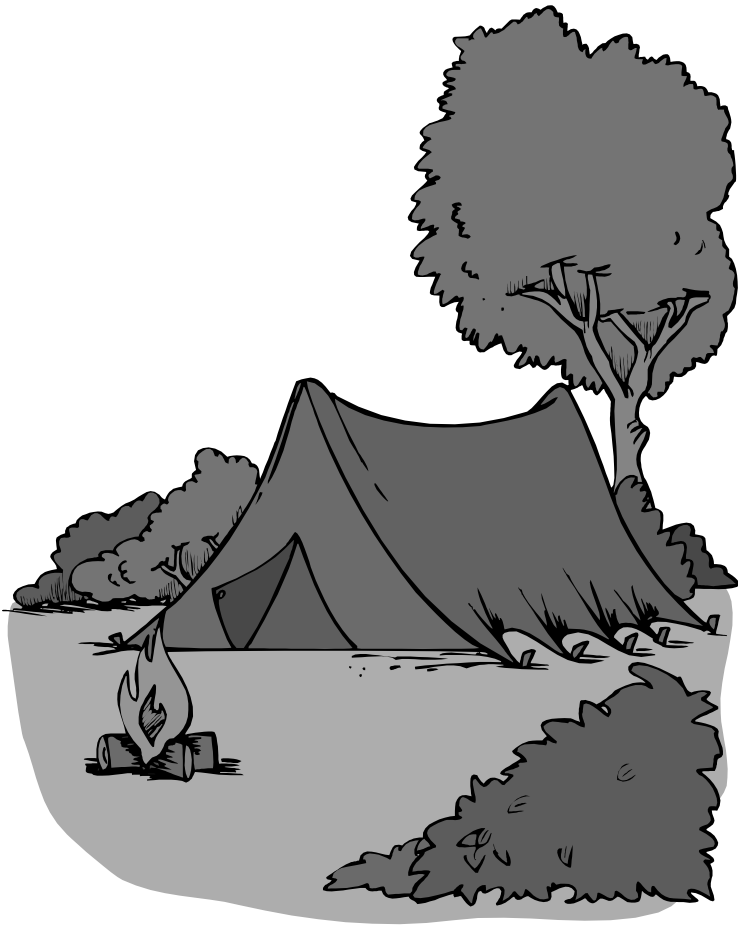


JUNE 2009

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Achievements

Many congratulations to:

Our Cubs James Cresswell, Toby Gamble and Nicholas Smith who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award last term.

And Scouts -

Emily Drake and Liam Goodman on completing their Creative Challenge,

George Isherwood, Jasper Gillespie and Jeremy Cannock on completing their Fitness Challenge,

Emily Drake, Liam Goodman, Nikhil Kotecha, Amaelia Parmenter and Sam Pearson on attaining their Community Challenge.

Joseph Lambert on completing 8 Years Participation.

Well Done!

Clive's Chat

The spring term saw a couple of events that showed what a great Scout Group it is that we all belong to. The District Swimming Gala was held at the Woodside Leisure Centre on Saturday 21st March. 19 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from the Group took part in a very exciting competition. The Beavers and Cubs both came runner-up in their respective sections with the Scouts coming 1st. This meant that the Group won the overall District Trophy. Well done to all those that took part.

The summer term has kicked off with another great success with our Scout Troop being victorious for the 3rd year in succession in the District Night Owls Competition. Congratulations to the winning team of George Isherwood, Jack Longbottom, Nikhil Kotecha, Finlay Potiuk, Greg Benson and Sam Pearson. The Troop also entered a relatively young and inexperienced training team who also put in a superb performance. Well done to all the participants.

