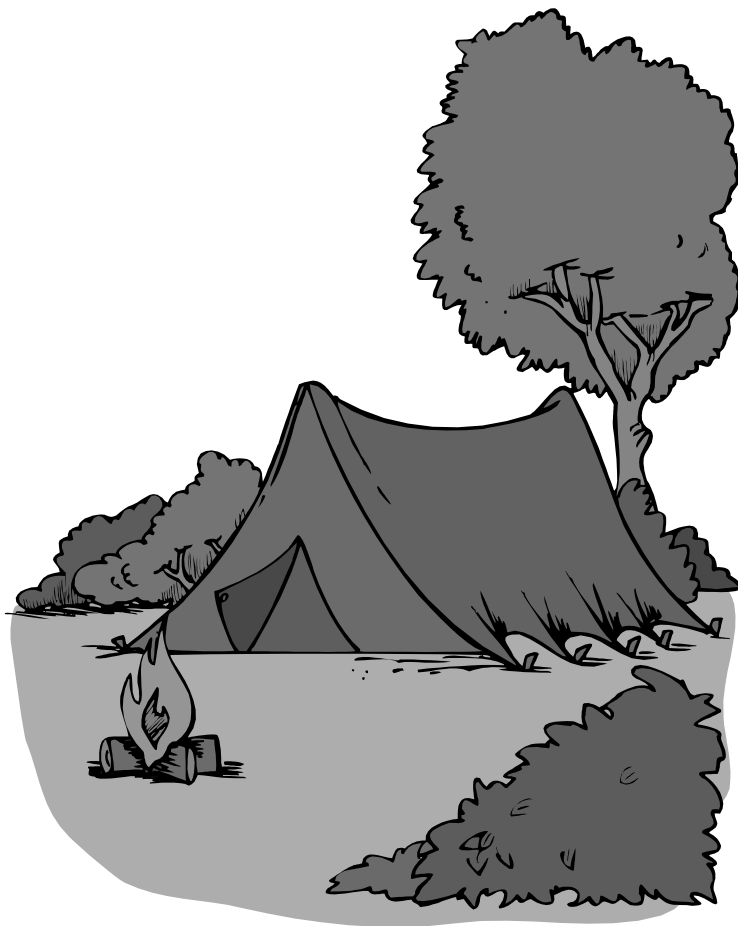


223rd Edition

JUNE 2015

*First Published March 1954*

# Woodsmoke



[www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk)



# AGM May 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Chairman's Report

It is with great sadness that I have to report the sad loss this year of some great friends of Abbots Langley Scouts. Anne Wiseman, Mary Hunt, Joan Floyd and Kath Turner were all members of the Ladies Guild and they will be greatly missed by us all. The Ladies Guild is primarily parents of past scouts who are part of the backbone of this Group and play a key role in all of our fundraising activities. Their collective effort in supporting the Group is commendable and has helped shape us into the thriving organisation that it is today so if you want to roll up your sleeves and help at the Jumble Sales, Christmas Market or the Carnival then talk to Lin Lythaby ... I'm sure she will welcome you on board.



The year's fundraising got off to a great start with £1830.00 being raised at the Carnival with over 1200 sausages being cooked and eaten on the day. The Jumble sales raised £2800.00 and the Christmas Market brought in £1264.00 making a grand total of £5894.00. As you can imagine this money doesn't come easy and a lot of hard work and fun, I might add, is put into these activities to make it all happen and my sincere thanks go out to all of the volunteers that help with this Group — we couldn't manage without you. I hope you can join us at this year's Carnival on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>.

We had a fantastic family camp at Phasel's Wood in June with over 150 people attending. My thanks go to the organising committee who worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone was fed and entertained over the three days and a special thank-you to Pauline who fronted the whole event. I believe Pauline is about to set the date for the next camp so keep your diary free!

The Scouts had their Summer Camp in July and went to Bishops Lydeard in Somerset and, as always, everyone had a fantastic time.

