

May 2003



woodsmoke@abbotslangley

1st Abbots Langley (3rd North Watford) Scout Group

You are invited to

*Abbots Langley Scout
Group's
Annual General
Meeting*

*On
Friday 16th May 2003
at
8 pm*

*Scout Headquarters,
Langley Road*

*Please join us to hear what the
Group has been doing during the
past year, and what's planned for
next year.*

*Cheese and wine follow the
meeting*



Scouter in Charge's Bit

Firstly, a warm welcome back (or should I say a freezing cold January welcome back) to Iain Stanley and Jonathan Easter, two of our Explorer Scouts, who have returned from the World Jamboree in Thailand. I know which weather I prefer. The boys will be giving a presentation about their exploits on Friday 2nd May at 8.00 pm at the HQ. All welcome.

My sincere thanks to all the members of the Group and Fellowship who made the April Jumble Sale such a success. An unbelievable amount of work went into this valuable fundraising event raising in excess of £1,500. I would also like to thank the 18 parents of the Eagles and Foxes Scouts that got involved in collecting jumble, setting up, serving and clearing up. It will be the turn of the Otters and Stags parents at the October Jumble Sale.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual Group meeting on 16th May. It is open to all section members and parents alike. It is not as boring as it sounds and no one is press-ganged into any official roles (unless I have any embarrassing photos from the group anniversary camp).

As I am sure all parents are aware all the sections, excluding the Explorer Unit, are full to bursting point. This puts a lot of pressure on the current leaders to continue to offer an interesting range of activities throughout the year. Please don't be afraid to offer your help, whether it is only for the occasional meeting or weekend, or if you feel you would like to get involved on a more regular basis. I promise you that it is an

enjoyable experience (most of the time) and I still haven't gone grey (where's the boot polish?).

Lastly, well done to all of you who participated in the St Georges Day parade and service. It was a great turn out and the service was a credit to the Group.

Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge



*Sam Johnson
born
15th March 2003*

*Congratulation to proud parents
Peter and Josie Johnson*

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

April brings the primrose sweet and scatters daisies at our feet. While March brought equally as sweet a son to Josie and Pete Johnson. Pete a long serving supporter and executive member and Josie have named him Sam Luke, congratulations!

The Group have received lesser gift's but still very welcome. A safe for the office, a better photocopier, and also another marquee.

We now have a year planner on the notice board so please use it. The Mini Bus now has a tow bar and can pull your trailer or caravan for a small donation. I was very pleased to see so many parents helping at the Jumble Sale, of this I think we have done very well.

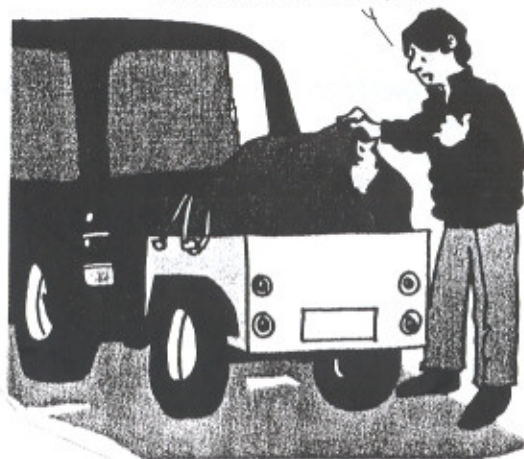
St. George's day parade is next, on Sunday 27th 3-00 Christ Church North Watford. I should also remind you of the A.G.M. on the 16th of May, come in for a glass of wine. Then there's the Village Carnival on the 14th June; we the Group have four stalls. Please if you really can't help then come and buy.

Finally I am looking forward to the talk to be given by the two lads Jonathan and Ian who attended the World Scout Jamboree. This will take place on Friday the 2nd May at 8.00 Scout H.Q. if you received this information in time please come along.



Bryan S Sharpe Group Chairman.

AND I SAY YOU SIT IN THE MINI-BUS
WITH THE REST OF THE TROOP



Congratulations to -----

All the Scouts who participated in the District Night Owls and Trifid Trophy. We took first place, the first time since 1980, so very well done to Ben Halcomb, Jack McCarthy, Tom Sibbit, Tom Redmond and Chris Sheppard.

Sam Hugget and Tom Ward on the completion of their Creative Challenge. A great achievement

All the scouts who passed their next stage of the Swimming Activity Award, including 10 at Stage 2, 4 at Stage 3, 6 at Stage 4 and 10 at Stage 5. Stage 5, the highest award, was attained by Adam Bignell, Luke Connor, Jack Courtenay, Ben Halcomb, Lawrence Hendrey, Ross Noonan, Chris Sheppard, Tom Sibbit, James Sidaway and Tom Williams.

Clive





Diary Dates

May

16 th	Group Annual General Meeting	
19 th	Group Executive Meeting	
20 th	RSPB Sri Lanka Talk	Ladies Guild

June

6 th	Golf evening	Scout Fellowship
14 th	Abbots Langley Village Carnival	
17 th	Police Talk	Ladies Guild

July

4 th	Butches Walk	Scout Fellowship
14 th	Group Executive Meeting	
15 th	Barbeque	Ladies Guild

August

1 st	The Aspidestra BBQ at Ivinghoe Beacon	Scout Fellowship
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Sept

12 th	Lawn Bowls	Scout Fellowship
15 th	Group Executive Meeting	



Keith Williams
Ex 1st Kingsbury and
Chairman Abbots Langley Parish Council

It was nearly 40 years ago that I joined the 1st Kingsbury cub pack. Like thousands of boys, and now girls before and since, I joined because I wanted to be with my friends from school and have fun. What I did not know when I turned up at that draughty church hall all those years ago was that the club I was about to join would change my life forever. I am sure many members of the 1st Abbots Langley had a similar experience.

I went through the usual Scouting path, became a sixer of the yellows and achieved the Leaping Wolf (for younger reader's ask an older member of the group what the Leaping Wolf was); became a scout and eventually a Patrol Leader of the Wolf patrol. Won the Chief Scouts Award and then because we did not have a Venture Scout unit, I became a leader.

Today, I am Chairman of Abbots Langley Parish Council and the approach I bring to that job is based on the foundations for life that Scouting taught me. So what did Scouting teach me that has helped me in life and as Chairman of the Parish Council?

When all of us took our Promise when we were invested we promised to "do our duty to God and to the Queen". When I used to enrol new Scouts into the movement I used to stress that duty to the Queen meant to be good citizens of our country. Scouting has always been intertwined with involvement in the local community, so I suppose becoming involved with the Parish Council is just an extension of doing what I said I would do when I made my Promise.

Being a sixer and patrol leader gave me my first insights of leading teams of people. None of us can achieve anything in this world on our own and my six and my patrol are just like the Parish Council, a team where we all work together to make, in the case of the Council, Abbots Langley a better place to live.

In working life managers go on all sorts of courses to try to make them better leaders, but for me the most important leadership

course I ever went on was the Patrol Leader's Training Course, which taught me how to work with people and lead teams. Chairing the Parish Council meeting is not so different from chairing a Patrol Leaders Council.

Scouting taught me lots of other things which have held me in good stead through my life; I got my first taste of being able to repair my car through when I took my mechanics badge. When I did my House Orderly badge as a cub and in the scouts I learnt to cook meals at camp, little did I know that it would teach me things about looking after my home; and nowadays looking after a home and cooking is not just mum's job, but is something boys need to know as well. So really all through my Scouting life I was learning things that at the time seemed pretty useless, but are of great value now. Things that they don't teach you at school, like knots and pioneering; which now is a great help when I am building a wig-wam for growing beans in the garden!

But the most important thing I gained from Scouting was friendship. Some of my oldest friends are people I first met when I was in the cubs and scouts and through my involvement in the Scout movement I have made friends with people from all over the country. These are people who shared the good time of my Scouting adventure with me and we can now look back together on the wonderful times and fun we had; they are also people who help me out nowadays when times get tough or who I can help when they are in trouble. That is what the brotherhood of Scouting means.

I think it was the founder, Baden-Powell who invited young people to play the "Game of Scouting" and as you, the current generation of cubs and scouts at 1st Abbots Langley play that game I hope you have as much fun as I did; make lots of friends who will last your lifetime and learn a few things that you will help you in later life. After all in 30 or 40 years time, who know, you may be a Chairman of a local Council.

That is why Scouting is not just for boys (or girls), but really is for life.

Good Scouting

ABBOTS LANGLEY SCOUTS WIN HISTORICAL VICTORY

After reporting in the last Woodsmoke that the Abbots Langley Scouts won the District Wide Games Competition in January, I am even happier to report that this has been followed up by a momentous victory in the District Night Owls and Trifid Trophy by the combined team of the Foxes and Otters. This is the first time the competition has been won by "The Abbo's" since 1980.

The winning team consisted of Ben Halcomb, Jack McCarthy, Tom Sibbit, Tom Redmond and Chris Sheppard. "The Abbo's" scored 460 points, 23 points ahead of second place. Our other team, Eagles and Stags, also performed well coming a creditable 6th with 382 points.

The well organised event took place at Phasels and was very enjoyable, thanks to the District Team, particularly Richard Price and Bernice Perkins. My thanks also to Bryan, Ron, Bib, Tony and Malcolm who provided the valuable back-up and support to enable the boys to take part.

This is the time of year when we conduct our Group Census for The Scout Association

Our numbers for this year are

11 Leaders
20 Beaver Scouts
37 Cub Scouts
38 Scouts



Our thanks to Estelle who raised £271.27 for the Group through the sale of Web Ivory Christmas Cards.

NEWS FLASH !!

Clean Sweep for 'Abbos' Scouts in 2003

After the victories in the January Wide Game Competition and the February Night Trifid who would have thought that the hat trick was just round the corner. The 1st Abbots Langley Scouts made it a clean sweep of District events this year by taking the Triathlon Trophy for the second year running. The winning team of Ben Halcomb, Tom Sibbit and Tom Williams were not put off by the change from the rifle shooting, which they excelled at last year, to archery this year and still came out on top. More details in your next Woodsmoke.



Hope that you have enjoyed this issue of Woodsmoke. We will publish again in September 2003. All items to me please by the middle of August.

Thank you.

..... Hall Happenings

Monday	3 rd Abbots Langley Brownies
Tuesday	Beaver Scouts Ladies Guild <i>Third in month</i>
Wednesday	Cub Scouts
Thursday	1 st Abbots Langley Brownies Scouts
Friday	Girl Guides Fellowship <i>First in month</i>

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