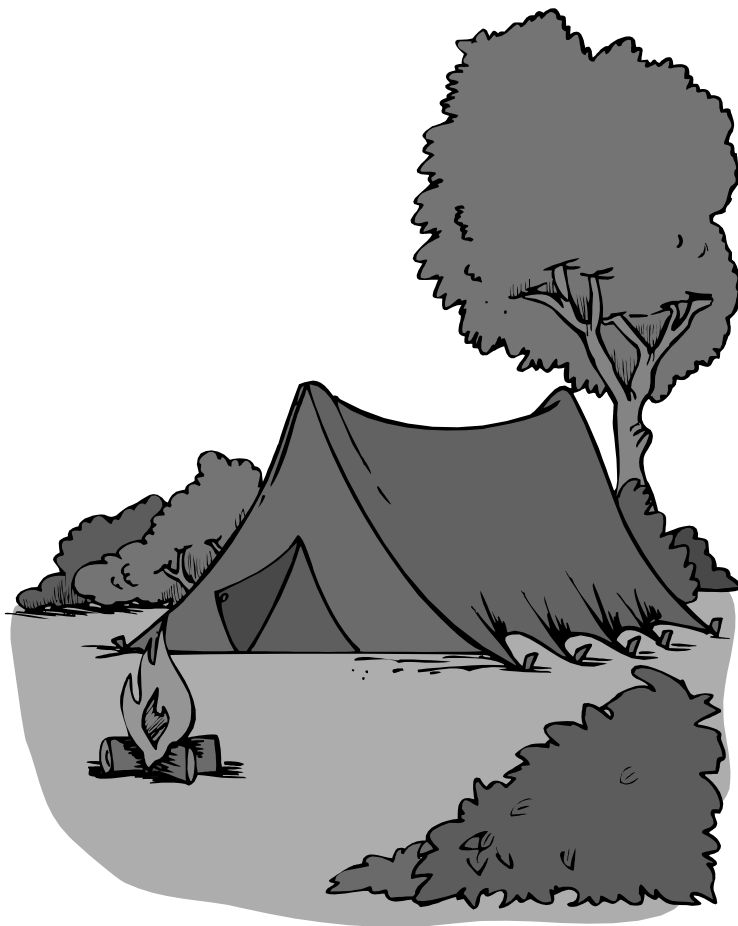


220th Edition

JUNE 2014

First Published March 1954

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

In 1914, Hertfordshire became the first Scout County in the UK to initiate Home Front work for Scouts. This initiative spread like wildfire throughout the UK.



1914 August 6

As soon as war was declared on 4 August, an emergency meeting of Hertfordshire Scout Commissioners was held at “Dursley” the Avenue Road home of St Albans District Commissioner Charles Dymoke Green.

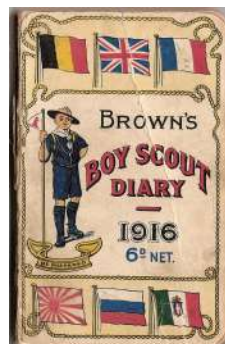
Following this, Percy Everett the County Scout Commissioner, wrote to the Chief Constable offering 1000 Scouts out of a total force of 1300 to be available to give “round the clock” assistance. As a result, the Scouts of Hertfordshire were immediately attached to every Police Station in the County and were asked to report twice daily.

By 10 August, St Albans Scout District became the first to fully mobilise and all 164 Scouts were allocated in three eight-hour shifts. They were soon providing a 24 hrs a day cover for the Army, Fire Brigade, Police, Ambulance Service and the Local Council.

Only Scouts over 14 years were used. They would have been at work, expected to wear uniform and be on standby for the call to go into action without a moment’s delay.

The whole Country was watching as Hertfordshire took the lead, knowing that Charles Dymoke Green and Percy Everett had the ear and approval of the Founder, Baden-Powell. Almost every county in England quickly followed Hertfordshire’s example.

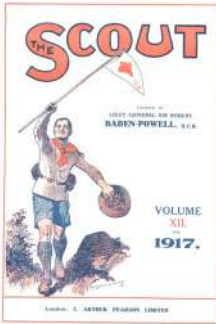
A leading St Albans citizen, Councillor Part, concerned at the inadequacy of Scout uniform in the approaching cold weather, thought that the Scouts should have protective clothing. He enabled the purchase of khaki capes, which had to be signed for upon issue and return. Some poorer boys were also issued boots. The “Cape Issue Book”, “Watch Duty Logbook,” “Training Logbook,” and “Day-book Diary,” are kept at the Hertfordshire Scout Heritage Centre at Well End, Borehamwood, WD6 5PR.



A number of these unique documents will be on display at the Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, AL1 3RR, in their commemorative WWI Exhibition. **This runs from 13 June to the end of November 2014.**

George Foxlee of the Fourth St Albans Scout Troop was photographed blowing his bugle for the “All Clear.” This image appeared on the front page of most national newspapers in 1915 and the initiative taken by Hertfordshire Scouting was mentioned in the chapter about the national role of Scouting in *The Times History of the First World War*.

It was generally accepted that nationally the war would bring an end to Scouting. Practically every Scoutmaster had volunteered or was called up by the Army or Navy. However, Scouting's strength was in the Patrol System



which soon proved its worth, with the Court of Honour as the directing body, the Patrol Leaders, aged 14-15 years, took over the role of the Scoutmaster and in line with the ideals of B-P and his guidance from the weekly copy of *The Scout*, carried out their duties and responsibilities with ease and to the letter.

