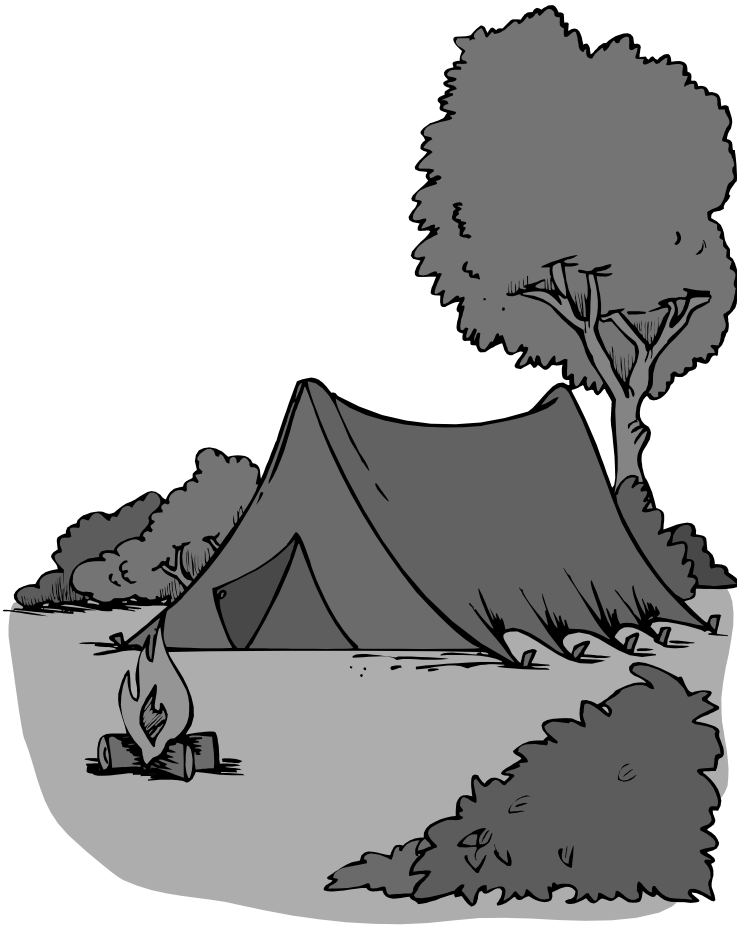


226th Edition

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Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Contacts

For Security reasons we do not publish contact details in the online version. Please pick up a copy at HQ if you would like this information to hand. Or email the various sections through the website.

St George's Day Parade



Chairman's Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



May 13th 2016

Mike Benson opened the 89th 1st Abbots Langley, 3rd North Watford Scouts Annual General Meeting by welcoming the representatives of the District and County Scout Association, Dave Collette, District Commissioner and Roger Sands, County vice president and District Chairman, and also members of the Abbots Langley Parish Council. As the Group Chaplain was on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and unable to attend, he had composed a prayer that John Noonan read on his behalf.

Mike then went on to give his report -

“Scouting’s success is wholly dependent on the volunteer leaders and helpers past and present who devote their time and energy to supervise our youngsters, therefore we greeted with sadness the loss of Cynthia Botwright in December 2015. Cynthia and her husband Alan were both Cub leaders in the 1960s and this Group will always be indebted to the time they devoted to Scouting in Abbots Langley.

The year’s fundraising began with the Carnival and a healthy profit of £1136.00 was raised. Takings were slightly down on previous years and this was not helped by the inclement weather. As the Carnival becomes larger and more popular it is becoming increasingly difficult for charitable organisations like ourselves to compete with the larger vendors, so I urge you all to come and support Abbots Scouts and buy a hot-dog, smash plates or find a bargain amongst the bric-a-brac at this year’s Carnival on Saturday June 11th and I look forward to seeing you all there. After many years at the Carnival helm Pauline has handed the Carnival organisation over to John and Richard. Thank-you, Pauline, for your sterling work and good luck to John and Richard!

The very popular double jumble sales netted a healthy £2400.00 and The Christmas Market raised another £890.00. This makes the total fundraising for the year a fantastic £4426.00. A further £1700.00 was generated from the Solar Panels. We are now producing enough

electricity to make a profit from our original investment some five years ago. This makes us more sustainable for the future which was always our previous Chairman Bryan Sharpe's vision. I thank-you all for helping to run or support these events we would not be able to thrive without you.

The need to fundraise is evermore essential as we were disappointed to discover in March that the discretionary rate relief of £912.00 per year for our Headquarters has been withdrawn. I know that many other Scout Groups in the District have also been affected. This means that we will be nearly £1000.00 worse off next year. It goes without saying that if anyone has any new fundraising ideas I would be glad to hear of them.

The Christingle Service in December raised £246.91 for The Children's Society. The village Remembrance Day service was well attended once again with 124 uniformed members taking part.

The Scouts had a successful and enjoyable Summer Camp at Tansley Wood in Matlock and a great time was had by all. Clive was at the World Scout Jamboree in Japan during July and August and has just about recovered, I think!

Active Support have had another busy year with games nights, film nights, bowls, craft evenings, BBQs, and a weekend hiking in Dorset, as well as supporting all of the fundraising and Scouting events throughout the year. Your help and assistance is immeasurable and we truly appreciate all of your efforts.

The traditional Boxing Day walk now in its 66th year was attended by 20 group members on one of the mildest winter days anyone can remember. Richard Gabriel, the new Active Support Chairman, would like to say a few words to you a bit later on.

Last Summer we were involved with the Prince's Trust, who undertook some voluntary decoration works at our HQ. The work was carried out by disadvantaged youngsters who I had the pleasure to meet. They found the work very rewarding and it gave them the confidence to obtain full time employment. Shortly afterwards at a presentation event held at Hunton Park we discovered six of the ten youngsters had in fact gained full time employment and I felt proud that this Scout Group had helped them along the way.

The HQ requires constant maintenance and projects carried out last year included the front drive re-surfacing, Cub's cupboard

replacement and more electrical lighting replacement all of which was paid for out of fund-raising.

The Group Journal “Woodsmoke” goes from strength to strength and is now in its 225th edition ... quite a milestone! Thanks to our Editor, Pauline. Our website continues to be developed and my thanks go to Iain and Martin for their tireless input.

Some events to look forward to in the future are the Cubs 100 camp at Tolmers from July 1st-3rd and a bit further ahead is our next family camp from 30th June-July 2nd 2017 with more details to follow I’m sure.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous effort and support given 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 and in the words of our great founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell, “Life without adventure would be deadly dull”

I would like to present a Thanks Badge to Rob Shepperd. Rob has been an Executive Committee member for twelve years taking on roles as The Mini-bus Coordinator and then our Health and Safety Officer. Sadly for health reasons Rob has had to step down and his involvement with the Group will be greatly missed and I thank him for his contribution over that time. Unfortunately Rob has been unable to attend this evening but I will ensure he gets his badge.

On behalf of the Group I would like to thank Mike Trotman for the last 20 years as our Treasurer and keeping our bank balance in the black. Previous to this he was District Treasurer for a further 9 years. I would also like to present these flowers to Nicky, Mike’s wife. I would like Nicky to accept these flowers on behalf of all of our silent partners and other family members who put up with us spending so much time volunteering.

Thank-you to Bib, Mick, Carol, Eddie and Katharine for preparing the hall for us this evening and to Lin, Eugenie and the catering crew for the lovely buffet and now let’s all go and enjoy some refreshments”



Mike Benson, Group Chairman

GROUP SCOUT LEADER & SCOUT LEADER ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The total Group membership at the 2016 Census was 173 (2015 = 165). The individual section numbers are:

Beaver Scouts	51 (63)
Cub Scouts	55 (46)
Scouts	40 (33)
Leaders & Assistants	27 (23)

I'm pleased to report that I was able to recruit additional leaders to the Group last year. Aisling Benson, Jonathan Benson and Sian Plumb joined Jungle Cubs, Alex Osborn became a member of the Lake Beavers leadership team and Finlay Potiuk returned to the Group as an Assistant Scout Leader. This has already continued in 2016 with the addition of Suli Hope in Rainforest Cubs. Welcome to them all. Unfortunately, we lost one of our ACSLs, Noel Deegan.

