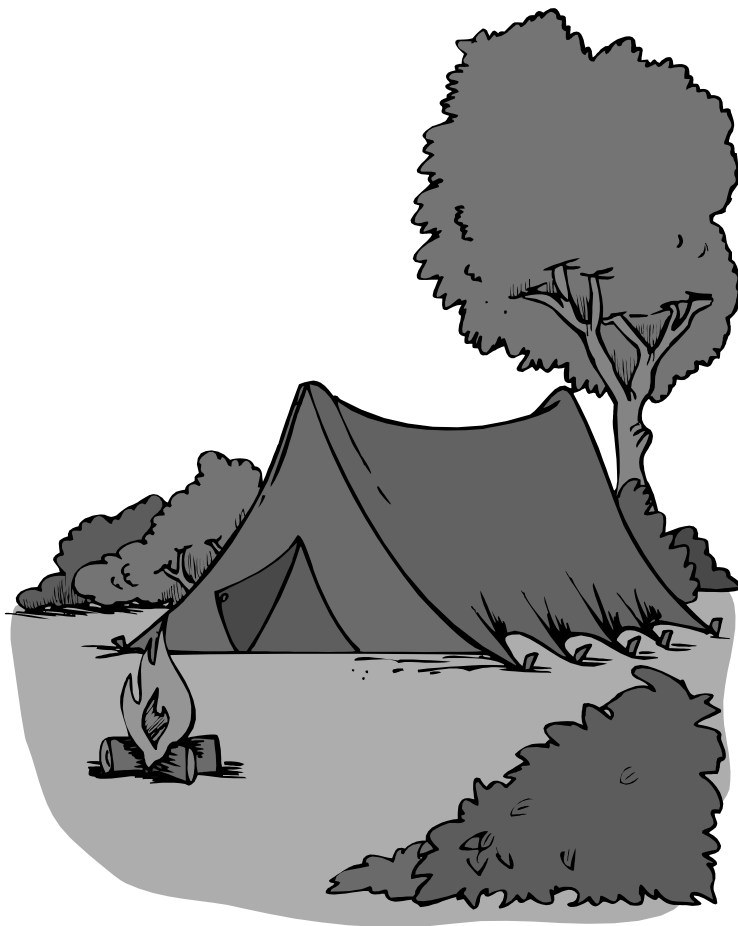


217th Edition

JUNE 2013

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Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk



Derrick George Flowers

2nd January 1932 – 1st March 2013

Sadly, I have to report the death of Derrick Flowers, who passed away peacefully in St John's Hospice after a fight with cancer.

For those who did not know him, Derrick was the oldest member of the group and so that honour will have to be laid on someone else's shoulders now.

His association with the Abbots goes right back to the early days and this photo was taken on one of the very first trips to Holland in 1947 when a link-up was formed with the Hessen Group (Derrick at the front of the boat). He moved up through the ranks as a Scout and then into the Rover Crew, enjoying all that encompassed.



Later, when both his sons, Steve and Pete had joined the Scout Troop, Derrick took on supporting roles in the Group such as the Treasurer and then the Woodsmoke Editor from 1974 for 6 years. We used to sit and chuckle over a pint and a pickled egg, about the newsletter and he would always roll his eyes in a look which said –good luck with that one!

The Flowers family were well known in the village and especially the Cricket Club in the days when the Flowers Garage stood where The Grange is built now.

But probably we will remember Derrick mostly for attending the Boxing Day walk since the early days in the 1950's. Seen here with the other 2 musketeers - Bib and Bryan celebrating the 60th walk.

This year he will be sadly missed.



Pauline Styles

Woodsmoke Editor

Chairman's Blog

Chairman's AGM Report

The Year's fundraising got off to a great start with approximately £2000.00 being raised at the Carnival, which was a great success. The Jumble Sales and Christmas Market always amaze me in the amount of money raised. This year approximately £3000 was collected, which is an incredible sum to achieve and will all be put to very good use to continue to develop our thriving Scout Group. Special thanks must go to Lin Lythaby and the Ladies Guild for their massive effort in these fundraising events. Well done Lin. I've worked out that if she'd done that every year for 40 years we would have raised £120,000!



In June the Group participated in the District camp at Lees Wood and although damp, a great time was had by all. Many thanks to the District for organising this fantastic event. One of the highlights of the weekend for me was Scout Leader Dave Goodman's rendition of Blur's 'Park life' played on a ukulele, in the rain, during 'District's Got Talent'.....you couldn't have made it up!

In late July the Scouts enjoyed their Summer Camp at Beaver Lodge in The Forest of Dean and for once the weather was scorching hot. Ironic really as this was the only hot week of the year and the first camp I have missed in 12 years!