Hertfordshire Sea Scouts were also seconded to coast watching duties. As all Coastguards had volunteered or were recruited, 8000 Sea Scouts became responsible for helping to protect the coasts of England throughout the war. A total of 73 Scouts from Hertfordshire were also sent to Flax Gathering Camps at Deeping St James in Lincolnshire. Flax was needed in the main for the covering of aeroplane wings.



Locally, they undertook the overnight guarding of local bridges, railway tunnels, reservoirs and telegraph poles. Also, the moving of furniture from house to house by barrow, making bandages, filling sandbags and white-washing kerbstones.



Scouts were chosen for these duties as they were able to work on their own initiative, and were already progressively trained in ship and aircraft recognition, observation, signalling, first aid, survival, cooking, self-sufficiency, animal welfare, forestry, self defence and many other life skills.

Hertfordshire Scouting is supporting a national, fundraising scheme for a memorial to be placed at the National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire. This

will not only be a tribute to Scouts who have fallen in conflict, those who gained bravery awards, including 11 VCs in WWI; but also to the service given by Scouts to the benefit of the Country through their Scouting roles.



References can also be made to the book, *Milestones of 105 Years of Hertfordshire Scouting (2013)* at £22.50 incl. P & P or £5 for a DVD. (Cheques payable to Hertfordshire Scouts).

An illustrated talk *The Role of Hertfordshire Scouts during WWI* has been prepared. To book, please apply to the County Scout Historian. If anyone has Scouting memorabilia of any age to donate to our Scout Heritage Centre and Archive, please also contact me directly.

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SERVICE BY BRITISH BOY SCOUTS ON THE HOME FRONT DURING WWI

- The guarding or patrolling of bridges, culverts, railway & telegraph lines, warehouse stores etc.
- Collecting information as to available supplies, transport and accommodation etc.
- Distributing notices to civilians and other duties connected with billeting.
- Carrying out communications by means of dispatch riders, signallers, wireless etc.
- Assisting families of men employes in defence duties, or sick and wounded in their homes.
- Establishing first aid dressing stations, or temporary hospitals, refugees, dispensaries, soup kitchens, etc.
- Acting as local guides and orderlies.

Some of the jobs listed in our logbooks include -

- ◆ White washing kerbs, making sandbags, searching for lost children, making bandages. Collecting acorns or conkers.
- ◆ Moving furniture and beds on a hand barrow. Requests were circulated by the council for spare furniture perhaps at the VAD hospital in Bricket Road,
- ◆ Barclays Bank sent a request for a large Scout for moving ingots of gold!
- ◆ Boy Scouts were awarded “War Service Badges” There were different badges for length of service. They were issued in intervals of 100, 300, 600 and 1200 days. This last one being very rare and having 4 gold rings for the 4 years of the war. Considering there was only 1567 days of conflict, this took some doing

Chairman's Report

The 87th 1st Abbots Langley, 3rd North Watford AGM

It is with great sadness and regret I have to report the sad loss of our Group President, Bryan Sharpe. In April this year Bryan passed away after fighting a long illness. He dedicated most of his life to this group and scouting in general.

Bryan joined 9th South West Herts Cubs, (now 1st North Watford) aged 8, in 1945. he moved onto Scouts where he became a patrol leader and then to Rover Scouts in Abbots Langley during the 50's. Bryan was a very accomplished Canoeist, Climber and Potholer and as a Rover Crew Member helped establish The Abbots Langley Group as experts in caving in the South East of England. The Crew Members took part in The Aspidistra Shows on Ivinghoe Beacon, Trips to Liechtenstein, Gang Shows and The Fellowship Boxing Day Walks.

Bryan as Baloo helped out at Cubs and became heavily involved in District and County events and helped instigate The Peak Assault and Green Beret Competitions which are still extremely successful today. He was a member of the International Scout Club and in the 1960's had the honour of meeting Lady Olave Baden-Powell.

In the 1970's Bryan was teaching rock climbing in Derbyshire, East Grinstead and at Lee's wood on the climbing wall which he in fact helped build.

One of Bryan's greatest scouting achievements during the late 60's and early 70's was his involvement in the construction of this HQ built entirely by volunteer's something he was very proud of.

In the 1990's he became a very active Fellowship and Executive Committee Member, Vice Chairman and then Chairman of this Group in 1999. He met the then Chief Scout W George Purdy at this HQ in 2000 where he presented him with a framed photograph of Baden-Powell. In 2003 Bryan received a 40 year long service Medal of Merit from Roger Sands. He then received another in 2005 ... Bryan used to say he was the only scout to have done 90 years service. In 2011 he received The Silver Acorn, one of the highest awards in scouting awarded in recognition of special distinguished service.

Bryan stepped down as Chairman in 2012 and was honoured to be asked to be this Group's first Group President which he humbly accepted. As one of this Group's longest serving member's he has helped shape scouting history in Abbots Langley and beyond . We are

indebted to Bryan for his lifelong commitment to Scouting and he will be fondly remembered by everyone who knew him. He will be sadly missed by us all.

I know that some member's of Bryan's family are with us this evening so I would like us all to show our appreciation and recognition of Bryan's scouting achievements. I would like you all to join me in a round of applause.

This year's fundraising got off to a great start with approximately £2000 being raised at the Carnival which was a great success and I do hope you will all come along and join us this year on 14th June.

The Jumble Sales and Christmas Market fundraisers collected £3500.00 and my thanks go to all those volunteers who helped at these events to ensure we have sufficient funds to support this group.

