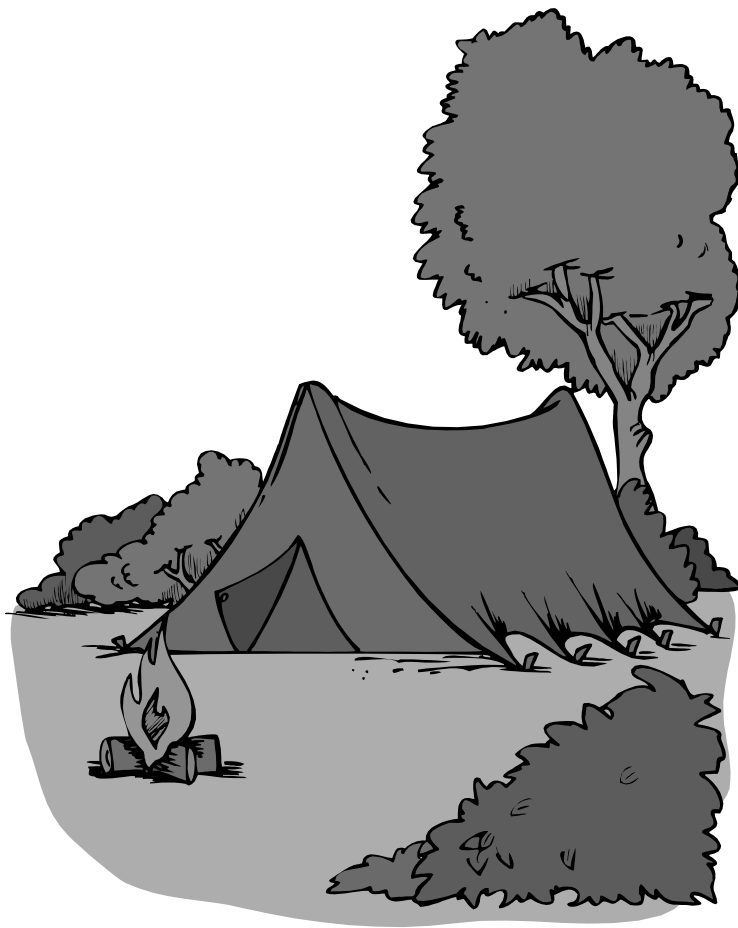


214th Edition

JUNE 2012

Founded in March 1954

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

SCOUT TROOP Achievements

Congratulations to:

Miles Johnson, Ravi Kotecha, Thomas Rose,
Nicholas Smith and Jamie Tearle who completed
their Promise Challenge,

Ross Carey who completed his Adventure Challenge,

Joe Prior and Connor Hill on attaining their Creative
Challenge,

Timothy Cannock, Josh Coulson, James Cresswell,
Dean Millard, Joe Prior, Thomas Rose and
Charlotte Trotman on achieving their Fitness
Challenge, and

Josh Coulson, James Cresswell, Toby Gamble,
Miles Johnson, Ravi Kotecha, Nicholas Smith and
Jamie Tearle on being awarded their Community
Challenge.

Well Done Everybody!

Clive

Clive's Chat

You can catch up on the happenings of 2011 by reading my GSLs report from the Presentation & AGM Evening held in May, printed in this issue. It was an excellent evening, well attended by youngsters, parents and Group members alike with 5 Scouts being awarded their Gold Chief Scouts Award by our District Commissioner, Ian Leach, who also presented Charlotte Trotman with the Scout of the Year trophy.



Many congratulations to Miles Johnson, Ravi Kotecha, Dean Millard, Thomas Rose and Nicholas Smith on completing their Gold Award.

The main event of the Spring Term was the District Swimming Gala. There was a great team spirit and a fabulous team effort. Everyone had a huge amount of fun and with it came the glory. The first victory of the evening came with the Lake Beavers winning their

District Trophy. The success continued with the Cubs also in great form, with Jungle Cubs coming 1st and Rainforest Cubs 2nd. It didn't end there as the Scouts made it the 'Treble', winning the District Scout Swimming Trophy for the 3rd time in succession. So when it came to the announcement of the overall Group winners it was no surprise that the Abbo's were presented the Group Cup. Sincere thanks to all the Leaders for giving up their evening, for the great parental help and support and for assistance from the Albatross Explorers and Young Leaders. Finally, well done to our Jungle Akela (Cheryl) for having the nerve to enter the Scouters race and being the best lady swimmer. I think we need a trophy cabinet and lots of polish.