Lots more to read about the Group in my AGM report also in this issue.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

Group Scout Leader's Annual Report 2009

At the 2009 census in January the total Group membership was 91 (2008 = 91) comprising:

Beaver Scouts	18 (17)
Cub Scouts	26 (32)
Scouts	35 (33)
Leaders & Assistants	8 (9)

The Beavers continued to enjoy a balanced programme of activities. Helen Welch, the Beaver Leader, again did a marvellous job assisted by Lyn Lythaby, and our Young Explorer Leader, Julia Wood. Their weekly programme enabled them to complete a number of the Challenges and Activity badges. They also had great success by winning the District Beaver Bangers competition for the first time ever. I am pleased to report that February 2009 saw the addition of three new Beaver Leaders, including Jenny Brooks, an Assistant Beaver Leader for Helen. The other two Leaders, Caroline Hubble and Lisa Sharpe have enabled the Group to open a second Beaver Colony and reduce the ever increasing 'Waiting List'.

Unfortunately, the reverse has happened to the Cub Pack in 2008. We lost two of our hard working leaders, Aisling Benson and Jo Johnson, due to pressure at work and home, although Aisling has agreed to stay involved when she can. This has meant that our Cub Leaders, Chris Frith and Holly Noonan, along with our new Young Leaders, Chris Watts and Jonathan Benson, have had to work extremely hard to keep the Cubs busy and entertained. And what a great job they've done as the Cubs have continued their success with regard to Challenge Awards and Activity Badges. My congratulations particularly go to the 12 boys who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2008 (10 in 2007). There were also successes in the District events with Ravi Kotecha winning the District Chess Tournament and a team of Cubs achieving second place in the Volleyball Competition. Due to the loss of leaders we have had to limit the Cub Pack to 30, which has meant that the waiting list for Cubs has now grown. Yes, you're right, we need another Cub Pack.

The Scout Troop also remains over-subscribed as it has done for years. Those on the waiting list have a very slim chance of joining. A total of 38 Challenge Awards were completed and numerous Activity Badges. I would particularly like to congratulate Daniel Lowrie and Christopher Winder who completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award. My thanks go to my fellow leaders, Sharon Duffy, Tony Dabson and Jack McCarthy, and our Young Leaders, Dominic Benson and Tom Redmond for their commitment and hard work throughout the year, and to the parents who have helped and supported the activities. I'm pleased to say that we have gained another two adults, Alison Redmond and Jason Gearhart, who became warranted Scout Leaders in February this year. This has

enabled us to increase the Troop size to 40 Scouts this term.

The Troop continued to support the District and County events and again continued their success. The Scouts won the District Night Owls Trophy for the second year running, with the training team coming second, and we also came runner-up in the District Triathlon competition. The Scout of the Year Award also proved to be a hard fought battle. This is awarded to the Scout who shows the most commitment to the annual parades, District Competitions and fundraising events and overall Scouting ability. The winner this year is Henry Sugden.



As mentioned above, this Group is highly successful and, although the census number of 87 shows a slight decrease on the previous year, the numbers for 2009 have exploded. We now have 119 in the Group, excluding the Young Leaders, which highlights the continued need for a decent number of adult Leaders. I'm also pleased to see more parents getting involved on an occasional basis, not that we give them much choice. However, as mentioned, the number of full time Cub leaders remains an issue which

means that there are a number of children in the village that are not able to enjoy all the benefits of Scouting.

I'm also pleased that Albatross, the District Explorer Scout Unit hosted by this Group, continues to be strong and James Harris and Rob Lambert have done a marvellous job as the Unit leaders. I would also like to thank those Explorers who help out with the other sections on a weekly basis. Long may it continue.

2007 was a very busy year being the Centenary of Scouting so we were hoping that 2008 would be quieter. However, the main event of the 2008 calendar was the Group Family Camp at Phasels Wood in June. Over 180 members of the Group and their families along with a number of distinguished guests enjoyed a fantastic weekend of adventurous activities, scouting challenges, gourmet cooking and campfire entertainment. My sincere thanks, on behalf of all the participants, to Dave and Alison Sturgess, Paul and Camilla Hanson and all the Group Fellowship members for organising and running an unforgettable event.

