



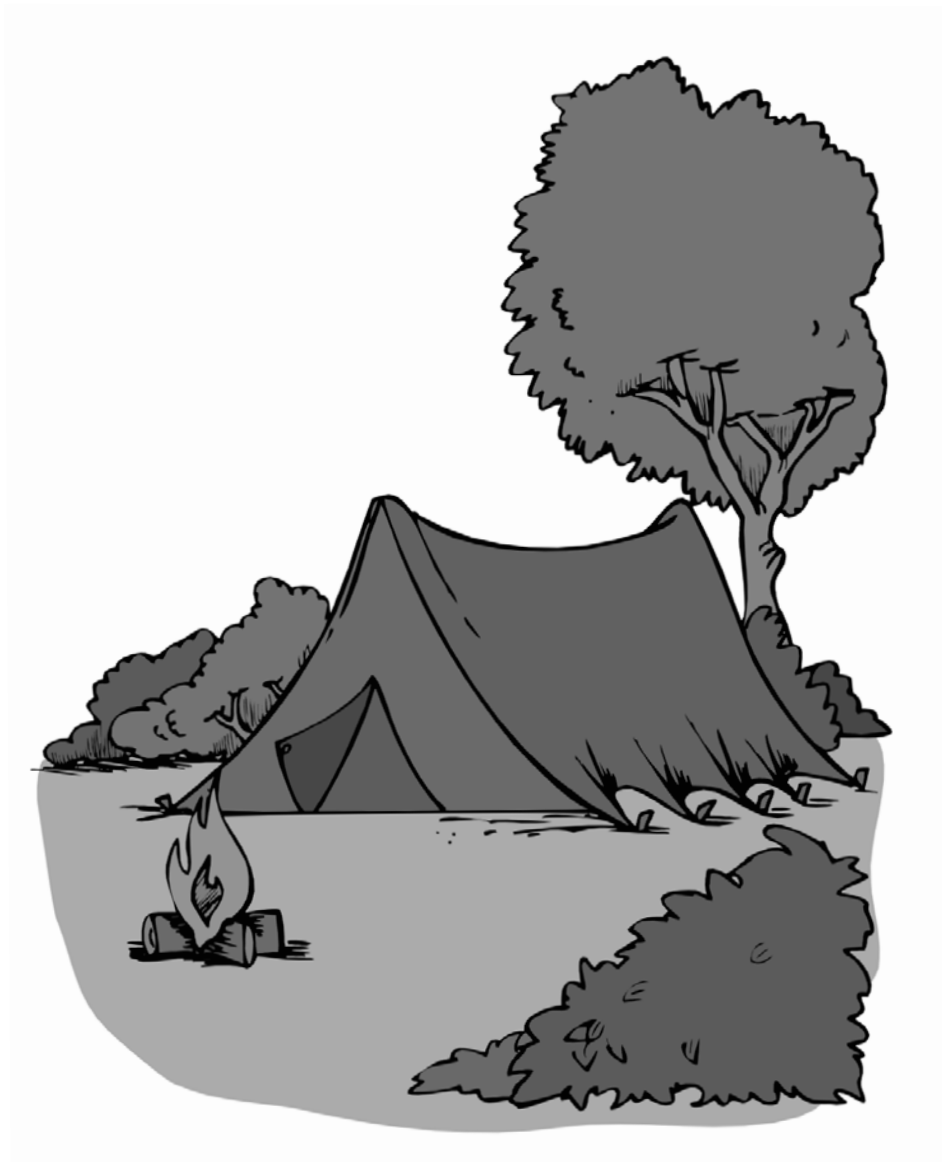
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May 2018



**Scouts**

# Woodsmoke



[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org)

## Scoop Speaks ...

### Welcome to the new look Woodsmoke

I started my Editorship at the AGM in 2004 and as we have just had 2018's, I can officially say that our new A4 format is launched in the 15th year of my production.

It is quite fitting, but I must say, a total fluke that this coincides with the Scout Association's new branching which was launched on 15th May, so you might see some changes in logo and format, and I don't think that can be a bad thing.