Our Active Support Members had some very enjoyable trips away. In October they went to Shropshire exploring hills and dales and visiting historic Ironbridge and in April they climbed Ben Nevis a massive achievement by all who made it.

The Boxing Day walk is always a popular event and this year proved no exception with 26 members of the group taking part. Our Scout Active Support are always looking for new recruits so contact their Chairman Tony Dabson if you are interested in being a member of the SAS! Abbots Langley's Remembrance Day Parade was very well attended with 118 uniformed members participating. I would like to congratulate all

Refreshments anyone?
Bib and Eddie on drinks
while Eugenie uncovers
the buffet



those parents who ensured their youngsters were impeccably turned out representing our group so well in the village.

In December the Christingle Service took place in St Lawrence's Church and was packed to the rafters with our young members and their parents singing the carols to their hearts content. A good time was had by all and £285.00 was raised and donated to the Children's Society which I am sure you will agree with me, is a very worthy cause.

The Group's Woodsmoke Magazine continues to go from strength to strength and is now in its 216th edition which is quite an achievement. Special thanks must go to our very own 'Scoop' Pauline Styles for all her hard work over the years. She is wearing her temporary Group Secretary's hat this evening!

The Group's Headquarters continues to create revenue from hall hire and the solar panels which bring us an income of a few hundred pounds each month. All of this allows us to maintain the building to the high standards you see before you. We have recently re-painted the hall, stairs and landing, replaced the boiler, re-carpeted upstairs and installed broadband. We are currently making plans to re-furbish the kitchen.

All of these events and activities would not be possible and as successful as they are if it were not for the hours and hours of hard work put in by all of our Leaders, Active Support Members, Ladies Guild, Executive Committee, Parents and of course Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. To you all I give a tremendous thank-you and a very big well done!

Mike Benson

GROUP SCOUT LEADER & SCOUT LEADER

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

At the 2013 census in January the total Group membership was 134 (2012 = 132). The individual section numbers were:

The growth of the Group continues for the 4th year running although only by a couple as there is little capacity for growth and we had a large number of Scouts move onto Explorers. There are now 132 on the Beaver waiting list on which 24 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 (38)
Cub Scouts	50 (42)
Scouts	24 (33)
Leaders & Assistants	22 (19)

Helen Welch, the River Beaver Leader and Lisa Sharpe, the Lake Beaver Leader, did another fantastic job of providing an excellent programme of activities for the Beavers ably assisted by our ABSLs Paula Gomme and Hollie Goodman, our recent addition of Lucy Tearle and, of course, Lyn Lythaby. As usual, the Beavers attended the Abbots Langley Carnival winning the Youth Group trophy, the District Beaver Bangers, had their usual sleepover and won the Beaver District Swimming Trophy and the District Handicraft Competition. Both Colonies are also well supported by a number of Young Leaders and my thanks to them for all their help throughout the year. Last year there were five Beavers who successfully

completed their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Very well done to Harry Argent-Philips, Kieran Burt, William Powell, Miles Pyatt and Emma Pinchbeck.

I'm pleased to say that we have a number of Bronze Awards to present tonight, to Luke Bond, Adam Brown, Jake Johnson and Stanley Nunes.



The Cub Packs have continued to grow from strength to strength with the new Jungle Cub Pack now well and truly established under the Leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand, with ACSLs Paul Hines and the new addition of Noel Deegan. My thanks to Victoria Caplan who stood down as ACSL in January. The Jungle Cubs had a great time at the County Night Hike and managed to complete 43 Challenges during the year. The Leaders of the Rainforest Cub Pack, Chris Frith and Nicola Trotman have been joined by two new ACSLs, Wendy Cousins and Alice Swain-Gray, and have done another marvellous job of keeping the Cubs extremely busy and entertained, completing 39 Challenge Awards in 2012. My thanks to Andy Richardson who stood down as ACSL to progress his teaching qualifications. Our Cub Packs both had success as winners and runners-up of the Cub trophy at the District Swimming Gala. Both Packs, along with the Scouts and Beavers, also had a great time at the District 40th Anniversary camp. My congratulations particularly go to the eight Cubs, Roslyn Chase, Leo Farrington, Lucy Packman, Daniel Coulson, Aidan Cheng, George Dowding, Ben Thompson and Tom Williams, who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2012.

We also have some Silver Awards to present tonight, to Charlotte Clark, Samuel Hines, Daniel Nottage, Gabriella Rose and Katie Welch.



As usual, the Scout Troop supported the District and County events coming runners-up in the County Pushcart Challenge, won the District Triathlon and also won the Scout District Swimming Trophy giving the Group a clean sweep in the event.