Our Active Support Members who also support the Group at Camps, Green Beret and Fundraising, work tirelessly to ensure these events are successful. They also have a social diary too and in October 20 members stayed at a lodge in The Forest Of Dean and a superb time was had by all. Other events organised included Bowling, American and Casino Nights and various walks including the traditional Boxing Day walk and sing-song which 22 members took part and I believe is in its 65<sup>th</sup> year .... quite a milestone.

We were dealt a blow in October when our tired heating system gave up on us and this meant we were unable to heat the building properly. I would like to thank all hall users for being so patient whilst our Executive Committee discussed the best way to solve the problem. So in January at a cost of £6000.00 a new system was installed and we are now up and running again. I would personally like to thank the kind lady who hearing of our heating dilemma whilst attending the October Jumble Sale donated £500.00 to the heating fund. This certainly shows our community spirit at its very best. We are continuing to update the HQ wiring and lighting circuits and hope to have the front drive re-surfaced in the near future. We have been in discussion with The Princes Trust about some extensive decoration work, and this is being completed this week.

The Remembrance Day service in the village was very well attended with a record 145 uniformed members turning out on a cold, crisp morning - well done to you all. The Annual Christingle service was a huge success with £208.00 being donated to a children's charity. My thanks go to all of the volunteers who painstakingly put together the hundreds of oranges and dolly mixtures that are required for the event to take place.

The Group Magazine Woodsmoke , is a hugely popular publication which is now in its 222<sup>nd</sup> edition and we took the steps last year to produce an on-line version to reduce escalating printing costs. It seems to be going well at the moment and a big thank-you must go to Pauline Styles for editing the magazine and the contributors who take the time to write the articles for it.

Last year we took the steps of up-dating our website and with the help of Iain Stanley, one of our ex-scouts, the new site is now up and running and can be viewed at [abbotslangleyscouts.org](http://abbotslangleyscouts.org) where you can get all the latest group information, archive material and group photos. There is also a shop where you can purchase camping equipment and access to a uniform bank where nearly new uniforms can be obtained. I would urge you all to take a look. My thanks go to the team that helped Iain, namely Martin, Holly and Pauline.....Thank-you.

We had some special events in September and November to support Clive's Jamboree units fundraising. A great time was had by all at The Real Ale and Wine Festival and my thanks go to Alison Redmond for organising the quiz night and Dave and Yvonne Collette for being Quiz Masters. I would like to end by wishing Clive the very best of luck as unit leader at the World Scout Jamboree in Japan this summer. I know he has had a lot of hurdles to jump and a few more still to go but the end is in sight and I am sure he will have a great time when he is there. Don't forget all you leaders amongst us, you need to book Clive in now to talk about his Jamboree experiences at your section meetings... I think he could be rather busy when he returns!

None of this would be possible without the tremendous effort and time given up by our Leaders, Active Support, Ladies Guild, Executive Committee, District and County Scout Associations, Parents and of course Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. To you all I give a tremendous thank-you and a very big well done!

Thank-you to Bib, Mick, Eddie and Catherine for preparing the hall for us this evening and to Lin for the lovely buffet .

**Mike Benson**  
**Group Chairman**

# GROUP SCOUT LEADER & SCOUT LEADER ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The total Group membership at the 2015 Census was 165 (2014 = 130), a 27% increase, mainly due to the new Lagoon Beaver Colony. The individual section numbers are:

Beaver Scouts	63 (30)
Cub Scouts	46 (45)
Scouts	33 (33)
Leaders & Assistants	23 (22)

Unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye to three members of our leadership team. Cheryl Gillibrand has stepped down as Akela of Jungle Cubs, leaving the section in dire need of assistance, and Alice Swaine-Gray and Christopher Winder have both moved out of the area. My thanks to them all for all their hard work over the years, but particularly to Cheryl who was instrumental in helping to launch our 2<sup>nd</sup> Cub Pack without which, many children would not be able to enjoy scouting. Also, many congratulations to Alice and Chris Watts on the birth of their son, Noah, who is already on the Beaver Waiting List. This now stands at 150 of which 24 are overdue. We also have 17 on the Cub Waiting List.