You may be well aware by now of the Solar panels installed on our HQ roof. So far we have generated over 9500 Kilowatt hours of electricity since October 2011 and received approximately £4000 from EON in feed in tariff payments so we are well on our way of meeting our target of £5000 in 5 years to recoup the investment that was made. Something Bryan would be proud of I'm sure.

In June the Cubs had their District camp at Lees Wood and in July the Scouts had their Summer camp at The Spur Campsite in Arundel. A good time was had by all.

Our Active Support Members enjoy a packed programme of events as well as their splendid fundraising capabilities. They enjoyed a hill-walking trip to the Brecon Beacons, bowling, history and theatre trips and The Boxing Day walk which was well attended this year despite the floods. In April there was an Abbots Langley history presentation on our newly installed 54" plasma screen upstairs which was kindly donated to us by a local IT firm. This will also help our District Explorers complete their online DofE paperwork. This really is scouting in the 21st century. If you would like to get involved more in the Active Support Membership and activities please see one of us and we will point you in the right direction.

The village remembrance service in November was well attended once again with 121 uniformed members taking part and the Christingle Service in December at St Lawrence's Church which was packed to the rafters raised £314 which was the most raised yet and this was donated to a Children's charity.

Our Group Magazine Woodsmoke proves to be a very popular publication. and my special thanks go to the Editor, Pauline Styles for

her hard work in collating and publishing the editions. It's certainly a good way of recording our Group's history. Pauline is also part of a team organising our family camp June 27th-29th. Plans are well underway for the event at the end of June and we expect to have 150 campers enjoying the weekend's fun and activities. There's still time if you would like to take part so try and see one of us afterwards for a booking form.

The HQ constantly needs maintaining and in the last 12 months have continued to update the wiring and lighting and have installed a new kitchen which is now used extensively by our Scouts which could explain our recent successes in the District and County Cooking competitions!

All of these events and activities would not be possible and as successful as they are if it were not for the endless 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 Chairman

GROUP SCOUT LEADER & SCOUT LEADER ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Firstly, I would also like to pay tribute to Bryan Sharpe. He was a great servant to the Scout Group over the years, as a youngster, parent, HQ builder and maintainer, Group Executive Committee member, Fellowship & Active Support member, Green Beret supporter, climbing wall builder and provider of many a building material to Lees Wood and Phasels Wood, Group Chairman for many years, instigator of the solar panel project and, most recently, our President. A born and bred Abbo and Scouting supporter. He was very modest and didn't like being in the limelight. He was almost certainly the longest serving member of the Group and one who had an immense impact on its history, a subject close to his heart. He was a great bloke and I am very proud to have known him and considered him a friend. Our intention is to erect something at the HQ in his honour which will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.



At the 2014 census in January the total Group membership was 130 (2013 = 134). The individual section numbers were:

Beaver Scouts	30 (38)
Cub Scouts	45 (50)
Scouts	33 (24)
Leaders & Assistants	22 (22)

At the end of 2013 we had a number of changes within the leadership team with some changing jobs and others going off to university. Thankfully some leaders were happy to change section, two are doubling up and we also recruited 2 new leaders with Alix Dunstone and Louise Fowler-Davies being great additions to the Group.

At the end of December we had 152 on the Beaver waiting list. However, after much planning and organising, we opened our third Beaver Colony in February, called Lagoon, with Hollie Goodman as BSL, Alix as ABSL and Alice Swaine-Gray moving across from Rainforest Cubs to also take on the role of ABSL. They currently have 17 new Beavers and we now have 63 Beavers in the Group. Alas we still have 143 on the Waiting List with 33 overdue. Anyone for a 4th Colony? 14 more Beavers will be joining in September.

Helen Welch, the River Beaver Leader and Lisa Sharpe, the Lake Beaver Leader, did another fantastic job of providing an excellent programme of activities ably assisted by our ABSLs Paula Gomme and Hollie Goodman, and of course, Lyn Lythaby. The Beavers attended District events such as the Beaver Bonanza, Christmas Party and Handicraft Competition, with Lake Beavers winning the latter. They also visited Hendon Air Museum and the Christmas panto. Both Colonies have achieved an impressive number of awards and badges with River Beavers attaining 46 Challenge Awards and 70 Activity Badges and Lake Beavers completing 49 Challenge Awards and 77 Activity Badges during 2013. Lake Beavers also ran a craft stall at the village carnival to raise money for the Keech Hospice. The Colonies are also well supported by 9 Young Leaders and my thanks go to them for all their help. Last year there were 12 Beavers who successfully completed their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Very well done to Luke Bond, Adam Brown, Jake Johnson, Stanley Nunes, Reegan Dixon, Zachary Hines, Lucy Newman, Arthur Sycamore, Andrew Grant, Katy Packman, Jamie Wells and Sam Wenzel.



I'm pleased to say that we have another Bronze Award to present tonight to *Benjamin Chase*.



I'm also pleased to announce that *Lisa Sharpe* has completed her Wood Badge.

The Jungle and Rainforest Cub Packs have continued to grow from strength to strength under the Leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand and Chris Frith, assisted by our ACSLs Paul Hines and Noel Deegan in Jungle and Nicola Trotman, Wendy Cousins and Alice Swain-Gray in Rainforest. Rainforest completed 72 Challenge Awards during the year and 60 Activity Badges covering the subjects of Astronomy, Home Safety and Naturalist. Jungle Cubs have also been extremely busy, completing 53 Challenge Awards and 151 Activity Badges, covering Athletics, Hobbies, Entertaining, Navigator, Collector and World Faiths. My congratulations particularly go to the 10 Cubs who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2013 : Charlotte Clark, Samuel Hines, Daniel Nottage, Gaby Rose, Katie Welch, Finley Allen, Nayan Thapar, Oliver Wheeler, Alex Chase and Rudy Farrell.