The Scouts completed an amazing total of 91 Challenge Awards. This is partly due to 9 of the Scouts finishing off a number of their Challenges to complete their Gold Chief Scouts Award. All 9 worked extremely hard to complete it before moving onto Explorers so my congratulations to Josh Coulson, James Cresswell, Toby Gamble, Miles Johnson, Ravi Kotecha, Dean Millard, Thomas Rose, Nicholas Smith and Jamie Tearle. The hard work of the Scouts has continued this year and another 2 have completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award. These are Robert Armstrong and Timothy Cannock.

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 newest ASLs, Daniel Lowrie and Christopher Winder for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. In particular, my congratulations to Sharon and

Dave who were awarded their Wood Badge at the St Georges Day Parade. My thanks also to our 5 Young Leaders and to the parents who have helped and supported some of the activities and fundraising.



The Scout of the Year competition, which is now 10 years old, is run to encourage Scouts to show commitment to parades, competitions and fundraising events and for their overall Scouting ability. The winner this year is Hannah Trotman. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tom Redmond on the award of his Queen's Scout Award the highest achievement in Scouting for any young person.

Finally, a few more, well deserved thanks. Firstly, to Michael Benson who took over the reins as Chairman from our Group President, Bryan Sharpe, who stepped down after many years of service. Michael was extremely apprehensive to say the least, as Bryan was a tough act to follow, but I'm pleased to say that he has been a great Chairman and long may it continue. I would also like to thank 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 without the continued support of all the adult volunteers. My sincere thanks to you all.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

Ian Leach, The District Commissioner, announced that he always attended the 3rd North Watford's AGM so that he could take an audit of the trophies. He mentioned there was to be a District Sports day planned for July, and as this hadn't previously been won by the Group, it was their chance to shine!

He announced that there would be a selection weekend in September/October for any scout aged between 12 -16 to attend the World Jamboree 2015 in Japan. This announcement caused a buzz amongst the Scouts sitting in front of me who were frantically working out their birthday's to see if they could apply.



Ian thanked Clive for hosting the St George's day parade which had turned out to be a great day. There was no room left to move in the church with about 800 in the District attending, and 500 uniforms on parade.

We were extremely pleased to welcome the **County Commissioner, Rikki Harrington** to the AGM. He mentioned that growing up in Dorset his local Scout Group in Abbotsbury also called themselves "Abbos" and it was a pleasure to visit another and be reminded of it.



He said he wasn't used to hearing the words "Broadband, carpet and solar panels" when referring to most HQ's, and he commended the group on the impeccable range of activities, amount of awards and jumble sales – something of a rarity these days.

He had had a fantastic experience himself attending a World Jamboree which co-identally was the last one held in Japan 44 years previously.

Clive's Chat

You will have read in my GSLs report from the Presentation & AGM evening held on 17th May that it was an excellent evening, attended by nearly 100 people, with youngsters, parents and Group members filling the HQ. There were a number of Chief Scout Awards presented by Rikki Harrington, County Commissioner and Ian Leach, District Commissioner. Luke Bond, Adam Brown, Jake Johnson and Stanley Nunes received their Bronze Awards, Silver Awards were presented to Charlotte Clark, Samuel Hines, Daniel Nottage, Gabriella Rose and Katie Welch, and Gold Awards were received by Robert Armstrong and Timothy Cannock. Congratulations to them all.



Clive receiving his 15 year service award from Ian Leach

The Scout of the Year competition trophy, which is now 10 years old and awarded to encourage Scouts to show commitment and for overall Scouting ability, was presented to Hannah Trotman. Congratulations also to Tom Redmond on the award of his Queen's Scout Award at the Windsor St George's Day Parade. This award is the highest achievement in Scouting for any young person. Many congratulations also to Alison Redmond who was awarded a Medal of Merit for her services to Scouting.

In January, our Scout Troop had their first success with the team of Victoria Tointon, Hannah Trotman, Roslyn Chase and Lucy Packman winning the District Cooking Competition. They followed this up in February by coming 5th in the County event. In March, our Lake Beavers won the District Handicraft competition and the Scouts won the District trophy in the County Triathlon. Well done to Charlotte Trotman, Alex Bruguier, Hannah Trotman and Roslyn Chase.



Many thanks to all our youngsters who participated in the St George's Day Parade and Service. It was a fabulous turnout and you all put on a great show for which I have received many compliments from the District. The

church was packed and the collection taken was £327 which was been split 50/50 between the Alzheimers Society and the Herts Air Ambulance, two charities selected by our Leaders.



