



245th Edition

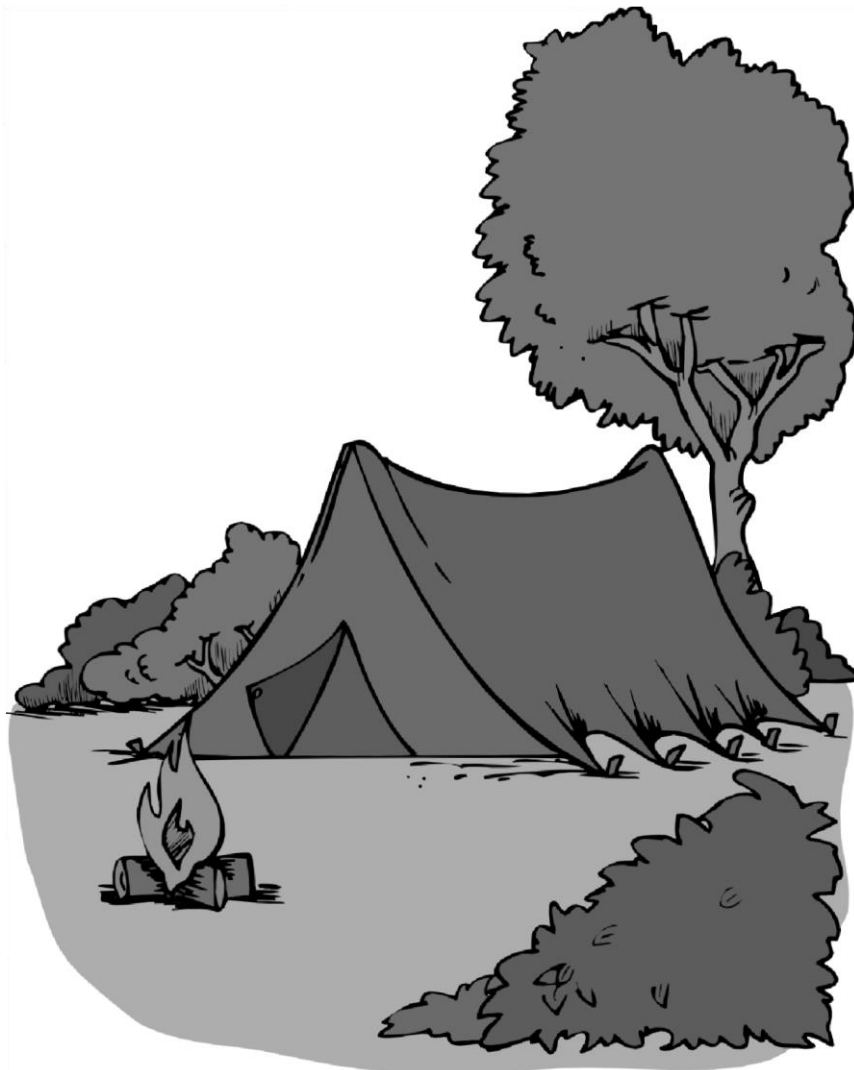
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Scouts

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

Chairman's Blog

Here we are again. How time flies.

I trust that by now you are all well into your planning for making the most of 2023. Please give some thought about how you can support our Scout Group; be it helping out at fundraising activities, taking part in essential maintenance days, assisting section leaders in running their programmes or perhaps by volunteering to become a leader yourself. There are lots of different opportunities for you to help. The search continues to fill some very important roles.

Volunteering will involve you in making an important personal commitment, just how much depends upon how much time you are able to spare. If you can volunteer to help Scouts then you will be contributing to a magnificent organisation, helping to nurture and provide young people with a great start in life, but you will also gain personal satisfaction from your efforts and have some fun along the way. As a volunteer you will never be pressed to do more than you are prepared and able to do.

List of roles to be filled:

- Group Scout Leader
- Treasurer
- Quartermaster
- Events Coordinator
- Facilities Coordinator
- Health & Safety Coordinator
- Hall Bookings Coordinator

Please contact me to learn more about the various opportunities available and how you can help the Scout Group: chair@abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

If you don't feel able to volunteer, then please do support the Scouts by attending our regular fundraisers. There will be jumble sales, stalls at the Summer Carnival and a Christmas Market. Please come along and bring all the family. The money raised helps the Scout Group by supporting the sections in their activities, maintaining and improving facilities and replacing equipment.

