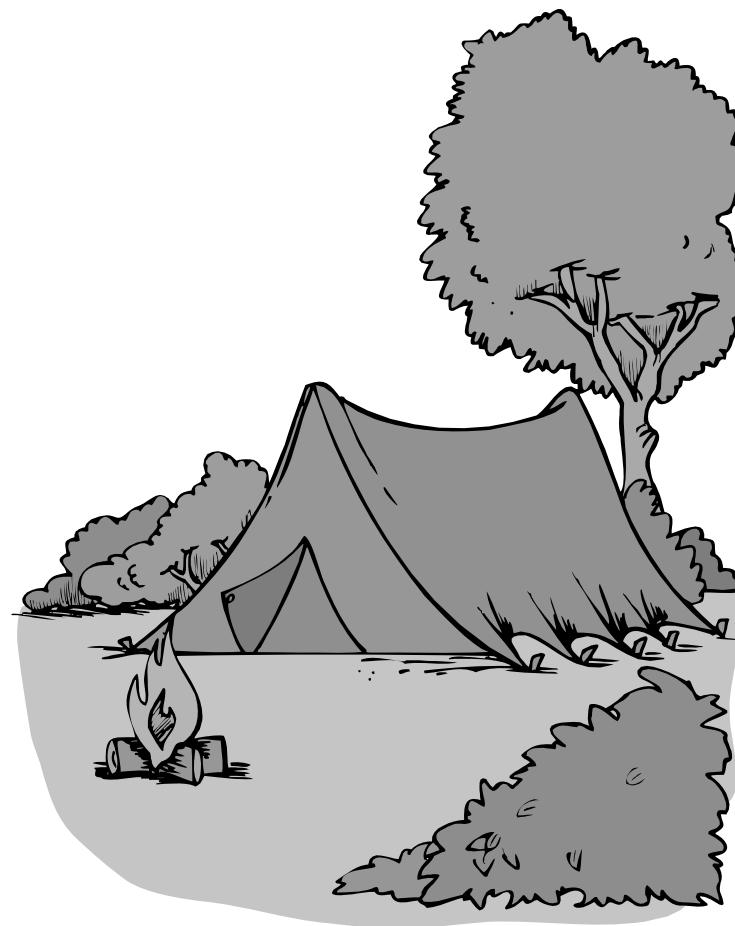


June 2004

W

Woodsmoke



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

Contacts

Scouter in Charge Clive Winder

Hall Happenings

Monday	3rd Abbots Langley Brownies
Tuesday	Beaver Scouts Ladies Guild (Third in the Month)
Wednesday	Cub Scouts Explorer Scouts
Thursday	1st Abbots Langley Brownies Scouts
Friday	Girl Guides Fellowship (First in the Month)

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles
22 Kindersley Way, Abbots Langley, Herts WD5 0DQ
Tel: 01923 269902 Fax: 01923 445374
Email: pauline.styles@ntlworld.com

Small Ads

Something you wish to sell that is Scout or "Outdoor Activity" related?
Phone or email the editor with details for the September issue.

Blue cycling helmet suitable for 6-11 year old £5 Bike carrier for 2 bikes £5
Tel: 01923 269902



You can borrow the Group's 17 seater mini bus for Scouting related business for a donation. Appropriate donations would be:

Daily £25

Weekend £40

Weekly £120

Comprehensive insurance drivers over 25 and under 65 only. Contact Robert Sheppard on 01923 263146

I hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of the Woodsmoke. The next issue will be in September. Articles to me please by mid August at the latest. Many thanks

Pauline

Welcome to the latest edition of the Woodsmoke and a very big thank you to Janet Sands for undertaking the editorial role over the years. As a parent I have always looked forward to receiving a copy in my hot little hands at the beginning of each term, even if it does come with the subscriptions!



It is now my task to continue Janet's good work and take on the editorial role. Any pictures, articles, puzzles or anecdotes would be most welcome from children and parents alike. You can find my email on the back cover.

