ben Newing, Rose Carter and myself. In Abbo's B (Team 73) were Leila Whiting (Team Leader), Emma Pinchbeck, Lucy Newman, Katie Packman, Ben Chase and Zachary Hines. Not forgetting the leaders: Clive, Alison and Amaelia.

When we got to Tolmers we found where we were camping and, after finding out how, we began to put up the tents (the boys' tent and then the girls' tent). After we had finished doing that, we unpacked our stuff. We gathered in the big white event tent, split into our teams and went through what we would be doing, such as what times we had been given for the obstacle course and the orienteering. After going through the team sheets for the day and night bases we were told what time to get back to the camp before the main events. After having something to eat we decided to get ready for bed.



The night was not that cold and we all slept fairly well (I hope). We all woke up at around 6:30-7:00, had breakfast and got ready for the day challenges. As soon as everyone was ready, we headed to the activities and looked for the ones with the shortest queue. After various challenges involving climbing over a minibus, sorting out the size of tyres, building a chair and failing miserably at solving a puzzle, we checked the time and headed back to camp to get ready for the obstacle course. Our defence to stop us from getting covered in mud, was you guessed it, bin bags and swimming caps!

As we walked to the obstacle course, looking like Umpa-Loompas, we saw others caked in mud. The first obstacle was running across a pond on walkboards. When the whole team had got across, we went on to the next challenges including pulling ourselves up a slope using a pulley and swing (a piece of wood) hurdles high enough to be in the Grand National and a series of jumps and tunnels along with a climb over netting, running up a slope covered with mud. Then one I had been dreading going under the scramble nets. Towards the end, most of our team had become a hybrid of half bin-bag and half swimmer as the last two tasks approached, we began to slow down this resulted in some of us not being able to do all of the challenges involving lifting everyone



up over a plywood board and then across the metal poles. We finally reached the last obstacle similar to a low Go Ape course. As soon as we had finished that we made a dash for the finish line.



Afterwards we had lunch and did some more of the day bases and returned to do the orienteering. The orienteering went mostly to plan, the map reader was pretty good so we roughly knew where we were going. However, three quarters way through we finally saw the time 3 minutes before we had to go. So, we ran to the end and avoided being disqualified by 1 minute. Soon after that we had dinner and set off to do the night bases. By now we were all freezing so we

tried to do as many warm activities as we possibly could. We all got back to the tents at around 11:00 and got ready to go to sleep. The night was absolutely freezing so we were all wrapped up as much as possible.



In the morning we all packed up after breakfast and then gathered at the stage to hear the results. As soon as that had finished, we found out our District results with our teams coming 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District. We then went home on the minibus, all of us cold and muddy.

Ellie Newing  
Eagles Patrol



Watopoly. What? What's that? Opoly - Monopoly, oh I get it Monopoly/Watopoly - Monopoly in Watford.

### When did we play?

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Watford District Scouts held a game of Monopoly in Watford. Watopoly! You're probably thinking why you would want to play Monopoly in Watford well... turns out it was **really fun**, we all enjoyed it a lot!

### Who played?

There were seven groups involved in the game including 2 from 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley. In one team there was Lucy, Emma, Zachary, Jessica and Luke; in our team there was Leila, Ben N, Ben C, Jeffery and me. As team leader my first question to the team was "What is our theme?" After debate we decided on Onesies with a teddy bear as a Monopoly Mascot (we could be awarded additional points if we adopted a theme).

### What is Watopoly?

Watopoly is similar to the board game Monopoly, the aim of the game was to accumulate the most money. The leaders spread out across Watford in the allocated destinations, for example: Watford Police Station, Cassiobury Park, Watford General Hospital, McDonalds and the Watford Coliseum.

We had 7 hours to play the game, starting at "GO". Each team was given "2,000 Watopoly money before setting off. We rolled the dice to determine our first destination: Watford Cemetery. After a 20 minute walk we arrived to find we could either buy the property or, if already purchased, pay the rent on the rent card. We were lucky to buy it which meant we could earn rent from the site (4 Watopoly pounds).

There were many different places to go. At each location we rolled the dice to see where we had to go next. If we landed on a Chance or a Community Chest square we would pick out a card from the pile and follow the instructions then repeat rolling the dice until a destination was found.

Once the 7 hours were up we went back to the starting point "GO", handed in our cash and property cards and received any rent from properties we owned. The head leader counted up the proceeds for each group and the winner was announced. Waiting nervously ... Sadly our team came in at 7<sup>th</sup> place because at our last location we had to pay £1000 as the property we had landed on had a hotel. However, the other team in our troop did us proud and came in at 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Overall, we really enjoyed the day out; it was a lot of walking but we discovered ways to navigate around our local town. We agreed that we would enter again next year and get more teams involved. Because we enjoyed it so much, Leila and I are thinking about making an Abbots Langley version to play in the Summer as part of our Gold Award. Our thanks to the District Scout Leader, Greg Brennan for organising the event and to all the leaders and adults who supported it.