Also in March the Scout Troop were victorious in the District Triathlon, well done to Ravi Kotecha, Timothy Cannock, Charlotte Trotman and Henry Caplan.

8 families from the Group, including 11 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their parents, went to help plant Heartswood Forest on 17th March and gained their Environmental Partnership Award.



It was organised by the Woodland Trust and involved creating a new forest with native trees. Thanks to Paul Hines for organising the day.



My thanks again to all the volunteers who ran yet another successful jumble sale in April raising an excellent £1,500 for the Group.

I wish you all a good summer

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

GROUP SCOUT LEADER & SCOUT LEADER ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Firstly, I would like to reiterate all the tributes paid to Peter Linskey. He was a good friend and a great servant of the Scout Group as a Venture Leader, Fellowship member and, most recently, on the Executive Committee. Myself, Bryan and Pete were the main drivers behind the Photovoltaic Project which saw the installation of our solar panels last year and will raise valuable funds for the Group well into the future. Pete is greatly missed. I'm very pleased that his mother, Mary, could make this evening and, on behalf of the Group, thank her and Alf for their generous donation of some of Pete's activity equipment. Our intention is to have a training fund in Pete's name which will be used to train leaders, Active Support members and Explorers specifically in kayaking and climbing, the two outdoor pursuits closest to Pete's heart, and first aid.

Pete was out cycling when the tragedy struck and a young man, Lewis Scott, came to his aid. Lewis called the emergency services when he saw Pete fall from his bike and gave him CPR to keep him conscious until the ambulance arrived. Even though Lewis had had no formal first aid training he did his utmost to save Pete and give him a fighting chance. On behalf of the Scout Association I would like to thank him for his commendable act and courage and present him with a silver Thanks Award.



The growth of the Group continues for the 3rd year running with 52% more members than in 2009. Actually, the numbers for 2012 have continued in the same vein with nearly 160 currently in the Group, including our Young Leaders. If only we had more leaders we could start up a 3rd Beaver Colony as we now have 112 on the waiting list on which 16 are overdue.

At the 2012 census in January the total Group membership was 132 (2011 = 124) a 6% increase. The individual section numbers were:

Beaver Scouts	38 (33)
Cub Scouts	42 (47)
Scouts	33 (26)
Leaders & Assistants	19 (18)

Beavers continued to enjoy an excellent programme of activities and are now at full capacity with 48 of them. Helen Welch, the River Colony Beaver Leader and Lisa Sharpe, the Lake Colony Beaver Leader, did another fantastic job assisted by Lyn Lythaby, Paula Gomme and our new ABSLs Hollie Goodman and Wendy Cousins. Last year the Beavers attended the Abbots Langley Carnival, the District Beaver Bangers, sang at Margaret House care home at Christmas, had their usual sleepover and participated in the District Handicraft Competition. Both Colonies are also well supported by a number of Young Leaders and my thanks to Amaelia Parmenter, Emily Drake and Lucy Tearle for all their help throughout the year. Last year there were 8 Beavers, double the number of the previous year, who successfully completed their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Very well done to Andrew Bell, Alex Chase, Ben Culpeck, Rudy Farrell, Taj Kapoor, Alex Munn, Freddie Perry and Ross Sheppard.

The Cub Packs have also grown from strength to strength with the new Jungle Cub Pack now well and truly established under the Leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand and Victoria Caplan. They completed 27 Challenge Awards and organised their own Night Hike and Sleepover which proved to be a great success. I would

like to take this opportunity to welcome Paul Hines who is due to become an ACSL in the near future. The Leaders of the Rainforest Cub Pack, Chris Frith, Nicola Trotman, Andy Richardson and Malena Stratton have done another marvellous job of keeping the Cubs extremely busy and entertained, completing 60 Challenge Awards. They have been under a bit of a strain following the loss of ACSL, Holly Noonan and our Young Leaders, Chris Watts and Jonathan Benson. My congratulations particularly go to the seven Cubs, Alex Bruguier, Harry Hurdle, Isaac Irvine, Oliver Munn, Kieran Redmond, Matthew Smith and Hannah Trotman, who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2011.