The main change is to the font, which I am using here, which I think is very readable. Then there are some logo changes that you will see dotted about this publication.

This time of year is always busy for those supporting the group. We've just had the AGM where I, amongst others, received a service award. It is always nice to receive some recognition and appreciation and does wonders to keep the volunteering spirit alive!

Don't forget the Great War Walk on Monday 28th May. It leaves from the main car park at intervals from 2pm, and finishes at the Scout HQ where you can stop off for tea and cake and read about the Scout Group of 1909 who's boys went off to War as soon as they were old enough to enlist.

The major fundraising event of the carnival is on 9th June and we would appreciate help loading up the minibus at HQ on Friday 8th June at 7pm and on the Manor House Grounds at 9 am on the Saturday. We have 4 event/garage tents to erect and we could do with as many hands as possible to get this done quickly to set up the stalls. Please just turn up at these times and pitch in as this is a very busy day for all and every bit of help counts. If you would like to help on any of the stalls, please contact Richard Gabriel - see details on the contact sheet.



**Pauline Styles**

## *Clive's Chat*

In this issue you can read all about 2017 in my GSLs report from the Presentation & AGM evening. It was an excellent evening, with youngsters, parents and leaders filling the HQ and a number of Chief Scouts Awards were presented. Congratulations to:

Bronze – Charlie Mitchell, Elena Leggett and Elin Roberts  
Silver – Nye Farrington and Harry Renphrey.



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

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

# SCOUTS

## **Scout Troop Achievements**

Many congratulations to -

- Emma Pinchbeck on the award of her Creative Challenge and her World Challenge,
- Andrew Grant, Zachary Hines, Lucy Newman and Leila Whiting on completing their Skills Challenge, and
- Andrew Grant, Zachary Hines, Lucy Newman and Emma Renphrey on the achievement of their Teamwork Challenge.

Very well done.



Michael Benson started by welcoming everyone to the 91<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford Scouts Annual General Meeting. He specifically welcomed the representatives of the District and County Scout Association Geoff Brown, Norman Brandon, Andrew Reeve and Roger Sands and the District Commissioner Dave Collette.

He also welcomed The Chairman, Liz Burns and Vice Chairman, Brenda Kersey from The Abbots Langley Parish Council, and introduced Cate Sims on the top table who has taken over the Group Secretary's role from Joanna.

John Noonan read a short prayer on behalf of Reverend Peter Waddell, Group Chaplain as he had given his apologies.

### **Chairman's Report**

I am pleased to report another successful year for The 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley Scout Group. We have continued to put our Young People and Group Members at the heart of everything we do and I believe we have a solid base for the Group to maintain this strength and build for many more years to come. This success is totally due to the many volunteers that commit to scouting and ensure that our youngsters enjoy the vision set out by our predecessors.

It is with this in mind that I would like us to remember this evening two former members of our Group who have passed away recently. Jean Johnson, whose husband Jim was a former Group Treasurer, and Beryl Kain. Both Beryl and Jean were part of the Ladies Guild who, along with many others, helped fundraise in the early days, enabling us to enjoy the Group's success today.

The year's fundraising began with the Carnival and under the control of John, Richard and Lin it proved a roaring success once again with £2200.00 being raised! I look forward to seeing you all at this year's carnival on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our Double Jumble Sales continue to provide essential fundraising revenue with £2500.00 being raised. The Christmas Market in November brought in a further £1000.00 and with the Solar Panel income of £1700.00, the total fundraising amount for 2017 was £7400.00 - a substantial sum, I'm sure you will all agree. This was only achieved by the efforts of all our members who volunteer so much of their time to ensure the financial security of our Group continues.....I sincerely thank you all.

The HQ maintenance is on-going with the continued replacement of lighting and a new fire alarm system being recently installed. As the HQ is increasingly used on a weekly basis by 250 plus people, our Executive Committee approved the purchase and installation of a Cardiac Defibrillator Device which is now mounted in the lobby.

A new and welcome addition to our Scouting Calendar are Parent Maintenance Days which have proved very successful so far. General tasks have been carried out, including window and carpet cleaning, painting, weeding, grass cutting and table repairs. My thanks go to all of the parents who have volunteered so far and hope that many more of you will want to get involved in the future. The next one planned is Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>.

