



237th Edition

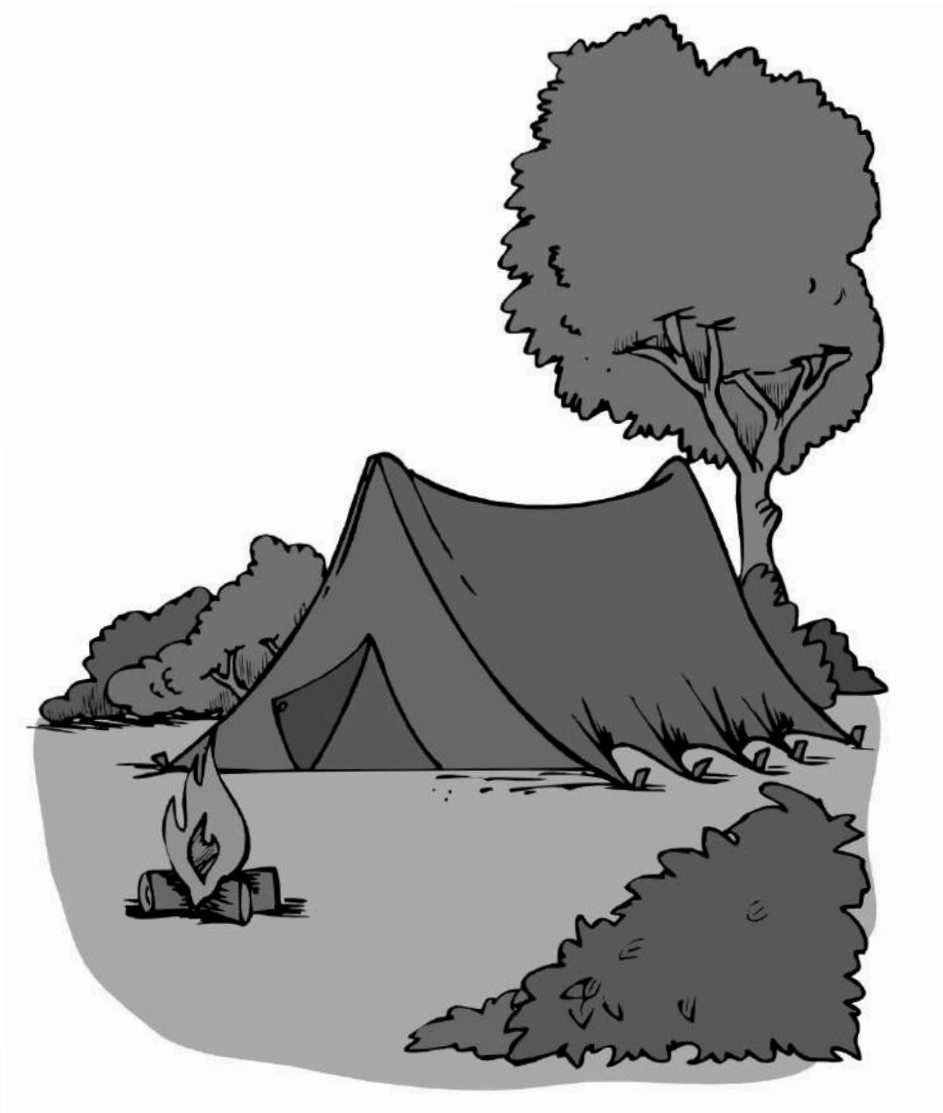
First published March 1954

February 2020



Scouts

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

Chairman's Blog

Welcome everyone to the first Woodsmoke edition of 2020 and a special welcome to all the new members of our Scout Group.



Since our last edition of Woodsmoke in November, the Group has been involved in many activities. The village Remembrance Parade saw 118 uniformed group members take part, with each section proudly represented.



Many Scouts enjoyed taking part in the annual Green Beret competition at Lees wood in November (which you can read about later in this newsletter). Members of our Active Support provided invaluable support with the course construction and running of the event on the day. However, much more help is needed. Therefore, we will be asking some parents to keep Saturday October 31st free and join in the construction fun at Phasels Wood!