I'm proud of and very grateful to the leaders for their personal commitment in continuing to provide a varied and exciting programme of activities for the young people in their section. Daniel Cartwright, our new Scout Leader, with the assistance of Lianne Pike, his partner, has settled into his new role well.

I'm very pleased and quite frankly most envious of the fact that 3 young members from our group have been selected to attend the Scouts World Jamboree to be held in South Korea later this year. All three have been very active in raising the necessary funds, including holding a recent quiz night that was great fun. We all wish them well in what, I'm sure, will be a memorable lifetime experience.

I wish to thank all the members of the Group Executive Committee and Sub Committees for their assistance and continuing commitment which together help make our Scout Group the success that it is.

I'm pleased to welcome Emma Vassiliou, who has agreed to become the Group Secretary.

Fiona Packman has agreed to take on the role of Fundraising Coordinator, on top of her existing role of OSM/Membership/Parent Coordinator, as well as taking charge of the accounts for the Scouts. Thank you, Fiona.

Hall and minibus bookings continue to be popular and help raise a significant amount of funds. I'm grateful to Jeremy Bishop, Yvonne Stanley and Matthew Bullock for the work they do on behalf of the group.

Work has started on upgrading the Group's IT presence, including improving access to Online Scout Management (OSM) and on creating a new web site for our Scout Group. Thanks must go to Liam Goodman and Rob Coulson for taking this on. I also wish to thank Iain Stanley for his long-term commitment in the past for assisting the Group in these areas.

The Scout Group AGM will be held on Friday 12th May at HQ starting at 8pm. Please enter the date in your diary. As well as learning more about what we have been doing over the last year and our plans for the future, there will be an opportunity to meet, talk and share your thoughts with section leaders and members of the Group Executive Committee. Do try to come along.

I wish you all well.
Cheers for now.

Richard Gabriel
Scout Group Chairperson

Lake



It was a busy Autumn term for the Lake Beavers with lots of external visits. We went to the local library for our Book Reader badge, visited the fire station in Garston to work toward the World Challenge badge and finished up with a trip to the dry ski slope for the Snowsports badge!

We also attended the district outdoor challenge event where the Beavers learned how to build a fire and cook on top of it (although the heat was inconsistent, so we ended up using the camp hob!) There was also rope making, archery and a bug hunt in the woods. It was great to see so many Beavers from around Watford!

Inside the hut, we had a session of Highland Games where Beaver tossed the caber, threw shotput and hammers (with bean bags...) and even had a go at the Highland Fling. Beavers also had a go at making and trying dips from around the world – hummus was the top ranking with pico de gallo being the least favourite!

Well done for all your hard work this term Beavers – looking forward to next term!



Koala, Panda and Grizzly
Lake Beavers

River

BEAVERS



Jungle

cubs

Here's a round-up of what the Jungle Cubs have been up to since the last newsletter in November 2022.

Some of our brilliant Sixers and Seconders have talked about their highlights below!

Aiden age 9

I love cubs. It is fun and educational and helps children like me learn. I like it as I get to see my friends out of school too.

My favourite thing recently was visiting Garston Fire Station because I got to squirt the hose. I also overcame the climbing wall as I have never liked climbing but I did it and it was so much fun.



Visit to Garston Fire Station
Feb '23

Christingle Service, Dec '22



Jacob age 10

I have really enjoyed my cubs this term. My favourite activity of cubs this term was the pantomime but we have done lots of enjoyable things like learning about cubs in Spain and playing fun games at HQ.

The pantomime we went to see was at the hub in the village. The pantomime was The Three Musketeers. I enjoyed the songs, and the actors were very good. I also enjoyed seeing my friends from cubs after a long half term. I hope I enjoy cubs for the rest of the term and can help the new cubs settle in.

We have also been to Garston fire station this term. When we were there, we learnt about what number to call in an emergency and never to call when there's not an emergency. Then we got a tour of the fire station and we got to see what was in the fire engine. Also, I enjoyed spraying the water cannon at the end.