I'm pleased to welcome two new adult leaders to the Group with Lucy Tearle moving up from being a Young Leader to becoming an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and to Noel Deegan who has joined us as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader.

Finally, my thanks to all our volunteers who ran yet another successful jumble sale in March raising an excellent £1,400 for the Group. The Village Carnival raised £1932 and thanks to all who helped.

Clive Winder

I wish you all a good summer.

Group Scout Leader

Scout Troop Achievements



Many congratulations to -

- Robert Armstrong and Timothy Cannock who completed their Promise Challenge,
- Hannah Trotman on attaining her Creative Challenge and Community Challenge,
- Robert Armstrong on achieving his Fitness Challenge, and
- Thomas Renphrey and Joe Woodger on being awarded their Global Challenge.

Very well done!

Clive

2012/13 TOP TEN SCOUTS OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

On the first day we all met up around the corner of the Kings Head in Hunton Bridge. We had our talk about safety and then we choose our bunks. Me and Mathew in the middle section the oldest at the back and the girls at the front. We were put into 3 groups and had to think up names for them.

You would think that the inside of the boat would be cramped and horrid but it was quite spacious in fact. When we approached the first lock everything went well. When we got to the next lock it went well until we got past it, then we found that the lock wouldn't shut but managed in the end! We stopped at the Kings Head for a game of footy and a drink and were met by some of the helpers of the Scout Group in the pub garden.

On Saturday everything was going well with everyone taking turns to steer, working the locks or relaxing. However, at around 2 o'clock we approached the swing bridge at Winkwell. Clive jumped off onto the bank to go and press the button to open the bridge. It was going well, with the road barriers coming down first to stop the traffic taking about 5-6 seconds. It then started to lift up but stopped! It had only been refurbished 2 weeks before but Clive managed to break it. We had to call the engineers from British Waterways to fix the bridge and get us going again. As we waited for an hour, disrupting the traffic, we had a Nintendo battle on the boat! **IT TOOK AGES FOR THE MAN TO COME!!** When he did arrive it only took 5 minutes to fix as the new electrics had fused! We were back on the voyage again steaming off **SLOWLY!**

The Canoodlers (Robert, Timmy and Charlotte) were steering with Timmy (and Mike) at the helm approaching a lock. Timmy swerved to the right to let the lock group off but he was going way too fast and nearly crashed into the side of the lock. As we got to the next lock a scout leader from another Troop pulled up beside us in the lock so we followed them all the way up to Berkhamsted sharing locks. When we got to Berkhamsted we had to turn the boat around. Clive steered, while Mike used the pole and Alison jumped off the boat to pull it around using a rope. When we moored up my family were there waiting to say hello and to have a look in the boat. We all got off and



went to the park while Alison ordered the fish 'n' chips. When we went to the fish 'n' chip shop they had got our order wrong so we got discount and some saveloy's for free!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! When we got back onto the boat we played some fun games that I'm not allowed to tell you about!

On Sunday we travelled back home. At one of the locks Clive was holding the boat close to the bank waiting for the lock crew to finish and get on at the back of the boat. Clive was telling the girls (Hannah, Roslyn and Lucy) and Mathew to get on at the back and not in the middle of the boat but non-of them listened. Hannah and Lucy made the jump on the boat but it was slowly drifting away from shore. By the time it was Roslyn's turn it was about a foot away. Clive was still repeating himself saying to get on at the back of the boat but all of them ignored him and Roslyn jumped and her foot just missed the gutter and she slipped and fell in the canal. It was fine because it was only waist deep and Clive and Mike had pulled her out in a few seconds.

Well nothing else happened on the last day and we just sailed back home. The swing bridge was still not working and only being opened every 3 hours so we had to wait for an hour for the man to come again! It was a great weekend and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Joe Woodger
Foxes Patrol

The Scout Cooking Competition!

On the 27th of January 2013 a district cooking competition was held at our HQ, 5 teams were entered but only one could go through to the county finals. Only two scout troops entered teams (us putting in two and the other troop putting in three teams). Teams of four were entered and had to cook a three course meal in two hours (starter, main and pudding), plus to make it harder we had to use a double burner and no oven (just like at camp). There was also a theme, this year it was 'traditional cooking, just like grannies'. In my team we had Hannah (me), Victoria, Roslyn and Lucy. Our menu was leek and potato soup, Granddad Butch's sausage mess-up and Scotch pancakes with warm golden syrup and bananas. We had fun working together, and made a lot of mess, which we then had to clear up, before we could sit down to tuck into our tasty meal. We won, so went on to represent the District in the county completion, where we were up against 11 other teams. We did ourselves proud, finishing a respectable 5th, which is the best placing that the Abbos have ever achieved. We really enjoyed ourselves and highly recommend it to every one as we all want to do it again!!! A big thanks to Nicola, Jason and Fiona who helped us with the menu, timeplan, practice session and purchased the food.