We also have a number of Silver Awards to present tonight, to Charlie Bailey, Andrew Bell, Ben Culpeck, Taj Kapoor, Jago Rowe, Ben Rutherford and Ross Sheppard



As usual, the Scout Troop supported various District and County events winning the District Cooking Competition and the District Triathlon. The Scouts completed a total of 45 Challenge Awards. Five Scouts completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award in 2013. Congratulations to Timothy Cannock, Robert Armstrong, Charlotte Trotman, Oliver Heiling and Joe Prior.

My thanks go to all my fellow leaders, Sharon Duffy, Jason Gearhart, Dave Goodman, Daniel Lowrie, Alison Redmond, Marc Redmond, Christopher Winder and Tony Dabson for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. In particular,

congratulations to Jason on the completion of his Wood Badge. My thanks also to our 4 Young Leaders, Amaelia, Liam, Thomas and Dean, and to the parents who have helped and supported some of the activities and fundraising.

The Scout of the Year competition, now in its 11th year, is run to encourage Scouts to show commitment to parades, competitions and fundraising events and for their overall Scouting ability and behaviour. The winner this year is Hannah Trotman.



A long service medal was given to Rachel Drake for 10 years service and I received A Medal of Merit

A few more, well deserved thanks. Firstly, to all the Executive Committee who do an excellent job of running the Group behind the scenes, most of which goes un-noticed. I

would also like to thank the members of the Group Active Support Unit (Fellowship), Ladies Guild and parents who have helped with activities within the Sections, organised 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.

Finally, I have been selected by the County to be the Unit Leader of a new regional unit with young representatives from the four counties of Herts, Cambs, Suffolk and Norfolk attending the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015. I would appreciate any support the Group can give to assist me in this additional role, as well as my existing ones. We have a number of training weekends planned for the youngsters in the unit which I will need assistance

with and also help to raise additional funds to pay for this training.

To kick this off we have compiled a Family Fun Quiz Book that costs £1 each with a prize for the winning entry of £25.



I also have the UK Contingent Badge for sale at £2. All funds raised are for the Unit.



Many congratulations also to Lin Lythaby who was presented with the Silver Acorn, an award for her years of service to Scouting.

Clive

Clive's Chat

In this issue you can read all about 2013 in my GSLs report from the Presentation & AGM evening. It was an excellent evening, with youngsters, parents and leaders filling the HQ. There were a number of Chief Scout Awards presented by Rikki Harrington, County Commissioner and Dave Collette, District Commissioner. Benjamin Chase received his Bronze Award and Silver Awards were presented to Charlie Bailey, Andrew Bell, Ben Culpeck, Taj Kapoor, Jago Rowe, Ben Rutherford and Ross Sheppard. The Scout of the Year competition trophy was awarded to Hannah Trotman.



Dot East, Eugenie Moore and Janette Mayston were presented with Thanks Awards and Nicola & Mike Trotman on completing 25 years of service.

In January, our Scout Troop had their first success of the year with the team of Joe Prior, Hannah Trotman, Roslyn Chase and Lucy Packman winning the District Cooking Competition. They followed this up in February by winning the County event, the first time in our Group's history. In March, our Group took part in the District Swimming Gala with the Beavers coming 3rd, the Cubs 2nd and the Scouts 1st. This meant that we also won the overall Group Trophy so well done to all those that took part. Liam Goodman also brought home the Explorer Trophy. Also in March, our team of Scouts, consisting of Roslyn Chase, George Dowding, Louis Geard and Hannah Trotman, won the District Triathlon.

Many thanks to all our youngsters who participated in the St George's Day Parade. It was a fabulous turnout. I'm pleased to welcome Louise Fowler-Davies who has just joined the Group as a new Rainforest 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. Our next fundraising event is at the Village Carnival so please come along and help or support our stalls.

I wish you all a good summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Group Family Camp.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader



St George's Day Parade



Cooking Competition 2014

All of the teams had to make a three course meal using a two ring stove with limited equipment which was quite hard as there was not much space and we were all cooking at the same time. Team A (Abbots Langley) made Minestrone soup for the starter and Sweet and Sour Chicken with Egg Fried Rice for the main course. For pudding we made Pancake Stack which was; pancake topped with toasted marshmallows, pancake topped with sliced banana then a final pancake, then drizzled over with chocolate sauce.

Each team had two hours to prepare, cook and serve up the meal. Everything was going as planned and I had made the pancakes, Joe had finished preparing the soup, Hannah was finishing the chocolate sauce and Roslyn was frying her chicken ready for the main course. 45 minutes later, the pancakes were complete and ready to go, chocolate sauce was made, soup was cooking on the hob and Roslyn was boiling the rice and cooking all the chicken and veg to go with it. While Roslyn was working around the cooker me, Joe and Hannah were setting the table with all the place mats, cutlery, plates, glasses, drinks and finally the centre piece. For this Joe had created an amazing ginger bread tent covered in sweets with a flag with a Fairtrade logo on it. I personally thought this was a great idea as after all it was a scout cooking competition so there must be something to do with scouts in there!