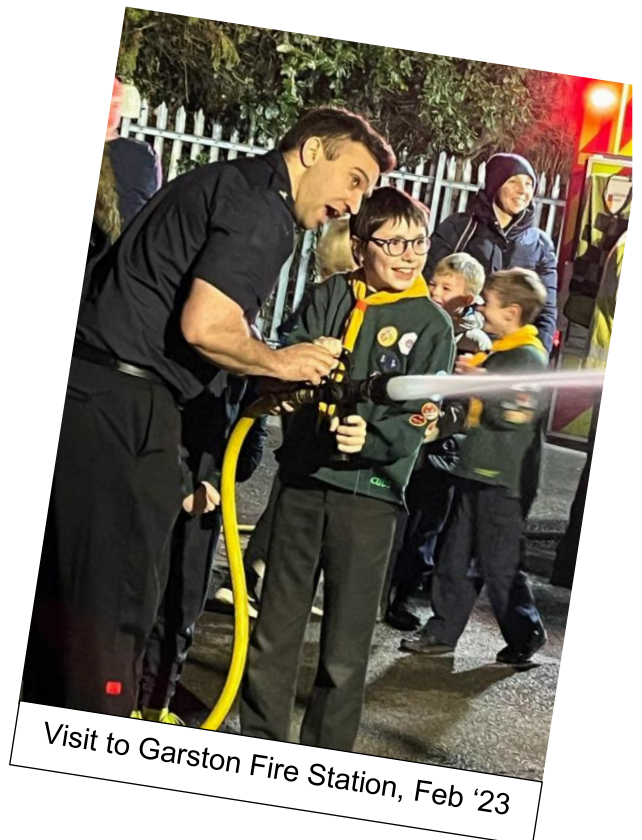
Matthew age 9

When we went to Garston Fire Station, everyone got a turn at using the hose to try and hit a cone. Here is a photo of me giving it a go! Inside the fire engine, as well as the hose and the fire crew are extra hoses and a first aid kit as they are also trained to help people at the scene of a fire like paramedics. We also learned that in the fire station they have bedrooms to sleep if it is a night shift or they can work out in the gym if they don't want to sleep, or it is too cold to be outside. There are also many offices and a kitchen as they can be there for a long time. They told us that there were four shifts in a 24-hour period called white, blue, green and red. We met the white shift team. If you go there, the fire crews will teach you about all safety. They told us that, if your smoke alarm goes off at home, you should first get the back of your hand and press it onto your door to make sure that there is no fire behind it before opening it. The back of your hand is more sensitive than the palm. If there is a fire behind the door, you should not open the door but instead open a window and stand by it because the smoke can escape, and you can get fresh air. And it is easier to be seen by the fire crew when they arrive. If possible, you should do this at the front of the house so you can be rescued more easily. The crew demonstrated the sound of the siren in the fire station so that they could be deployed to a call out. The crew have only 90 seconds to get ready. They must get their suits on and in the fire engine with all of their gear and be on the road in that time! And that is just what happened as we were leaving our visit. The siren went and they were dispatched. We had a great time and were very grateful to the brave fire crews for everything they do.

Zara age 9

This year Cubs has been really fun. My favourite activities have been the Christmas movie night and going to the fire station. Christmas movie night is always really memorable because the leaders dress up in their smartest clothes, so it is like we are going to a film premier. We get to watch one of the classic Christmas films and eat special Christmas treats with our friends. Everyone is always very excited.

Pancake night, Feb '23



Visit to Garston Fire Station, Feb '23

SCOUTS

Sausage Sizzle night at Lees Wood



Abbos Explorers World Scout Jamboree

Having completed the selection process, we were delighted early last year to hear we had been offered places to represent Hertfordshire Scouts at the 25th World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea, for over 40,000 Scouts from over 150 countries!

The three of us have attended Abbots Langley Scouts through beavers, cubs, or scouts and we are now explorer scouts, young leaders and a leader. We are also part of a larger group of 9 participants from across the North Watford District, many of whom are now also Abbos explorers, 6 of us are going as participants, 2 as members of the IST team and 1 scout leader leading a unit. The IST (International Service Team) will be providing all the services for the scouts attending from all over the world from organising and running activities and events to ensuring the safety of the participants, to cooking and cleaning the toilets!