My report would not be complete without a few more, well deserved thanks to the members of the Group Fellowship, Executive and Ladies Guild who have helped with a number of activities within the Sections, with valuable fundraising events and for their continued support and hard work. Thanks also to those parents who have helped. Your involvement is important as it is your children who are the ones that benefit from all the time and effort put in by the numerous committed volunteers. I have always had a policy of encouraging parents to get more involved in all aspects of the Group. This has enhanced both the leadership team and the Executive.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader



District Cooking Competition

After a single training session, Jack Longbottom, Amaelia Parmenter, Liam Goodman and I got up early one Saturday morning to participate in the District Cooking Competition.

We soon learnt that we were cooking against a team that had won the competition, and represented the Watford North District, for the past four years! All of our food had to be food that you would commonly find at camps, and link in with the theme of 'Activities'.



We set about our cooking. We made "Archer's Soup" for starters, a tomato, onion and potato soup, with cream in the shape of a target. For the main course, "Campfire Sausages", a base of mash potato, three sausages resting on each other, imitating the wood in the fire; and baked beans imitating the fire. For the dessert, "Banorange Canoes", a banana soaked in orange juice

and sugar, made to look like a canoe, by scooping out the "cockpit". It was topped with made-from-scratch caramel! We made enough for four on a budget of just £15!

We were working very well as a team, quickly and efficiently, until we realised that there was nothing else to do. We looked at the time and saw that there were forty-five minutes left; the judges would only start judging at the end of that time! I quietly said to myself "Ah"! However, we turned the situation to our advantage. One of us had the idea of putting the pans with things that needed to be kept warm in them, on top of each other, as we were only allowed two hot cookers and one grill.

When all the food was ready, we served it up and waited for the judges' reactions. They liked the idea of Archer's soup very much but found it a little bland. They thought that the mashed potato in the main course was the "best they'd had in a long time"! Finally, the dessert... The judges both ate some and then pulled a face! We tried some and found that we had put way too much sugar in!

When the time came for announcing the results,



The March Fellowship meeting was held in the Cricket club and consisted of a Quiz Night with plenty of chicken fajitas and tortilla chips with melted cheese on the side. Yummy!

In April the Fellowship met at HQ to assist with the Group Jumble Sale in whatever way they could and of course adjourned to the Cricket Club for refreshments afterwards.

For May the annual kite flying evening took place at Coombe Hill, Wendover, in a superb setting overlooking the Prime Minister's country estate of Chequers.

This meeting has to be one of the most enjoyable and silliest of the year and a large number of the Fellowship turned out to try their hand at the art. This was one of the first times we had a chance to meet Tracy and James 4 month old daughter Natalie, who seemed more interested in food than kite flying.



Tony Dabson had bought an array of kites to fly which was lucky as although there were about 15 of us most were kite-less. Actually some of us were nearly kite-less at the end of the evening as two were caught in trees until Pete climbed to the rescue.

DIARY DATES

June

5th
12th - 14th
13th
16th

Barbecue
Top Ten Scouts Narrowboat Trip
Abbots Langley Carnival
Quiz

Fellowship
Scouts
ALL
Ladies Guild

July

3rd
10th - 12th
20th
21st
26th - 2nd Aug

Butch's Walk
Centenary Camp, Tolmers
Executive Meeting
Barbecue
Summer Camp, Brecon Beacons

Fellowship
ALL
Exec Committee
Ladies Guild
Scouts

August

7th

BRE Innovation Park

Fellowship

September

4th
15th
21st

Mud Oven Cooking
TBC
Executive Meeting

Fellowship
Ladies Guild
Exec Committee

October

2nd Marksmanship Competition — Phasels Wood Fellowship
ALL
7th Jumble Sale ALL
10th Jumble Sale ALL
16th Centenary Dance, Hunton Park Ladies Guild
20th TBC
25th Triathlon Scouts
31st—2nd Nov Autumn Weekend Sleepover Fellowship