Our Beaver Leaders, Helen Welch, Lisa Sharpe and Hollie Goodman continued to deliver another tremendous programme of activities for the Beavers ably assisted by ABSLs Paula Gomme, Alix Dunstone, Alex Osborn, Amaelia Parmenter, and of course, Lyn Lythaby. The Beavers attended District events such as the Lees Wood Fun Day and were 2nd in the Handicraft Competition. They also held a Lego themed Sleepover at the HQ with over 40 Beavers attending. Each Colony has achieved an impressive number of awards and badges during 2015, with River Beavers attaining 97 Challenge Awards and 148 Activity Badges, Lake Beavers 69 Challenge Awards and 118 Activity Badges and Lagoon, 48 Challenges and 117 Activity Badges. I'd hate to calculate the amount of thread required for all that sewing. Last year there were an incredible 18 Beavers who successfully completed their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Congratulations to 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, Toby Stewart, Joseph Bailey, April Clough and Alfie Smith.



This success has continued and we have 4 Bronze CSAs to present tonight. They are Brandon Collette, Charlie Jones, Kian Reeves and Oscar Williams.

The Jungle and Rainforest Cub Packs have continued to be very active under the Leadership of Cheryl Gillibrand and Chris Frith, ably assisted by our ACSLs Nicola Trotman, Paul Hines, Jonathan Benson, Sian Plumb and Aisling Benson in Jungle and, Louise Fowler-Davies, Chris Watts, Noel Deegan and Wendy Cousins in Rainforest. Both Jungle and

Rainforest were very active in the badge department in 2015 with over 100 Challenge Awards and more than 200 Activity Badges achieved by both Packs.

The District Cub Camp was attended by over 40 Cubs from both Packs and was a great success as always. The theme was scouting through the decades and we had the 60s and did a Beatles & Hippy theme. The Cubs painted large cuts of the Beatle car, minis, and made the zebra crossing from the front of the Beatles Abbey Road album cover. As well as making Beatle (pop group this time) face masks and decorating t-shirts with hippy designs for the campfire. The District Athletes Badge evening at Woodside resulted in 42 Cubs getting their Athletes or Athletes Plus Badge

My congratulations go to the 11 Cubs who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2015. These were James Brewer, Joe Geard, Francesca Mash, Emma Pinchbeck, Sam Woodard, Luke Bond, Adam Brown, Jack Dunstone, Lucy Newman, Stanley Nunes and Arthur Sycamore.

Our Scout Troop had their first success of 2015 with the team of Hannah Trotman, Roslyn Chase, Lucy Packman and Charlotte Clark winning the District Cooking Competition for yet another year. They followed this up in February by coming runner-up in the County event, with Daniel Nottage subbing for Hannah. In March, Andrew Bell, Leo

Farrington, Louis Geard and Samuel Hines came runner-up in the District Triathlon and we also entered 2 teams in the County Green Beret, with one of the teams coming 10th out of 140 teams entered. This year the success has continued with success in the District Swimming Gala. The Scouts completed a total of 47 Challenge Awards in 2015 and 4 Scouts, Alex Bruguier, Leo Farrington, Matthew Smith and Alex Weston, completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award. My thanks go to my fellow leaders, Jason Gearhart, Dave Goodman, Liam Goodman, Alison Redmond, Finlay Potiuk and Tony Dabson for all their commitment and hard work.

The Scout of the Year competition encourages Scouts to show commitment to events, competitions and fundraising and is awarded for their overall Scouting ability and behaviour. The winner, for the 2nd year in succession, is Daniel Nottage.



My sincere thanks to all our voluntary leaders who play a vital role and give up countless hours to plan, organise and run a well-balanced programme for their respective sections, in addition to supporting the youngsters at various weekend events.

My thanks also to the Executive Committee, who do an excellent job of running the Group behind the scenes. We have lost 3 great stalwarts this year and they'll be greatly missed. Thanks also to the Abbo's Active Support Unit, Ladies Guild and parents who have helped run activities and fundraising events. And finally, my thanks to our 11 Young Leaders who provide tremendous support to the adult leaders in the various sections. In the past, our Young Leaders have proved to be our future adult leaders and long may that continue.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader and Scout Leader

In this issue you will have read all about 2015 in my GSLs report from the Presentation & AGM evening. It was an excellent event, with youngsters, parents and leaders filling the HQ. Brandon



Collette, Charlie Jones, Kian Reeves and Oscar Williams received their Bronze Chief Scout Award, and Long Service Awards were presented to Alison Redmond and Sarah Lowrie. The Scout of the Year competition trophy was awarded to Daniel Nottage. Many congratulations also to Roslyn Chase, Lucy Packman and Hannah

Trotman on the completion of their Gold Chief Scouts Award.