The last 15 minutes was a nightmare there was so much to do including stacking the pancakes which was a disaster as the sauce went everywhere, re – heating up the soup and serving all of the dishes we had spent ages cooking, onto the plates ready for everyone to eat. Fortunately, we had a spare piping bag for the sauce and the soup did not need re – heating as it was hot enough. So the pudding was done and served the main was on the table and the soup well that was just about ready it just needed garnishing.

Thankfully, the judge was a bit late so we had two minutes extra! Then the judge came and he really enjoyed our all of our meals and

said that the whole meal was great. He made a few comments which were: the soup could have had a bit more fluid in it as it looked a bit like stew and the pudding was too sweet for him but was very good anyway.

After the judge had left it was clearing up time. This took ages as there were a lot of leftovers and everyone had used lots of cutlery, plates and other dishes. Finally everything was washed, dried and put away and all that was left was to throw away the little bit of rubbish we had made.

Next, we all gathered round in the middle of the room as it was time for the judge to reveal who had one the competition. I was nervous because I wanted to win but wasn't sure if our cooking was good enough. He said that it was very close... but the winner of this year's competition was... Team A from Abbots Langley (which was my group). We were so excited to we have the trophy, again.

Now the whole team will go to the county competition on the 23rd of February to compete against other winners of their districts to see who will win the big County Trophy.

County Cooking Competition

Having completed and won the cooking competition me and the team went through to the County competition on the 23rd February. For me, Hannah and Roslyn it was our second time at County level, however for Joe it was a whole new experience. The excitement was high but there were also some nerves as we had no idea how good the other teams would be. Once we had arrived at the venue we unpacked all of our equipment and set up ready to start cooking.

About 20 minutes later we had a talk on the rules of the competition. At that point I felt really ill. I decided to go on and try and get through the competition with the team. Unfortunately, I only got through the first 30 minutes and had to drop out leaving the others to finish the competition. I was really disappointed with myself



as I was really excited to do this. Even though I was feeling unwell I stayed (in the coffee area) until the final whistle, I just had to see how well they had done!

At this point I was really nervous as I had no clue how well they were doing, if they had managed to take over my roles, if they were running on time and most of all if they had not burnt anything. Luckily none of the fire alarms had gone off so I guess that means they hadn't burnt anything.

About 1 hour later the competition had ended and I was allowed back in to see the cooks and listen to the judge evaluating our food. All our food was cooked really well and the presentation was excellent. The only thing that we could have improved on was our main course as the rice was a bit over cooked. But seeing as they did it with only three people I think we did really well.

After everyone was cleared up we went through to the room next door to find out who had won. It was a very tense time as we really wanted to win but as I had dropped out and we were "one man down" we didn't think we could win the trophy. We even stood at the back of the hall to listen to the results! However... it was a massive surprise when our names were called out in first position. No one could believe it. Slowly we walked up to the front to collect the trophy and certificates which meant there were lots of photos to be taken. We were told by the judge that our team displayed the best teamwork skills as well as making tasty food.

It was a very exciting time and I was proud of the team for carrying on without me.

Well Done to Lucy Packman, Hannah Trotman, Joe Prior and Roslyn Chase for winning the county trophy for the FIRST time for Abbots Langley Scout Troop.

Lucy Packman, Otters Patrol

DIARY DATES

July

4	American Sports Evening	Active Support
15	Barbecue—7pm	Ladies Guild
21	Executive Meeting – 8pm	Exec Committee
26 - 2 Aug	Scout Summer Camp	Scouts

August

8	Summer Barbecue	Active Support
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September

5	Tour of Ashridge	Active Support
15	Executive Meeting – 8pm	Exec Committee
16	Meeting—7.30pm	Ladies Guild
27	Quiz night - World Jamboree Fundraiser	All

October

3-5	Forest of Dean Weekend	Active Support
15 & 18	Double Jumble Sale	All
21	Meeting—7.30pm	Ladies Guild

November

7	Film Night	Active Support
7/8	Green Beret—Build Course	Active Support
8	Real Ale Evening - World Jamboree fundraiser	All
9	Remembrance Day	All
14-16	Green Beret	Scouts/AS
17	Executive Meeting – 8pm	Exec Committee
18	Meeting—2pm	Ladies Guild
22	Christmas Market	All
30	Christingle Candle making 3pm HQ	All

December

1	Christingle Service	All
5	Christmas Meal	Active Support
9 at 2pm	Christmas Party	Ladies Guild
18	District Pantomime (“Oh No it Isn’t!”)	Beavers/Cubs
26	Boxing Day Walk, 10.30 Love Lane	Active Support

January

9	Roulette	Active Support
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February

6	Active Support AGM	Active Support
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The District Triathlon Competition

It was a cold Sunday morning when 4 scouts of 1st Abbots Langley/3rd North Watford were driving to work together in the County Triathlon in Leeswood. The entrance to Leeswood was backed up with excited and enthusiastic faces. After the scouts had made it through the endless line of cars leading to where the runners were warming up they got out the cars with their bikes and grabbed a hi-vis jacket from their leader. We were more prepared than ever for the running, cycling and shooting race. All the scout groups would start at different times and were timed to see who got the quickest time.

Our group was one of the last groups to be called out and we were starting with running through a small forest. We were told to start and the four of us started quite quickly. We were running on pretty rough ground with roots sticking out the ground ready to trip us up. The run was unpredictable, we were going uphill, downhill and some strange turns. When we thought we were finishing we were told we had another lap to do and we were so tired. However we pushed forward and were able to eventually complete the running stage of the Triathlon.