By Hannah Trotman (Otters)

Scout Triathlon 2013

On Sunday 17th March four lucky Scouts who go by the names of: Hannah and Charlotte Trotman, Alex Bruguier and Roslyn Chase were invited along to Lees Wood in order to take part in a the County Scout Triathlon competition, which was incredibly enjoyable and consisted of running, cycling and rifle shooting.

On the day, we all arrived at Lees Wood by 10am to find that the conditions were absolutely perfect for a Triathlon - pelting rain, freezing temperatures and lots of mud!!! We soon found ourselves being given a talk on personal safety in the woods, being checked over to ensure that we had the right equipment and finally, put in order by team number. So naturally, being team twelve of thirteen we had a bit of a wait before being lined up at the starting line for our first leg of the race... Running.

Long moments later, we readied ourselves at the line and...GO!!! With Dave (one of our many great Scout Leaders) and Mike (the Trotman's Dad) cheering us all the way we powered off down the muddy and now truly sodden tracks. On we jogged, raining or not, it wouldn't dampen *our* spirits!!! Although frequent stitches soon occurred, we used each other as pacers and were



constantly encouraging our team mates. Before we knew it we had passed the last bend! Our trainers soaked through as we clambered frantically on to our bikes and set off.

Round bends we flew, dodging tree roots and mud would fly everywhere when ever we went through puddles. We were soon coated head to toe in mud and suffering from numb feet and hands we were beginning to struggle to clench our brakes. We soon realised that that wasn't all.....

After going flying down a particularly steep hill, not to mention the tremendous swamp of mud at its base, we encountered a rather serious problem. A shout came from

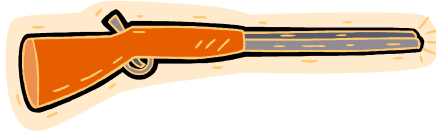


over my shoulder "I'm stuck and I think my bike has broken!" It was Charlotte, her feet were sunk in to the deep mud and her bike was well and truly stumped. After pulling the bike from the mud and on to a pebbled space of earth, with the best traction that we could find, we let Charlotte attempt to push off and cycle but her bike wouldn't move!!!!

As if by magic, a man who had just been helping another group fix a bike came down the hill before us and to our relief discovered that only the chain had come off.

Minutes later, we were crossing the finish line to applause from Dave and Mike. The experience didn't last long because we were quickly whisked away for rifle shooting. Though our fingers were numb we shot well and almost always hit the targets.

Following this, we had a well earned hot chocolate before heading towards the Judge's tent for the awards ceremony. Once again, we were delighted to discover that we had won the District Trophy.



Overall it was a fantastic day, although a little chilly and muddy. A big thank you to Dave and Mike for being there for us the whole way!

By Roslyn Chase
Otters Patrol



DIARY DATES

July

5th	Treasure Hunt – Berkhamsted	Fellowship
7th	On Yer Bike – Capital Appeal	All
5-7th	District Cub Camp	Cubs
14th	County Pushcart Competition	Scouts
14th	District Sports Day -Woodside	Cubs
15th	Executive Meeting – 8.15pm	Exec Committee
16th	BBQ	Ladies Guild
17th	Family Picnic–Lees Wood	Cubs
27th–3rd Aug	Scout Camp–Slindon	Scouts

August

9th	BBQ at John Noonan's	Fellowship
13th	Lawn Bowls – 6.30 pm behind HQ	Fellowship/All

September

6th	Bat or Leavesden Rangers Talk	Fellowship
11th	Brewery Trip	Fellowship
16th	Executive Meeting – 8.15pm	Exec Committee
17th	Meeting - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
21st	County Cub Night Hike	Cubs

October

4th-6th	Weekend in the Brecon Beacons	Fellowship
15th	Meeting - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
16th	Jumble Sale - 6.30pm	All
19th	Jumble Sale - 2 pm	All

November

1st	Theatre Trip–TBC	Fellowship
10th	Remembrance Day Parade	All
15th-17th	Green Beret–Gilwell	Scouts
18th	Executive Meeting – 8.15pm	Exec Committee
19th	Meeting	Ladies Guild
23rd	Christmas Market	All

December

1st	Make Christingle Candles -3pm HQ	All welcome
2nd	Christingle Service	All
6th	Christmas Meal	Fellowship
17th	Christmas Party	Ladies Guild
20th	Meeting–TBC	Fellowship

Ladies Guild



scouts.org.uk/activesupport



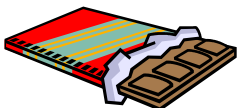
In February members of the SAS went to the St Albans Gang Show. It was two hours of non-stop song, dance and sketches that I would

recommend anyone to go to see next year.