In March, all our sections took part in the District Swimming Gala at Woodside. Although it was a bit chaotic at times, our youngsters did our Group proud. The Beavers were Runners-up, as were the Cubs, with the Scouts coming 1st. This meant that we also won the overall Group Trophy so well done to all those that took part. Well done also to all our youngsters and leaders who attended the St George's Day Parade in April. It was a fabulous turnout considering that Watford FC was playing in the FA Cup Semi Final.

I'm pleased to welcome Suli Hope who has joined the Group as a Rainforest Assistant Cub Scout Leader. She will be a great addition to the leadership team. My thanks to all our volunteers who ran yet another successful jumble sale in March raising essential funds for the Group. Our next fundraising event is at the Village Carnival so please come along and help or support our hot dog, Bric-a-brac, tea shop and plate smashing stalls.

We are still in need of a new Health & Safety Officer, which is an



essential role on the Committee. It is not a particularly taxing one with regard to time as Rob Sheppard, the previous incumbent, has done all the hard work and set it up. Only monitoring and updating is required and approximately 20-25 hours per year, so not excessive. Can anyone interested in taking on this position please make contact.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

SCOUT TROOP ACHIEVEMENTS

Many congratulations to -

- Aidan Cheng on the award of his Creative Challenge,
- Roslyn Chase, Lucy Packman and Hannah Trotman on completing their World Challenge,
- Andrew Bell, Roslyn Chase, Aidan Cheng, Charlotte Clark, Louis Geard, Samuel Hines, Daniel Nottage, Lucy Packman, Hannah Trotman and Tom Williams on the achievement of their Teamwork Challenge,
- Roslyn Chase, Lucy Packman and Hannah Trotman on completing their Team Leader Challenge,
- Roslyn Chase and Hannah Trotman on the award of their Personal Challenge.

Very well done.

Scout Camp Recce Weekend



This year's scout camp will be in the Forest of Dean in July, so in April Clive and a group of young leaders/explorers and members of Abbots Langley Scout Active Support (ALSAS) travelled down to 'Beaver Lodge' in Park End for a Recce/planning weekend.

Eddie Chalk, Tony Dabson and myself arrived a couple of hours before Clive and the young explorers, so we set about familiarising ourselves with the kitchen equipment and boiler. As it was nippy to say the least we spent half an hour trying to work out why the boiler was not working. We were saved when the caretaker/cub /beaver/ scout leader and maintenance guy for Beaver Lodge turned up and informed us he had bought a gas bottle to connect to the boiler, evidently it always helps to have a fuel supply!!

I had taken along my tent and various equipment with every intention of camping, but after a few Ales over dinner at the local pub the idea of pitching my tent was not so attractive, so I along with the 'oldies' spent a very snug night in Beaver Lodge whilst the very enthusiastic young leaders headed for their tents, after a few hours around their camp fire.

On the Saturday we researched the caves and booked the

sessions for the scouts. And also found the best places to launch and recover the kayaks. We also gathered info on swimming pool times, mountain bike hire, local butchers for meat, the young explores checked the walk the scouts will be doing as well as finding local supermarkets and recycling points. We also explored a coal mine that will give the Scouts an insight into life in a mine 80 years ago that 5 year olds went down rather than school!

Another enjoyable evening after dinner was had while we chatted over cheese and biscuits and a little port. It was really nice to see how the, lets say mature leaders/helpers, got along with the young Leaders/explorers, all mucking in with cooking, cleaning and washing up and had a lot of laughs along the way.

I enjoyed it so much I have managed to negotiate with Mrs B a few days away so I can help out at the actual camp in July.

Thanks to all who took part and I'm sure the scouts are going to have a great time in July and hopefully gas for the boiler will not be needed! I'm sure we'll hear all about it in the next edition - hope this hasn't been too much of a spoiler for the Scouts!



Kevin Brown
ALSAS

SCOUTS[♣]

District Swimming Gala

On a Friday evening the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts representing 1st Abbots Langley/3rd North Watford took part in a swimming gala against other scout groups in our District.

Between us we decided who wanted to do which races and cheered each other on. There were fun races, 25 metre length races and relay races.

I came first in one of my races and second in another, I was really pleased.

