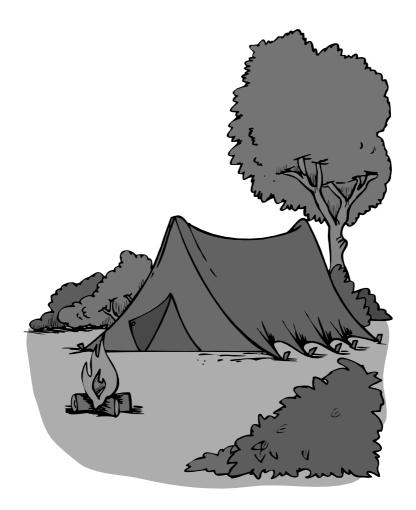
Woodsmoke



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Clive's Chat

Many congratulations to Finlay Potiuk who was awarded the Gold Chief Scouts Award, the highest award attainable in Scouts. Well done also to our Cubs, William Bell, Timothy Cannock and Charlotte Trotman who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Awards.

You can catch up on the happenings of 2009 by reading my GSLs report presented at the AGM and Presentation evening held in May, also in this issue. It was an excellent evening, well attended by youngsters, parents and Group members alike. Both the County Commissioner, Ricki Harrington and the District Commissioner, Ian Leach were there to present the awards mentioned above as well as a number of Chief Scouts Commendations and Long Service Awards to the more mature members of the Group. Congratulations to everyone.

With regard to our successes for 2010 they have started to roll in. We retained the overall Group trophy with victory in the District Swimming Gala with both the Cubs and Scouts winning their section trophies and the two Beavers Colonies combining to come 2nd in the Beaver competition. Our Scout Troop was also victorious in the District Cooking Competition for the 2nd year in succession and came 3rd in the District Night Owls trophy. Congratulations to all the participants.

In February, the Group opened the new Jungle Cub Pack under the leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand and Victoria Caplan, our new Cub Scout Leaders. The pack has already grown to 18 new members Our existing Cub Pack, with 31 members will now be known as the Rainforest Cubs.

Clive Winder Group Scout Leader

& SCOUT LEADER ANNUAL REPORT 2010

At the 2010 census in January the total Group membership was 112 (2009 = 87) a 29% increase. The individual section numbers were:		
Beaver Scouts	26 (18)	
Cub Scouts	34 (26)	
Scouts	37 (35	
Leaders & Assistants	15 (8)	

The addition of the new Beaver Colony last year obviously helped to grow the total numbers. However, I limited these initially to enable the new leaders of the Lake Beaver Colony, Lisa Sharpe and Caroline Hubble, to find their feet and also because we still only had one Cub Pack that has a maximum of 36 permitted. Beavers continued to enjoy a balanced programme of activities. Helen Welch, the Beaver Leader, of the renamed River Beaver Colony, again did a marvellous job assisted by Lyn Lythaby, and Julia Wood and Alisha Lian-Falvey, our new ABSLs. Their weekly programmes have enabled them to complete a huge number of the Challenges and activity badges as well as participating in a Giant Sleepover of over 40 Beavers including hosting Beavers from the around the District. They also had great success by winning the District Handicraft Trophy, the District Beaver Bangers competition for the 2nd year in succession and the Award for the Best Walking Group at the village carnival. Now that we have opened a second Cub Pack I have been able to increase the Beaver numbers to over 40. Both

Colonies are also well supported by a growing number of Young Leaders with 3 assisting each Colony. Some of these have come through the Group ranks with others asking to carry on helping after they have completed the Service section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Cub Section has also grown from strength to strength with the recent addition of the new Jungle Cub Pack in February under the Leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand and Victoria Caplan. The Leaders of the existing Pack, renamed the Rainforest Cub Pack, Chris Frith and Holly Noonan, have benefited from the valuable addition of our new ACSL, Nicola Trotman. Along with our Young Leaders, Chris Watts and Jonathan Benson, and valuable assistance from the parents, the Cubs have been kept extremely busy and entertained. The Cubs have continued their success with regard to Challenge Awards and Activity Badges. There were also successes in the District events with victory in the District Quiz, Volleyball and Chess Tournaments. My congratulations particularly go to the 8 boys who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2009. This has continued into 2010 and I'm pleased to say that 3 more Cubs completed their Silver Award last term.

The Scouts completed a total of 51 Challenge Awards throughout the year (38 in 2008) and numerous Activity Badges. I would particularly like to congratulate the 7 Scouts who completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award. Again, I'm pleased to say that we have had another Gold Award completed last term. My thanks go to my fellow leaders, Tony Dabson, Sharon Duffy, Jason Gearhart, Jack McCarthy and Alison Redmond, and our Young Leaders, Dominic Benson, Daniel Lowrie, Tom and Marc Redmond and Christopher Winder for their commitment and hard work throughout the year, and to the parents who have helped and supported the activities.

The Troop continued to support the District and County events and again continued their success with almost a clean sweep of the District competitions in 2009. The Scouts won the District Cooking

Competition, the District Night Owls Trophy for the third year running, the District Swimming Gala and 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, competitions and fundraising events and for their overall Scouting ability. The winner this year would never live it down in his household if he didn't bring this trophy home particularly as his 2 brothers have been previous winners. The winner is Greg Benson.



I'm pleased to say that the success of the Troop is due to having such a strong leadership team. The Troop has had 40 Scouts for some years and remains over-subscribed, with 11 on the waiting list. Last year, those on the waiting list would have had a very slim chance of joining. However, I'm pleased to report that we are now planning to open our second Scout Troop, later this year or early next, under the leadership of Jason Gearhart and David Goodman.

As mentioned above, the Group is highly successful and, although the census number of 112 shows a huge 29% increase on the previous year, the numbers for 2010 have continued to explode. We currently have 151 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, not that we give them much choice.

I'm also pleased that Albbatross, 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.

2009 was the centenary of when the Group was first formed. The main event for the youngsters was the Herts 100 camp at Tolmers attended by most scout groups in the county to celebrate 100 years of scouting in Hertfordshire. No less than 70 youngsters from our group attended and had a great time. I would like to thank all the organisers, leaders, Fellowship members and parents for making it a tremendous weekend. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into organising such a huge event but this was made considerably easier by the involvement of you all. Special thanks to the Catering team of Pauline, Rachel and Sarah for keeping us all well fed and watered. It was also very encouraging to see so many parents get involved, most for the first time, and I hope this will continue in the future.

In October, the Group held its Centenary Dinner at Hunton Park attended by over 100 people associated with the Group past and present, young and old. My thanks to Aisling and Michael Benson, Rachel Drake, Rob Sheppard and Pauline Styles for organising and running such a superb event that was enjoyed by all. Many have asked that it becomes an annual 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

Swimming Gala 2010

On a sunny evening on the 6th March, the North Watford Swimming Gala took place at Woodside Leisure Centre. After everyone was ready and changed (which took quite a while!), the races began! First up were the Beavers! We did really well in the Beavers and won many races. Our beavers came in a brilliant 2nd place!!

After them, the Cubs were on.
All of our Cubs did really well and many of them came first!! They really tried their hardest and it all paid off because they came an amazing 1ST!!! Soon after the Beavers were given their certificates and medal for coming 2nd, it was the Scouts turn to show how good at swimming we were.

We set off at a blistering pace! We didn't have a Scout available for the U10's races so we asked one of our new Cubs, Joe Prior, to race for us. In fact, he was so good, he won all of his races, front-crawl, back crawl and breast stroke! Then Nicholas Smith and me shared the U11's races between us. Nicholas did the front-crawl and I did the backstroke and the breaststroke. Nicholas came a very respectable 4th and I came 4th in both of my races.

However, Josh Coulson managed to win all of his U12's races beating many people! Then, Jeremy Cannock did really well and managed to come 2nd once and 3rd twice in the U13's races.



Then, we had to wait for the Scouts results to come in. All of us were quite hopeful that we had won it. Soon, the judge said, "In first place are the ... 3RD NORTH WATFORD!!!!!!! All of us

were ecstatic! After the man said that, we went to collect our trophy. It was huge!!! After we had sat down the judge said,

"The overall winner of the North Watford Swimming Gala is ..."

My heart was beating like it had never beaten before.

Finally, he said,

"3RD NORTH WATFORD!!!!!!!!!!""

We were all really excited!! Everyone who was there went up to collect the trophy. We really were as excited as chimpanzee's bouncing up and down all day!!

It was a great day and I'm sure everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

Ravi Kotecha, Foxes

District Cooking Competition 2010

he 2010 District Cooking Competition had two teams from the 1st Abbots Langley Scouts with Jason helping us. All of the scouts did a cooking evening and those who enjoyed it decided to take part. In the girls team was myself, Amaelia, Ellen and Hannah. The boys team consisted of Toby, Miles, Connor and Robert. Firstly the menu had to be decided on with the theme of the 'World Cup'. The girls opted for a grilled baguette/tomato/mozzarella combo for the starter whilst the boys chose tuna pate. The main course for the girls was spaghetti with meatballs and the boys selected turkey steaks in orange and lemon with a side of new potatoes, green beans and carrots. My teams dessert was chocolate oranges (white and milk) and the boys picked a chocolate mousse with cream.

The teams needed to decide amongst themselves who was bringing the cups, tableware, plates, tablecloth, centrepiece and any additional decoration. Our centrepiece was a football and world cup tickets and the boys had a candle holder in the shape of the world cup. On the day of the competition the teams got all their stuff in the minibus and set off for the Bricket Wood scout hall. The teams got two tables each and were being marked for the layout. There were 9 other teams from other Scout Groups who seemed fairly difficult to beat.



This was shown true when the competition started and many different aromas soon filled the hall.

There was good teamwork in both groups and soon the first dishes were ready. The starter for the girls was messy to present so looked alright (ish). The girls forgot to use an egg

to bind together the mince so the meatball dish had to be changed to spaghetti bolognaise. The chocolate wouldn't stick to the oranges so it ended up looking like oranges in marbled chocolate. But despite all of this, the table looked great, they cleaned up after themselves well and the food tasted amazing. The judges particularly liked the marbled orange (strangely enough). The boys dishes went nicely also. Their starter didn't quite go to plan, the main was good and the judges adored the dessert. Their tidiness was sloppy though and when the judges came to inspect them, most dishes were still wet! But one team from another scout group appeared to have won it. They had done a gourmet dish, the table looked gorgeous with candles, placemats and runners. But when the results were finally announced the boys team came fourth and the girls came first!

> By April Turner, APL, Foxes

The Narrow Boat Weekend

n the evening of Friday 7th May, the Top Ten Scouts arrived at the boat at Harefield at 6:30, with all of our bags and goodies. Sam Pearson was in charge of looking after our cakes and once I handed mine over, I set about investigating the boat ... it didn't take too long! We said goodbye, got our lifejackets on, had the safety talk, then set off along the canal, onboard Pisces.



The first challenge was to think up names for each group. The groups were called the 'Non Readers', which was made up of me, Scott and Sam, 'Heinz57' which had Dean and Robert and Finlay, 'Random United', made up of James, Nicholas, Amaelia and April. We sailed for about three hours, opening and closing locks along the way, until we reached our destination for that evening, Batchworth Lock. With the boat moored safely, we set off for the local pub (The White Bear), where we stayed for about an hour and had a (soft) drink.

Back on the boat we all talked for a bit and then it was lights out. The next morning we had to be up and ready to start sailing at 9:00am, according to the chart to show what your group was doing. Luckily we woke up to the lovely smell of sausage, egg and bacon (thanks Alison!).

At 2:00pm we moored up in Apsley to eat our lunch. By now we had all had a turn of steering the boat, well in some cases crashing! So in between steering and working the locks, everyone had been busy relaxing.

Later that evening we moored up for the night just outside the Fishery Inn. While it was still light, most of us played some football in the field next to us. But to get there we had to cross a small stream that some people fell into, which got a lot of laughs. Just before dark fell, a few of us, who had brought fishing rods, fished for a bit. Just as we were about to give in having had no luck ... out of nowhere, Finlay caught one and it was a WHOPPER! After a struggle he finally reeled it in for everyone to admire, before throwing it back in the canal. Just then it started to rain, so we headed for



cover. Inside, we sat down and played some hard, sometimes confusing, but very enjoyable games, which we all found lots of fun. We all started to get tired so we all went to bed, well we tried to sleep but it was tough with Clive's loud snoring!



The next morning we had a 9:00 start again, but this time set off in the Considering we were in a 70ft boat, turning was tricky, but we managed it. No luck with fishing today! The rain eventually passed and ended up being quite nice but chilly. It was about 6:oopm when we finally arrived back at The Royal Quay. However, no one was free to go home yet, as some jobs still had to be done ...

unloading, cleaning out the boat and toilet duties (bad luck Scott and Amaelia!). Whilst unloading there was a bit of an accident with Dean's shoes and they ended up in the water. We said thanks to all to our leaders before going home after a great weekend.

DIARY DATES

July

Fellowship Visit to the Dean Hole 9th Exec Committee **Executive Meeting** 19th Ladies Guild 20th TBC

24th to 31st Scout Summer Camp, Arundel Scouts

August

Fellowship Summer Barbeque 6th

September

Fellowship 3rd Bang & Twang, Phasels Wood Executive Meeting Exec Committee 20th

October

Visit to BRE **Fellowship** 1st Double Jumble Sale 13th/16th ALL **Fellowship** 30th/31 Weekend Away

November

Fellowship Aspidistra & Fireworks, Ivinghoe 5th Set up for Green Beret **Fellowship** 13th/14th Remembrance Day Parade ALL 14th

Exec Committee 15th Executive Meeting 20th Green Beret, Phasels Wood Scouts

ALL Christmas Market 27th

December

Fellowship Christmas Meal 3rd Christingle ALL 6th Games Night, Cricket Club **Fellowship** 10th

January

Bowling, Hollywood Bowl Fellowship 7th **Exec Committee Executive Meeting** 17th

Night Owls Competition

I have taken part in the Night Owls Competition three times now. The reasons I enjoy it so much is because, it is exciting as it takes place at night, and we have to work in teams and face various challenges. The last competition was no exception and I was leader, my team included Greg Benson, Sam Pearson, Scott Denton and Dean Millard.

Once we had put up our tents our first challenge was presented to us. We had to collect lots of dry wood to make a fire. Two members of each group had to learn about the aspects of an axe that we had to answer questions on and the fire was to cook our food on. However it had been raining that day and most of the wood we collected was damp and we could not get our fire started. Our beloved leaders, who took pity on us and cooked our food for us, so we did not starve!

Stomachs full we were then given our kit and a briefing on our tasks. At 8pm with our map and instructions in hand we made our way to the first base. We had to complete twelve challenges with fifteen minutes to get to each base and fifteen minutes to complete each challenge. Firstly, we had to make a hot chocolate using our equipment. This was completed in the allotted time and a great way to start the competition and enjoyed by all. A great start we thought.

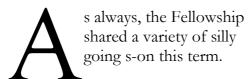
Our next task was a little bit trickier we had to stack as many nails on top of each other and complete a clove hitch around a tree without going in the circle. We had problems with the nails that somehow refused to stay on top of each other and kept falling off. Similarly we failed to complete the clove hitch despite knowing how to do one (so we thought).

My favourite challenge was when we had to make something from three eggs and six slices of bread. Our team made boiled egg and soldiers, eggy bread and fried egg. The best part of course was eating it!

I also enjoyed the enactment of a crash, we had to calm people down by talking about other things rather than the accident, call the emergency services and try to find out what had happened. However we had a few problems as we panicked and was not sure what we had to do. At the end of the task it was explained to us what we should have done so that we would have been more successful. This exercise was very useful and I think that if I ever found myself in a similar situation I would feel more confident and know what to do.

Our team worked well together as we listened, all got on together by helping and encouraging each other. I was lucky as I had a great team who all worked together. This resulted in us coming third in the competition. I was slightly disappointed in not coming first however we all enjoyed our experience and you can't win every year.

Finlay Potiuk Patrol Leader, Eagles





The AGM went to plan with a new Secretary being elected in the guise of Rachel Drake who timed her entrance rather badly, thus landing herself in it.

Then in May we met for Butch's Walk, kindly planned by Nichola, which coincided with meeting up with the narrow boat troop. The route had to be slightly altered due to frantic phone calls being received from some of the adult members of the crew who were "cold" and could we bring coats and gloves with us for their little handie wandies. We managed a very pleasant stroll along the canal and around Stockers Lake near Rickmansworth Aquadrome, not going too fast for fear of Tracey going into premature labour. As dusk drew near the bats were out in force, and then Pete (Linskey of course) demonstrated his trick of making the earth move.

June saw up flying kites on the top of Ivinghoe Beacon. A silly pastime for adults you might think - and rightly so, but it is always such a laugh. People either can't get their kites, up,

or down! And strings get tangled and

all sorts. The prize this year goes to the kite flown by Eddie Chalk which had been rescued from the jumble sale. It looked like the pirate ship out of



Peter Pan sailing majestically in the wind.

Unfortunately Mr Sharpe couldn't make it, and so the Red Baron wasn't flying this year. I ordered a kite from Ebay for the princely sum of 99p which came all the way from Hong Kong but sadly didn't arrive on time, so I think a re-run before next year is called for.

There was a rather nasty accident when Tony Bail was trying to reel his kite in and instead increased its speed of velocity and smacked Pete (Linskey of course) straight in the head. Whilst he had dropped like a stone to the floor, we called for a first aider, only realising that it was Pete who would have to administer himself. A short recoup showed there was no damage done except a temporary loss of memory of how to get to the pub. A very debilitating affliction in the Linskey world.

And so onto the recent escapade at the Abbots Langley Carnival



We once again sold hot dogs, alongside the Ladies Guild's Bric-a-Brac stall.



Mike Trotman (Treasurer) and Charlotte Trotman

It was lovely weather and the village turned out in force. With the event tents duly erected, and the cooking equipment moved several times to get the best flow of people to the stall, cooking started in earnest at 11am with a worrying few minutes wondering where everyone was to buy the cooked ones. At 1 am they started coming, in rows from both ends of the stall, buying multiples of sausages and drinks in one hit. By 2.30 pm we had completely sold out of the 1000 sausages, which has got to be in record time. We managed to get hold of another 100 or so from Pete (Linskey of course) and another queue was instantly formed, even as they were put onto the grill! The hot dogs made about £1,500 and the bric-a-brac £350.

What a tremendous effort by all concerned - thanks a bunch. As always we owe a big thanks to Paul Hanson for supplying the sausages and use of his van.

Alison and Rachel did a roaring trade when they decided to take the cool box full of what was left of the drinks around the park peddling their wears with cries of "Cold Drinks - only 50p a can."

So endeth the day, and we had to take it all down and pack away at HQ. Alison and I decided to celebrate by going on the bungee jump and climbing wall, but I think a large 99 would be a better idea next year!





Rainforest

nce again we have had a busy year with the Cubs doing everything from potholing to crate-stacking, spooky Halloween party to Blockbuster film night, from craft nights to Police station visits. Plus lots and lots of other fun things! The Cubs have also gained a number of badges

including the Personal Safety badge, Community Challenge, Outdoor Challenge and a number of Cubs have gained their Chief Scout's Silver Award which is the highest award a Cub can achieve. These Cubs were James Awcock, Jake Taylor, Daniel Weston, Robert Armstrong, Connor Hill, Charlotte Trotman, Timmy Cannock and William Bell. A very big well done!

This year we attended the County Centenary Camp at Tolmers campsite with over 20 of our Cubs camping for the full weekend along with the Scouts, and the Beavers joining us for the Saturday. This gave the Cubs a chance to try over one hundred activities over the weekend, everything from cooking cakes to climbing walls, air rifle shooting to seeing an air rescue helicopter, making music to sweet making.

We also took part in a number of District competitions, including the Chess Competition, the Volleyball Competition (which we finally won this year after coming second for the last two years!), the Cub Quiz which we

entered for the first time and won! Finally we entered the District Swimming Gala which we as a Cub Pack won, along with the Scouts and with the help of the Beavers, we won the overall trophy. Holly also won the ladies leaders race. Maybe next year I will be brave and put my togs on! I'd like to say well done to all the boys and girls who took part in any of the events over the year, they all seemed to really enjoy themselves and hopefully we'll be able to defend some of our titles this year, as well as take part in a few new ones. We also attended the St. Georges Day Parade (would have been nice to see a few more Cubs there), Remembrance Day Parade and the Christingle Service.

I'd also like to say a big thank you to all the parents that have helped over the last year, as without your help we wouldn't be able to run such an active and busy programme. I would also like to say a special thank you to the following people: Holly & Nicky who are both Assistant Cub Leaders and without them we wouldn't have a Cub Pack. Also to Malena and Paul parent helpers, whose help every week is invaluable. Thank you also to Chris and Jonny, our young leaders, and Julie our programme guru. I'd also like to thank everyone who puts time and effort into helping the Group in one way or another, whether it's running the Group, fund raising, or the upkeep of the hall. Without all your efforts we wouldn't have such a great meeting place for the Cubs. As always if there are any parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, older brothers or sisters or anyone else who would like to help either on a regular basis or from time-to-time on a Wednesday night, or behind the scenes, then please do let us know, as we can never have too much help.

As we now have two Beaver Colonies and already a nearly full Cub Pack it looked as if we might have problems finding space for all the Beavers as they are ready to join Cubs. So it was great news when just before Easter a new Cub Pack started up within our Group. This Pack has been named Jungle Pack and is led by Cheryl and assisted by Victoria. It's great that more children can now be part of the Group and to see the Group growing stronger all the time.

So hopefully this year will be just as busy with some great actives, competitions, badges and Silver Awards.

Christopher Frith (Cub Scout Leader)



<u>River Beaver's</u> <u>AGM report</u> <u>May to December</u>

t's been our most
successful year ever



for the beavers. In June we attended the Abbots Langley carnival to celebrate 100 years of scouting in Abbots Langley, and won 1st place in the best stroller's category. Thanks must go to the cubs and scout who joined us, there help and support was greatly appreciated. The following weekend we had a sleepover at our HQ, and were joined by some district beavers. The night was a complete success with games, prizes, dancing, crafts and the all important midnight feast. Although they seemed far more impressed with the Horrid Henry DVD, typical!

In July we participated in the national paper plane challenge in aid of Children with leukaemia, with prizes for prettiest plane, most aerodynamic plane and furthest flown (or thrown in our case). We managed to raise £60 for the charity. In October we had our annual beaver's bangers at Lees Wood with a space theme. It came as a bit of a shock when the River Beavers won for the second year in a row (it took us 15 years to win the first time then we win twice). When it was time for the jumble sale week both sets of beavers went to Hollywood Bowl and behaved them selves so well they done us proud. At the end of the year we all attended the pantomime at the Palace Theatre, and were joined by the cubs which were nice. Again the beavers all behaved very well and had a great time joining in with all the shouting.

On a personal note I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lin, Julia, Holly, Alisha and Gemma for all there help every week, I couldn't do it without you.

Helen Welch River Beaver Leader

Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	6.00 - 7.30 pm 7.45 - 9.45 pm 8.00 - 10.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River) Explorer Scouts Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Rainforest)
Thursday	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	5.30—7.00 pm 8pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle) 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.abbotslangleyscouts.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