As usual, the Scout Troop supported the District and County events and again continued their success in 2011. The Scouts won their first County competition for some years with victory in the County Pushcart Challenge, had success in the District Triathlon, were runners-up in the District Night Owls and were winners of the Assault Course element of the County Green Beret, also for the first time. The Scouts completed a total of 45 Challenge Awards throughout the year and numerous Activity Badges. I would particularly like to congratulate the 3 Scouts, Scott Denton, April Turner and Fiona Walldock, who completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award. My thanks go to all my fellow leaders, Sharon Duffy, Jason Gearhart, Dave Goodman, Jack McCarthy, Alison Redmond, Marc Redmond and Tony Dabson, and our Young Leaders, Daniel Lowrie, Amaelia Parmenter and Christopher Winder for their commitment and hard work throughout the year, and to the parents who have helped and supported some of the activities and fundraising.

The hard work of the Scouts has continued this year and another 5 have now completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award with another 4 on the horizon. Those that have completed their Award are Miles Johnson, Ravi Kotecha, Dean Millard, Thomas Rose and Nicholas Smith.

The Scout of the Year Award again proved to be a hard fought battle. This is awarded to the Scout who shows the most commitment to the parades, competitions and fundraising events and for their overall Scouting ability. Only 2 points separated the top 3 places. The winner this year is Charlotte Trotman.



I have been in this role now for 10 years as either SIC or GSL, and throughout that time Bryan has been Chairman. I can't emphasise enough my admiration of all he has done for this Group over the years and he will be sadly missed, both on the Executive Committee and by the Group as a whole. We all obviously hope that he will be able to stay involved in the Group for some years to come. It was very pleasing to see Bryan recognised for his commitment to scouting with the award of the Silver Acorn last year.

I asked Michael 3 years ago about taking over the reins, as I knew that Bryan wanted to step down. Michael's first reaction was a mixture of apprehension and blind panic on the thought of trying to fill the shoes of such a great supporter of the Group. However, Michael himself has been a fantastic member of our Abbo's family for many years, having been on the Executive Committee for 10 years, supporting numerous camps, Group events and fundraising activities, and I have no doubt that he too will be a great Chairman.

Finally, a few more, well deserved thanks to the members of the Group Active Support Unit (Fellowship), Group Executive, Ladies Guild and parents who have helped with activities within the Sections, organised and run the hugely successful fundraising events and made this Group the success that it is. There would be no Scout Group, and certainly not the fantastic Family Camp that we had last year with 250 attendees, without the continued support of the adult volunteers. I thank you all.

Clive Winder

This is my 25th edition of the Abbo's newsletter but I have a long way to go to match the record of my predecessor. Bill White, the founder of the magazine, racked up a huge 63 issues in the 10 years that he was Editor, so I will need to carry on until 2025 to equal his record (lol)

Just a very quick word about the District Camp that was held over the last weekend (22nd-22th



June). More on this in the next issue but so many memorable moments.

Harry the Hornet in a push kart race

The adult team on ski-pods in the It's a Knockout competition

Ian Leach, District Commissioner receives his Silver Acorn from The County



#The Editor Tweets



Commissioner, Ricky Harrington.

And speaking of lofty heights, Michael Benson was elected as the Group's new Chairman at the AGM in May. Mike, has been involved in the Group for a number of years.

As his three sons went through the ranks, Mike assisted where he could in Cubs and Scouts and then became a member of the Group's Executive Committee. As a self employed Carpenter, Mike not only has skills for all manner of scout projects: HQ maintenance and making props and games for camps, he also has his own van which seems to be a mandatory requirement for any Chairman! I hope



you will join with me in giving Mike a very warm welcome as Chairman and wish him all the best in his new role. Please give him all the support you can.



One last big Thank You from me as Editor to all those who have submitted articles and photos to make this, the **SECOND BIGGEST** Woodsmoke ever produced! Keep it up, it makes my job a whole lot easier.

Scoop

District Scout Camp

25/26th February 2012

The District Scout Camp was held in Lees Wood in a wide open area big enough to fit all the tents in. When we arrived the weather was perfect, even though the ground hadn't quite finished drying off from the night before, but it had within the hour which was actually quite helpful when we were later putting the pegs in the ground. When we got there the first thing we had to do was choose who was going with who and in what tent, in the end everyone seemed happy with who they were with. Once that was done, we had to start putting up the tents which went well as we had all put up tents before, and when we had finished we were able to help the slightly newer scouts who hadn't had a lot of practice yet.

When that was done and we had all unpacked, all the scouts were split into groups for the activities. The way it worked was that each scout group divided its members into pairs and then one pair from each scout group got together with pairs from other scout groups to form a team which usually consisted of about 10 scouts. This was a really good way of doing it as it meant everyone got to mix with scouts from different areas.