Thankfully we had some new recruits in 2014. Amaelia Parmenter became ABSL & ASL after being a Young Leader for 4 years. Chris Watts returned from Uni to join Rainforest Cubs and Kuldip Malhotra will be helping out at River Beavers. Liam Goodman and Jeremy Cannock have also progressed from being Young Leaders to Adult Leaders this year.

Helen Welch, the River Beaver Leader, Lisa Sharpe, the Lake Beaver Leader and Hollie Goodman, the Lagoon Beaver Leader, did a tremendous job of providing an excellent programme of activities ably assisted by ABSLs Paula Gomme, Alix Dunstone and Amaelia Parmenter, and of course, Lyn Lythaby. The Beavers attended District events such as the Beaver Bonanza, Christmas Party, Swimming Gala, coming 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Handicraft Competition, which they won. They also held a Sleepover at the HQ for all 3 Colonies. Each Colony has achieved an impressive number of awards and badges during 2014, with River Beavers attaining 29 Challenge Awards and 51 Activity Badges, Lake Beavers completing 30 Challenge Awards and 92 Activity Badges and Lagoon, 43 Challenges and 119 Activity Badges. Wow, that's a lot of sewing. Last year there were 13 Beavers who successfully completed their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Congratulations to Benjamin Chase, Sam Hill, Ellie & Ben Newing Ceira Deegan, James Fewster, Toby Greaves, Amar Kapoor, Nathan Messenger, William Potts, Jack Stephenson, Charlie Taylor and Andrew Wilson.



We have had an explosion of Bronze Chief Scouts Awards this year with another 15 to present. These are Kian Ade, Samuel Christiansen, Oliver Cooper, Elizabeth Dunstone, Harry Forbes, Millie Geard, Jeffrey Gill, David Laing, Varun Malhotra, Belinda Mendes da Costa, Jessica Newman, Hannah Quinn, Billy Saunders, Oliver Slinn and Toby Stewart.

The Jungle and Rainforest Cub Packs have continued to be very active in 2014 under the Leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand and Chris Frith, assisted by our ACSLs Nicola Trotman and Paul Hines in Jungle and, Louise Fowler-Davies, Chris Watts, Noel Deegan and Wendy Cousins in Rainforest. Jungle Cubs completed 33 Challenge Awards and 91 Activity Badges in 2014. Unfortunately, I don't have the figures for Rainforest Cubs. My congratulations go to the 12 Cubs who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2014. These were Charlie Bailey, Andrew Bell, Ben Culpeck, Taj Kapoor, Jago Rowe, Ben Rutherford, Ross Sheppard, Myles



Bromfield, Calum McKinney, Harry Moore, Freddie Sorrell and Harry Argent-Philips. We also have 5 Silver Chief Scouts Awards to present tonight, to James Brewer, Joe Geard, Francesca Mash, Emma Pinchbeck and Sam Woodard.



Our Scout Troop had their first success of 2014 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 Scout team, consisting of Roslyn Chase, George Dowding, Louis Geard and Hannah Trotman won the District Triathlon. The Scouts also took part in the District Swimming Gala and came 1<sup>st</sup>. With the Beavers 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cubs 2<sup>nd</sup>, this meant that we also won the overall Group Trophy. The Scouts completed a total of 54 Challenge Awards in 2014 and 2 Scouts, Thomas Renphrey and Joe Woodger, completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award. My thanks go to my fellow leaders, Sharon Duffy, Jason Gearhart, Dave Goodman, Daniel Lowrie, Jack McCarthy, Amaelia Parmenter, Alison Redmond, Christopher Winder and Tony Dabson for all their commitment and hard work throughout the year. We also have another 4 Gold Chief Scouts Awards to present tonight. These are to Alex Bruguier, Leo Farrington, Matthew Smith and Alex Weston.