We were the winners of the Scout and Group trophies from the previous event two years ago and so we all set out to try our best and keep the trophies for another year! The Beavers had all their races first and all our 3 Colonies took part and did really well coming 2nd overall. Both of our Cub Packs also did brilliantly and achieved 2nd place. I'm pleased to report that we Scouts won the district gala again as well as coming first against the other scout groups with the Beavers and Cubs!

Below is our team photo holding the trophies.

By Joe Geard, Eagles



My first District Swimming Gala

On a dark late winter's night, a large group of beavers, cubs and scouts from across North Watford came together to experience the tropical heat of Woodside Swimming Pool for the District swimming gala. There was a great turn out from 3rd North Watford/1st Abbots Langley.

The organisers had arranged a mix of individual and team races. The team races were very fun: they involved lots of different equipment such as floats, plates, trays, and cups. The caterpillar races were particularly challenging, but 1st Abbots Langley managed to keep the caterpillar in one piece!

There were races for beavers, cubs, scouts and leaders, and even some that were a mix of ages. Unfortunately, none of our leaders fancied the challenge of the leaders race but Ros Chase swam for them instead and won!

The Abbos won or came second in most of the races, so the end result of the evening was very good: our beavers came third; the cubs came second, and the scouts won, which meant an overall win for 3rd North Watford. We took home two large silver cups, which Clive was very pleased to keep.

A big thank you to the leaders who turned up and helped to organise so many of us in the heat and noise of Woodside. Things were a bit chaotic, particularly when the races kept changing, but they did a great job ensuring we had two races each. And also thank you to the District leaders who organised the night: perhaps we can have more swimming races next year? I am looking forward to swimming in my next district gala.

Ben Chase
Jungle Cubs

Lake Beavers

Every Monday from 16:40 to 18:15



Welcome back to another fun packed term at Lake Beavers !

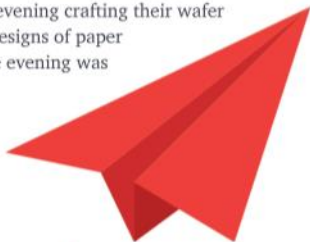
And also a very warm welcome to our new Beavers; Aoise, Catherine and Isabelle, who are joining us this term.



Space. That was the theme of last term here at Lake Beavers. We spent the term learning all about outer space, and the recent journey of British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station made this quite a fitting topic. The Beavers were eager to learn all about the goings on of Tim and share some of their own facts they had about interstellar matters. The conversation ranged from 'Are we alone?' and 'Do Aliens really exist?' to 'What do astronauts eat in space?'. It really was an eye opening evening as to what life in orbit is like.

Aerospace engineers in the making...

Well, some call it aerospace engineering, some call it making paper aeroplanes. Regardless, the Beavers spent the evening crafting their wafer thin fuselages and tested different styles and designs of paper planes to see which flew best. The finale of the evening was a fun-filled competition to see whose origami masterpiece flew the furthest. Some crashed and burned, whilst others soared to dizzying heights before gracefully landing at the other end of the room.



LAST TERM WE WORKED ON THESE BADGES...



Space Activity Badge



Faith Activity Badge



Hobbies Activity Badge



Personal Challenge Award

Cosmological Cooking



To continue with the space theme, the Beavers put their culinary skills to the test. With an array of fresh fruit and a pancake, they crafted no less than a replica of the solar system, albeit slightly smaller than life-

sized. With citrus suns and strawberry celestial bodies these pancakes were bursting with flavour, and the Beavers had a blast making them.

opportunity to ring the huge bells which crown the 900-year-old church. The near silent building erupted with the sound of chiming bronze, much to the Beavers delight. The noise could be heard across the village, and was indistinguishable from the skilled tune of the regular bell ringers.

After being shown the ropes in the bell tower, the Beavers moved on to taking rubbings of some of the older parts of the church. The intricately carved masonry was perfect to take rubbings from, and all the Beavers needed was a crayon, a piece of paper and their imagination to create masterpieces that Michelangelo would have been proud of.

The Beavers' tour of St. Lawrence's had come to an end, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Reverend David Warner for giving up his time to give this tour to the Beavers.