There were many activities each lasting an hour. One of the activities was to build a bridge. This was one of the harder ones because all the team had to be doing something. Once the bridge was completed it had to look like something you would get on an assault course with one rope about a metre off the ground and one just above our heads to hold onto. Then every member of the team had to cross it.

A second activity was making a cardboard oven. We did this by covering a box with tin foil with one face of the

box missing. We made sure that the tin foil fully covered the box so that it wouldn't burn. Then we each got a bit of French bread and put lots of different pizza toppings on it. Then we got some embers, put the bread on the tray and the tray on the embers. Then we put the box on top.

The third activity was a team building activity. First we had to put a tent up and then had to make a human table. We did this by sitting on the side of a chair with four chairs opposite each other. We then had to lean back so we were all resting on each other's legs, and one by one the chairs would be taken away so we were supporting each other. After we had done the human table we went up to the next activity. This was where there was a pretend crash where somebody lost control of a van, hit a person and then crashed into a tree. We had to find out what was wrong with them and help them, then we learnt what to do if someone had passed out. After all this we prepared our dinner which was burgers made from mashed up sausage with onion, followed by mixed berries in pancakes. Once we had prepared our dinner we had to make a deck chair with wood and rope.

The we had dinner and some of the leaders arranged some games for us, e.g. they hid a cone in a field and we had to find it but we were not allowed to use torches and it was really dark so we couldn't see it until it was right next to us. Eventually someone found it. The second game was that we were split in half, so it was like Foxes and Hounds, but the foxes were given glow sticks so the hounds could find them.

The next day we woke up had some breakfast and headed off to our last activity in the same groups that we had been in the day before. The first activity for our group was archery where we took it in turns to shoot at the targets. Then we learnt how to gut a fish and cook it. Once all the activities were over all that was left to do was take down the tents and go home. I would definitely recommend anyone to go to the next District Camp. I had a really brilliant time and met lots of new people.

By Connor Hill, Assistant Patrol Leader, Otters

scout Swimming Gala

On Saturday 10th March the 1st Abbots Langley/3rd North Watford Scout Group took part in the District Swimming Gala at Westminster Lodge, St. Albans. The Scouts that took part were myself (Joe Prior), Josh Coulson, Ravi Kotecha, Timmy Cannock, Charlotte Trotman, Oliver Munn and Max Morvan.

The first races were for individuals and for each age group there were 3 races to swim and these were shared around amongst us. We proved to be a virtually unbeatable team as we won most of our races! Next came the relays. There was a float race in which the only team that beat the Scouts, Joe, Josh and Oliver, were not Scouts. They were Explorers but they got disqualified as the person on the float was paddling which was allowed. Then it was the Scouts and Cubs combined relays and then it was the Scouts replays.

The atmosphere was amazing as everyone cheered for each other and team mates were all friends with each other. At the end they announced the scores and the first success was that our Beavers and Cubs both won their respective trophies. When it came to the Scouts trophy we also won and all had a fantastic celebration, impersonating Usain Bolt, that included everyone. Then the overall



winners results came and we got to celebrate again with the Beavers and Cubs in the celebration as well. We came back very successful as we won every trophy there was to win, including the overall winners trophy.

Joe Prior, Eagles Patrol

Top 10 Scouts of the Year

Narrow Boat Weekend – 4th – 6th May 2012

We arrived at the Narrow Boat Project in Hunton Bridge, said goodbye to our parents, loaded the boat and set off. We chose our beds and got our sleeping bags out, we had to turn the boat around which wasn't the easiest of tasks. Once we were pointing in the right direction we set off. We reached our first lock and got taught by Mike Benson how to use them. We got past the first lock knowing we had another 60 or so to navigate over the weekend. We all chose team names for our groups; the "Chinkies" were made up of myself, Nicholas Smith, Jamie Tearle and Charlotte Trotman. The other teams were the "Muppets", consisting of Timmy Cannock, Connor Hill and Ravi Kotecha, and the "Monsters" with Thomas Rose, Joe Prior and Dean Millard. We carried on going up the canal until we had all swapped jobs; the 3 different jobs were locks, steering and relaxing/chores. We moored up on Friday evening and saw the Fellowship on their annual walk. They stopped for a chat and a peek round the boat and then went to the pub (no change there then). Clive soon followed with the rest of the top ten scouts and leaders. We played around on the climbing frames and had a couple of games of football; some parents also arrived for a drink. We left the pub at about 10pm and got ready for bed. Alison cooked soup and rolls, and after we had hot chocolate we went to bed. Some of us went to sleep as soon as we had the chance and others stayed up into the early hours of the morning.