**Katy Packman**  
Stags Patrol



There was an exciting yet worried and nervous buzz in the room. It was the day of the cooking competition. As the judges sat down and the time was ticking away, we clutched our knives and readied the stove. The clock struck quarter to 10 and we were off. We chopped carrots and cucumber, we boiled pasta and prepared the sauce. The other teams got busy creating soups and complex dishes. We knew this was going to be close. My team of 3 cooked more carefully, chopped more tenderly than ever as the clock ticked on.



Luckily we had amazing posh plates to make our dishes look ornate. We brought out menus, table decorations, made mocktails and set the table. We plated up and hoped for the best. There was a team from a different scout troop so I had no idea what



they were capable of. As the competition came towards judging time, we relaxed at the fact that we did our best and that was all we could do.

The Judges took their time to taste every dish. They said that our team had the best dessert which was apple fritters with cinnamon butter and raspberries. We know that the salad was too simple and they looked at the main like it didn't taste too amazing.



At the end of the day, we didn't come first but we didn't come last, we came 2nd. We learnt some things that we can work on for next time and at least we got to eat the meal at the end! The other good news was that one of our other teams were the overall winners and will represent our District in the County competition. My thanks to Jason and Tony, and of course our Mums, for all their support. Left is a photo of the winning team.

By Elizabeth Dunstone  
Stags Patrol



**A talk by Liam Kilbride and Anna  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

As usual, on the first Friday of the month, we arrived at Scout HQ in eager anticipation. This time to hear an illustrated talk on Medieval Archery. Of course I thought that I knew all there was to know about the archer and his life. The first words of the talk, however, soon put paid to that idea.

As the evening unrolled, we were entertained and told about the life of this master of his trade.



In summary, we heard how the archers who were trained from childhood to handle a longbow and to develop arm and shoulder muscles to an astounding degree. We learnt that the long bow, made of yew, was between six and seven feet in length and when strung had an eyewatering draw weight of 100 pounds. At this point I might add that, having drawn a longbow in my teens I almost dislocated my shoulder in the process – and that at only half the draw distance of the professional archer I can appreciate just what supermen the real exponents of the art were.

If you are interested, here are few statistics:

A Medieval archer in battle carried some 60 to 75 arrows in sheaves of 12 and launched them at a rate of 12 to 20 a minute with such force that the arrow could pierce armour at 240 yards! Of course there was the cross bow as well but it did not have the devastating power of its big brother.

## ACTIVE SUPPORT



On display were various artifacts of the archers trade that were referred to during a truly fascinating talk.

This was followed by an overview by Anna of Medieval medicine. The gist of this was to show that although treatment for various ailments owed a lot to psychosomatics, in reality the success of some treatments of infections, say, owed much to Penicillin!

But “hang on”, I hear you cry. “Don't you know that penicillin wouldn't be 'invented' for some four hundred years until a chap called Fleming noticed the effect of a fungus on bacteria. It stopped them from growing in its presence”.

To the physicians of those times the mould we now know as called Penicillium (from which Penicillin is extracted) along with the blood clotting of presumably cobwebs was there doing its job to pretty good effect. Of course some of the battle wounds in particular were too severe and often the victim would succumb.

The talk wove on its way until all too soon it came to an end.

What a fascinating, informative and indeed enjoyable way to spend a cold winter evening.



Well done. A great evenings entertainment.

**Peter Marett**

## DIARY DATES

### March

1	Quiz Night	All
2 - 3	District Night Owls competition	Scouts
6 & 9	Double Jumble Sale	All
11	Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ	Exec Committee
19	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild
24	Scout County Triathlon - 10am - Lees Wood	Scouts

### April

5	Active Support Meeting	Active Support
8	District Curry Night - Abbots Tandoori	All
16	Ladies Guild Meeting - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
28	St George's Day Parade	All

### May

3	Active Support Meeting	Active Support
3 - 5	Scout Narrowboat Weekend	Scouts
17	Scout Group AGM - HQ	All
20	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
21	Ladies Guild Meeting - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild

### June

7	Active Support Meeting	Active Support
8	Abbots Langley Carnival	All
15	Abbots Langley Scout Group's 110th Year Anniversary	All
18	Ladies Guild Meeting - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
21 - 23	District Camp - Lees Wood	All

### July

5	Active Support Meeting	Active Support
15	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
16	Ladies Guild Christmas Meal - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
27 - 3	Scout Summer Camp - Derbyshire	Scouts

### August

2	Active Support Meeting	Active Support
3	Fun and Games Evening - HQ 8pm	Active Support
21	Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ	Exec Committee

### September

6	Active Support Meeting	Active Support
16	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
17	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild

# Hall Happenings

Monday	4.45 - 6.15 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lagoon)
		Closing end of July 2019
	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Abbo's Explorer Scouts
	7.30 - 10.00 pm	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
		2pm October to March
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Rainforest)
Thursday	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	8pm	Active Support (1st in Month)
Saturday	10.30 - 12.00 am	Lake Beavers

Pauline Styles  
**Woodsmoke Editor**

**Deadline for next issue - 17th May 2019**

Woodsmoke is online to view and print at  
[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)



#YouShape



**Scouts**

**1st Abbots Langley  
(3rd North Watford)**

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