We then quickly got our helmets on and rode off to complete the cycling part of the Triathlon. We started still tired from the run but we were determined to complete the race. Thankfully this time we were told that we were to do two laps of the cycling so we



Louis Geard, Hannah Trotman, Roslyn Chase and George Dowding

started with the race. It seemed like after every downhill there was a steep slope. There were loads of bumps and jumps which made it much more of a challenge. But we finally crossed the line.

We weren't being timed anymore but in the shooting, if you missed the target, 10 seconds would be added onto your team's time. Our team missed the target a few times which effected our overall time a bit. However, in the end, our team ended up 1st out of the Watford North Scouts so we travelled home delighted with the trophy.

By George Dowding, Stags Patrol

Narrowboat Weekend for Top Ten Scouts

Friday, 4th May was the start of our special canal boat weekend attended by this year's top ten scouts which included me! When we met at 6.30pm at Hunton Bridge we were all very excited. Cakes and biscuits brought were duly handed to Joe Woodger. With the boat waiting and ready to go, Clive went through some safety rules with us about what not to do on a boat. We were put in three groups, with George, Joe and I in group A, Finley, Samuel and Daniel in group B and the girls group C. Mike showed us the workings of the lock when we reached one.

On the first night we moored up on the other side of the Kings Head pub where we had a game of football in the pub garden. Some parents were there enjoying a drink too! When it was late we return to the boat for tomato soup and a steaming hot chocolate before bed.

The sun was out next morning when we all woke up early except for Samuel who must have been very tired as he didn't even stir until an hour after everyone else! Everyone enjoyed a delicious English breakfast, courtesy of Alison (thank you!) before we set off. Each group took turns to work the locks, steer and relax.

In the evening we moored up at Berkhamsted and went to the park to play games. We then had fish and chips for supper. After eating we went outside and Clive told us the toilets had broken but luckily we were able to get a key to use the disabled toilets in the pub! We then played some silly games. After that everyone was really tired and retired to bed.

Sunday morning with the sun shining we all woke up early (even Samuel!), had breakfast and slowly made our way home. It was a wonderful and relaxing weekend and we all had a fantastic time! A big thank you to Clive, Mike and Alison for looking after us and I hope to be in the top ten scouts next year so I have another chance to do it all again!

Aidan Cheng, Foxes



“Mr Chairman? Woodsmoke Editor Here”

Where can I start with my story of Bryan Sharpe? Oh so many stories to tell, which is how we got to enjoy each other's company in the first place.

My first encounter with Bryan or Mr Chairman, as that is what I affectionately called him, was at the 2003 Family Camp at Lees Wood. As a parent on a first time experience, orders were barked at me by Bryan, Bib and Butch to follow the others into the woods. The Fellowship had set up a course in the dark that we had to manoeuvre blindfolded holding a piece of rope to guide us through!

Then in 2004 I volunteered to become the Editor of the Group's magazine Woodsmoke. I soon discovered what a tradition the magazine was and had been printed since 1954. As a newbie I thought I might change the cover to reflect my new Editorship, but Bryan said, "You can't do that, it's the colour of the Group scarf!" There was so much to learn, and as I became interested in the Group's history Bryan spent time explaining how things had evolved. We ploughed through musty old volumes together whilst I catalogued and filed copies and made sure the County Archivist also had access to some of the old material. As we went Bryan would tell me a little snippet of this or that, and show me photos and memorabilia. He was so proud of the Groups heritage, a lot of which he had helped to create.

Being a member of the history society himself, I think he enjoyed the fact that I took an interest in the history of the Group. He had started to write a few lines himself and so I took this as a basis and using the Woodsmoke copies and Bryan's anecdotes we pieced together a two volume account of the group since 1909, which you can download from the Group's website to read.

"I've got to get some of these stories down Bryan" I told him, and armed with my trusty dictaphone we spread our photos out on his dining room table. We tested the device to see if we were speaking loud enough. The thing kept stopping and I said "I don't think this is going to work Bryan as I think the machine is broken." So we tried again, another two or three times, but every time it kept stopping. I was rather frustrated as I wanted to collect Bryan's great stories to type up. And then he very quietly said "You don't think its voice activated do you?" I took one look at him and we both burst out laughing as the penny dropped! We couldn't stop laughing and we giggled our way through all of the other stories as well.

I'd get a phone call every so often. "Oh Hello, Mr Chairman here" he would say, always in a posh put on voice. "I've found an interesting photo when you're passing next time" and would go on to give me a brief outline of the story around it.

They were always fascinating – how the HQ was built all by volunteers; the Aspidistra Shows on Ivinghoe Beacon; the potholing trips; the mountaineering clubs; how they build the first climbing wall at Lees Wood; the raft races; antics in canoes with Butch; the trips to Liechtenstein; the Gang Shows; and of course the famous Boxing Day Walks.

Bryan was smitten with the Scout Movement from his very first encounter. He was 8 years old in 1945, when

he and his friend Douglas, a London evacuee whose mother worked for Lady Motion at Serge Hill, spent a lot of time roaming around her estate. One day they came across a camp of Cubs from the 9th South West Herts Group (now the 1st North Watford). They were invited to join in the fun, and then to stay the night in the camp and when Bryan got back home after the weekend he told his mother he wanted to join the Cubs.

The rest is history and Bryan moved from Cubs to Scouts, becoming Patrol Leader and then into Senior Scouts at fifteen. He had his first experience of caving, when a keen caving friend of Butch's led an expedition to Somerset. Although he was told that most people gave up caving after three years, he persisted for about fifteen and during those years, the Abbots Langley Group became acknowledged experts in caving in the South East and kept a log book of their many expeditions dating from 1955.