Also in February members of the Group enjoyed a Curry Night in The Viceroy with other members of the District, organised by Roger and Janet Sands in support of the Capital Appeal.



Tony and Pauline organised a great evening in April—Death by Chocolate. There was chocolate tasting of all sorts of weird concoctions, followed by people making a combination of chocolate drinks for everyone to try.



Pauline Marret receiving her award for 20 years service in Active Support from Ian Leach



Carnival Day



Nicholas Smith,
Charlie Suiters &
James Cresswell
on the cake stall



Ladies Guild and
Supporters busy
on the bric-a-brac



Aisling
Benson & Julie
Cannock
serving tea
and coffee



What a lot of
sausage
sizzling -
having fun
Sue??



Crockery
smashing -
always proved
therapeutic!



In the Spotlight....

In each edition of Woodsmoke we will meet a different person from the Group and learn a bit about them and what makes them tick



Alison Redmond

Coming from a Scouting family I was very keen to join the Scout movement as a young girl but unfortunately this was not to be. I joined the Guide movement instead and had a great time, achieving my Queens Guide Award on the way. At sixteen I had to leave the Guides and move onto Rangers, and with a brother in the Venture unit, I was very disappointed not to be doing all the fun activities he was doing. The only way I could get into the Scout movement was to become a Cub Instructor, so I did. I enjoyed my time in the 1st North Watford Cub pack laying the foundations for future Scout leaders, with one of my cubs even becoming our current District Commissioner!

After three years of being in the cub pack, I was invited to join a Ranger Unit in Bricketwood. It was to be a short encounter because in 1976 Girls were allowed to join the Scout movement and become Venture Scouts. After only three months of being a Ranger Guide it was decided that we would give up the Guide Association and join the Scout movement. Things were very different from then on, the adventure really did begin. I had a great time in Venture Scouts doing all the things Explorers do today. Every Scout's dream is to become a Queens Scout and I was no different. It was hard going and I finally achieved it in 1977; the year of the Silver Jubilee. I was the first girl in Hertfordshire to gain her Queen's Scout Award and had the pleasure of seeing the Queen at St Georges Day Parade in Windsor.

It was soon time for me to move on, so I became Treasurer at the 2nd North Watford. I was quite happy in this role sorting all the finances

out in the group, but after two years I was asked to become a leader again and help out at the 5th North Watford as they were desperate for help in the Scout section.

As time went by, I married and had a family and moved to Abbots Langley. I gave scouting a rest until 1996 when I walked into the Scout HQ of the 1st Abbots Langley Scout Group to put my son's name on the Beaver waiting list. As I walked in I knew the Beaver Leader and after a chat I decided to start helping with Beavers. So my Scouting career continued as I became a Beaver Leader and then a Cub Leader after.

Since 2006 I have been an Assistant Scout Leader, Explorer Leader, and more recently District Administrator for Explorers and Duke of Edinburgh Supervisor.

Every moment of my career in Scouting has been incredibly rewarding and very much fun. The friendships I made in Scouting have lasted a lifetime, and Scouting has been such an important part of my life that I cannot imagine living without it!

Alison



*Rikki Harrington,
County
Commissioner,
presenting Alison
with an Award for
Merit for Services to
Scouting at the AGM*



EXPLORER

The Norfolk Broads

On Friday 31st May, 5 members of Albatross Explorers (along with some others from other units in the District) set off from 5th North Watford Scout Hut, bound for Norfolk and in particular a place called Ludham. With a 4 hour journey ahead of us, we got some shut eye to pass the time away.

When we finally arrived at our destination for the night we were half dead to the world so as soon as we set our beds up in an old boating house and our heads hit the pillows we were out like a light.

Bright and too early the very next morning we awoke to the excitement of our first full day on the water. Saddened by the lack of sun we filled the minibus to the brim with all our luggage and headed for Hunters Yard (where the boats were kept when not in use)

Buoyancy aids fitted and crew members assigned we were off, let loose onto the broads... (The other boats didn't know what they had coming to them).

Myself and Dean on 1 boat with 2 leaders, James and Ollie on another with 2 other leaders, and Nicholas on another with some fellow explorers. Firstly we were shown the ropes of how the boat worked (quite literally). With no traffic around and a nice wide river in front of us, myself and Dean got to grips with how the different ropes work with which sail etc.

It wasn't long before we were off; it actually wasn't too hard once you got to grips with which rope did what. About an hour or so into our journey, to our surprise we were heading right into the middle of a sail yachts race.



After making it through the race we got to Ludham Bridge where we had to lower the mast. For this we had to moor up and pull the right strings. Once down and stable under the bridge we went, then when we got to the other side back up went the mast. After a quick lunch we were back out on the broads. The wind had picked up and until now we weren't really sailing, just floating along with the tide. It wasn't long before we landed ourselves in a bit of trouble though... somehow our leader had managed to steer the boat into the trees, and the, well... boom (pole that holds up the sail)...kind of snapped. After a recovery from the powerboat where we were rescued and put aboard another boat for the rest of the journey. When we finally got to the mooring place called Barton Turf. Moored up, boats safely secured we headed up to the campsite (just a short walk from the marina).

After making it back to our campsite for the night, it was a delicious dinner of 'Spag Bol' before hitting the pillow early once again.

The next morning it was up early again, a quick breakfast and back out onto the broads, with the sun out and lots of wind things looked up for today. Returning the same route as travelled the day before, we slowly bobbed along the river, before returning back to the boat yard, moored up the boats, said our goodbyes and boarded the mini-bus set for Abbots Langley.

Amaelia-Eve Parmenter
Explorer



Fire Station

On Wednesday the 30th January, the Rainforest Cubs visited Hemel Hempstead fire station. When we had all arrived, we were taken to a classroom and introduced to Laura, Jed and Dan, three Firefighters from Blue Watch. They're not called "Firemen" any more as some of them, like Laura, are women. We discussed what types of emergencies the fire fighters attend. Some of them were quite funny; like people being stuck in a toilet or having a cat stuck up a tree. But most importantly they attend fires!

We learnt that there are about 30 fire stations in Hertfordshire and they are all spread out, so that they can get to an emergency quickly, wherever it is in the county. We were shown some of their equipment, such as breathing apparatus, that allows the fire fighters to go inside smoke-filled buildings to put the fires out. The breathing apparatus is a bit like a scuba diver's air tank, but it has a mask that completely covers the face and it lasts for just under 45 minutes.

After the discussion we had a tour of the fire station and saw the pole that they use to get from upstairs straight down to the fire engines. This saves the time of running down the stairs. Unfortunately, we weren't allowed to slide down the pole because it would have been dangerous if any of us had slipped off.

Finally, we went through the changing rooms to the fire engines on the ground floor. We were shown the parts of a fire engine and the equipment that is stored on it. There are three ladders on a fire engine; Baby, Mummy and Daddy, this is the same for the hoses. The Fire fighters leave their uniforms and boots right next to their engine, so that when the alarm goes off, they can step straight in and are ready in seconds. Finally we went inside the fire engine. There were about 4 seats in the passenger compartment all of which were soft and comfy!

Thanks to Akela for organising this fantastic evening and thanks to the brave Fire fighters for putting up with us and for the great job they do!

By Charlotte Clark

This term at Cubs we have done many fun things including our fitness challenge badge, but I think that the most fun thing was achieving part of our entertainer badge. For this each six had to make a puppet show. However, before we could start planning the puppet show we had to make our



puppets. Firstly, we took a sheet of material and then cut 2 hand shapes relative to the size of the creator's hand. My first puppet went wrong – I made it too small and I had to start all over again! After that, we stitched the two halves together and, *voila!* We

had our main puppet, but then came the decorating. Our group did a puppet show called **Harry Potter** and I was Lord Voldemort so I gave my puppet an evil smile and two vertical slits for his nose and two horizontal slits for the eyes.

Now we had completed our puppets, we needed to plan our plays and write the script. Our



script was based around 5 characters (puppets) – the Enchanted Snowman, Harry Potter, Ronald Weasley, Hermione Grainger, and Lord Voldemort. It was a tale of how Lord Voldemort came to the castle of Hogwarts to destroy it and kill Harry, but in the end Harry and his friends destroy Voldemort.



We enjoyed watching the other Sixes' shows. Some were funny, and most involved chaos and destruction.

I am looking forward to the summer term, and hopefully doing some potholing like we did last summer!



By Alex Chase
Red Six, Jungle Cubs



Lake Beavers



This term at Lake Beavers we have taking part in lots of fun activities such as: t-shirt tie-dyeing, junk modelling and even a trip to Gambados!

We started off the Easter term by completing our imagination badge, the beavers had to imagine what things would be like in the future, this involved drawing what they thought cars, transport and buildings would like in hundreds of years to come. The beavers came up with some very imaginative ideas.