The photographs in this editions are courtesy of Richard Gabriel, Nicola Trotman. Gary Essam and Janette Noonan. My thanks to them and I wish you *Happy Reading ...*

Pauline

Scout Troop News

Congratulations to -----

Jack Courtenay, Alastair Gabriel, Ben Halcomb, Lawrence Hendrey, Jack McCarthy, Ross Noonan and Jamie Sidaway, the first Scouts in the Group to be awarded the GOLD CHIEF SCOUTS AWARD.

Dominic Benson, Daniel Cobb, Alastair Gabriel, James Henderson, Jack McCarthy, Grace McCarthy, Ross Noonan, Luke Sharpe, Chris Sheppard, George Styles and Tom Ward who were the successful winners of the 2003/4 'Scouts of the Year' competition. The reward for their commitment, dedication and good behaviour was a weekend on a narrowboat. Read about the great time they had in Daniels article. This years contest has already started and the competition for places on the boat will be fierce.

Everyone who took part in the District Wide Games Competition in January and the Night Triffid in March. Well Done!

Clive

MIKE 'BUTCH' BUTCHER

1935 – 2004

*Bryan Sharpe
Chairman*

It is with sad regret that we report the death of Mike Butcher. Butch joined the Abbots Langley Scout Group in 1948 at the age of thirteen, coming from another Scout Group. He sailed through Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rovers. After serving two years in the Parachute Regiment from 1955 to 56, having landed in the Suez Canal zone, he returned to Abbots, but then immediately immigrated to New Zealand. He stayed there for two years and obtained the rank of Scout Commissioner. He finally came home in 1960 together with four New Zealand Rover Scouts, who stayed and worked in Abbots for some considerable time.



At the close down of the Venture Scout Unit in Abbots in the 1970's, and with the help of two others, he started up a Sunday morning Adventure group for Scouts of age fifteen and above. This turned into a new Venture Unit for Abbots Langley.

Although never taking out a leader warrant, but being a member of the Rovers, and later the Scout Fellowship, he introduced caving to Abbots Langley. As a result the then Rover Crew became experts in this field and had some sway in instigating the cavers badge into Scouting. Later in 1976, Butch took over the canoe section, and with a lot of training and coursework, he became a British Canoe Union senior instructor. This fared well and was very useful not only for Abbots Langley, but also for the District.

Mike supported the Abbots Langley Scout Group for many years with fetes, jumble sales, markets etc, and was a member of the Group Executive Committee for about fifteen years. He organised two very successful Group Family Camps in

the latter years, but most of all Butch managed to hold together the younger element in Scouting, who are now the main support team of the Abbots Langley Scout Group.

In December 2003 he was awarded the Medal of Merit for 40 years service and dedication to the Scout Movement, and particularly this group.

At the 2004 census in January the total Group membership was 100 comprising:

Beaver Scouts	19
Cub Scouts	35
Scouts	38
Leaders & Instructors	8

N I G H T T R I F F I D F W
H B O N C S T T R S B O I O
M L O V B C A M P T I N N O
H B X W K O P C A P Y K H D
O T I E Z U P S T A R E A S
I Z S Z K T T R R I T D K M
B A D G E S G H O T V I C O
W O G G L E A I L M T I H K
B L T F M S T R D W I T T E
L F A C D L O L A F Y S T Y
I F B W H E E G V G K C E I

There are 10 words to find in this Wordsearch devised by Scout George Styles.

Answers to the Editor please. First received and answers will be published in the next edition.

SCOUTER IN CHARGE - ANNUAL REPORT 2004

into the canal. Everyone took turns to steer the narrowboat and worked in teams to work the locks, it was great fun. As we went further up the canal it got a lot more overgrown and we were all leaning off the side of the boat trying to grab the fishing floats that people had accidentally cast into the trees. As we went along a bit further, Ross was leaning over the side of the boat and he spotted some fishing line so he pulled it in and there was an enormous crayfish tangled up in it, so we untied it and let it go.