Beavers Visit Local Church

With the days getting longer and summer well on its way the Beavers visited the local St. Lawrence Church, just a short walk from the Scout HQ. The Beavers were given an 'Access All Areas' tour of the church by curate Rev. David Warner who was more than happy to answer the pressing questions of the Beavers. The tour started in the nave where the Beavers discussed the important upcoming event in the Christian Calendar: Easter. With the Beavers transfixed on the prospect of vast quantities of chocolate to eat in the coming weeks, it was for Rev. David Warner to explain to the Beavers the meaning behind the religious event and why it is celebrated around the world by many. The Beavers then made their way to the key focal points of any church and learned about their significance to Christians and what they are used for. The next part of the tour was the part the Beavers enjoyed the most. Rev. David rather bravely gave the Beavers the



" We Have Liftoff!!! "

As the end of another term at Lake Beavers neared, the Beavers donned their best space outfits to have a party with their feet planted firmly on Earth. The food was looking somewhat nicer than the freeze-dried alternative the Beavers had learned about in previous weeks, and was soon devoured by the hungry space explorers. Fitting dance moves were also on show, with some of our Beavers attempting the 'Moonwalk', and others perfecting their 'Robot', it was a great end to a great term.



Zero hours, 6:15pm, and another term at lake Beavers had come to a spectacular end. A big thank you to all those who made it possible.

A BIG WELL DONE...

... to all who competed in the District Swimming Gala last term! We came in at a very respectable second place. Well Done.



Lagoon



The Lagoon Colony have been extremely busy over the past few months, with lots of exciting activities to help them earn their badges! We had a fantastic District Party at the end of term with beavers from all over Watford visiting our Headquarters (check out the picture below to see some of our awesome dance moves!).



Last term we were focusing on the Space Activity Badge. To earn this, we had to learn about a space mission (did you know Tim Peake was a scout?) and look at star constellations, which we made models of using dried spaghetti and blue tack.

In March the Beavers took part in the District Swimming Gala at Woodside Leisure Centre. Our Beavers were amazing and we came second! Furthermore, the points we earned helped the group to place first overall!



We started this term with St. George's Day Parade, which was held at the Harebreaks in Watford. Many thanks to the beavers who attended, and a special thank you to Jack for carrying our Group flag. Jack did a fantastic job carrying the (very heavy) flag all the way down St. Albans Road to Christchurch, all the way back to the Harebreaks and taking part in the flag service at the church.

We recently took part in the District Handicraft Competition, which again took place at our HQ.

A joint team from Lagoon and River Colonies came second!! The theme for this year's event was 'a birthday cake' (to commemorate both the Queen's 90th Birthday and 30 years of Beaver Scouting which is this year) and the children's 'rocket-cake' was a huge success! Well done to all who took part.



Also this term we had a go at bouldering at Lees Wood as part of the 'My Adventure Challenge Award. This is a container which has been prepared for climbing on the inside and out, and allows beavers to try climbing without the heights and harnesses.



A huge thank you to Alix, Helen, Connor, Joe and Katie for all your help this year.

Hollie Goodman

Lawn Bowls anyone?

The Lawn Bowls Club, situated behind the Scout HQ, have again invited us for the annual lawn bowls evening which will be any time from 6.30 pm on 21st June 2016.



Everyone is welcome - so why not come along and try out this activity. It is always a very enjoyable evening and requires a degree of accuracy.

Please wear flat shoes as no heels are allowed on the green. Refreshments and snacks are available.



Tony Dabson in action!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VACANT

Health and Safety Officer

Duties include responsibility for reviewing and maintaining the overall safety of the HQ and the well being of it's users. H&S and Accident Reporting policies and Fire and Activity Risk Assessments are all in place and only require monitoring and updating on an annual basis. First Aid kits need to be reviewed and replenished on a regular basis and assistance with fire drills once a year. Arranging the annual service and inspection of all fire extinguishers and any other minor H&S issues that might arise.

Maintenance Assistant

Experience of a trade to support maintenance of the Headquarters

We are in need of occasional use of a van. If you can assist at any point please let us know, and if you'd like to get involved at any level

Please contact Clive

01923 443359

Who are the Executive Committee?

12 years ago Clive approached all the parents with children in the group to get parents involved in the running of the group. This could be done in a number of ways.



Join active support, help out at carnival and jumble sales or go on the executive committee. I greatly believe in parents supporting our group so I asked Clive what I could do for him. He told me that there was a very easy job requiring 10 to 20 hours per year. So I became "minibus man"

The job was very enjoyable and I did this for around 10 years. (This included sweeping out the minibus after every window had been vandalised) I then fancied a change and Clive suggested I become health and safety officer.