The hall continues to be let and now hosts regular keep-fit classes three times a week which are attended by many members of the local community. Thank-you, Elaine, for managing the bookings so well for us.

In early July we were blessed with good weather for our 2017 Family Camp where 170 Group Members, parents and children were catered for and entertained at Phasels wood over a long weekend. This camp took nine months of planning and huge thanks go to the Sub-committee involved but most of all to Pauline who made the whole thing happen!

The Scouts had their Summer camp in Sussex at the end of July and although rather wet an exciting time was had by all.

In October the Group had a joint fundraiser with The Bowls Club and was very successful and enjoyable, too, with £1200.00 being raised. My thanks go to Richard, Nikki, Elaine and Kevin for their help in organising this event.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peak Assault competition took place in October in North Wales and my congratulations go to Tracy, Nicola, Amaelia and Hazel who represented The Abbots and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Seniors category....Well done ladies!

The Village Remembrance Service in November was well attended once again on a bitterly cold Sunday morning with 115 uniformed members taking part. As 2018 marks the 100 years commemoration of The Great War, I would like to mention two events the Group are involved with. Monday May 28<sup>th</sup> is a Village War History Walk and Friday October 5<sup>th</sup> is a 'Scouts Who Went To War' talk by Archivist Frank Brittain. I hope you make a note in your diary to attend. If you would like to book a place or find out more information about these events please see Pauline Styles or Rachel Drake afterwards.

In December St Lawrence's was packed to the rafters with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, along with their parents, attending the annual Christingle Service. It

was a joyous affair and a great way to begin the Christmas celebrations with £285.00 being donated to the Children's Society.

The Annual Boxing Day walk is now in its 68<sup>th</sup> year and my congratulations go to Bib Butcher who achieved his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary attending the 2017 walk. Well done Bib!

Our Active Support have been tireless in their continued support at Group Events. They also had a busy social diary with hikes, games nights, cultural visits, theatre and cinema trips and weekends away filling the calendar.

Our Woodsmoke Journal, now in its 231<sup>st</sup> edition continues to record the Group's achievements and my thanks go to its Editor, Pauline, for her commitment to this role.

The Group mini-bus continues to be used extensively throughout the District and my thanks go to John for co-ordinating it so well for us.

I would like to congratulate Ros Chase on being selected to represent our Group and District at The World Scout Jamboree 2019, in the USA. I hope you will all support Ros in her fundraising and attend the wine and beer festival on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November and Quiz night on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

All of these events and activities would not be possible and as successful as they are if it were not for the support of the District and County Scout Association and the endless hours of hard work put in by all of our Leaders, Active Support Members, Ladies Guild, Executive Committee, Parents and of course Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. To you all I give a tremendous thank-you and a very big well done!

I would like to say a big thank-you to one of our un-sung heroes who due to changing work commitments, has had to relinquish her role. Katharine volunteered to help Bib keep the HQ spick and span a number of years ago, sometimes coming in during the early hours to clean after an event. We are truly grateful for her contribution over the years and hope she stays a friend to Abbots Langley Scouts for many more years to come. Richard Gabriel, The Scout Active Support Manager, would like to draw your attention to the new Active Support Programme and to see him afterwards if you would like a copy.

Last, but not least, a big thank-you to the team who prepared the hall for us this evening and to Lin for the lovely buffet.



Thank-you for Listening  
Michael Benson

The Treasurer Peter Serlin then gave his report.

## **GROUP SCOUT LEADER & SCOUT LEADER** **ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

The total Group membership at the 2018 Census was 150 (2017 = 176).  
The individual section numbers are:

- Beaver Scouts 33 (55)
- Cub Scouts 55 (61)
- Scouts 33 (31)
- Leaders & Assistants 29 (29)

The reason for the large drop in numbers is due to being unable to find sufficient adult replacements to continue our Lake Beaver Colony, the operation of which ceased in December. Although it looks like we are very well off for leaders, quite a number are not active due to being at university, travelling or have had changes to work commitments. Although we lost a few long serving and valued leaders in 2017 we were lucky to acquire a few excellent additions with Dani Chalk and Connor Hill joining Beavers, Richard Livermore-Hardy becoming an ACSL and Charlotte Trotman joining the Scout Troop leadership team.

Our Beaver Leaders, Helen Welch and Hollie Goodman, provided another excellent programme for the Beavers ably assisted by Dani Chalk, Lin Lythaby, Karen Taylor, Nikki Goodman, Rachel Drake and Connor Hill. The Beavers attended a number of District events such as the Lees Wood Fun Day and the Handicraft Competition. Last year there were 16 Beavers who successfully completed their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Congratulations to Dean Humphries, Jake Rayner, Ben Macnish, Kain Bain, Austin Bion-Matthews, Katie Osborn, Henry Plumb, Daniel Lowe, Hayden Brown, Archie Bongard, Jason Briscall, Lucas Petley, Sienna Petley, Eva Fey, Jack Cooper and Daisy Wade.



I'm pleased to say that this success has continued this year and we have 3 Bronze CSAs to present tonight. They are Charlie Mitchell, Elena Leggett and Elin Roberts.

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

My congratulations go to the 14 Cubs who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award in 2017. These were Ben Chase, Alfie Crawley, James Fewster, Oliver Cooper, Ciera Deegan, Elizabeth Dunstone, Belinda Mendes Da Costa, Nathan Messenger, Luke Pinchbeck, Andrew Wilson, Millie Geard, Toby Geard, Amar Kapoor and Jessica Newman

I'm pleased to say that we have 2 more Silver CSAs to present tonight. These are Nye Farrington and Harry Renphrey.

Our Scout Troop had their first success of 2017 with the team of Emma Pinchbeck, Francesca Mash, Lucy Newman and Emma Renphrey winning the District Cooking Competition and then representing the District at the County Competition and coming runner up. The team of Alex Chase, Louis Geard, and Samuel and Zachary Hines entered the County Triathlon and, although they weren't the top team in the County they came away with the District Margaret McGlen Triathlon Trophy. We also entered a team into the very challenging County Green Beret which was the largest ever with 158 teams entered from around the County. They came a creditable 56<sup>th</sup> overall and 15<sup>th</sup> in the Day Activity Bases.

The Scouts completed a total of 42 Challenge Awards in 2017 and 6 Scouts, Alex Chase, Ruby Farrell, Louis Geard, Andrew Bell, Taj Kapoor and Ross Sheppard completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award. My thanks go to my fellow leaders, Toby Gamble, Jason Gearhart, Dave Goodman, Liam Goodman, Amaelia Parmenter, Finley Potiuk, Alison Redmond, Jamie Tearle 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 this year is Zachary Hines.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Executive Committee. They do an excellent job of running the Group behind the scenes and, along with the leaders, are the unsung heroes of the Scout Group. My

thanks also to the Abbo's Active Support Unit, Ladies Guild and parents who have helped run various activities, including the very successful Group Family Camp and the highly lucrative fundraising events.

And finally, my thanks to our 12 Young Leaders who provide tremendous support to the adult leaders in the various sections. Our Young Leaders are proving to be our future adult leaders and long may that continue.

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





Pauline Marret  
Active Support

## SERVICE AWARDS

Alison Redmond  
Assistant Scout Leader



Richard Gabriel  
Active Support Manager



## Tony Dabson

Tony first joined the Group in 1982 as part of the Fellowship assisting with various scouting activities and with group fundraising events. Tony has been a Section Assistant with the Scout Troop for 33 years, having joined in May 1985 and has attended virtually every week without exception, including helping to plan and organise the meetings. We have an extremely large Scout Troop with 41 Scouts next term. We are one of the few Scout Troops that run a Scout Camp for a week every year and have done so for certainly the last 20 years during my tenure as Scout Leader, and for many years before that. He's supported countless Green Beret's over the years either in his capacity as a section assistant, when he was somewhat younger, but more recently in Fellowship / Active Support, supporting the running of the event with the aerial assault course. Maths tells me that just the 4 hours a week preparing and helping to run a Scout Troop for 38 weeks pa for 35 years is over 15,000 hours. Not to mention 30 years of scout camps for 8 days each time and numerous scouting competitions at weekends.