The Scout of the Year competition, now in its 12th 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 Daniel Nottage.



Without all the voluntary leaders this Group would be nothing. As well as giving up countless hours to plan, organise and run their respective sections, they also give up weekends to support the youngsters at various events and to complete their Scout Leader training. I'm pleased to announce that Paula Gomme, Nicola Trotman, and Jack McCarthy have completed their Wood Badge. Congratulations.

My thanks also to the Executive Committee, who do an excellent job of running the Group behind the scenes, and the Group Active Support Unit, Ladies Guild and parents who have helped with activities within the Sections, organised the various fundraising events and the extremely successful 2014 Group Family Camp.

And finally, my thanks to our 11 Young Leaders who provide tremendous support to the adult leaders at the various sections. Young Leaders have proved to be our future adult leaders in the past and long may that continue.

**Clive Winder**  
**Group Scout Leader and Scout Leader**



# County & District Triathlon 2015

Our Scout Troop sent a team of four scouts to take part in the County & District Triathlon event in Lees Wood. The team members were Andrew Bell, Louie Geard, Leo Farrington and Samuel Hines (super reserve, called in at the last moment when one of the scouts dropped out!)

We started the Triathlon on Sunday 15 March at 10am in Lees Wood. It was a cold day but we knew that if we wore too much we would over heat.

The first thing we did was we ran 2 laps (2 km) around the nature trail in the woods. The run was hard as there were a lot of up and down sections of grass and gravel. I managed to trip over a tree root, but the others stopped and helped me get going again and we all finished together.

The next challenge was to cycle two laps of a course set out in Whippendale Woods (5km) this was also very hard as again there were a lot hills and riding on mud. Although the mud was hard, it made it difficult to steer properly at times.

Then we shot air rifles which was hard as after the run we were shaking with the effort put into the other events. However, we all hit the targets so were pleased with that. We came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District and 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the County.

We all enjoyed it and who knows maybe next time we could win!

**Samuel Hines, Stags Patrol**

# COUNTY AND DISTRICT COOKING COMPETITIONS 2015

The theme for the competitions was the 'Have Nots' and focussed on WW2 and rationing. My team consisted of me and Samuel, Tom and Charlie. I was asked to lead the group as I had done the District competition last year. I did feel a bit worried about this to start with.

My Mum and I looked at recipes and we spoke to our Group. We decided the menu would be as follows:-

Starter – Curried cod  
Main – Trench Stew  
Pudding – Stewed apples and custard

My group came to my house for a practice and we did really well....apart from the Trench Stew! It looked like cat food and smelled horrid! We could hardly eat any of it, let alone the whole lot! I should mention here that points were to be deducted if we didn't eat everything. We decided that the one thing that made it horrible was the corned beef so we changed that for mince in the next practice and it was lovely.


After another practice at the Scout HQ we went to the District Cooking Competition. We all piled into the hall with food, utensils and water kindly bought by Jason. As we kicked off, we got a bit stressed and then took our time doing our jobs to make the food tasty.

We had to keep an eye on the time so that we were ready for the Judge. We were worried that he wouldn't like our food and he did say that the fish was overcooked and the main meal wasn't bad but that our pudding was perfect!!! In fact, he

mentioned our custard several times in his talk to everyone!!

Then came the results...we came 4<sup>th</sup> so not too bad and well done to our team. I think we all tried really hard and helped each other and played a good part. The best thing about not winning was that one of our other Teams did win. That was Hannah, Ros, Lucy and Charlotte, so well done to them!!

Unfortunately, Hannah couldn't make the County competition so I was asked to join the team. With the girls - I know!!! I was a bit worried that I would let them down but they were really nice and helped my confidence to grow.

We had a couple of practices cooking Fish Sausages, Chicken Stew and doughnuts with jam and then the day of the County competition came..! We were taken to the competition by Lucy's mum, Fiona, and she deserves a big thank you for working  so hard to help us THANKS FIONA-YOU'RE A STAR!!