Being on the executive committee has been great fun as the members are all looking to get there jobs done and have a good time whilst doing the activities. They meet 6 times per year in the Scout HQ and usually go for refreshment after the meeting.

Having been on other committees in the village I can recommend the scout exec to you for the lovely people and the help you provide to your child. No qualifications are necessary only hard work and enjoy yourself.

I have stepped down due to ill health but I fully intend to actively support the group.

Rob Sheppard

WE DO!

**WHO WANTS A
CURRY?**

A Curry Night was held on Monday 14th April at Abbots Tandoori, Abbots Langley in aid of the Capital Appeal.



The restaurant was packed fit to burst with 57 scouters of all sizes, young and not so young anymore (enough said). A sumptuous four course meal was enjoyed by all, helped down with more than a few glasses of amber nectar.

The now traditional game of right arm up/left arm up resulted in the usual wicked exchange of banter until the last one standing carried off the envious prize of a whole bottle of whisky.

Raffle prizes galore and a total of £580 was raised which the District made it up to £1000 for the Hertfordshire Capital Appeal – a very good cause and an opportunity to meet up with friends over ‘an Indian’.

Once again, well done to Janet Sands for organising this event.

**Richard Gabriel
ALSAS Manager**

The HQ Lovely Jumble Sale



They queued around the block, they did
At the HQ jumble sale.
Nothing would dissuade them
Not wind nor rain nor hail.

Smiling faces standing by
With chat and lots of cheer
And all the willing helpers
Who'd come from far and near.

“They're off”, cried Lin and in they came
With baskets sacks and bags
And soon the folk were all knee deep
In crockery toys and rags.

The jumble piled up to the roof
With knickers pots and pans
A real assortment of home-wares
Were passed from hand to hands.

The book department now arranged
In tidy heaps and rows
Of topics ranging 'cross the board
From poetry to prose.

The men's and women's clothing
Was going really strong
And rugs and lots of linen
Were selling for a song
“Two bob for that?” A lady cried.



“I'll give you half a shilling.”
“No way” replied a server
“But eight pence if you're willing.”

Lots of toys and games so fair
Woolly sheep and dogs
And odd box things of unknown use
All sprouting dials and knobs

Outside the hall what do we find?
A pair of fold up beds
A box of forks and spanners
And the contents of a shed

And so the selling whisked along
Until the show was done.
And the sellers struggled from the mess
That really was such fun.

Then bagging up and folding down
The day grew to a close
With swollen feet and aching backs
And black sacks all in rows.

Then suddenly the lot was gone
In lorries, vans and cars
The sellers and the sorters too
To restaurants, homes and bars.

And would we do it all again?
I think we'll have a bash
So muse on all the fun we've had
Turning rubbish into cash.

ABBOTS LANGLEY SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT

Cake decorating? Who said cake decorating?

I peered unnecessarily over my bifocals, imagining a vast acreage of pink icing surmounting a stodgy sponge. The responding look was one of ill disguised contempt tinged with pity. I sank back into the peaceful depths of my book.

Now, please don't get me wrong. I really like iced cake. I mean I really, really like iced cake, but as a vehicle for a competition ... Hmm!

It was a surprisingly good turnout on Friday evening. Pauline and Tony arrived with a weird assortment of bottles, jars, sponge cakes and boxes of a bewildering collection of things that, I was told, would bring elation to the heart of any pastry chef.

The idea was for those assembled to ice and decorate a portion of cake with any design that they wished in friendly competition with their neighbours. This time I visualised a pink archipelago speckled with coloured blobs. But how utterly wrong I was.

After a considerable amount of to-ing and fro-ing to the provisions table and not a little excited poring over slices of sponge it was done. As if by magic, there on twelve boards and



ABBOTS LANGLEY SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT

plates appeared what I can only call works of edible art. This was serious cake decoration of a standard that would make the Mary Berry's of this world go weak at the knees.

Had anybody organised an impartial judge? A phone call resurrected Eddie Chalk from the depths of his armchair beckoning him to an audience with this array of iced imagination. After much jocularity it



was announced that Alison Sturgess was the winner with her car design.