The Christmas Market at the end of November was very successful, in spite of the very wet weather, and raised £1100. Thank-you to Lin, The Ladies Guild, Parents and Active Support Members who gave up their time to support this fundraiser.

The Christingle Service in early December was again well-supported and £429.00 was collected and donated to The Children's Society.

The annual Boxing Day walk celebrated its 70th year with 20 attendees taking part (see Active Support Section in this issue).

Our hall and mini-bus are still being used by local groups and, along with the solar panels, provide a valuable source of income. We have recently purchased, with the help of a grant, a new mini-bus and have decided to sell the old one, along with our canoe trailer. If anyone knows of a potential buyer please contact your Section Leader or committee member and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Since our last jumble sale in October, the British Heart Foundation has raised £200.00 from donated books and bric-a-brac. My thanks go to Val for her hard work in arranging this for us. Val has decided to step down from The Executive Committee and I would like to thank her for the commitment she has given to The Scout Group over the years. The dates for the next Double Jumble Sale are March 25th and 28th. Start sorting now!

The annual fire drills were successfully completed in November 2019 and as a result some emergency lighting and smoke alarms were replaced.

The parent rota is working well and I would like to thank the cleaning team who has successfully taken over from Bib to ensure that our HQ is kept clean and tidy each week. Our next HQ maintenance day is scheduled for Saturday April 25th, so keep the date free.

You may remember that last March our HQ was broken into and a considerable amount of damage was caused to the building, including several air rifles being stolen. I am happy to report that these rifles have now been returned to us. Regrettably, a prosecution was unable to take place, even though the offenders were caught, but at least we are now able to put the incident behind us and move on.

A future project our Group Executive is considering, is the installation of a climbing wall in the hall at HQ. This would provide an introduction to the sport for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and be available all year round. The Group, throughout its history, has always had strong links with climbing and it is still proving to be very popular with our young people today. Climbing is currently very much in the public eye and will feature at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, for the first time. I will keep you updated of any progress made.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our 'Albatross' Explorer Unit in bidding for funds and a thank-you to The Tough Ten Committee for their £1000.00 donation to the Unit, which will be put to good use in the DoE Award Scheme.

Up-and-coming Group events to put in your diaries are:
St George's Day Parade, 26th April, Group AGM, May 15th, Abbots Langley Carnival, June 13th. I hope to see as many of you as possible at these events.

Bye for now.
Mike Benson

Clive's Chat

Congratulations to all our youngsters on completing their various Chief Scouts Award. These were:

Bronze – Max Cheers, Gabriel Forrest, Toby Hunter, Esme Rodgers, Max Sillwood and Lucie Tamsitt

Silver – Dean Humphries, Theo Hunter, Isabelle Livermore-Hardy and Freddie Sillwood.

Gold – Andrew Grant, Zachary Hines, Katy Packman and Leila Whiting.



I'm pleased to welcome 2 additions to our adult leadership team. Having completed 4 years as Young Leaders with the Scout Troop, **Ros Chase** and **Lucy Packman** have taken on the adult role of Assistant Scout Leader. The sad news is that Finlay Potiuk has stepped down from active involvement. My sincere thanks to him for his support.

With regard to other successes, our Scouts have been very busy participating in various County and District events. Two teams of Scouts had a great time in the District Watopoly in September with another two teams entering the Green Beret in November. The Green Beret teams were very successful with one team winning the District trophy for the 2nd year running with the other team coming runner-up. Three teams entered the District Cooking Competition this term with the team of Millie Geard, Francesca Dean, Jessica Whiting and Theo Hunter winning the trophy for the 10th year in a row.

Well done to everyone who attended the Remembrance Day Parade in November. There was an excellent turnout from our youngsters. The Christingle at St Lawrence's church was also a very enjoyable and successful event with the church full and £429 being raised for the Children's Society.

And finally, a huge thank you to all our Group members and parents who were involved in the various fundraising activities last term. The new policy of parents assisting with our fundraising events resulted in a much greater turnout of helpers at the Autumn jumble sale, raising an excellent £1,441, and the Christmas Market, which realised £1,099.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader



Both Beaver colonies at Remembrance Day 2019



District Christmas disco



Junk modelling

Lake

BEAVERS

This term the Lake Beavers were working towards their teamwork challenge badge, one session we played lots of games where the Beavers had to work together – including a caterpillar crawl, a memory game, building spaghetti towers and a quiz about animals.



We also enjoyed a trip to Garston fire station, where the firefighters showed us around a fire engine and let us all have a go at the hoses!



There was lots of arts and craft sessions - making firework pictures with chalk and paint on bonfire night; decorating Christmas star ornaments for the tree and a few cookery sessions baking cakes and trying to make sandwiches with one hand.



For our last session of the year, we went to the cinema with the River Beavers to watch a Christmas classic – Home Alone! A few Beavers had seen it previously, but this was their first time seeing it on the big screen and a lovely time was had by all.

Dani Chalk



At cubs, you do a variety of different activities, make new friends and have fun!

Last term we took part in a range of activities, such as visiting Metro Bank. Firstly, we had question time. Next, we split up into two groups. One group did the magic counting coin machine, which is where you guess how many coins you are putting into the bank. You are given the opportunity to donate some of the money to charity too (the charity choice changes each time). The other group went into the vault. You have to hunt for a specific locker number. Once it is found the bank employee opens it and you get lollipops. At the end, you get a bag with an M money bank, crayons and a metro bank bag. The bank also hosts many different events and is a bank like no other.

At Christmas, we had movie night where you can dress up all fancy and watch a Christmas movie. At the hut, the best Cubs get to sit in the VIP row at the front. You also get drinks and popcorn there! After a vote, we watched 'Nativity Danger in the Manger'. It was so very good!

Throughout the term, Cubs can earn badges by doing various activities, crafts and sports. For example, we learnt about knot skills and how to make powerful bracelets, to name but a few. You can also earn badges on outings and at home. You can look at the badges on offer online or ask cub helpers.

At other times of the year, we get to go on outings. These are very enjoyable and can be from camping to obstacle courses. Camping can earn you badges to put on your jumper, as well as provide you with a wide variety of experiences and develop your skills and abilities.

Recently, we went to 'Rock Up' in Watford. As soon as we were given our wristbands, we watched a safety video. After that, we were all set to climb. My favourite wall was 'Spaghetti Strings', which was really hard because it had thin ropes. Also, I went on the 'Leap of Faith,' which is where you can climb up and choose a number. When the instructor says jump, you jump. It was epic!

Being a cub is great fun and you learn new skills on the way!

Juliet
Age: 10 years old

Scout Troop Achievements

A total of 22 Scout Challenges were completed last term. Many congratulations to -

- Harry Moore and Ellie Newing on achieving their Creative Challenge,
- Harry Moore on completing his Skills Challenge,
- Andrew Grant, Zachary Hines, Katy Packman and Leila Whiting on attaining their World Challenge,
- Rose Carter, Millie Geard, Sean Lambert, Harry Moore, Ben Newing, Ellie Newing, James Shephard and Jessica Whiting on the award of their Teamwork Challenges,
- Andrew Grant, Zachary Hines, Katy Packman and Leila Whiting on achieving their Team Leader Challenge, and
- Andrew Grant, Katy Packman and Leila Whiting on completing their Personal Challenge

Very well done!
Clive

On Saturday 28th September, all Scouts that were participating met up in Watford town centre to play Watopoly. Our Scout Troop entered 2 teams of 5. We had to decide on a team name, theme and have matching outfits. Our team were wearing onesies and had a teddy mascot. Armed with £2000, we were ready to set off on a six-hour adventure around the sights of Watford!

On the first roll of the dice we were off to Watford Market (luckily it wasn't as far as



Cassiobury park!). At each base we had to decide whether we wanted to buy that property. We rolled the dice again and then we were off to our next base! Passing 'Go' meant that you had to do a challenge relating to scouts. We rolled the dice (only one this time) to determine what challenge we did. Our first challenge we were asked to name as many challenge badges as we could (we got 5); for every badge that you named you could get £20 meaning that we got £100 altogether! The challenges were mainly like this however there was one where we had to find something in town and take a picture of it with us acting out a film (we did Titanic)!

We carried on doing this until the 6 hours were up at 4:00. All the teams came back to the start and all money was counted including rent. Unfortunately, we didn't win but I thought we did well and worked well together as a team. I loved Watopoly and hope to do it again next year.

Jenny Newman
Otters Patrol

On 15th November the 1st Abbots Langley Troop left the scout HQ on the minibus to go to Lees Wood. The Green Beret is a camp where you are put in teams of six and have to compete in different challenges such as: orienteering, assault course, day bases and night bases. The day bases and night bases were different challenges where you had to compete for points across a variety of activities. However, I will talk more about that later. After packing our bag and putting them in the trailer we set off with high hopes to Lees Wood.

After we arrived, we left our day bags in the minibus and set up our tents, but there was a bit of a twist to this as it was raining and very windy which made it difficult to put up the tents, but eventually we got assistance from some of the leaders. The leaders that decided to embark with us on the Green Beret were Clive, Alison, Jamie and Lucy. When we had all finished putting up our tents, we all came together as a District (North Watford) and ate dinner. For dinner we had burgers which were extremely tasty. After eating, we all went off to our separate tents. Jess Newman, Rose, Ellie and Ciara went off to their tent, then Katy, Leila, Millie and Jess Whiting went off to their tent and finally, me, Luke and Zachary headed off to our tent, we also had Ben in our tent, but he would arrive Saturday morning. Then some of us got an early night so we wouldn't be tired the next day.

We woke, had breakfast and started to get ready for the day bases. Ciara and I were given our orange bibs as team leaders and were split into 2 teams. My team, Abbos Pathfinder, was myself as team leader, Katy, Leila, Jess W, Millie and Zachary. We were team number 65 and the other team was number 64 and were: Ciara as team leader, Jess N, Ben, Luke, Ellie and Rose. There were a total of 152 teams taking part from across Hertfordshire. As the day bases started, we all arranged to meet back at different times for the assault course and orienteering. The day bases started at 9:30 and Finished at 5:30. The first thing my team did as a day base was this spaghetti letters base. What we had to do was make different words with the letters from the tin, but the catch was we had to use more complicated letters to get more points. By the end of the 15 minutes we had got 50 points and moved on to more bases. When It was time to head back for the assault course, we had completed 7 different bases and had done well on them. The other team were also doing well and had done five.

We came back and were briefed by our leaders and then went to the assault course. When it was our turn, we were told by the instructor that we had an egg and if we didn't crack it by the end, we would get an additional 60 points. As a result of this we used my gloves to make sure it didn't crack. By the end of the assault course we had done reasonably well and luckily our egg hadn't cracked. After this we had some lunch, so we were full of energy.

With reluctance we went back out to day bases and completed a few more so we would be up to 10. At 2:30 we headed back to camp and were told about the

SCOUTS



orienteering and then went to the start. We got there and eagerly embarked off searching for the stamps. we achieved 8 stamps which we were content with, but we reckon we could have got more. Next instead of going back to camp and resting for a while we continued on and went straight back to the day bases. As we were very swift in the way we got around we completed day bases with a total amount of bases of 23, a new record for Abbots Langley.

When we had finally finished our dinner, we all started to get ready for night bases. One of the unique bases in the night we did was the hot chocolate base where we had to drink hot chocolate and get 50 points extra, but this base was exclusive and didn't really count as a base. At the end we were exhausted and had done 21 bases, as we were all tired, we went to sleep happy in hope of the results for the next morning.

We woke up and started to break camp. We were all very happy with how we had done overall and lined up to wait for the results from County. Unfortunately, no one from our District won any of the County trophies with Royston the overall winner. However, we could still win the District Trophy again. Everyone in District lined up and were eagerly awaiting the results and then they said Abbos Pathfinder, which was my team! I walked up and took the trophy and we headed off to the minibus and went home.