When we got to Berkhamstead we had a big game of football in the park and then we went back to the barge. Clive had to try and turn us around again and he did it quite well. We moored up for the night and had a fish and chip supper.



On Sunday we started the return journey. On the way back we passed the trees again and got some more floats. We spent a lot of time on the roof. Then Tom accidentally steered us into the trees and those on

the roof got scratched and hit with branches, so we gave Tom the nickname of 'squirrel'. As we approached one of the last locks we met a man who had just finished his fishing and he gave us a big pot of maggots to use as bait. When we arrived back at the weir at Hunton bridge, we started to fish again, and Ross caught a little silver fish using a maggot so we all had a look and we chucked it back in. Then we were all collected and went home. A big thank you to Clive, Michael and Malcolm for organising and making the weekend such great fun. The trip was one of the best trips I have ever been on and I hope I go on the one being organised for next year.

By Daniel Cobb (Pippin), Eagles

The Beavers have continued to enjoy a varied programme of activities. Helen Welch, the Beaver Leader, has again done a marvellous job this year. She has been ably assisted by Lyn Lythaby, Jason Dutton and a number of parents, particularly Rachel Drake and Niky Goodman. In addition to the weekly programme, that has enabled them to complete a number of the Challenges and Activity badges, the Beavers had a great time bowling, swimming and visiting Willows Farm.



The Cubs have also thrived thanks to the leadership team of Gerald Wilson, Chris Frith and Alison Redmond, and have benefited from an enjoyable programme. Alison is currently taking a sabbatical for a year and I thank her for all her support over the years. Fortunately, two new helpers, Aisling Benson and Jo Johnson have joined the team. The Cubs had a great time at the District Cub Camp at Lees Wood last year and also sent a representative to the District Chess Competition. There have been many awards achieved with regard to both the Challenge Awards and a large number of Activity Badges attained for Nights Away, Road Safety, Art and Entertainer. My congratulations particularly go to the 6 boys who have completed their Silver Chief Scouts Awards, the first in the Group.





Scouts of the Year Competition



On Friday, 23rd of April the winners of the Top Scouts Competition were rewarded with a holiday on a canal boat from Hunton bridge to Berkhamstead and back. As everyone arrived at the weir we started to get all our luggage onboard, prepare the boat and put on our life jackets. We set sail at about 7pm and Clive had to do the tricky job of turning the 70 foot barge around in a tiny turning circle. After a few minutes he had put us on course for the first lock. We all got out and Clive talked us through how



to operate a lock. As we were chugging down the canal at 3mph we tried to do a bit of weight fishing but we didn't catch anything (except for a banana skin). After only 2 locks we moored up and went to the pub for a game of football with the kids from the village. Obviously we won but they did play well. We were

still at the pub at about 11:30 and we decided to go back for some sleep. That night we were recording hilarious things on Tom's phone and whenever somebody went to the toilet, we would lock them in, that night we only got about two hours of sleep.

We were up bright and early the next morning, we all grabbed some breakfast and went back to fishing. Dominic did actually catch something but he forgot to reel it in and it jumped straight back



Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge

SCOUT TROOP ANNUAL REPORT 2004



Members of the District cooking competition

2004 was another year of successful scouting in Abbots Langley. The Troop continues to remain full with 38 scouts, with places only offered to Cubs and siblings.

The Scouts participated in the County Green Beret and supported all the District events, providing the largest number of teams in all the District competitions. These events included a repeat victory in the Triathlon last May, participation in the new Cooking Competition in October, the Wide Game Competition in January, which was very well organised by our own Fellowship, and the Night Owls and Night Triffid Trophy in March. Well done and congratulations to all those that took part.

