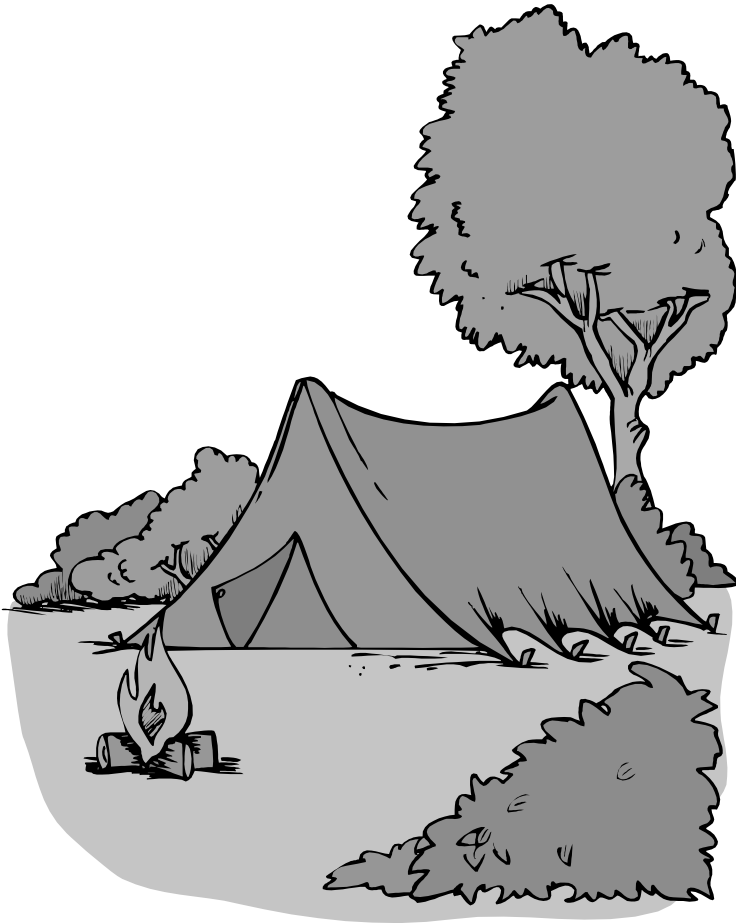


June 2005

# Woodsmoke



## Scout Troop News

Congratulations to -----

Joseph Bernie, Jonathan Benson, Kieran Coan, Shannon Courtenay, Jack Halcomb, James Hendrey, Sam Kidd, Grace McCarthy, Marc Redmond, George Styles, Joe Turberfield and Christopher Winder on completing their Outdoor Challenge.

Dominic Benson, Jack Edwards and Julia Wood on completing their Fitness Challenge. The first to be awarded in the Troop.

The boys who took part in the District Triathlon. The A Team consisting of Tom Redmond, Fred Sugden and Tom Williams came runners-up with the B team, Jonathan Benson, George Styles and Christopher Winder, achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Well Done  
**Clive**



Bryan Sharpe  
Chairman

This year's **AGM** was held on Friday 13th May. Those who came along had the opportunity to mingle afterwards and sample Lyn and Eugene's excellent buffet and a glass or two of wine.



Clive Winder  
A man of Many Titles



Tony Dabson & John Noonan  
The Dynamic Duo



Chris Frith  
Assistant Cub Leader

# Scouter in Charge's Annual Report 2005

The **Beavers** have continued to enjoy a varied programme of activities. Helen Welch, the Beaver Leader, again did a marvellous job ably assisted by Lyn Lythaby, and two Young Leaders, Jason Dutton and Laura Ashton.

The **Cubs** have also thrived thanks to the leadership team of Gerald Wilson, Chris Frith, Aisling Benson and Jo Johnson, and have also benefited from an enjoyable programme. There have been many achievements with regard to Challenge Awards and Activity Badges. My congratulations particularly go to the 11 boys who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2004. For the first time for many years we entered the Cracknell Shield, a District competition. The boys had a great time and came back with their first trophy.

The **Scout** Troop continues to remain popular with boys and girls alike all benefiting from a wide variety of scouting. My thanks go to my fellow leaders Bernice Perkins, Phil Brant and Tony Dabson for their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

The 9 boys who left Scouts last summer to move into **Explorers** were not permitted to re-launch the Unit at this Group but to join another Unit based at Langleybury or Bricket Wood. Only 3 of them decided to do this and the other 6 have been lost to Scouting although I am currently encouraging 2 of them to get involved in young leadership roles.

In 2004, Phasels Wood was the venue for our third bi-annual Group Family Camp which was attended by over 150 people, half of them children, and proved to be another brilliant event. It was a well organised and superbly run for all the family with a wide variety of activities and games. The cuisine was of the highest quality, particularly by camp standards, and everyone had a fabulous time. My sincere thanks to all the Leaders and Group Fellowship Members, particularly Dave Sturgess, Paul Hanson, Tracy Gray, Tony Dabson, Bryan, Bib and Edwin.