If that isn't challenging enough, the event and pre-events are also aiming to be as eco-friendly as possible. All decisions and actions are considered in the interest of global warming, travel is being planned to be as low in its carbon footprint as possible as well as energy and water conservation at the event for example we will be washing our own clothes in a kit bag and foot power (playing football with the sealed bag) will provide the wash cycle and spin. Similar principles are adopted for the pre-events, where we are encouraged to carpool or use public transport and use recyclable materials.

Each participant and IST member needs to fundraise to pay for everything needed to be able to take part in the event including travel, kit, accommodation and food. For the 3 of us that is a total of nearly £11,000. The UK Scouts also pay significantly more per person than most other countries because they subsidise lesser developed countries so it is a truly inclusive global event.

We have been fundraising and joining community projects and events where we have been proud to offer our support and are grateful for contributions we have received towards our jamboree fund. Over the last 10 months we have been very busy, our activities have included: providing a BBQ at the Kingswood & Garston Park community street party for the Queen's Jubilee, a Plate Smash at the Kings Langley and Chorleywood village days and a tea and cake stall at the Abbots Langley carnival for which we made the majority of the cakes. We have organised a couple of fete stalls, the Scout Christmas Market raffle, and a Quiz Night. As well as having enjoyed: managing car parking for Crox Fest, supporting the Abbots Fest team to set up and clear away, assisting in both the preparation and selling at the Scout Jumble Sale, manning the Toms Lane water station and preparing bacon butties at the cricket club to support the Tough Ten and supporting the Watford Lions at the Abbots fireworks and their Santa Sleigh.

Over the next few months, we will be continuing our efforts to raise the final part of the funds we need. Future fundraising we have planned includes: a Car Wash, sourcing another fete in which to run a stall and any other community events we can support.

During this time, and throughout the lead up to the event, participants meet regularly to team build with their units and prepare for the event whilst IST members have additionally been attending training events and meeting with the rest of their crews to gain and share the skills needed to help run the Jamboree and get to know each other as well as assisting the leaders of the participant units in their pre-events. We are also fortunate prior to arriving at the Jamboree location, to have the opportunity to spend 24 hours in Seoul enabling us to experience local culture and visit a range of historical sites across the city.

The life skills and qualifications we will have gained from the experience of fundraising and then attending the jamboree, as well as the lifelong friendships will be invaluable to us in our futures, as we either choose further education or employment as adults. It will also assist us in not only being able to attend the event and ensure its success, but will enable us to bring back and share our skills and experience with other members of the scout group and the district to broaden their knowledge and perhaps support others future involvement, as well as the opportunity for us to gain necessary skills to be the next leaders of the Abbots Langley or any of the North Watford Scout Groups; securing the future of scouting in the local area for many more young people to continue to have the opportunity to participate in this amazing organisation.

Emma, Ben and Rose



Diary Dates

April

23 St. George's Day Parade

May

12 Scout Group AGM – 8pm

15 Executive meeting

16 Ladies Guild meeting – 2pm

June

7 Watford North District Scouts AGM

10 Abbots Langley Carnival

20 Ladies Guild meeting – 2pm

30–2 July Watford North District Cub Camp

July

17 Executive meeting

18 Ladies Guild meeting – 2pm

August

1-12 25th World Scout Jamboree, South Korea

15 Ladies Guild meeting – 2pm

September

18 Executive meeting

19 Ladies Guild meeting – 2pm

October

17 Ladies Guild meeting – 2pm

November

12 Remembrance Sunday

18 Herts Scout Green Beret Challenge – Phasels Wood

20 Executive meeting

21 Ladies Guild meeting – 2pm

December

4 Christingle service – St Lawrence's Church

Hall Happenings

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| Monday | 6.15pm – 7.45pm | Cub Scouts – Jungle |
| Tuesday | 5.30pm – 7.00pm | Beaver Scouts – River |
| | 7.30pm – 9.30pm | Abbo's Explorer Scouts |
| | 2.00pm – 4.30pm | Ladies Guild (3 rd in month) |
| Wednesday | 6.30pm – 8.00pm | Cub Scouts – Rainforest |
| Thursday | 6.30pm – 8.30pm | Scouts |
| Friday | 8.00pm | Active Support (1 st in month) |
| Saturday | 10.30am – 12.00pm | Beaver Scouts - Lake |

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Woodsmoke is online to view and print at:
www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

#YouShape



Scouts

**1st Abbots Langley
(3rd North Watford)**

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