This competition was bigger than the District but the Judge was friendly. I was worried about replacing Hannah as she is a good cook!! Again, we all calmed down and got on with our jobs. We had plenty of time to cook and I was really pleased with our efforts. The Judge liked our food and we waited for the results. I felt really tense.

The announcement was made and we came 2<sup>nd</sup> and there was only one point difference!!! What a shame!!! My advice for next year is to have plenty of practices and to keep it simple and, of course, enjoy the experience and hopefully the grub! Thanks to everyone for helping me and working with me. I enjoyed having fun, getting to know people more and gaining the experience. Again – thanks Fiona and special thanks to Jason. Apologies to Clive who had to let go of the Trophy.

**Daniel Nottage, Stags Patrol**

# Scout Website

[www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk)



The website makeover has been completed with the addition of a second hand uniform section. This may prove particularly useful when children are growing fast and due to move up a section and all items are very reasonably priced. Or why not indulge in a second uniform for those times when things are likely to get mucky!!

There are also bags, books and camping items, at rock bottom prices, so please take a moment to have a look.

If you wish to advertise any items yourself, please supply a photo, description, price and your contact details and we will deduct £1 if the item is sold.

*MailChimp*

You will have noticed that we have recently started using a mailing agent to send group communications. This saves lots of paper and photocopying and seems to be a useful way of communicating with, as Clive has reported, some 185 people including the SAS. Emails will be kept to a minimum, and we would like to assure you that they are not spam but relate to happenings in the group and may affect your child so please take the time to read them. Copies of the Woodsmoke will also be notified this way.

Please feed any website amendments, comments or suggestions to [ian.stanley@copperbeech-designs.co.uk](mailto:ian.stanley@copperbeech-designs.co.uk)

*Pauline*

# Abbots Langley Scout Active Support

with



presents

## *A Wine Tasting Extravaganza*

8:00pm Friday 4th September

at

Abbots Langley Scout Headquarters

£13.50 per person

Including tastings of 6 selected wines from around the world,  
along with nibbles and a quiz!

To reserve your tickets please contact:

Tracy Reeve

alsas1954@gmail.com

# DIARY DATES

## June

13	Carnival	All
16	Meeting—7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
19 - 21	Explorer's Narrowboat Weekend	Explorers

## July

3rd	Bang & Twang & Hot Dogs - Phasels	Active Support
10—12	Cub Camp - Lees Wood	Cubs
20	Executive Meeting—8pm	Exec Committee
24 - 11 Aug	World Jamboree - Japan	
25-1 Aug	Scout Camp - Tansley Wood	Scouts
28	BBQ—7.00 pm	Ladies Guild

## August

7	French Summer BBQ - The Noonans	Active Support
11	Lawn Bowls - Bowls Club 6.30 pm	All welcome

## September

4	Dalling's Wine Tasting	Active Support
21	Executive Meeting — 8pm	Exec Committee
15	Meeting—7.30pm	Ladies Guild

## October

2-4	Weekend to Litton Cheney	Active Support
14 & 17	Double Jumble Sale	All
20	Meeting—7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
31 or 7 Nov	Green Beret Setup	Active Support

## Nov

6	Fireworks and Film 7pm/8pm	Active Support
8	Remembrance Day Parade	All
13-15	Green Beret	Active Support
17	Meeting—2 pm	Ladies Guild
21	Christmas Market—10 - 1 pm	All



# Active Support

**W**hat is Scout Active Support (SAS) formally know as The Scout Fellowship?

1st Abbots Langley Scout group is privileged to have a dedicated SAS linked directly to the group. North Watford District has an SAS but this helps all the groups within North Watford. The SAS is a follow on section from when young adults within the Scout movement left Ventures around 20 years old (Ventures preceded Explores/Network).