After being demobbed after conscription, Bryan returned to the Scout Group and gained much more from being in the Rovers. He helped launch the canoe section by building its first canoe from a kit, and also helped when needed in the running of the various Scout and Cub units, and was known in the Cubs at that time as Baloo. Becoming involved with both the District and County Scouting, Bryan promoted caving and was one of the instigators of the Annual Peak Assault as well as the District Green Beret Scout Competitions. In the 1960s as a member of the International Scout Club which met monthly, he was able on one memorable occasion to chat informally with Lady Olave Baden-Powell and kiss her hand.

One of the caving stories recounted by Bryan was the tale of crawling through a cave system in Yorkshire in about 1962. There were no head torches in those days as the lamps were all acetylene and as someone shouted something to him, Bryan turned around sharply and the

acetylene lamp on his forehead caught the chap squarely in the middle of his forehead and burnt a big hole as Bryan didn't realise he was so close!

In 1966 when Bryan left the Rovers, his friend Fred Dobson paid him a tribute and said that he had been a tower of strength to the Rover Crew and his service had been immeasurable. For many years most of the more adventurous activities, particularly potholing, have had a success because of Bryan. It had become a sort of password "Is Bryan going?" and invariably he was, then others would join in immediately and everyone knew the expedition was in good hands.

By the 1970's Bryan had been teaching rock climbing in Derbyshire and East Grinstead and on the climbing wall they had built themselves at Lees Wood as he was a member of the Slough Climbing Club.

After setting up his own company in 1976 he married a year later and altogether eight Sharpe's have been through the Scouts: his four children, two grandchildren, Bryan himself of course, and now his daughter in law, Lisa who is a Beaver leader.

In the 1900's Bryan became Vice-chairman of the Group and when Fred Young stepped down in 1999, naturally Bryan took over. In his time as Chairman Bryan was involved in all aspects of the Groups activities from supporting camps, Green Beret, fundraising, Fellowship activities and maintenance of the headquarters. Every looking forwards he proposed the microgeneration project which put solar panels on the roof of the HQ to bring it into the environmentally friend 21st century and went live in July 2011.

For his work over the years he was given the Medal of Merit from Roger Sands.



Once we had finished the Scout Group History which had always been celebrated from 1927, with the best will in the world I couldn't risk the chance of Bryan not being around aged 90 to celebrate the

Group's centenary. So with this in mind we organised a celebration of 100 years of Scouting in Abbots Langley in 2009 with a dinner dance and exhibition of memorabilia at Hunton Park Hotel. Bryan was delighted with the whole evening and was presented with a crown and poem at the end of the night.

But I do believe that Bryan's most favourite day of the year was 26th December when he went on the Boxing Day walk. Having evolved over the year's from an exercise to get Rovers out to clear their heads, it remains today as a gathering of people, some who only meet on this one day each year, to walk the local countryside from Abbots Langley to the Holly Bush hostelry in Potters Crouch. They see the sites of Kitty Corner, and sing Christmas songs and ditties and imbibe a drink or two ...

One year we had a big discussion on when the 60th Boxing Day walk was as it had been a tradition for many a year. It turned out that we had missed it because we didn't count the first one, but not to be out done and as Bryan had been so looking forward to enjoying it, we celebrated it a year late in 2010. It was truly a special day as we were graced with crisp snow and everyone was in good spirits. I had got some 60th golden balloons

and Bryan walked over the field with them as proud as punch. In the words of Pete Linskey writing about the walk in the Woodsmoke “New friendships are made each year and as people come more and more this very special reunion is reinforced. I have no doubt it will continue for many years to come, and evolve as it has in the past, for the best spirit of Christmas is experienced by many out in the cold, on a walk in the country on Boxing Day.”

1958 Bryan on the floor in the middle



Bryan was a very modest and humble man and didn't like a lot of praise or being in the limelight. He used to complain that the history of Abbots Langley Scouts had so much in it about him. But looking at the reality of it, so much of The Abbos was Bryan Sharpe. He has got to be one of, if not “The” longest serving members of the Group and one who certainly shaped its history.

I am proud to have been able to have shared that with him in some part.

Pauline Styles
Woodsmoke Editor, “Scoop”



Old London The Corner of
Chancery Lane and Fleet Street c. 1530

19, Fay Green
A. L.

18th June, 2014

Dear "Woodmaker",

Just a short letter to say thank you to all the scouts and scouteres who made my brother' (Bryan Shape)'s funeral so memorable to me and his children. Special thanks to Bib Butcher for carrying the banner in front of the funeral car and for the Scouts who saluted in the rain as we passed.

Also thank you to Clive, Roger and Mike for their kind speeches afterwards in the Headquarters.

Sincerely
Janette (Maister)

cubs

Jungle

This term jungle cubs have done a series of fun and interesting activities. We have been to the athletics track at Woodside where we took part in some sporty activities including long jump, high jump (I tried so hard in this I split my trousers!) and a sprint.

Continuing in the outdoors we have visited Cassiobury Park for pond dipping, Phasels Wood where we looked for different types of leaves and last week we had a fun treasure hunt in Apsley. My favourite week though was when we had a visit from David Clarke and his guide dog Ned. David is blind and plays football for England. He carried the torch to open the Paralympics - impressive. In his last match playing football his final touch scored the winning GOAL!!!!!! David was very awesome

Daniel Beecher





Lake Beavers

This term at Lake Beavers we have been taking part in lots of fun activities.