Applause. Blushes. A presentation and much knowledgeable nodding. Then with "Goodbyes" the evening drew to a close. Tables cleared and washing-up done. Coats donned and the sound of cars roaring into the night.



A very big thank you to Pauline and Tony for organising the evening and to Ed. For his considered judgment.

Once more the Scout Hall, that ages old theatre of scouting activity, became silent. What a great time. Of course I knew all along that the evening would be a success. Didn't I?

Peter Marett

An Evening of Art

That old chestnut “Oh, I'm no good at sketching, I can hardly draw breath” certainly had no relevance to ALSAS Evening of Art on the 3rd of June.

We all gathered beneath the impressive columns of the Palladium church of St Mary and St Joseph in the rural village of Ayot-St-Lawrence on a rather damp evening and with an amazing assortment of equipment. Then we, under the direction of Sue Jarman, began our exploration of the beautiful country views across a buttercup speckled grassland laying under a leaden sky. On the horizon and bounded by an openwork fence appeared a delightful confusion of trees and a single house nestling in what appeared to be a forest. In the immediate foreground stood the stark images of the church's tombstones.

The artistic endeavours certainly did not disappoint if the assembly of sketches was anything to go by. One thing that stood out from the evening's work was the fact that we (and I wholeheartedly include myself) learnt to see with an artist's eye. What a revelation.

As the skies darkened and the mist became more serious, we beat a hasty retreat to the local (now there's a surprise!) The Brocket Arms - a country pub simply lost in time.

The atmosphere left nothing to be desired and armed with glasses of the landlords best we settled down in front of a roaring log fire. The bars were crowded with locals and visitors alike along with three dogs. Two immediately became everybody's best friend but the third, wisely, had decided to sleep, occasionally opening his eyes to take stock of the situation and, no doubt, to check on the availability of crisps and pork scratchings.

What a cracking evening. Thanks Sue and thanks to every body for sharing such talent. I, of course, being modest, must disassociate myself from the last remark, Sigh! You can see photos of the artwork on the Abbos SAS Facebook page.

Peter Marett



It's Carnival Time again Folks!

Calling all Parents, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Little brothers and sisters, Grandmas, Grandpas, Uncle Tom Cobby and Aunt Sally and even the dog!

Come and see us at our hot dog stall to raise money for the group. Cheapest hot food at the Carnival
Tea and Cakes at the Explorer Stall next door.

Saturday 11th June Food Court, Manor House Grounds (furthest away from the fair ground)

If you can spare any time to help set up, please meet us on Manor House Grounds at 9am to set up, 4pm to break it all down, or 5pm at HQ to help unload.



DIARY DATES

June

11	Abbots Langley Carnival	All
12	Litter picking - 9.30 Manor Hse Grounds	Scouts
17-19	Scout Top 10 Narrowboat weekend	Scouts
21	Meeting—7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
21	Lawn Bowls 6.30pm behind HQ	All welcome
22	District AGM	Leaders

July

1	To be Confirmed	Active Support
1-3	Cubs County Centenary Camp—Tolmers	Cubs/A Support
18	Executive Meeting — 8.15pm—HQ	Exec Committee
19	Meeting— BBQ	Ladies Guild
23-30	Scout Camp—Beaver Lodge	Scouts

August

5	Olympic Night—Chipperfield Common	Active Support
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September

2	Bat Patrol	Active Support
19	Executive Meeting — 8.15pm—HQ	Exec Committee
20	Meeting— 7.30pm	Ladies Guild
30—2nd	Weekend to Woody's Top in Louth	Active Support

October

12 & 15	Double Jumble Sale	All
18	Meeting— 7.30pm	Ladies Guild
30 or 6 Nov	Assault course building—Lees Wood	Active Support

November

4	Fireworks and Film Night—HQ	Active Support
13	Remembrance Day Parade 10.30	All
19	Green Beret—Lees Wood	Scouts/AS
21	Executive Meeting — 8.15pm—HQ	Exec Committee
22	Meeting— 2.30pm	Ladies Guild
26	Xmas Market	Ladies Guild/All

Hall Happenings

Monday	4.45 - 6.15 pm 6.30 - 8.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake) Cub Scouts (Jungle)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 7.30 - 9.30 pm 8.00 - 10.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River) Abbo's 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	8pm	Active Support (1st in Month)

Please note that Woodsmoke is now
online to view and print at
www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Woodsmoke Editor
Pauline Styles



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