On the Saturday, we woke up to a fry up and the sound of the toilet doors banging. We got up to eat at about 8:15 and set off after some of us had eaten. We went through various locks until we were faced with a problem under the M25

Bridge; a boat had become unmoored and blocked our route. We hopped aboard and with a lot of pushing and pulling from Mike and some of the scouts and we were back on track. The rest of us who hadn't eaten went in for breakfast and then began our duties again. We all had several a goes at steering and let me tell you, it is very confusing. If you want the front to go left then you turn the rudder right and vice versa. We continued on until it was the Chinkies go on the locks. The rules of the lock were that (1) you had to open any side paddles if there was any and wait for the water to cover the gate paddles and then you could open the gate paddles. (2) No Running (3) Do not go beyond the cill markers. After doing the locks a few times most of us were tired and needed a rest, luckily our relax session came around so we could get some down time and do things like listening to music, cooking, cleaning, fishing and reading. Once this cycle had gone round about 3 times we had to turn the boat around which was done by Clive and Mike and with a little struggle we were facing home.



We moored up for the night just outside Berkhamsted train station and went to play in the park where there were some dogs, who seemed to want to play with us. When we had tired ourselves out we retreated to the boat for our chip supper but

to our disappointment the shop served no kebabs. We ate our meal and then played some games. These were funny because they were so obvious but you definitely had to think outside of the box to understand them. We played these games until about 10:45 and then the 9 remaining scouts went to the bunks; Dean already being shattered went way before us.

On Sunday it was the last day and we woke up to condensation dripping onto our beds and the smell of tea. We all got up a little later, 8:37 to be precise, and set off. Clive and Mike ate first and then went on to steer the boat whilst the rest of us ate on the move. The horn sounded and the lock team jumped into action and opened the first of many locks for the day. We rotated until we were in the relax stage when we had to pack up our clothes and other belongings. Hours passed and everything was so peaceful. Thomas came walking down the side of the boat offering the last of the lemonade. We were looking forward to relieving our thirst. Unfortunately, it was not to be as he slipped and the lemonade bottle flew into the air and Thomas dipped his leg into the canal. Luckily only his leg got wet and he wasn't hurt. On the way back we shared locks with other boats. The people were friendly and we made conversation at the locks. We kept moving forward and we noticed some children running past. They were doing a charity run so we decided to feed them crackers. We arrived at the last lock and could see the end was near. We turned the boat around and moored up for the last time, offloaded our luggage and called our parents to pick us up. The narrow boat trip had come to an end and we all had a great time!

**By James Cresswell,
Stags Patrol**

DIARY DATES

July

6th	Globe Theatre/Tate Gallery	Fellowship
10th	BBQ	Ladies Guild
16th	Group Executive Meeting	Exec
21st-28th	Summer Camp at Beaver Lodge	Scouts

August

3rd	Summer picnic in St Albans Park	Fellowship
14th	Green Bowls at the Bowling Club	All

September

7th	Scott's Grotto or Walk	Fellowship
17th	Group Executive Meeting	Exec
18th	Talk	Ladies Guild
23rd (Sun)	Drive & Treasure Hunt	Fellowship

October

5th	Top Golf	Fellowship
9th or 22nd	Meeting	Ladies Guild
17th & 20th	Double Jumble Sales	All
25th	A walk up Snowdon	Fellowship
26th-28th	Weekend to Ironbridge, Shropshire	Fellowship

November

2nd	Craft Evening	Fellowship
10th	Construct Green Beret course	Fellowship
11th	Remembrance Day parade 10.30	All
17th-18th	Green Beret	Scouts
19th	Group Executive Meeting	Exec
30th	Set up Christmas Market (evening)	Fellowship

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Fellowship Foray into the Mountains

“When are you going to climb Kilimanjaro?” people kept asking me. Just because I’d let Pete “The Ledge” Linksey talk me into climbing a few hills it seems to be the pre-requisite. So I decided my mission was to start with the highest peaks in the United Kingdom first, and Pete and I had planned to tackle Ben Nevis the weekend of 28th April before the inevitable happened.