November

6th Guided Walk Fellowship
8th Remembrance Day Parade ALL
13th - 15th Green Beret Scouts
16th Executive Meeting Exec Committee
17th Christmas Decoration Making Ladies Guild
21st Christmas Market ALL

December

4th Traditional Games—Cricket Club Fellowship
7th Christingle Service ALL
8th TBC Ladies Guild
11th Christmas Meal Fellowship
26th Boxing Day Walk 10.30 am Cecile Lodge ALL

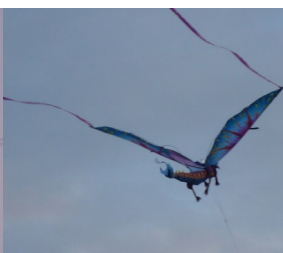
January

8th Ten Pin Bowling Fellowship

February

6th AGM Fellowship

Of course the prize for best kite has to go again this year to Bryan Sharpe, who actually had 3 kites of various designs which all flew beautifully. There was 'The Red Barron' biplane, A Viking Ship and A Dragon.



Lots more is planned for the rest of the year as you can see from the diary dates page so why not come and join the fun. Contact Nicky, the Fellowship Secretary on 265345.



Tickets are selling fast for the Group's centenary celebration on 16th October 2009 at Hunton Park. The closing date for cheques has now come and gone so please get envelopes into our hot little hands as soon as poss. Failing that, please just email to put your name on the list if you are interested in coming as we have limited space and it will be first come first served. You can print a copy of the ticket form from the Events section of the website at www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

pauline.styles@ntlworld.com

Fun at.....



We had another action-packed few weeks at Cubs last term and we welcomed seven new Cubs to the Pack! They were Alex Bruguier, Cal French, Charlotte Trotman, Lewis Cresswell, Harry Hurdle, Oliver Durack and Oli Munn.



The Cubs worked towards their Global Challenge badge during the Spring, one of the badges that will help them gain their Chief Scout's Silver Award.



Jonny Benson gave an interesting talk about his experiences at the World Jamboree he attended a couple of years ago. He showed us photos and the Cubs got to look through some of the memorabilia he had swapped, begged and borrowed! The Cubs also took part in an International Night, where they each did research into a particular country, finding out about its culture, religion and diet. The Cubs had great fun sampling the different foods brought in. I think Charlotte's homemade strawberry and kiwi pavlova (New Zealand), was a hit with everyone!

A lot of fun was had at our annual Aviation Challenge Night. There were various different paper aeroplane designs the Cubs



could follow instructions for, and there were also some original designs popping up around the hall.



On BIG Games Night, the Cubs played various games such as giant Jenga, giant Snakes & Ladders, and Twister. The rope trail was set up in the loft, and the Cubs also created a football or rugby locker room wall display, which involved



painting, gluing and lots of concentration! These were very popular with the Cubs and kindly donated to the Pack by some parents.

We also held our annual Chess competition this term. Timmy Cannock and Matthew battled it out in the finals, and Matthew then went on to represent the Pack in the District tournament. He came a very impressive third, after several games and a close knock-out finale. Well done to Matthew, and to Timmy and all the other Cubs who had a go at playing, and learning to play Chess.

Pancake Night was as popular as ever, with weird and wonderful topping combinations, and the odd flying pancake that escaped the pan. I think helpers had as much fun as the Cubs, except perhaps for the clearing up!

Another great event was the Junk Modelling night. The Cubs made some amazing models, such as robots, aeroplanes and



River Colony

This term we've been up to lots of exciting things, we celebrated the Chinese New Year by making Dragons and fireworks. In February we also made tie dye t-shirts which the beavers really enjoyed making. After half term we celebrated Pancake Day by decorating pancakes, junk model making and practicing our acting skills on the drama evening.

This term as part of the **creative badge** the beavers had to try to imagine the future and what it would be like. By the end of the night they had come up with all sorts of things like hover crafts, and skyscraper buildings.

In March the beavers also took part in the District Swimming Gala the turnout was great and the Beavers were extremely well behaved. Also we were delighted to be told that the Beavers had come **6th** .

Some of our Beavers also took part in a junk model making competition this March. The Beavers had to work as a team to create a vehicle and Helen was very pleased to announce that our colony came in **first place!** The beavers who participated were all given a certificate from Helen and Clive, so well done to them!

As the term was coming to a close we ended with Easter Activities such as making Easter cards and Easter cakes which the Beavers we're thrilled about. The Beavers each got to make 2 cakes each with mini eggs and baby chicks to decorate. I'm sure all the Beavers would tell you it was a nice evening especially the chocolate part!

Once again thank you to all our lovely helpers in particular **Lin Lytherby, George** and **Holly**.

All the best to our Beavers who have moved up to cubs this term.

Helen, Julia and Jenny.



Lake Colony

Lisa and I were very excited to get going with our new challenge of running the new Monday night Lake Beaver Colony. We got off to a flying start on Monday 23rd February when we met our 14 new Beavers for the first time. With a Shrove Tuesday theme, we all enjoyed the pancakes decorated with sweets and drank hot chocolate. The next week we got messy with Junk Modelling, practising for the Craft Competition the following Saturday at 2nd HQ. We found that we have a lot of talented and creative Beavers, so it was hard to choose 4 to represent us, but we managed, and we were so proud of their achievements and teamwork at the Craft Competition. Alfie Read, Ben Thompson, Charlotte Clark and Thomas Humphrey all did a great job. It was a really good experience for us all, to meet other Beaver Colonies and to also for Lisa and I to meet other Beaver Leaders too!



March saw us having a go at Drama, with lots of fun with Charades and Miming. We then turned on our time machines to look into the future, imagining what life will be like in all aspects from what we wear to how we get about. Some really fantastic vision from our Beavers! Then Easter activities were next, we got messy making cards, bunny egg baskets and chocolate nests (I bet the HQ hall never smelled so good!).



Then to finish off March, on Saturday 21st we took part in the Swim Gala. What a fantastic night it was too. Our Beavers Charlotte Clark, Calum Smith, Samuel Hines and Thomas Humphrey were a credit to us all. The atmosphere was really exciting and I think we all felt really proud to be part of such a great event. The trophy at the end of the evening was just the icing on the cake for everyone!

In April we got scientific and experimented with dying celery sticks with food colouring. Some really dramatic results were had, and thankfully no black food colouring spills on any new Beaver sweatshirts! The week after that we learned about our Senses, lots of blindfolds and again using imagination and having fun too. On Sunday 19th April we took part in the St George's Day Parade. What a lovely hot sunny day it was. By the time we got to Christ Church we were all roasting! The Beavers sat nice and quietly and really enjoyed all they heard during the service (and they sung their hearts out too!).

Lisa and I would like to say a really big thank you to Emily; your help is really appreciated by us all. Thank you to Helen and Clive for all their guidance and support, we would be lost without them both.

It has been a really great first term. We have all learned lots and are really looking forward to what the future holds, hopefully lots of fun and more adventures!

Caroline and Lisa

Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	6.00 - 7.30 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.45 - 9.45 pm	Explorer Scouts
	8.00 - 10.00 pm	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts
Thursday	5.15 - 6.45 pm	1st Abbots Langley Brownies
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	8pm	Fellowship (1st in Month)

Don't forget to look at the website for more photos of this term's activities and you can download Woodsmokes to read

www.abbotslangley scouts.org.uk

We would like to be able to email to let you know when updates have happened to the website and send reminders so if you would like to be kept informed please send your email address and name to pauline.styles@ntlworld.com

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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