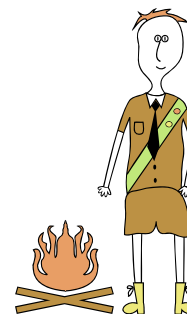
It has been another year of high achievement with regard to Awards. 10 Scouts have completed the Outdoor Challenge, 12 the Adventure Challenge, 22 the Expedition Challenge, 5 the Creative Challenge and 7 the Outdoor Plus Challenge. There were also 65 Activity Badges awarded during the year. Congratulations to all. Of particular note is the achievement of 7 of the boys who have completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award, an achievement that shows tremendous dedication and commitment.

The summer camp to the Bishops Lydeard in Somerset was very successful with 22 Scouts taking part. It was a superb location with plenty of exciting activities including abseiling, caving and climbing in the Cheddar Gorge, canoeing, pony trekking and golf. We also spent two days completing the Expedition Challenge. My thanks to the Leaders, Fellowship and parents who gave up their valuable time to run the camp.

As mentioned above, the Scout section would be nothing if it weren't for the tireless efforts of the Leaders who put in countless hours, not just on a Thursday, to organise and run the programme of activities. My thanks to Russell, Bernice, Phil and Tony who worked throughout the year for the benefit of the Scouts including giving up their weekends with me to support those who take part in the County and District events. Russell has decided to take a sabbatical from scouting which is obviously a great loss to the Troop. My thanks to him for many years of dedication and commitment.

My thanks also to the Fellowship who have helped with a number of the activities, particularly Pete Linsky, Dave Gray, Sue Jarman and Pete Johnson, and to Jonathan Easter who has been a regular helper. Your help is greatly appreciated. Lastly, I thank all those parents who have assisted over the last year, long may it continue as it is your children that benefit and I know that you secretly enjoy it.

Clive Winder
Scout Leader



*** Group Family Camp ***

We hope you've all registered for this event by now. If you're still interested in coming along, please call David Sturgess on 01923 266881 to see if he can fit you in.

Scouter in Charge's Bit

I would like to start by congratulating all the Cubs and Scouts who have recently completed their respective Chief Scouts Award. The Silver Award has been attained by Jonathan Benson, Kieran Coan, James Hendrey, Sam Kidd, Joe Turberfield and Christopher Winder and these were awarded by the Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs, Norman Brandon. The Scouts who achieved their Gold Award are Jack Courtenay, Alastair Gabriel, Ben Halcomb, Lawrence Hendrey, Jack McCarthy, Ross Noonan and Jamie Sidaway. Very well done and may there be many more in the Group.

The AGM was a great turnout with no spare seats. Over the last year we have lost 4 members of the Executive committee due to various reasons and I thank them again for their commitment and support. Fortunately, a number of parents volunteered and were elected to the Executive Committee for the first time. I'm pleased to say that they are already showing great enthusiasm and keenness to help our Group. The new additions are:

Sarah Lowrie
Rachel Drake
Rob Sheppard
Pauline Styles

Group Secretary
Committee Member
Minibus Co-ordinator
Woodsmoke Editor

The future of the Abbo's Explorer Scout Unit has been decided by the District. Although the boys are not totally happy with the decision to merge our unit with Omega, another unit in the District, it was felt that this was the right way to proceed due to the low numbers. The agreement is to meet alternately at the two HQs of Abbots Langley and Langleybury.

Well done to all the fellowship members, ladies guild, parents and Scouts who helped at the April jumble sale which raised over £1,300 for the Group. Please offer your support and help at the Abbots Langley Carnival. We operate a number of stalls and an hours help here and there would be of great assistance.

Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge

problem with the melted chocolate, but thankfully, because of our teamwork, we managed to sort everything out. Considering I wasn't very skilled with flipping pancakes or cracking eggs, I was very pleased with myself as I did not drop a pancake on the floor or crack an egg everywhere! And Grace was wonderful at doing all the washing up while we cleared the floor and tables!

We did not win but I think we impressed the judges with our inspiring presentation! We all worked as a team and did our best.

Rachel Essam



Cooking Competition.

A new District cooking competition took place this year at scouts. Rachel Essam, Mark Macdonald, Jack McCarthy and Grace McCarthy were in one team. There were 6 other teams there, including one other from 1st Abbots Langley with Ross Noonan, Tom Ward, Daniel Cobb and Luke Sharpe.

The theme we chose for our meal was Mexican. All the other teams had come up with some quite good ideas.

When we were choosing what we would cook, we were given a sheet of paper with certain ingredients that we had to include; we had to work around this to produce a meal that would impress the judges! We had a budget of £15:00 to buy all our ingredients so we decided to go to Asda for some bargains! This is our menu:

For starters we had
Scrumptious Salsa Surprise
A delightful dish of delicious Nachos and seasoned fresh tomatoes covered with melted cheese and homegrown herbs.

For main course there was
Tortilla Topper
Tantalize your taste buds as our tortilla topper transports you to a truly Mexican experience. (Spicy chilli relaxing on a freshly made pancake, garnished with cacti – broccoli – and topped with a cheeky sombrero – egg)

And desert
Pear Paradise
Juicy pear slices half coated in luscious chocolate with a creamy yogurt dip.

We had to invite a special guest to taste the food and my Dad volunteered!

At the beginning everything was a bit chaotic but as the afternoon progressed so did the looks of things! Our team had a minor



Explorer Scouts



We are part of the Watford North explorer scout unit, providing scouting activities for 14—18 year old boys and girls.

We have close links with the Polaris Network Scouts who join in and help us as and when required. We recruit our Explorer members from throughout the Watford North District and have members from most groups. Non-Scouts are always welcome.

We offer a varied programme putting as much emphasis as we can on outdoor activities and we also have a number of joint activities with the other Watford North Explorer sub units, The Boggits. In July there will be a county explorer weekend packed with activities and fun. The summer expedition this year at the end of July will be to Killarney in County Kerry, Ireland where there will be a full programme for the 3—4 day expedition covering walking or cycling, water activities and cultural events.

We encourage members to maintain contact with their feeder groups, hopefully through the members doing services with the beavers, cubs, troop or quartermaster.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is open to all members and they are actively encouraged to pursue their Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond awards.

All members are expected, and encouraged to participate in planning our programme and in many cases helping to make the programme happen. We meet every Wednesday and at times on other nights and at weekends. We only break for two weeks over Christmas and New Year.

We sincerely hope your youngsters will fully involve themselves in explorer scouting as this is the only way they will get the most from it.

Dave Polhill
Explorer Scout Leader

DIARY DATES

June

15th	Museum of Three Rivers Talk	Ladies Guild
4th	Butch's Walk	Scout Fellowship
12th	Abbots Langley Carnival	Scout Fellowship/ Scouts
18th/20th	Group Family Camp	All

July

2nd	Golf	Scout Fellowship
12th	Group Meeting	Executive Committee
16th—18th	County Explorer weekend	Explorers
20th	Summer Barbecue	Ladies Guild
23rd—7th	Summer Expedition Killarney, County Kerry	Explorers
25th - 1st	Scout Camp, Ystradgynlais	Scouts

August

6th	Vineyard Trip	Scout Fellowship
-----	---------------	------------------

Did You Know?

The Scout Fellowship's main aim is to be a service section to the rest of the group, whether it's fundraising, HQ maintenance, teaching canoeing, climbing or map reading etc. Whatever the group needs!

They're also a fairly active section and meet on a monthly basis for various activities or events (see diary dates opposite for the latest programme). They also arrange several weekends away throughout the year. Membership is available for anyone over the age of 20 and they have a very diverse mixture of ages from about 28 to 90! Everyone is welcome and if you are interested in getting involved and meeting new people please give Tracy Gray a ring on 01442 403471.

* * **Reminder** * *

*Abbots Langley Carnival
Saturday 12th June*

*Please come along and
support and don't forget
to sample the wonderful
food!*

*Look for the big green
marquee*