In February, to celebrate Pancake Day, we spent the evening making pancakes and even had a competition for the most creative looking pancake.

After half term we had a news night. We spent the night pretending to be news readers, reporting on different news articles that were in the news at the time.



On the 16th March we entered 2 teams into this year's 'Handicraft'. This year's theme was transport with a red nose day twist. The 2 teams had to make a fun, creative and imaginative form of transport out of junk. With red nose day the day before hand the piece of art that was made had to have a red nose on it somewhere. Both our teams made some fabulous models, but even more excitingly one of our teams won!

In March we had to vacate the scout hall for the evening due to the jumble sale, so we got to go to Gambado's for the night. We had so much fun chasing Lucy and Amaelia around the different slides and tunnels, not to mention crashing into each other on the dodgems. We had a challenge set by Paula and Lisa to climb to the top on the rock wall, which many of us undertook and achieved.



To top off a fantastic Easter term we made some very fun and interesting Easter crafts (and got to eat lots of chocolate too!!!).

Last but no means least congratulations to Adam Brown, Jack Johnson and Luke Bond on completing their Bronze award this term and a sad goodbye to all of those beavers who have moved up to cubs. We will miss you. Once again thank you to Lisa, Paula, Amaelia, Lucy, Charlotte, Greg and Nicholas and to all the parent helpers that have helped out this term.

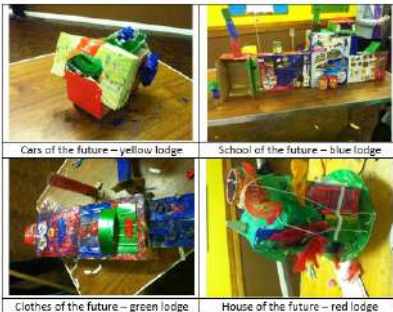


Amaelia Parmenter



River Beavers

We have had a very creative start to the year, working towards the creative challenge badge; resulting in lots of exciting craft and cookery evenings! As part of this badge, all the beavers brought in plain white t-shirts, which we dyed 'beaver-blue' using the special resist dye method of tie-dyeing. This involved tying a series of knots around random sections to create a number of spirals. Everyone left HQ looking extremely stylish.



We have also been busy, 'beavering' away towards our imagination badge, thinking about what life will be like in the future. After some very careful planning, the beavers created prototypes using junk modelling to reuse unwanted items and demonstrate

how things might look not so long from now...

To finish off a very busy term, all the Beavers met at Hollywood bowl in Woodside for an evening of fun! What started out to be a



very competitive game was soon forgotten when 'Gangnam Style' was played on the giant screens.

The summer term began with preparations for the St. Georges Day parade. All the beavers who attended got to perform in front of the church to the entire district; dressed as a massive dragon! A huge well done to all the beavers who attended the parade.

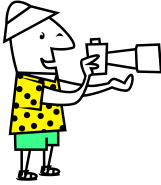
This term we have loads of badges to work towards, starting with the friendship challenge badge, thinking about other people, the computer activity badge and recently we have begun preparations towards the last of the badges for this term; which is the air activities badge. With some help from Clive, all the beavers have made both paper aeroplanes and paper helicopters, and held a race to see who's the best was. Later on in the year both beaver groups will be visiting the Hendon RAF museum, and will get a chance to see lots of different types of planes, and learn all about them.



Perhaps one of our most exciting events this year has been our treasure hunt around the village; making the most of the nice weather. The aim of this hunt was to find an item for each letter of the alphabet - a very difficult task. The beavers all did brilliantly, eventually finding even the hardest letters (the queens head on a stamp in the post office, and a letter X on a key at a cash point).

As always a gigantic thank you to Helen, Lin, Jamie, Ravi, Jessica and all our helpers.

Well this really has been a bumper edition of Woodsmoke this time around. My thanks go to all of those who have submitted articles and photos for without you there would be



nothing to read. Special thanks to **Richard Gabriel** for taking the AGM photos when we all swapped jobs for the evening, to **Michelle Claire O'Shea** for the St George's day photos, and **Paul Hines** for the puppet pictures.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Executive Committee to **Elaine Nottage** who will be looking after the hall hire and photocopiers.

Full details of diary dates are on an earlier page, but for the coming term all adults and Explorers are welcome to try their hand at lawn bowls at the Bowls Club at the rear of the HQ. Why not join the Fellowship for one of their monthly get togethers - the next being a walking treasurer hunt around Berkhamsted. And a reminder that help and contributions are welcomed for the jumble sales in October.



Lake Beaver **Ben Collins** carrying the flag at the St. George's Day parade

Woodsmoke Editor

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) Sometimes 2pm in Winter time
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