Harry Moore
Patrol Leader, Stags Patrol.

District Cooking Competition



The cooking competition happens once every year. Scouts get into teams of four and plan a starter, main and desert. The theme for this year was 'fresh', so you could not use canned ingredients. Also, if you left your fruit and vegetables out for too long, the judges would deduct points because the vegetables wouldn't have a nice crunch and the fruit would not have a sweet flavour.

Each team had a budget of £18, if you went over budget you lost points.

To cook any food you could only use two camping stoves. It was sensible to have water boiling all the time as you had no access to hot water, so you had to make time to boil water for washing up.

But the real challenge was to cook, clean, wash up, lay the table nicely and present your food to the judges, all in only two hours!

After the judges tasted all of the teams food and looked at their table presentation, they finally settled on the winners.

Our Scout Troop entered 3 teams in total and we had all had lots of practices beforehand. The winner of the Cooking Competition 2020 was my team, of which I was the proud Captain. My other team members were Francesca Dean, Jessica Whiting and Theo Hunter. The runners up were also from our Troop and our other team came 4th. It is the 10th year in a row that we have won the District Trophy. Our thanks to Tony, Jason and our parents for all their help and support with our preparation and practices. We, as District winners, will now move on to County Competition where we will do it all again on 1st March.

Millie Geard
APL Stags



ACTIVE SUPPORT

**We're looking for people to join our
small friendly team of adult volunteers**



**We support the group wherever
its needed**

Setting up and running bases for
camps and competitions

Catering for all sorts of group events

Building the Green Beret high
ropes course

Fundraising at Carnival and
Jumble sales

Crafts like Christingle candle making
or gates for camps, and lots more ...

But we also have our own enjoyable
activities once a month -



Watch out for the new programme
coming soon - Treasure hunts,
shooting & archery, maybe even white
water rafting!

Or

simply a visit to something new like a
bat walk or relaxing weekend away.

Please email Richard on
Richard.gabrielsurv@live.co.uk We
could really use your help. (Even for an
hour or two)!



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Sally Bail

23 Sept 1963 - 13 Jan 2020

We received the unexpected news that Sally passed away last month. She was a member of the Abbots Active Support group, but in latter years had not been able to fully enjoy an active life.

Sally loved the great outdoors, being amongst nature, wildlife and flowers.

Her husband Tony, remains part of the Active Support group and we hope this Fellowship will give him some comfort.

DIARY DATES

March

1	County Cooking Competition	Scouts
7	District Night Owls Competition - 2pm Lees Wood	Scouts
13	Gin with a Twist	Active Support
16	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
17	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild
25 & 28	Double jumble sale	All
29	District Triathlon	Scouts

April

3	TBC	Active Support
6	Curry Night - Abbots Tandoori	All
21	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild
25	Maintenance Day	All
26	St George's Day Parade	All

May

1	TBC	Active Support
1-3	Reccie weekend - Forest of Dean - contact Clive for a place	All
14	District Wide Games Competition - 7.30pm Lees Wood	Scouts
15	Scout Group Presentation Evening & AGM - 8pm HQ	All
18	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
19	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild

June

5	TBC	Active Support
13	Abbots Langley Carnival	All
26-28	Top 10 Scouts of the Year - Narrow Boat Weekend	Scouts

July

3 - 5	District Cub Camp - Lees Wood	Cubs
3	TBC	Active Support
4	Maintenance Day	All
20	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
25 - 1	Scout Summer Camp - Forest of Dean	Scouts

September

18	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
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Hall Happenings

Monday	6.15 - 7.45 pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Abbo's Explorer Scouts
	2.00 - 4.30 pm	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
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	Beaver Scouts (Lake)

Pauline Styles
Woodsmoke Editor

Deadline for next issue - 1st May 2020

Woodsmoke is online to view and print at
www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

#YouShape



Scouts

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

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