So the younger members of the Fellowship, who were Pete’s Venture Scouts (Tracy Reeve, Dave Gray, Sue Jarman, Mark Stead and Hazel Harkin) decided that they wanted to conquer The Ben with me. I think they were just humouring me really, but they did a marvellous job, and some did want to relive memories of trips from yester year, and others to experience it for the first time. Then we recruited John Harkin, Richard & Ruth Gabriel, Sara Chalk and Jerome, and my cross country ski friend Jane from Jersey, or JJ as we nicknamed her. Lastly, Brian Leite, Pete’s climbing buddy, and Ray joined us. With at least 3 mountaineers amongst us we were reasonably confident that if we hit bad weather (almost guaranteed) we would be able to get off the mountain safely.

Training started in earnest in January with a walk every other Sunday. We had differing weather conditions, including snow on the Kings Langley to Chipperfield trip, which gave us the experience of training for snow on the Ben. We nicknamed ourselves The Bensky Walkers and continued to walk and banter and get to know each other over the next few months. Poor Mark had foolishly said he would come, even though he was running the London Marathon the week before! Our last real training session was a day out on the Chiltern Hill around Bledlow Ridge, with the obligatory stop for a pint on Good Friday. We thought we were doing well, and the



training certainly paid off, but it was nothing like the task we were going to tackle in Scotland. We set off for the weekend in different groups, and the early group arrived to a grey day with rain which didn’t bode well for the walk! However, 9 of us to tackled a warm up walk the next day and the weather was clearer.

We thought Brian was a little mad suggesting we walk up to the CIC hut on the North Face of the Ben, but we blindly followed. It was a little tougher than we had expected but gave our legs the chance to discover the sort of terrain we could expect the following day. It was a memorable trip for me as Brian pointed out the likes of Green Gully and Tower Ridge where he and Pete had climbed many times. We were greeted with a fabulous view of the North Face Corrie in beautiful sunshine.



Once back at base we met up with the rear party and all the team were complete and excitedly talking about the plan for the morrow!

Pauline

So the day dawned bright on an early start on Saturday morning, and with sandwiches packed we headed across the opposite side of the valley. From this point we were able to see the great height of Ben Nevis looming out from the mist.



The Beginning

The first of many team photos taken on self timer and perched precariously on a rock

Even at this early point in the day we were passing people and dogs who had already reached the summit and were on their way down. We knew that there would be other walkers out on such a lovely day. However we hadn't reckoned on meeting a large charity walk in aid of the British Heart Foundation, which contained approximately 250 people. There was never shortage to chat and have banter with different people on both the way up and down.

The track became less rocky under foot and opened up as we reached the top of the valley. After a quick refreshment stop. The gradient seemed pleasant with the sun shining down a few of us remarked that the slightly tougher training walks stop us in good stead. However out of the corner of



our eyes you could not fail to see what were about to climb. Then we turned a corner and we all knew the hard work started.

The track narrowed and the climbing started, zig zaging up the face

of Ben Nevis. As the sun was still shining strong with only a few wispy clouds in the sky the layers started to come off and the sun



glasses went on. We felt like we were in the Himalayas, and we were soon to feel on top of the world at any rate!

We had joked about being knee deep in snow and although not quite knee deep, at least the final

third of the climb was snow covered and quite tough going. As we regrouped and set off for the final push we all agreed that we were blessed to have such fantastic weather. Once at the top we were fortunate to have beautiful clear views, we were even able to see over to the Isle of Skye.

The Summit

We made it! And they unceremoniously hoisted me onto the trig point!



At the top of Ben Nevis after a bit of a picnic the plan was to drop a travel bug in the Geocache in memory of Pete. Unfortunately due to the metre of snow at the top we were unable to find it. After the



group photos and the toast to absent friends we set out on our way down. Half way down it became quite overcast and we encountered some sleet. However no sooner had this arrived than it cleared up which was fortunate as we all gathered in the pub by the car park to celebrate our accomplishment.

The meal back at the hostel was more than welcome, followed by a few local drinks and we all slept rather well that night.

Sunday saw a few of us walking rather strangely due to the slight stiffness of our muscles. Yet again the sun was shining down on us with hardly a cloud in the sky. We broke into 2 groups, one group of stalwarts going off to walk the Lost Valley and the other to walk

Glen Nevis. You can't go anywhere in that part of Scotland without encountering a hill or two so the climb into the valley along a river and waterfall helped stretch out some of our achy muscles. It was well worth it as the valley we walked into was so picturesque and felt like the land that time forgot. Over to the right hand side of this



valley was a beautiful waterfall which ran into the river running through the valley. A few of us attempted a rope bridge across the river however our nerve went when we saw we would have to scramble up the other side. Within this valley we were able to find at least 2 geocaches

with allowed us to leave the travel bug that we were unable to plant at the top of Ben Nevis, with instructions that someone take it up in the summer. Another lunch stop out in beautiful surroundings with the tip of Ben Nevis in the distance for the view was very much appreciated.



The two walking groups met up at an old watering hole of Pete's *The Clachaig Inn* in Glen Coe and it definitely felt as if it had lots of happy memories in it from climbers and walkers over the years.

The morning of our departure it was back to true Scottish weather grey and rainy, This I think prevented the Loch Ness monster being seen as we drove by the Loch on the way back to Inverness Airport. The whole weekend was definitely in the spirit of Pete Linskey and it was great to get out and see some of the places where his stories originated from.

Hazel Harkin

If you have been inspired by our trip to Ben Nevis you may be interested to know that some of us will be climbing Snowdon on 26th October, followed by the weekend at Ironbridge. Contact and training for this is via the Bensky Walking Group on Facebook.



scouts.org.uk/activesupport



Some of the Active Support Team, in their new shirts Lto R John Noonan, Nicola Trotman, Richard Gabriel, Tony Dabson (AS Manager), Pauline Styles, Pauline Mariott, Tracy Reeve, Michael Benson (Group Chairman), Rachel Drake (Secretary) and Hazel Harkin.

Ladies Guild



Lin Lythaby receiving her 30 year certificate from Ian Leach, District Commissioner at the AGM



cubs



Rainforest



Sprightly Spring!!



Last term marked the beginning of a new year and in the Rainforest Cub Pack we certainly hit the ground running! Another super six new cubs joined the pack-a massive welcome to Andrew Bell, Benjamin Culpeck, George Hurdle, Taj Kapoor, Lucy Packman, and Ross Shepherd!

We worked on the Global Challenge Badge last term and kicked it off with an 'Australia Day' evening towards the end of January. The key here was to educate ourselves about life Down Under through creative and fun activities such as making an origami Koala and a tricky quiz about the different territories within the country. A big thank you goes to Julie Cannock and her sons who came in and shared their knowledge of Scouting in Tasmania. The theme continued in early February with a 'We Care About Precious Resources' evening learning all about recycling, saving energy and what we can all do to look after our planet.



At the end of the evening the Cubs each went away with a slip of paper detailing a specific country and a number of facts that they had to investigate for it. The information was to be presented in a booklet or poster the following week for the 'Around the World for the Olympics' evening.

There were some absolutely amazing creations and we all learnt so much about all of the countries. The highlight for me was definitely the national dish section where we had food ranging from chocolate mousse cake to Chinese take-away! Scrumptious!

The Global challenge was wrapped up with a visit at the end of February from the Send a Cow Charity. We learned all about the fantastic work they do with communities in Africa to promote long term solutions for poverty and famine by 'sending' livestock to huge numbers of families.



Cubs cooking up a storm on Pancake Day!

After half term we had the customary 'Flippin' Good Fun' evening or Pancake Day to everyone else before kicking off the Air Activities Badge events-the part of the term we were all waiting for!

In early March we visited the Mosquito Aircraft Museum at the De Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre near Shenley. The museum was the home for the Mosquito design team, part of the de Havilland Aircraft Company and where the prototype was actually



The Mosquito at de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre

built. There were loads of aircraft for the pack to view and even climb inside of and it was absolutely fascinating to see how far air travel has come in the last few decades.

The following week we all had a go at building our own aircraft-although the materials used were slightly different.....paper. The cubs had 3 main designs to follow and some of the creations were absolutely fantastic! We then rounded the occasion off with our very own air race!

It was a short term but we still had time to honour some wonderful achievements-Hannah Trotman, Lucy Packman and Leo Farrington all completed their Silver Awards! Well done to all three of you! Keep it up! Hannah also moved on up to Scouts and while we all miss her we wish her the best of luck! Come and visit us soon!!

A final customary thank you once again to all of the parents that gave up their time to assist throughout the term.

Until next time..

Andrew Richardson (Rama)
A.C.S.L Rainforest Cub Pack

Harry Potter Studio Tour

On Sunday 4th March, six lucky Cubs were chosen to go on a trip to the opening tour of the Harry Potter studios at Leavesden. Hannah, Charlotte, Leo and I were driven there by Chil. As we arrived, it was pouring with rain, so the run from the car to the studios added to the excitement of the day.

After looking at the posters of the characters in the first part of the tour, we went to see the first proper exhibit which was the Great Hall which was all set out for dinner like it was in the film. They also displayed some of the actual costumes for the film characters. The hall was huge and had been moved here because the original building was too small.

Next stop was the cupboard under the stairs (it was Harry's bedroom when he lived with his Aunt and Uncle); it was tiny! My favourite part was next; riding a broomstick in front of a green screen. The special effects are then used to make it look like we were really flying. It looked so real.

We saw the night bus, but it was chained off, so we couldn't go inside and we were also given some "butter beer", which was lovely. The last stop was the gift shop. They had some really good things there, but everything was really expensive. I had £15 with me, but the only thing I could buy was a mug with the pattern of the Marauders' Map (that was given to Harry by Ron's brothers in The Prisoner of Azkaban). The wands were £50 and an Invisibility Cloak was £75; for that price I would expect them to actually work!

It was a brilliant day and I'm very grateful to the leaders for choosing me to be on the visit and especially to Chil for the door-to-door chauffeur service!

By Charlotte Clark
Rainforest Cubs

Swimming Gala

Swimming galas are really good fun

Winning is the best part by far!

If we lose, we don't mind too much
though

Mainly because...

Most Cubs are very good sportsmen

In the last race things started to get
tough

Nothing was as important as tenacity and
Great resilience.

Grandannies, parents and friends cheering us
on helped us to victory.

At the start of each race, we had
butterflies in our tummies

Looking along our lanes, we focus on the
finish point

At the end of the night we bought the
golden trophy home!

By Charlotte Clark

cubs *Jungle*

Is the BEST!!

The Jungle Cubs have been really busy since the last Woodsmoke came out. We thought we'd show you instead of telling you some of the really fun and exciting things...

Jeremy talked to the cubs about Scouting in Australia. The cubs loved it; they learnt heaps and made some beautiful posters currently displayed on our board.
Thank you Jeremy & Liam



AUSTRALIA DAY



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



Akela and 5 cubs went to the Natural History Museum for The Big Nature Day. We learnt about worms, pond life, earthquakes and more. Some of us dressed up as bees and we even got the first ever 'Naturalist Badge'!

POLICE VISIT



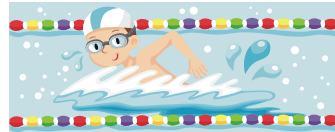
We had a great time at Bushey Police Station; Trying on bits of uniform, finding out where a criminal would spend the night and what they'd wear. Asking questions and being locked in a cell!



Lake Beavers

The Beavers took part in the District swimming gala at St. Albans swimming pool in March.

We are so pleased to say that Lake Beavers came first in the Beavers gala and we won the Beavers District cup, they were so proud of themselves. Well done!



In March we held our annual District Beavers Handicraft completion at HQ, lots of Beavers attended from the District. We had great fun all day making models which were judged at the end of the day.

We are pleased to say the Beavers came 3rd and runners up too. Well done to all.

In April we had our annual Beaver hike up and down Dunstable Downs, with a picnic half way round. Badges were handed out at the end of the hike for those on their first hike and kite flying ended the day. Everyone had lots of fun including dogs.



The next event is the Carnival but you will have to wait until the next issue for a write up on that.

Bye for now from Lake Beavers

Lisa Sharpe
Beaver Leader

River Beavers



At Beavers we have had a very busy spring term, working towards a number of badges whilst improving our knowledge of how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Over the past few weeks we have made healthy sandwiches (messier than you would



think), planned a healthy meal and participated in an exhausting family hike at Dunstable Downs.

Also this term we have had to say goodbye to Sam Tyler, Darryl Barr, Jamie Lawrence and Archie Brennan, who we will miss but wish all the best on their scouting journey.

More recently, the Beavers have been making the most of the sunny weather, with a night playing games at the park. We devised a number of team games in lodges; weaving in and out plastic cones and throwing tennis balls to the waiting lodge member, and finished off the night with an old game entitled tea cups and saucers.



Thanks to all our helpers, looking forward to another fun-packed term

Hollie



Calling all Adults and Explorers

Come and join us on the Bowling Green
(behind the Scout HQ)
for an evening of lawn bowls

Tuesday 14th August, from 6.30pm

Come and try your hand at a new sport
it's harder than it looks!

Bar open afterwards

Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.45 - 9.45 pm	Albbatross Explorer Scouts
	8.00 - 10.00 pm	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	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
	8pm	Fellowship (1st in Month)

www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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