Many SAS members have gone through the Scout/Guiding movement and as adults still enjoy scouting. Other members are parents of children involved in Scouts or people that just enjoy the scouting ethos.

We support the group in a variety of ways for example building and running a base at the Green Beret annual Scout Competition. In November 2014 we safely saw 110 teams over our assault course and the competition is growing each year. You may have seen us helping at the Group family camps either cooking, activity running or just general helping. The SAS play a major part in the cooking and selling of hot dogs at the Abbots Langley Carnival every June, this all raises funds for the group.

However we also enjoy the outdoor life with weekends away walking/canoeing/cycling etc. Some of our members are qualified instructors, others have many years of experience to offer. We are a group of mixed abilities and ages. Anyone over 18 years old is welcome and there is no upper age limit.

If you are interested in joining, or just wish to know a bit more please contact us via facebook - ABBOS SAS (Scout Active Support) or on our new email address [alsas1954@gmail.com](mailto:alsas1954@gmail.com). A copy of our programme can be found on the notice board in the hall/group web page/in woodsmoke, we look forward to seeing you.

**W**hat have we been up to?

On a rather wintery Friday evening in March the SAS meet up at the Scout HQ for their monthly meeting. Craft evening was on the programme and everyone was asked to bring along an old CD/DVD and a cap from a disposable drinks bottle. This definitely coursed some baffled looks and comments leading up to the meeting, but all became clear when Hazel explained that they would be making a hoover craft and racing it! (idea was taken from the Headlines magazine).



So using a bit of tape, a glue gun to attach the drinks bottle top and a lot of puff to blow up a balloon, it all worked. The CD's did raise up and move around the table. Tracy kindly brought along many items from her girls craft kit at home. So the crafts were decorated with glitter, jewels, fur and all things sparkly. However you could definitely tell the mechanical minds in the group as both Alastair and Richard Gabriel added additional modifications to enhance their crafts power.

Then came the racing where we adjurned to the main hall, polished up one of the tables and the heats started. This is where the competitiveness came out from trying to knobble your competitors craft, nudging them out of the way or blowing their craft off course.



In the end Rachel the head judge gave the title of race winner to Rod



and Tony received the best decorated award.

The prizes, there weren't any, just the glory of holding the title.

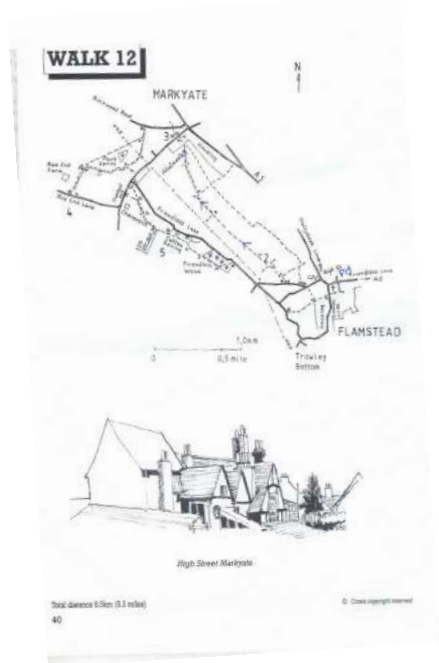
May's meeting was 'Butch's walk' organised by Bib Butcher and Nicky Trotman. The venue was Flamstead, just off J9 of the M1, for a walk lasting 1.5 hours (depending on how good the navigation was).

The main body of the group approximately 12 people meet at 7.30pm and went on their way. First walking down friendless lane and then going through Friendless woods where a carpet of bluebells meet the group. This was a beautiful site. On the other side of the wood was a beautiful view across the valley.

A few of the walkers broke away from the group to complete a slightly short walker. They then found a couple of late comers standing in a lane pondering if a left or right turn would get them to join the rest of the group on the return leg of the walk.

Due to slight navigation issues the main group found an alternative (no marked) path back through the woods. Thank heavens to mobile phones, as this enabled the late comers to find the group. What ever did we do before this technology?

All had a good evening, even though it was slightly damp but drying out in the Spotted Dog pub back on the high street in Flamstead, certainly helped.



Hazel Harkin  
Joint SAS Secretary



The 1st double jumble sale of the year was held in March and took a considerable effort from all sections but produced great dividends as you will have read in the Chairman's speech.

Books, toys, bric-a-brac, clothing, bags, shoes and hats galore! Here is Lin Lythaby sporting some of these items for a bit of fun.



We have all had a busy Spring term at Jungle Cubs. Chill and Balloo have kept the Cubs busy with various activities and outings.

I was very pleased to have become a sixer and I enjoy leading my six.

Last term started with a Fire safety check at the hall. There was a fire drill which went off smoothly, and then we looked at the dangers of fire and how we can protect ourselves.

We also got cooking making pancakes which were delicious! There were plenty of different fillings. It did get a little messy but was fun.

The cubs had an interesting evening learning about the celebration of Waitangi Day which taught us a little about New Zealand and of course the Rugby was mentioned!!

After the short half term break we returned to Recycling Fun. The cubs had to write and present information about recycling. Why we do it and what it achieves. I enjoyed looking at how I recycle at home. We all learnt the importance of it.

Safety in the home was another evening of interesting learning. We were taught what to do in an emergency, who to call and what things to look for that were dangerous.

The last two weeks we were out and about. The jumble sale leaflets needed to be delivered so we split up into groups and went out posting the leaflets door to door. My group got the short straw and ended up walking down to The Retreat in Abbots Road! Our legs were all tired by the time we got back to base.

My favourite activity of the term was the Night hike in Chipperfield. We all met on the Green outside the Two Brewers Pub (we nearly lost some Daddy's in the pub)! The cubs split into groups and we walked through the woods and down the lanes armed with our torches to guide us in the dark. On our travels we all met a lovely Pony who was pleased to see us and got lots of strokes.

On the last week of term we sadly had to say goodbye to some Jungle Cubs who were moving on to Scouts, and hopefully they will have lots of fun on their new adventures.

I am sure the Cubs are all looking forward to being outdoors a lot more as the summer approaches, learning lots of new things and doing fun activities.

**By Francesca Mash**

# Lagoon Beavers One Year On

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January I started going to Lagoon Beavers for part of the Promise Challenge of my Gold Chief Scout's Award and it has been an eye opening experience. On the day when I was first about to go I was dreading it thinking how boring and what a waste of time it would be but since then I have realised how wrong I was. Beavers for me has been an enjoyable experience and one I will never forget as it was not only fun for the Beavers but it was fun for me too.

Over the course of my time there we have done many activities. Some educational, like going to Tesco's, some of the Beaver's parents and I learnt many new things on that day such as five bananas together is called a hand and the Beavers as well really enjoyed it and learnt many things too. There were also many other fun experience's at Beavers and many of the activities done there encourage teamwork and also they learn many skills that could help with future jobs.

Also at Beavers last term they had an Easter egg hunt, they made valentine hearts made out of clay and they discussed their hobbies, which was a massive variety from running to making loom bands. They also had an arts and crafts evening were they got into groups and made anything they wanted. Some Beavers made a car whilst another made a robot. It is an experience that I would definitely do again and, indeed, have carried on helping this term.

**Alex Weston, Assistant Patrol Leader, Eagles**





# Lagoon Beavers Trip to Tesco

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March the Lagoon Beavers took a trip to the Tesco store in Hemel Hempstead. The trip mainly consisted of:

- A tour around the fruit and vegetable aisles.
- Gutting of a fish in the fishmongers Dept.
- A walk in the huge freezers.
- A Tour of the warehouse.
- A tour of the staff canteen.

Finally a taste of several different fruit and cheeses. First we were taken to the fruit and vegetable aisles where we were shown various different fruit and vegetables, and told where they came from. The department manager picked out



random pieces of fruit or vegetables and the Beavers were asked if they knew what it was. We were shown all different things from yellow plums to melons.