We started off the Easter term by completing our promise badge, we had to write a prayer and listen to a story from the bible. We all came up with some very meaningful prayers.

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

It was our BIG BEAVER SLEEPOVER time this term and all 3 beaver colonies (Lake, River and Lagoon) were all in the hall on a Saturday night. The theme was Despicable Me 2 and we had lots of crafts and games to play and do. We didn't get much sleep as we were all far too excited.



After half term we had a first aid night. We spent the night pretending to be injured, and pretended being doctors and nurses for the night practising putting bandages on each other.

In March we entered a team into this year's 'Handicraft'. This year's theme was buildings. The team had to make a fun, creative and imaginative form of building out of junk. Our made a fabulous model.



One Monday night as part of our healthy eating badge we made fruit animals. We made strawberry mice out of strawberries and strawberry laces, who'd have thought fruit, could be soooo yummy???

We had to vacate the scout hall one evening due to the jumble sale, so we got to go to Gambado's for the night. We had so much fun chasing James 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 Ben Chase on completing his Bronze award this term, Well Done!

Once again thank you to Lisa, Paula, Amaelia, James, Taylor, Charlotte and to all the parent helpers that have helped out this term.



Amaelia Parmenter



River Beavers

River Beavers have had a fantastic start to the year with a Despicable Me 2 themed sleepover! This event was held at our HQ with all three beaver colonies; meaning there were more than forty children spending the night! We started the evening playing lots of games and making crafts to take home including personalised minion t-shirts, mugs, badges and hand puppets. After dinner we got ready for bed, then went upstairs to watch the movie. It was a very long night, but we all had lots of fun and can't wait for next year's sleepover.



This summer we are working towards a number of badges, including the Explore Activity Badge, Fitness Challenge Badge, and Health and Fitness Activity Badge. As the weather has been so nice we have been able to spend lots of time outside. First of all we had a trip to Leavesden County Park where we burned hundreds of calories on the fitness equipment (and the play equipment too!). We have also been exploring the Adventure Trail at



Lees Wood; following sign posts and looking at the surrounding wildlife. Some of us even caught sight of a Muntjac Deer!



On the weeks when the weather was less than perfect, we have been learning about emergency aid, and how to behave if there is ever an accident. We now know what to do if there is an emergency, and had a great time playing with the bandages...

As always, thank you to Helen, Lin, Ruth, Connor and Jess for all their hard work.

Hollie Goodman
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader



Lagoon Beavers

At the start of the year, Abbots Langley Scout Group opened a third Beaver Colony called Lagoon Beavers. We had our first official meeting on 6th February 2014 where we started our scouting adventure...

Since then we have had a very busy term and a half! At the end of February some of the new Beavers attended the Despicable Me 2 Sleepover with the other two colonies. There were more than forty Beavers sleeping at the scouts hut and it was the first event where all three colonies took part. We had a fantastic weekend, playing lots of games, staying up VERY late and making some wonderful crafts, including minion t-shirts and mugs!

During our first term, all the new Beavers have learnt all about Scouting and how to become Beavers. We made new friends by joining lodges, made the Beaver Promise and earned lots of badges to go on our shiny new uniforms!

This term we have been getting involved in some of the District Events. Ollie and Jeffrey joined in the District Swimming Gala and did extremely well competing against all the other Beavers from Watford North, and Francesca and Liam took part in the Handicraft Competition where they came second!!!

Also this term we have been working toward our health and fitness badge, so we visited Leavesden Country Park and tried out their fitness equipment. We also went to Lees Wood, where we followed an adventure trail - learning about the different types of wildlife found there and the many different habitats.

Later this term we are looking forward to Family Camp at Phasels Wood. As Beavers cannot camp by themselves, this is for many their first camping experience and is a great



opportunity to try lots of exciting new scouting activities with their families. The River and Lagoon Beavers will also be visiting Willows Farm Village as our Summer Outing this year! We are already very excited for what is sure to be a great adventure!

Finally I would just like to say a big thank you to Alice, Alix, Connor and Jeremy for all their help with the new colony. Looking forward to many more fun-packed terms!

Hollie Goodman
Beaver Scout Leader

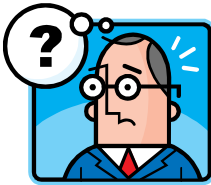




Please come and support Clive as he fundraises for the 2015 Jamboree

Scout Headquarters
Langley Road, Abbots Langley

Proceeds help to train Scouts attending and to subsidise Scouts from 3rd world countries



Quiz Night + Food

27th September 2014

Contact Alison Redmond on alison.redmond@ntlworld.com to book a place.

Beer Festival

8th November 2014

A selection of ales to taste

Full details to follow



Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 7.45 - 9.45 pm 8.00 - 10.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River) Albatross Explorer Scouts Ladies Guild (3rd in Month) 2pm Winter/7.30pm Summer
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Rainforest)
Thursday	5.30—7.00 pm 7.30 - 9.30 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lagoon) Scouts
Friday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 8pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle) Active Support (1st in Month)

This really has been a bumper edition and now that we have so many sections in the Group there will only be a certain amount printed and placed in the foyer at HQ to take away. Other copies will be circulated by email and are always downloadable from the website, see address on back cover.

We are all very excited as we gear up for the Family Camp next weekend, and there will be some photos to share with you next time.

All the best

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



1st Abbots Langley (3rd Watford North) Scout Group
www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk