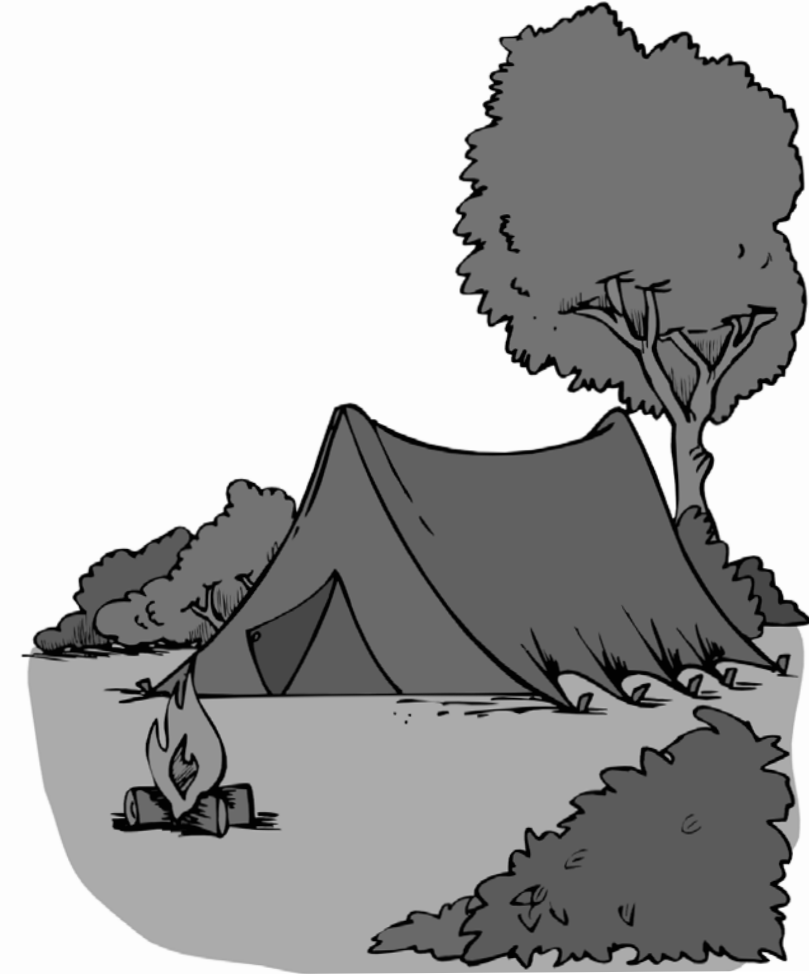




May 2017

First published March 1954

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

Chairman's AGM Report

At this time of year it is important to remember past members of our Group who are no longer with us. Dorothy Greeves and Betty Hill sadly passed away during the last year. They were both members of the Ladies' Guild and, along with their husbands, were very involved in Scout Leadership and the construction of this HQ. We are indebted to their generation for laying the foundations of our successful Scout Group as it stands today.



The Carnival kicked off the year's fundraising with a bang and is still a major source of income for the Group with a healthy £1700.00 being raised. These funds are essential to the running costs of our sections and the upkeep of our building. Every single penny is fed back into the Group to ensure our young people have the greatest adventure of their lives. None of our Leaders or Volunteers are paid. Our participation in this event is paramount to the future success of that adventure. The Carnival is undergoing change from 2018 and I hope we can embrace those changes to ensure the success as it has always been. My thanks, as always, go to Richard, John, Lin and the rest of the team for making the event a huge success. This year's Carnival is June 10th and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our very popular Double Jumble sales are still well attended and this year saw £2300.00 raised. The Christmas Market raised £965 and my appreciation goes to Lin and The Ladies' Guild along with Active Support for their never-ending help and assistance in running these events.

We always endeavour to look for new fund-raising opportunities and this year we tried two new events. 'Applefest' in October, where we served up hot Chilli, and 'The Henderson Lights' event in December, where we sold bric-a-brac. These fundraisers netted £340.00. My thanks go to Pauline, Sarah and Rachel for pioneering these events which I'm sure will develop in the Abbots Langley Village calendar as time passes by.

Total fundraising for the year, including our Solar panel feed-in-tariff payment of £1690.00, amounts to nearly £7000.00. A healthy figure I'm sure you will all agree.

Total fundraising for the year, including our Solar panel feed-in-tariff payment of £1690.00, amounts to nearly £7000.00. A healthy figure I'm sure you will all agree.

These figures are only possible because of the tireless dedication of our Leaders and Volunteers. However, I am a little concerned that too much responsibility is falling on too few shoulders and they are being overburdened by its weight. If you are not already a volunteer then why not become one and ensure more young people benefit from the opportunities scouting has to offer. Your Scout Group Needs You!

In December, Reverend Peter Waddell welcomed hundreds of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and their parents into St Lawrence's Church for his first Christingle Service. He was overwhelmed by the sheer size of our Group and the successful event it turned out to be. 'Thank-you' to the "Christingle-candle-making-team" £209.00 was donated to a Children's Charity.

The Village Remembrance service was well attended once again with well over 100 of our uniformed members taking part.

The Scouts had a successful Summer Camp to Beaver Lodge in The Forest of Dean and The Cubs celebrated 100 years of Cub Scouting over a weekend in July camping at Tolmers in Cuffley. Over 3000 Cub Scouts took part in the adventure and my thanks go to the Cub Leaders, Active Support and parents who organised our involvement in this event. Also at Tolmers in July, our Beavers celebrated 30 years of Beaver Scouting with a fun day, along with hundreds of other Beavers from across the County. Much fun and excitement was had by everyone! Special thanks must go to the District and County Scout Associations for organising these memorable events at Tolmers.

Our Active Support has had another busy year with Games nights, Curry Night, Arts and crafts evenings, Race Night, Pancake cooking, Hikes, Theatre trip, BBQ, bowling and weekends away to Ireland and Lincolnshire.....and the other small matter of Group fundraising and event assistance, of course!

Active Support and Group Members also took part in the traditional Boxing Day walk, now in its 67th year.

Recent maintenance projects undertaken at HQ include further upgrading

of internal lighting and the upgrading of our Broadband and WiFi network to assist in section planning and administration. My thanks go to Rob for his perseverance and expertise in dealing with BT, sorting out the new package for the same price as the old one would you believe!

Our Group Journal, Woodsmoke continues to go from strength to strength and is now in its 229th edition. Thank-you to our Editor, Pauline, and to all those who have contributed to it over the last twelve months.

Iain, thankfully, has continued to develop our website. All of our section programmes and event information can be found at abbotslangleyscouts.org. Diary dates and an on-line shop have also been recently added.

The hire of the mini-bus and hall provide a steady income for the Group and my thanks go to Elaine and Nikki for managing that for us so well. We still have a vacant Saturday morning hall hire slot if anyone is interested.

None of this would be possible without the involvement of so many Leaders and Volunteers who give up so much time and effort to ensure that Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers continue to enjoy their adventure of a lifetime. I offer you all my sincere thanks.

I would like to draw your attention to up and coming events later this year. Arrangements for our Family Camp on the first weekend in July, are nearing completion, with spaces still available. It is sure to be a thrilling weekend so if you are still interested in coming, please contact Pauline or Elaine or pick up a booking form in the foyer. Another event later in the year is a Race Night on Friday 6th October. Tickets for this popular event will be limited so make a note of the date in your diary and book your tickets early when they go on sale towards the end of this term.

I talked earlier about volunteers and I would like to award Thanks Badges to two individuals who have dedicated over forty years to our Group and who deserve special recognition. Mick and Carol Borrowdale joined this Group as parents of Cubs in the 1970s and have helped out ever since. They were both involved in the organisation and running of many early Cub Camps. Mick maintained our HQ fire extinguishers for many years and Carol has helped at every Jumble and Christmas Market since time began. Even last year when beset with problems and unable to live locally, they still managed to help out. Thankfully, that is all behind them now and I would like to present these Thanks Badges to you both, on behalf of Abbots Langley Scout Group.



Our Scout Executive are the un-sung heroes of The Group and all carry out deserving tasks that ensure the smooth running of every single activity in which the Group and sections are involved. I thank them all for their support and involvement last year. One such role is Group Secretary. Sarah has carried out the role for 12 years but is stepping down from today as she has decided to call it a day. Thank-you, Sarah on behalf of us all, for your time and effort fulfilling this role. I hope you will still remain involved and be a friend to Abbots Langley Scouts for years to come!