My report would not be complete without some well deserved thanks to the members of the Scout Fellowship who again helped with a number of activities within the sections. Also, to the Executive for their continued support in providing this superb venue, the invaluable minibus, Woodsmoke and all the fund raising events, ably assisted by the hard work of the Ladies Guild. Lastly, thank you to all those parents who have helped. Your involvement is important as it is your child's Group and they are the ones that benefit from all the time and effort that is expended by the numerous committed volunteers.

I conclude with my own personal tribute to the late Fred Young and Fred Dobson. They were totally committed to this Scout Group and gave many year's hard work and valuable service. They personified what the morals of scouting is all about and will be greatly missed by us all.

*Olive Winder*

## SCOUT TROOP ANNUAL REPORT 2005



2004 was another year of successful scouting in Abbots Langley. The Troop continues to remain full with places only being offered to Cubs, siblings and other Scouts moving into the area.

The Scouts participated in the County Green Beret Competition at Tolmers and supported the District Wide Game Competition and the District Night Trifid Trophy. Well done and congratulations to all those who took part.

It has been another year of high achievement with regard to Awards. In 2004, 15 Scouts completed the Adventure Challenge, 2 the Creative Challenge, 1 the Outdoor Challenge, and 7 the Outdoor Plus Challenge. There were also 75 Activity Badges awarded during the year, including 34 different swimming awards and 23 Nights Away badges. Congratulations to all. Of particular note is the achievement of 7 of the boys who completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award, an achievement that shows tremendous dedication and commitment. I expect there to be a few more in 2005.

The summer camp to Ystradgynlais in the Brecon Beacons was very successful with 28 Scouts taking part. It was a superb location with plenty of exciting activities including sailing, windsurfing, caving, canoeing, pony trekking and mountain biking. My thanks to the Leaders, Fellowship and parents who gave up their valuable time to help run the camp.

The Scout section would be nothing if it weren't for the tireless efforts of the Leaders who put in countless hours to organise and run the programme of activities. My thanks once again to 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.

My thanks also to the Fellowship who have helped with a number of the activities, particularly Eddie Chalk, Dave Gray, Pete Johnson and Sue Jarman. Your help is greatly appreciated. Lastly, I thank all parents who have assisted over the last year, long may it continue.

Clive Winder

# WIDE GAME COMPETITION

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January at Lees Wood campsite, a District wide game competition was held. There were about fifty scouts from all over the District; including myself and six other members of our troop. You then got into teams and were given a team number. It then involved taking a slip of paper and running off into the dark woods looking for a plastic bag with your team number on it. Having found the right bag, you then placed the slip or paper into the bag and scored a point. There were more bags further into the woods and you got more points if you put the paper in these further away bags. However these were hard to find and surrounded by Leaders and Explorers, so our team found it easier to go for the lower point bags. At the end of the game a loud horn went off and the organisers, who then proceeded to add up the points to see who had won, collected in the bags.

There were Leaders and Explorer Scouts hiding in the woods trying to catch you. If they caught you then you had to give them your slip of paper and go back and retrieve another. It was hard as the bags were difficult to find and if you turned torches on to find them the Explorers would see and catch you. It was fun though and our team did get quite a lot of slips into the bag. Once the game had finished we were all given hot chocolate and a hot dog which was good. The whole evening was really enjoyable and everyone who went had a really good time, although unfortunately we didn't win. I had a great time and will probably be going on it again next year.

Tom Redmond - APL Otters

# NIGHT TRIFFID 2004

It was pouring with rain when we arrived at Lees Wood to begin the Night Triffid. We started to put up the tents just as the wind began to pick up. A few tents flew away but we managed to rescue them. I always wonder why they choose to hold it in February!

Later on in the evening when all the tents were put up we sat down in the garage tent to enjoy some stew and jacket potatoes cooked by Tony! We gathered together all the equipment we would need for the adventurous night ahead.

We set off for our bases. It was pitch black and the wind was howling. At Clive and Tony's base we had to build a stretcher and carry someone around the course. At one of the special bases we found our gas cylinder was empty. We had to change it which wasted another 10 minutes. When it was set up we tried to light it but dropped the matches on the floor and they were then all soggy. Luckily George had a candle lighter with him and we lit the gas stove from that.

We had to walk what seemed like a mile in the pitch black to the next base and then we found that we had only two torches left. At our last base we had to make 20 different knots. One of our team members knew about 500 knots so we were feeling smug!

We were worn out when we eventually tumbled into our tents.

The next morning we woke up to the smell of bacon being fried by Tony. We went into the garage tent and feasted on bacon sandwiches. We came only a point above the training team led by Phil but we had a good time.



# Top Ten Scouts 2005

We all arrived down at Hunton Bridge on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, really excited; we had soon loaded up all the food and our gear. Grace and I were the only girls so we had our own sleeping area; the boys all had to share. After a 10 minute bore of a safety talk we all got our lifejackets on and set sail north. We made it as far as the King's Head on the first night, tied up and played football late into the night, whilst the adults and parents enjoyed a few beers, Back to the boat for supper of tomato soup and bread, we were packed off to bed, but not to sleep. After much talking, eating of sweets and fun we eventually fell asleep around 1 o'clock. The cold woke us up at 7 O'clock but after a nice cooked breakfast we were off again.



Clive divided us into three teams so we all had a go at steering the boat, opening and closing the locks, making lunch or dinner, doing the chores and generally relaxing. The boys had a competition to see who could catch the most or biggest fish throughout the trip. Dominic got a fish hook in his ear but not in any fish. We made Boxmoor for lunch where



Parents joined us again at the near by pub. We made Berkhamstead by evening, tied up and went off to the park and then picked up our fish and chip dinner and returned to the boat, to be joined by yet more parents and fellowship. The next

morning we started our return journey but had to wait at Winkwell for the man to come and open the swing bridge so we could get through. We made Apsley for lunch (The new marina looks a lot better from the water than the road).

We eventually got back to Hunton Bridge around 4 O'clock and had to clean and tidy the boat, guess who got the toilet? When we were all finally done we sat on top of the boat, at the point where the river enters the canal and surprise , suprise, with the bet still running, we caught several fish, of various sizes and shapes.

We talked about the high lights of the trip and all agreed they were, the man taking his clothes off and jumping into the lock at Berkhamstead, making great bow waves to upset the fishermen, and the deodorant fight. The parents all arrived to come and pick us up about 6 O'clock



Big thanks to Clive, Michael and Malcolm for helping to make the weekend great fun and looking after us , I don't know weather they still think we are the ten best behaved scouts or not , but nobody fell out and nobody fell in , so it was a great weekend enjoyed by all.



Julia Wood



## Scouter in Charge's Bit

The attainment of the Chief Scouts Awards in the Group has continued at a great pace. My sincere congratulations to all those that completed the Award in April. They are:

Bronze Chief Scouts Award – Alexander Babb, Gregory Benson and Rhys Jenkins.

Silver Chief Scouts Award – Perry Goodchild and Daniel Sharpe.

Gold Chief Scouts Award – Dominic Benson.

Yet again, thanks to the marvellous efforts of the dedicated team of fundraisers, the Group raised a very valuable £1,200 from the Spring Jumble Sale. Useful funds as unfortunately double this was needed to repair the central heating system that broke down just before the February half term. This again only emphasises the importance of these fundraising events and the help needed from parents to make them the success they are. The next fundraising event is the Village Carnival on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Clive Winder  
Scouter in Charge



# ADA POOLE

*Bryan Sharpe*



In about 1954 the all male committee and helpers of the 1st Abbots Langley Scout group decided to form the Abbots Langley BP Scout Guild. Some ladies went along to join and were told it was for men only. So not to be out done, Rose Baldry and about 30 others, including Ada formed the Ladies Scout Guild. A year later she joined the Scout Group committee. Also at that time her two sons Alan and Brian were joining the Cub Scouts and Ada went along to help. By 1963 she was an assistant lady cub master. The title cub mistress had been dropped for some reason.

Ada then progressed to become Akela in 1974, a position she held for 10 years. At the end of this time she did not give it all up, she then became Assistant Cub Leader all over again.

All through these years her two sons went into the Scouts and moved up and Ada helped to run and then ran many Whitson Cub Camps on Mansion House farm. She was also involved with taking the Cubs on pack holidays, first at Lees Wood, then at Phasels Wood, and still further to the Isle of Man, then Guernsey and Dorset.

In her spare time she went on Scout Camps at Talybont in Monmouth, and the Lake District. Ada attended the Scout Jamboree in Holland and numerous Scouts visits to Liechtenstein. She also worked with the District Scouts assisting on camps for special needs children.

I remember one time in Liechtenstein the group went on a coach trip and I was left as duty cook. As they were leaving I shouted to Ada "how much rice should I cook". She shouted back "a medium size mug each". She was talking cooked rice and I of course scooped out 40 mugs of dry rice. When Ada returned I had 6 or 7 gallons in all the pots I could find and she never let me live it down. On a personal note, Ada was Arkela to my two oldest boys, and I think she helped to put them on the straight and narrow.

Thanks Ada.