Then we were taken to the fishmongers where we were shown how to gut a fish, during this most of the Beavers were all going eww! But some of the boys quite worryingly, while the guts were being pulled out, said awesome!?!

After, we were taken to the gigantic freezers which at the coldest measured -10 Degrees Celsius and were allowed to look inside them. The tops of the freezers were covered in ice and most of the Beavers only lasted about 30-40 seconds before running out into the warm. We were then taken into the warehouse at the back of the store where they stock all of the food that is ready to be put on the shelves the following day.

Finally we were taken into the staff canteen to try lots of different fruit, vegetables and cheeses. The most popular was cheddar but I preferred Wensleydale with cranberries. Inside the canteen, was a coffee machine, several vending machines, a TV showing EastEnders.

We were given lots of different work sheets to complete on what we had learnt during our visit and what the Beavers eat at home. All the Beavers received a “Farm to Fork” Tesco badge. I am sure the parents appreciated having to sew on yet another badge!!!



**Matthew Smith, Patrol Leader, Stags**



## Lake Beavers

As the days began to get longer and summer was well and truly on its way, the Lake Beavers were, as always, spending their Monday evenings doing fun activities at the Scout HQ.

This term saw the beavers constructing engineering masterpieces made of spaghetti. Each beaver was given their materials, marshmallows and spaghetti strands, to which they would build to their hearts content.

The next event on the beaver calendar was mothers' day. The beavers enjoyed creating hand made gifts to present to their mums on the special day. Wind chimes and cards were among the crafts of the evening. However, the main talk of the night was centred on the next week's event: a visit to the fire station!

All the beavers arrived at Garston fire station ready for an evening of interesting talks from the stations fire officers, and an exciting look at some of the life saving equipment the fire engine carries to cater for every eventuality.



Above: The beavers thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Garston fire

With everyone raring to go, there was only one thing missing... the fire engine. Unfortunately for the beavers, the fire engine was called upon only moments before the tour was due to begin, however, a friendly fire-fighter from Rickmansworth fire station was on his break at the Garston depot, and was kind enough to answer some of the beavers burning questions while they waited for the main attraction to arrive back. Once the fire engine had returned from its call, its crew were more than happy to give the beavers an access all areas tour of the fire engine. There was heavy hydraulic cutters to help people trapped in cars that had been in an accident, the air tanks the fire-fighters wore when entering a fire so that they could breathe in the dense smoke that surrounded them, and of course, the hose. After a quick Q & A session with the fire -fighters the night was drawing to a close.

The last event for the term was Easter craft. The beavers were given an emporium of crafting materials to make their own Easter basket, complete with chocolate eggs of course. After the beavers had made their Easter cards and decorated their egg basket, it was off upstairs to hunt for the chocolate eggs, which had been mischievously hidden for the beavers to find. A quick count up ensured all of the eggs had been found, and that there were none that had been forgotten about and left behind. It was then back downstairs to make mini egg rice crispy cakes. After a fun evening of chocolate hunting and cake making, the beavers were ready to return home to scoff on all the goodies they had from the evening. The end of the Easter craft evening also marked the end of another fun packed term for the lake beavers.

**By James Cresswell**  
Young Leader at Lake Beavers

# It's Carnival Time!

Saturday 13th June 2015—Manor House Grounds



Come and see us for a hot dog or two

Sample Alison's tea and cake stall,  
The Ladies bric-a-brac



and a bit of smashing on the  
Chairman's old crocks  
And I'm not talking about  
the older members  
of the Fellowship ....

## 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	Abbo's Explorer Scouts
	8.00 - 10.00 pm	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	Beaver Scouts (Lagoon)
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
	8pm	Active Support (1st in Month)

Please note that this Woodsmoke is  
now online to view and print at  
[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)

**Woodsmoke Editor**

Pauline Styles



1st Abbots Langley (3rd Watford North) Scout Group  
[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)