The scout group run 2 jumble sales, a Christmas Market and a stall at the village carnival every year which raises over £6k pa. Tony has supported virtually every one of those events over the last 30 years again putting in countless voluntary hours for the benefit of scouting. Each jumble sale takes up every evening for a whole week, twice a year.

As a member of Active Support (he was the AS Manager for a number of years) he has supported and continues to support various Group events over the years. The 8 Group Family Camps held since 2000 which have had between 140 and 220 attendees each time and Tony has been the main driver behind all the catering for the event. He has also attended and supported the various County and District events over the last few years such as the Lees Wood and District anniversary camps and the Herts 100.

Tony was awarded the Silver Acorn for his tireless dedication which was presented to him at the AGM by Roger Sands.



To end the Spring Term, Lagoon Beavers enjoyed a host of Easter-themed activities. We made chocolate nests, had an easter egg hunt (in the rain!) at Lees Wood, and visited St. Lawrence's Church where the Vicar kindly told us the Easter Story. We also tried out the suction archery range at Lees Wood and worked on perfecting our aim.

At the start of Summer Term, five beavers from Lagoon attended St. Georges Day Parade. All proudly marched along St Albans Road up to Christchurch, with Max Sillwood carrying setting a fantastic example carrying the Flag on behalf of 3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford.



We recently visited Tesco in Jarman's Park for part of their Farm to Fork initiative. We learned all about where food came from, toured the 'behind the scenes' (the fridge and freezer were soooo cold!!!) and watched the fishmonger gut a fish (eeeewwwww!). To end our visit, we were encouraged to design a healthy snack, and were able to taste lots of healthy fruits and veggies. Later this term we will be taking part in Abbots Langley's Carnival Parade – be sure to keep an eye out for us!

Finally, we say goodbye to Charlie, Elena, Elin, Lucas and Sienna as they move up to cubs. All five have worked hard to achieve their Bronze Awards and we wish them the very best of luck for Cubs and their Scouting journey.

As ever, a massive thank you to our fantastic leadership team; Karen, Nikki, Connor, Becca & Charlotte. Thank also to the parent helpers who provide additional support to our evening meetings.

Hollie

# Lagoon

# BEAVERS



## What we did this Winter term

In January, we watched a pantomime called Sleeping Beauty at the new Henderson Hall. I liked it because it was funny and that it was great fun.

The week after we wrote letters for post pals, which is letters to sick children.

After that we had a competition of who could make a paper aeroplane and we also had a race to see whose aeroplane went the furthest and the most colourful.

We went to the library in the village to earn our book reader badge, we got to pick our own books to borrow and use the computers.

In February we had pancake night, we got to make our own pancakes and top them with loads of sweet stuff like, syrups, chocolate spread, jam, sugar, lemon juice and pudding sauces.

We also went to visit the fire station by Asda, where we got to go in the fire engine and they opened all the hatches and showed us all their gadgets, they have 4 ladders!!!

The following week we had to complete some skill challenge, which were sewing, ironing, table laying and making birds feeders.

In March we did health and fitness Sarah Cooper is a PE teacher. She taught us stretches and she had us doing running races.

Thank you for coming in Sarah Cooper.

The next two weeks we done leaflet dropping and jumble collecting for the jumble sale.

My favourite thing was the Apple Store in Watford were made different videos on the tablets and we got our own little badges.

We ended the term with Easter crafts we made cards, chocolate nests and done some colouring.

By Harry Renphrey



On a cold dark wet evening, February 23<sup>rd</sup> to be precise, the Watford District Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers met to showcase their swimming talent in the ever-popular District Swimming Gala which is held every other year, and at Woodside for all the years I've been doing it. Well, when I say swimming talent, not all the races involved swimming and these were the most fun. My personal favourite race is always the walking race where an Explorer wades to the midpoint of the pool and then back to the start to collect a Scout. They then waded to the middle and back to pick up a Cub and so on until you have four of them in the line. There is always debate as to exactly where the middle of the pool is so it's a good thing that the leaders are normally too busy laughing to overly worry about application of the rules let alone penalising any team for creative interpretation.

There are some more serious races later on and it's always good to see a mix of swimmers and not just those who swim in the local clubs competing. All of our teams were well supported by their parents who cheered them on and had a great time. The ambience in the spectator's area was also helped by the flow of refreshments from Ros Chase who was selling them at a modest mark up to support her fundraising for the Jamboree (hope you like the free publicity Ros!) It was good to see school friends who are scouts in the other groups enjoy themselves and I was really pleased to win both my races.

Overall, our Beavers came 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Cubs came 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Scouts 1<sup>st</sup>. We were able to retain our trophy as the overall Group winners but the involvement of everyone mattered far more. There were no other Explorers willing to enter an Explorer race so Ros represented our Scout Group in the leaders race and won that as well. You can see from the smiles below how much everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to all the leaders who turned up to support and those who helped to plan the event. Yet again we forgot to throw Clive in the swimming pool as part of the Group celebration for winning. We really will have to try to remember next time....

Andrew Grant, Foxes Patrol

# SCOUTS

## Narrow Boat Weekend 2018



On bank holiday weekend I was lucky enough to be chosen to go on a narrowboat as a prize for being one of the top Scouts of the Year. We all met at Hunton-bridge at 6.30pm on Friday evening. We boarded the boat and after some instructions on the rules and what we needed to do, we were split into groups. One group would steer, the other would help with the locks and the last group would rest. I started off with the locks. We took off and first had to get through 2 locks.

We moored up at a pub and went to the beer garden where we played games. We went back on the boat at 10pm cooked up some soup and hot chocolate and went to bedrooms (well we didn't actually go to sleep, we listened to music and watched some TV on our phones. The next morning we got up and had bacon and eggs and beans for breakfast and started our journey up the canal. We came to the first lock and 2 of us jumped off the boat to open the lock so the boat could go through. The reason why we have to go through locks is because the canal goes uphill/downhill.

We opened the back lock gates then the others steer the boat into the lock, we then closed the back lock gates, then release the water from the front lock so that the lock fills with water and the boat rises. When the lock is full we opened the front lock gates and are able to carry on up the canal. We did about 5 locks.

For lunch we made sandwiches and we moored up and ate them on the roof of the boat. The weather was really sunny so whilst we were on a rest we sat of the roof of the boat, listened to music and sunbathed. After we ate lunch we went into a nearby Field to play capture the flag. But because it was really hot we came back to the boat after a couple of games. When we got back we sat on the roof in the shade with the football and we played catch with the ball but it accidentally went into the river opposite the canal so one of the boys had to go and get it bare feet on their way chasing the ball they dropped the phone in the water! But their phone was ok.

We set off on the canal continuing with the locks steering and resting. We met a man

and his wife on their boat and we shared our locks with them for the rest of the day. Later on that day we moored up by a fish and chips shop with the man on the other boat and we went and played in the park. After we went in the park we ordered fish and chips and brought it back to the boat.

Once we had all eaten, we went at the front of the boat to try and re-enact the titanic after many funny attempts we still couldn't do it so we gave up. Finally it was time for the narrow boat games but I can't tell you what we did because it is a Secret! When the games finished we went to our bunks and listened to music then went to sleep.

In the morning we woke up at 8:30 and had sausages, eggs and beans. After breakfast we set off along the canal. After an hour a lady came up to us and asked us to look out for a small black cat that had been reported seen on the stretch of water. We didn't see anything until later when we were in a lock when we found a small black dead thing in the water. At first we thought it was the cat but it wasn't until we fished it out we saw it was a rabbit. After a bit longer we moored up to have lunch but the roof was too hot that we had to eat inside. We carried on along the canal where we saw some children walking along the canal and they said they are walking for 8 hours! I was very pleased we were sitting on a boat. We finally arrived back at the docks where our parents came and collected us.

Thank you so much Clive Amelia and Mike for a lovely weekend. I had the best time ever.

Leila Whiting, Stags Patrol







# Chris Watts

## Queen's Scout Award

The Queen Scout Award is the highest youth award achievable by Explorer and Network Members within Scouting - the culmination of everything a young person does within Scouting. Completion of the award requires a sustained level of commitment to developing new skills

and challenging yourself in new ways. I am very pleased and honoured to have completed this top Scouting Award over the past couple of years and am excited to attend a day of celebration at Windsor Castle with other Scouts who have committed themselves to undertake and complete this challenge.

I first became involved in the Scout movement as a Beaver Scout, joining 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley Scout Group. Scouting has been an ongoing passion and interests in my life since this time and over the years as I progressed through the Cub, Scout and Explorer sections I was provided with the opportunity to take part in a variety of residential experiences and introduced to a wide spectrum of adventurous and engaging outdoor activities that both challenged me, developed new passions and maintained my involvement with the organisation.

Following my time with Abbos Explorer Unit I took a break from Scouting to attend University, not engaging with Scouting during this time is something I admit I now regret, although I did pursue interests I had developed while in Scouting. This break from Scouting did however reignited my passion and excitement for discovery and adventure, giving me the motivation to want to actively undertake top Scouting Awards and contribute back to my Scout Group to facilitate the same exciting opportunities and experiences that I was provided with growing up in Scouting. The Scout Movement has a huge place within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century laying the foundations for future generations by developing young minds and allowing them to thrive outside of the classroom through the promotion and discovery of outdoor and adventurous activities in a supportive environment surrounded by and shared with their friends and peers.

Completion of the various stages of this award was at times a real challenge requiring a great deal of personal commitment to developing myself as an individual, although the award was designed to be flexible as I was able to shape my own award programme around my personal interest. Despite the challenges I faced in completing certain elements of this, undertaking my Queen Scout Award is honestly the most enjoyable, valuable and rewarding activity I have been able to complete as a young(ish) adult, undertaking and throwing myself into new and exciting challenges, it has also allowed me to get into new hobbies and reignite a passion for old ones. It was truly a life changing adventure and programme of achievement that tested me to my limits, stretched my horizons and pushed me to develop useful life skills and personal attributes.

Now that my time as a Youth Member in Scouting has ended, I hope to continue my role as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader with Rainforest Cubs but also become more involved with the Explorer and Network sections to encourage and empower others to complete their Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Scout Awards. I would also like to complete training to hold a number of Adventurous Activity Permits in areas that appeal to me and interests what were fostered through the completion of top Scouting Awards.

I would like to thank Abbots Langley Scout Group for introducing me to Scouting and maintaining my interest throughout this time, tapping into and developing my sense of adventure and achievement that ultimately inspired me undertake the Gold DofE and QSA and in addition extend this thanks to the countless other individuals and organisations for their continued assistance in completing areas of these Programmes, as without this I would have been unable to have completed these to the highest standard.

I would like encourage all those in Scouting at Explorer level to undertake their Queen Scout and Gold DofE Awards, they will not only help you stand out from the crowd with academic institutions and potential employers. But above all you will remember the challenges you over came and the personal achievements and goals you made for the rest of your life as you step out of your comfort zone and immerse yourself in a world of discovery and conquests!

The QSA is the highest and most distinguished award in Scouting and is celebrated as such, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April I was having completed this award fortunate enough to attend a National Queen Scout Parade at Windsor Castle with around 300 other Explorer Scouts and Network Members from around the United Kingdom who too had dedicated themselves to the completion of this prestigious award. The focus of this day was celebrating our collective completion of this unique award, parading from the Royal Mews and through the castle grounds into the Quadrangle lead by a military band where we were then reviewed by HRH Princess Beatrice and UK Chief Scout Bear Grylls in addition to a selection of Scout Ambassadors, in the presence of family members and personal quests.

It was during this time I was fortunate enough to speak with Bear in some detail about my Expedition undertaken as part of this award and hear his personal thoughts and level of respect and admiration for young people regarding their extra ordinary accomplishments in this area.

Following our review, we then paraded through the castle interior to St Georges Chapel for a short service commemorating our collective achievements and sustained hard work, culminating in a speech from the World Scouting Secretary General on the overall benefits of Scouting.

It was a real privilege and honour to take part in this unique and large Scouting celebration with such a diverse gathering of Explorer Scouts and Network Members from across the Country, to have our collective achievements formally recognised and celebrated with such an amazing and exciting event not least to be reviewed and have the respect of so many influential public figures and Scout representatives.



Chris was presented with his Queen's Scout award at the AGM by the District Commissioner, Dave Collette



## Drinks with Tapas at Dallings

One of my fondest memories of Spain was of a small bar in the back end of a nondescript town way down in the South. The company was, well, Spanish and noisy. The wine was excellent and the steady drip drip of wonderful tapas was something that would bring a smile to even the most discerning customer. In short it was an evening that dreams were made of. So it was with some anticipation that I and fourteen others arrived at Dallings of Kings Langley on the evening of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. The company was, well, English and noisy. However no drip, drip of tapas but a torrent of at least a dozen dishes of hot and cold deliciousness. Lovely!

It was an evening of variety and one certainly worth repeating. The wine flowed like a bottled version of Niagara Falls and all in all it was a great event.

Spain - look out! Dallings is about.

**Peter Marett**



### What the Scouts of Hertfordshire did in WWI



*Presented by Frank Brittain and Liz Jack from the  
Scout Association's County History and Heritage Team*

**Friday 5th October 2018  
Scout HQ, Langley Road, Abbots Langley**

Please join us for an evening's talk covering:-  
*How and where Home Front work started; how it was organised;  
what jobs were undertaken; how Boy Scouts were trained to do this;  
where they went; the wider field; coast-watching; flax gathering;  
Hero's of WW1*

There will be a display of *100 year old handwritten log books;  
fact sheets on the original Boy Scouts of Abbots Langley;  
their war service; Roll of Honour;  
and Abbots Langley life at the turn of the century*

7.30pm	Arrival and Exhibition open
8.00pm	Talk by the Heritage Team
9.00pm	Questions
9.15pm	Refreshments
10.00pm	Close



Tickets are £5 payable on the door.  
There is limited capacity so you must  
reserve your seat my emailing Pauline -  
1st.abbos@gmail.com stating the number  
of tickets you require.

# DIARY DATES

## May

28 WW1 Walk, 2pm meet in Abbots Langley Car park All  
4pm refreshments at HQ and WW1 display All

## June

1 Butch's Walk, Bridgwater Arms, Little Gaddesdon 7.30pm Active Support  
8 Prepare for Carnival 7 pm at HQ Active Support/All  
9 Carnival 9 am setup - Manor House Grounds All  
19 Ladies Guild Meeting - 7.30 pm Ladies Guild  
29 - 1 District Cub Camp Cubs

## July

6 An Introduction to Nordic Walking, Leavesden  
Country Park 7.45pm Active Support  
16 Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ Exec Committee  
17 Ladies Guild Meeting - 7.30 pm Ladies Guild  
21 - 28 Scout Summer Camp Scouts

## August

3 Pendley Shakespeare Festival, Pendley Manor Active Support

## September

7 Port and Chocolate Tasting - HQ 8pm Active Support  
17 Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ Exec Committee  
18 Ladies Guild Meeting - 7.30 pm Ladies Guild  
28-30 Active Support Weekend Away, Dorking, Surrey Active Support

## October

5 WW1 talk - Frank Brittain - HQ 7.30pm Active Support/All  
10 & 13 Double Jumble Sale All  
19 Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm Ladies Guild

## November

2 Talk on Period Times Active Support  
3 Erect aerial assault course for Green Beret Active Support/All  
9 Wine and Beer Festival - HQ All  
11 Remembrance Day Service All  
17 Man aerial assault course for Green Beret Active Support  
19 Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ Exec Committee  
20 Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm Ladies Guild  
24 Christmas Market All

## December

2 Christingle candle making - 3pm HQ All  
3 Christingle Service - St Lawrence's Church All  
7 Christmas Dinner Active Support  
18 Ladies Guild Christmas Meal - 2 pm Ladies Guild

# Hall Happenings

Monday	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	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
	2pm October to March	
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**

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Woodsmoke is online to view and print at  
**[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)**

#YouShape



**Scouts**

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

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