As always, the Cubs have had a tremendously busy year. The boys have learnt new skills, achieved activity badges and most importantly had lots of fun. The Pack is led by Gerry (CL), Chris (ACL) and Jo and Aisling (their trusted helpers). Just recently they have been joined by Holly Noonan, a volunteer helper with family links with the Troop who is proving to be a great asset to the team (and whose arrival adds another feminine touch to a rather large group of males).

With 35 registered cubs and more waiting to join, attendance is generally very good, demonstrating the commitment and enthusiasm of the boys and of course the support of their parents. The boys attend a wide selection of local schools which is great as they get the opportunity to forge new friendships at Cubs. We work hard to foster good behaviour, kindly manners and respect for each other, and are normally rewarded well.

### **So, what have we been up to at Cubs ...**

12 boys have been awarded the Chief Scout's Silver award before moving to Scouts. This meant that Norman Brandon (ADCL) makes so many visits to us we're thinking of asking him to become a regular helper! The Silver CSA is a fantastic achievement on the part of the boys and once again highlights their commitment to Cubs.

Activity badges play a key part in the termly programme, and Challenge awards are included as they form part of the Silver award. The cubs have gained the following during the year:

Entertainer	- 24	A central icon for activity badges, featuring a red diamond shape with a white border. Inside the diamond are various symbols: a red cross, a red heart, a red globe, and a red hand holding a white object.	Creative Challenge	- 12
Art	- 28		Fitness Challenge	- 12
Athletics	- 22		Global Challenge	- 11
Local Knowledge	- 26		Outdoor Challenge	- 13
Home & Personal Safety	- 28		Caring Challenge	- 26

Some other badges have also be gained independently, including book reader, equestrian, martial arts, sport enthusiast and musician.

### **And when we're not doing badges ...**

We've played games at the park, had a quiz, held mini indoor Olympics, organised brain challenge competitions, made crafts for Easter and Christmas (some being very tasty!), and one of the highlights must be leaflet dropping and collecting jumble, which the boys do at such a speed it is hard to keep up with them!

During the summer term we availed of the excellent facilities at both Lees and Phasels Wood. The boys really are very lucky to be able to do things like cooking over an open fire, orienteering, potholing and climbing on the assault course. Many of our Cubs also attended the Summer Family Camp, and we ended our summer term with a family barbecue and games, which made an enjoyable end to a busy term. This year a Cub Camp will be held from 8th to 10th July.

### **What about our involvement with the District ...**

Back in February Sam Kidd represented our Pack at the District Chess Tournament after winning a closely contested internal challenge at HQ! We had an excellent turn out for St. George's Day in April, considering the appalling weather. The Athletics Badge was held in May and we almost had 100% show of budding athletes. In June a team of 8 boys took part and won the Cracknell Shield at Lees Wood, coming top of North Watford's teams and second out of the 17 teams competing.

### **Fundraising in the Cubs ...**

As part of the Caring Challenge Award, the Cubs were required to raise money for charity. They did this by organising a Mini Christmas Fayre, where they sold refreshments and craft items that they had made at meetings to their very understanding parents! A sum of £100 was donated to Children in Need.

### **And so the Year Ended ...**

With a treat outing to Hollywood Bowl followed by festive fish and chips!

*Gerry (Cub Leader), Chris (ACL), Jo and Aisling*

It has been a busy year in Beavers as normal. We started the September term with the Beaver Bangs in Lees Wood with the District. The theme was clowns and the boys enjoyed making hat, noses, bow-ties and playing circus games, whilst getting soaked in the rain. We came second for the best banner and craft activity.



We have worked on stage one computer badge and our discovery challenge badge, which involved the Beavers learning how to make a call in an emergency and the importance of healthy eating.

We also had our first Chief Scout Bronze Award given to Liam Goodman and have had three more since.

In January we started our Experiment Badge, which involved the Beavers learning about friction, light and shadows, evaporation and what happens when you mix bicarbonate of soda and vinegar (A MESS!)



On Saturday 7th May at Lee's Wood we had the first joint District Beaver funday with the South Watford Beaver colony. Apart from the hail and the odd shower it was a great success. Thirteen Beavers from our colony came, which was a good turn out.

On Saturday 25th June we are going on the District outing to Whipsnade Zoo which the Beavers are really looking forward to.

Helen Welch  
Beaver Leader

At the 2005 census in January the total Group membership was 95 comprising:

Beaver Scouts	18
Cub Scouts	31
Scouts	36
Leaders & Instructors	10

# Hall Happenings

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

*I hope you have all enjoyed reading this issue of the Woodsmoke! If you receive more than one copy, or want to pass on read copies it would be useful if you could pop spares back in the plastic folder pinned to the notice board in the Scout Hall Lobby. Similarly if you miss getting one, you can pick one up from there.*

*Many Thanks*

*Pauline*

**Woodsmoke Editor**

Pauline Styles



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