I would like to welcome Joanna to our Executive team as the new Group Secretary and hope she is happy in her new role. Joanna has also volunteered to be Health and Safety officer.

Finally, a tremendous thank-you to Bib, Mick, Carol, Eddie, Bernard, Eugenie and Katherine for preparing the hall for us this evening and to Lin and her team for the lovely buffet.

So please, will you all join with me now and enjoy some refreshments.

Thank-you all for attending,

Michael Benson
Chairman

1st ABBOTS LANGLEY SCOUT TROOP

(3rd NORTH WATFORD)



GROUP SCOUT LEADER & SCOUT LEADER
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The total Group membership at the 2017 Census was 176 (2016 = 173).
The individual section numbers are:

- Beaver Scouts 55 (51)
- Cub Scouts 61 (55)
- Scouts 31 (40)
- Leaders & Assistants 29 (27)

This is twice the size of every other Scout Group in our District. Although it looks like we are very well off for leaders, the total of 29 includes quite a number who are not active but remain as members of the Scout Association. I'm pleased to report that, although we lost a couple of our leaders last year, the overall total of adult leaders increased. This was due to 4 of our Young Leaders, James Cresswell, Toby Gamble, Dean Millard and Jamie Tearle, reaching 18 and taking out appointments as assistant section leaders. This has already continued in 2017 with the addition of Karen Taylor, Nikki Goodman and Rachel Drake helping with Beavers. Unfortunately, Lisa and Paula have decided to step back from scouting after a number of years as Beaver Leaders and, despite numerous efforts, I've been unable to recruit replacements. It is therefore likely that this will result in the closure of our Lake Beaver Colony significantly reducing the number of youngsters being able to enjoy scouting in our village. My sincere thanks to Lisa and Paula for all their hard work over the last 8 years since they started up the Lake Beaver Colony in 2009.



Our Beaver Leaders, Helen Welch, Lisa Sharpe and Hollie Goodman, provided another excellent programme for the Beavers ably assisted by our ABSLs Paula Gomme, Alex Osborn, Amaelia Parmenter, James Cresswell and Lin Lythaby. The Beavers attended District events such as the Lees Wood Fun Day, the Handicraft Competition and were runners-up in the Swimming Gala. They also held a Sleepover at the HQ with over 40 Beavers attending. Last year there were 12 Beavers who successfully completed their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Congratulations to Brandon Collette, Charlie Jones, Kian Reeves, Oscar Williams, Harry Robinson, Ajay Sen, James & Thomas Sheppard, Millie Wade, Jessica Whiting, Jack Woodman and Holly Gillett.

I'm pleased to say that this success has continued and 2017 is off to a good start. We have 7 Bronze CSAs to present tonight. They are Dean Humphries, Jake Rayner, Ben Macnish, Kai Bain, Austin Bion-Matthews, Henry Plumb and Daniel Lowe.



The Jungle and Rainforest Cub Packs have continued to be very active under the Leadership of Cheryl Browne and Chris Frith, ably assisted by our ACSLs Paul Hines and Aisling Benson in Jungle and, Louise Fowler-Davies, Chris Watts, Suli Hope and Wendy Cousins in Rainforest.

Both Packs attended the District Athletes Badge evening at Woodside, 100 Year Anniversary Cub Camp at Tolmers, and had a great time, and also came runners-up in the District Swimming Gala.

My congratulations go to the 9 Cubs who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2016. These were Andrew Grant, Katy Packman, Jamie Wells, Leila Whiting, April Clough, Madeleine Fowler-Davies, Ben and Ellie Newing and Megan Schofield. I'm pleased to say that we have 3 more Silver CSAs to present tonight. These are Ben Chase, Alfie Crawley and James Fewster.

Our Scout Troop had their first success of 2016 with the team of Louis & Joe Geard, Andrew Bell and Ross Sheppard winning the District Cooking Competition and then representing the District at the County



Competition. There was further success in the District Swimming Gala with the Scouts coming 1st which led to the Group winning the overall competition. Two teams were also entered into the County Green Beret which was very challenging this year with freezing temperatures on the first day and pouring rain on the second. The Scouts completed a total of 44 Challenge Awards in 2016 and 8 Scouts, Roslyn Chase, Lucy Packman, Hannah Trotman, Aidan Cheng, Tom Williams, Charlotte Clark, Samuel Hines and Daniel Nottage completing their Gold Chief Scouts Award. My thanks go to my fellow leaders, Toby Gamble, Jason Gearhart, Dave Goodman, Liam Goodman, Finley Potiuk, Alison Redmond, Jamie Tearle and Tony Dabson for all their commitment and hard work.

As with the Bronze and Silver awards, we also have 3 Gold CSAs to present this evening. Many congratulations to Alex Chase, Rudy Farrell and Louis Geard.

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. It was a hard fought battle as usual with the winner this year, Samuel Hines.





Charlotte Trotman was presented with her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award by the District Explorer Scout Commissioner, Geoff Brown.

My thanks also to the Executive Committee, who do an excellent job of running the Group behind the scenes, and the Abbo's Active Support Unit, Ladies Guild and parents who have helped run various activities and the highly successful, and lucrative, fundraising events. My thanks specifically to Sarah Lowrie who has served the Group as its Secretary since 2005.

And finally, my thanks to our 14 Young Leaders who provide tremendous support to the adult leaders in the various sections. As

mentioned earlier, our Young Leaders are proving to be our future adult leaders and long may that continue.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader and Scout Leader



Bib, Eddie and Mick ready to man the refreshments after the AGM

Lagoon Beavers started our Spring Term with a Junk Modelling evening, where we made fantastic 'inventions' in VERY large scale. The children played 'rock-paper-scissors' for the chance to take their team's wonderful creation home with them, and the parents of the winners were all delighted (!)



We have been practicing our cooking skills by making cheese twists using puff pastry, and made fruit kebabs using lots of fruit many of us hadn't tried before. Continuing with the healthy theme, we then had a Keep-Fit evening. We watched fitness videos and tried to keep up with the very fast man on the TV.

Unfortunately, our visit to Pets at Home was cancelled at the last minute, but we did have great fun at Phasels Wood instead, playing on the Pedal Racers and exploring the camping fields.





Beavers ended the term with a camp skills evening. The children learned how to light a candle (for part of our badge) which we were all very safe and sensible for. We were allowed to try toasting marshmallows over our lit tealights which were delicious, and then all settled around a makeshift tea-light campfire for some ukulele led campfire songs with Dave.



Summer Term has been even more fun already, now that the weather is getting better, we have

been able to explore outside. We hiked the nature trail at Lees Wood (check out the beautiful bluebells in our photo below) and some of us even saw a deer!

Congratulations to Henry, Ben, Jake, Austin & Kai who all achieved their Bronze Awards last term! Lagoon Beavers wish them all the best of luck with their scouting journeys!



Finally, our Facebook Page is finally up and running, with Karen's beautiful photos showing the parents all the fun we have been having. Be sure to check it out!

A huge thank you as always to my Leadership team; Nikki, Karen, Becca and Connor, and thank you to our scout helpers; Alex and Rudy who have been a fantastic addition to our section. Thank you also to the Parents who have once again provided immense support to our weekly meeting.

Hollie Goodman
Lagoon Beavers

Last term we did a lot of fun activities, including Tesco Farm to Fork, where we were shown around the store in Hemel Hempstead, having a look at where the staff prepare our online orders, click and collect orders, and also we got a chance to try new things.



We also met Bramble, our new Cubs bear.

Each week a different cub is lucky enough to take Bramble home and spend the week with him. This is usually given to the best cub on the night.



We went to Garston Fire Station and all had a turn squirting the hose. We learnt a lot about fire safety and have almost finished our badge.



We did an Easter Hunt, looking for these paracord people on glo-sticks – they looked really cool in the dark – this is them before they were hidden in Lees Wood;

Akela Cheryl

1st Abbots Langley Jungle Cubs

**ABBOTS LANGLEY CARNIVAL
SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2017**



Please come along and support your Scout group at this year's Carnival

Sausages and cold drinks

Tea, coffee and cakes at the adjoining

Explorer stall

and visit the popular bric-a-brac stall behind the food to spend a pleasant moment or two.

Free Hot dog to any Beaver or Cub Scout taking part in the Parade. Please see your leader for a ticket to give in at the Scout sausage stall

YOU MUST BE IN YOUR UNIFORM



St George Day Parade



George's Day Trade



CONGRATULATIONS!

Many congratulations to -

- Louis Geard on the award of his Creative Challenge,
- Alex Chase, Rudy Farrell and Louis Geard on completing their World Challenge and Team Leader Challenge
- Alex Chase and Rudy Farrell on the achievement of their Teamwork Challenge and Personal Challenge.

Very well done!

Clive's Chat

SCOUTS



In this issue you can read all about 2016 in my GSLs report from the Presentation & AGM evening. It was an excellent evening, with youngsters, parents and leaders filling the HQ and numerous Chief Scouts Awards presented.

Bronze - Dean Humphries, Jake Rayner, Ben Macnish, Kain Bain, Austin Bion-Matthews, Katie Osborn, Henry Plumb and Daniel Lowe.

Silver - Ben Chase, Alfie Crawley and James Fewster.

Gold - Alex Chase, Ruby Farrell and Louis Geard.

Many congratulations also to Samuel Hines who was awarded the Scout of the Year trophy.

I'm pleased to welcome Karen Taylor who has joined the Group as a Section Assistant with Lagoon Beavers. My thanks to all our volunteers who ran the successful jumble sales before Easter raising essential funds for the Group. Our next fundraising event is at the Village Carnival on 10th June so please come along and help or support our hot dog, Bric-a-brac, tea shop and plate smashing stalls.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

2017 SCOUT TRIATHLON

On Sunday 12th March the Abbos Team competed in the annual Scout County Triathlon. Our team was Alex Chase, Louis Geard, my brother Samuel and myself. We arrived at 10am in the rain having brought our own bikes. Our base was tree 15, other teams had different numbered trees. We started 15th.

We waited at the start for the official to get us going. Louis and Alex were in front with Samuel and I just behind. We ran about three miles through grass, tarmac, woods and puddles, next to tyres to show us the route.

After we had finished the run we had to complete the cycle ride. At first we went down a giant hill, which was really fun. Next there was another hill that led to a tight turn where Alex fell and got really muddy. Samuel and I did not know he had fallen and carried on up the steps, which was hard work. We rode on the flat bit where a log was in our way. We had to lift our bikes over it and rode up the long hill. At the top we recognised Whippendell Woods. We rode to the left down a steep hill then up to the end. There was a crowd cheering us. We had to do another circuit but at the end there were no people only Dad, Dave and Liam. I was first through the gate followed by Samuel, a muddy Alex and Louis.

We all then went to the shooting range. It was a super long wait to shoot and we got cold. We ate some food and had a drink but finally we were at the guns. Someone showed us what to do before we got to shoot. I missed the target. I think I need more practice for next year! Everybody else was ok. The weather was a real let down as we got very wet, cold and muddy, but I enjoyed the running and the bike ride.

We were disappointed that (we thought) we came last. But later Clive told Dad we were 11th out of 16. This was alright for my first triathlon. I want to do better next time! Thank you to Dave, Liam and Dad for giving up their Sunday to help us.

Zachary Hines
Foxes Patrol

Abbots Langley Scouts, & Abbots Langley Bowling Club

invite you to their

RACE NIGHT

On Friday 6th October at the Scouts HQ Langley Road

Doors open 7.00pm. First Race off at 7.30pm

Tickets (for 18 and over) £10 include a supper from the fish shop will be available soon

enquiries to Mike Benson tel: 01923 268750 email: mikedbenson@aol.com



Horses may be purchased at £2 a time - £10 if it wins

Bar available

Tables of 8 may be reserved.

ALSAS Pancake Evening

Now, nobody could ever accuse me of being a food snob. Oh no. Although I will admit to being caught once eating caviare with my little finger crooked. But I have also been seen eating a burger seated in the window of our local 'greasy spoon', so that evens things out a bit. But the thought of spending a whole evening making and eating fried discs that looked like undernourished Frisbees, however, did cause some concern in the indigestion department.

Then I had one of those eureka moments. What if I was really daring and mixed curry powder with the batter and spread marmalade on the resulting disc? Bravely this is exactly what I did. Do you know, that if there was a Nobel Prize for pancake making my offering would surely gain me that much deserved accolade.

The evening kicked off with the usual merry banter and suddenly the frying and tossing ritual began. The last time I tried tossing a pancake I was fifty percent successful. The other half ended up decorating my left shoe. Artistic but messy! One person even succeeded in a triple flip. Now that really is professionalism.



When the sound of frying finally died down to be replaced by the clatter of cutlery on plate I, in the spirit of ALSAS, condescended to try some of the other offerings and do you know they really weren't at all bad. Traditional lemon and sugar, Cherry pie filling stuffed pancakes and so on were greedily devoured with much lip smacking. A couple of well informed members did try my rendition and

were very kind in their comments with a slight green tinge showing on one member's face which I put down to envy.

Then, with the sound of merry laughter ringing round the Scout Hall most of the gathering absconded in the general direction of the nearest acceptable hostelry, no doubt to discuss my ground breaking pancake.

Thanks Tony for another memorable evening.

Perhaps I will try Marmite and prune conserve next time. Hmm..!
Now, what did I put that packet of Gaviscon tablets?

Octonerd

Butch's Walk

This is another Group tradition that I always look forward to each year. So named because it used to be conducted by Mike Butcher who's nickname was Butch. Some of you may not know the family history, but Butch was the brother of our very own Vivian "Bib" Butcher (see earlier photo) who tirelessly sweeps and polishes the floor of the HQ each week. His nickname came about because his brother couldn't say Viv properly and so Bib, it became.

Anyhow, I digress and onto the leader of the current day walk - Nicola Trotman, assistant Cub Leader and Active Support member, who is Butch's daughter. We have had a variety of interesting walks over the years and this time it was a 3K circuit of Ley Hill, with a merry band of around 9 of the Active Support group catching up on news for the first outdoor outing of the year. This was followed by a swift pint to join the other 4 who had opted for early refreshments, but as the pub was in the throws of someone's hen night, the evening was rather noisy.

Thanks to Nicola for what was a well attended, entertaining walk and evening, which saw nearly all of the Active Support section taking part. But there is plenty of room for others to join, just email Richard if you would like to be on the mailing list. Future dates and activities are listed in the Diary Section.

Looking forward to seeing you at Carnival to support the hot dog stall!

Pauline Styles

DIARY DATES

June

2	Backwards Cooking, 7.30pm Lees Wood	Active Support
9	Abbots Langley Carnival Prep	Active Support
10	Abbots Langley Carnival	ALL
16 - 18	Scout Narrow Boat Weekend	Scouts
20	Meeting - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
29	Pitching tents at Phasels Wood	Group Campers/Scouts
30 - 2	Group Family Camp	ALL

July

7	Games Night 8pm Cricket Club Bar	Active Support
23 - 30	Scout Summer Camp	Scouts
17	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
18	BBQ - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild

August

4	BBQ pm The Noonan's House	Active Support
14 - 18	DoE Gold Expedition	Explorers
25-27	Scout Leader Narrow Boat Weekend	Leaders
30-1	Young Leader Narrow Boat Trip	Young Leaders

September

8	Visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor, Aldenham	Active Support
18	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
19	Meeting - 7.30 pm	Ladies Guild
29 - 1	Active Support Weekend - Stour Valley	Active Support

October

6	Race Night 7pm HQ	ALL over 18s
11 & 14	Double Jumble Sale	ALL
17	Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild

November

3	Whizz Bang 8pm HQ	Active Support
4	Construct Green Beret Course Lees Wood	ALL
18	Green Beret	Scouts/Active Support
12	Remembrance Day Parade	ALL
20	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
21	Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild

December

1	Christmas Meal	Active Support
3	Christingle candle making	ALL Welcome
4	Christingle Service, St. Lawrence's Church	ALL
5 or 12	Christmas Party - 2 pm	Ladies Guild
26	68th Boxing Day Walk 10.15 Love Lane	ALL over 18s

January

5	Casino Night 8pm HQ	Active Support
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February

2	AGM - Cheese and Wine 8pm HQ	Active Support
24		

Hall Happenings

Monday	4.45 - 6.15pm	Beavers Scouts (Lake)
	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Abbo's Explorer Scouts
	7.00 - 10.00 pm or 2pm in Winter	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
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	8pm	Active Support (1st in Month)

Pauline Styles
Woodsmoke Editor

Deadline for next issue - 22 September 2017

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



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

www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk