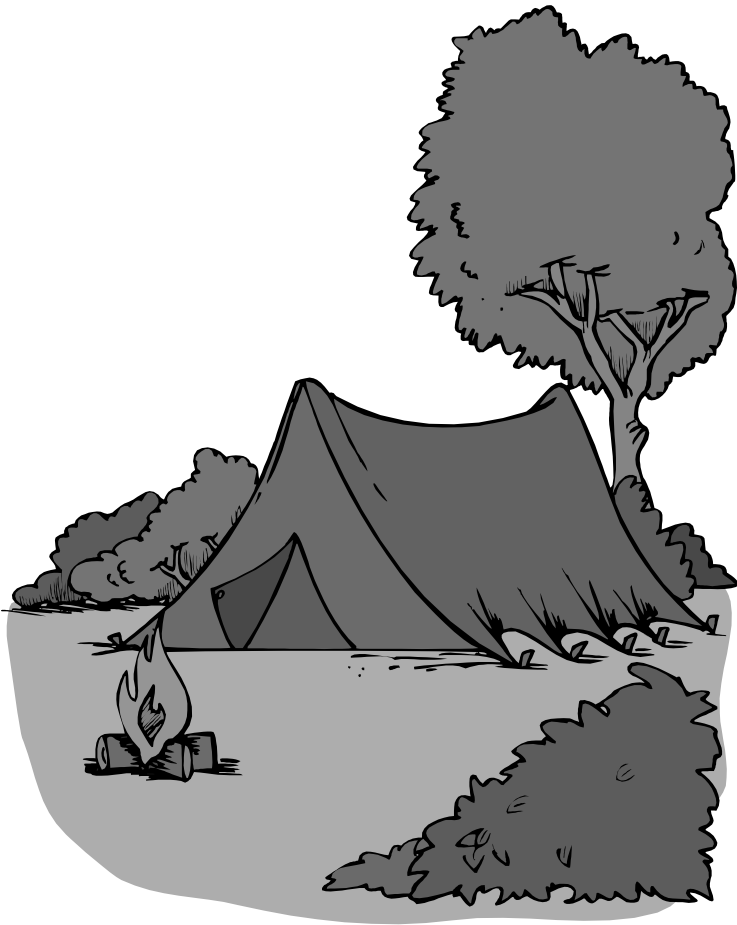


NOVEMBER 2010

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

Achievements

Congratulations to:

Robert Armstrong, Timothy Cannock, Josh Coulson, Toby Gamble, Connor Hill, Ravi Kotecha, Sam Pearson, Charlotte Trotman and April Turner on completing their Outdoor Challenge.

Robert Armstrong, Timothy Cannock, Connor Hill, Jake Taylor, Charlotte Trotman, April Turner and Daniel Weston for achieving their Adventure Challenge.

Robert Armstrong, Timothy Cannock, Josh Coulson, Toby Gamble, Connor Hill, Ravi Kotecha, Sam Pearson, Charlotte Trotman and April Turner on being awarded the Expedition Challenge.

Greg Benson on attaining his Creative Challenge and Fitness Challenge.

Christopher Winder on completing the 10 years Joining In Award, and

Greg Benson on attaining his 50 Nights Away Award and Liam Goodman on completing 35 Nights Away.

Well Done Everybody!

Clive's Chat

Congratulations to the River Beaver Colony who were runners-up in the District Beaver Bangers Competition with 3rd place going to our Lake Beaver Colony.

I'm pleased to welcome some new adult leaders to the Group with Paula Gomme, Julia Wood and Alisha Lian-Falvey becoming Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders and Dave Goodman joining as an Assistant Scout Leader.

Over the last few months the Group has held a couple of its main fund raising events with over £2,000 raised at the village carnival and our jumble sale achieving a record £1,500. We owe a lot to all those adults in the Scout Group who put in countless hours on behalf of all our youngsters to raise significant funds. My thanks also to the many parents who got involved and helped at both events as it is your children who benefit from all the work from the Groups fund raising activities.

A date for your 2011 diary is the Group Family Camp on the weekend of the 24th – 26th June.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

Scout Activities



Summer Camp 2010

This year on the 24th of July we travelled to Arundel for our Summer Camp. We all met at the car park at 10 o'clock and I had to collect the phones in before the trip, as usual we were held up because Clive turned up late! We had the group photo and said our goodbyes to our parents then we got on the bus and left Abbots Langley for a long journey to the camp site. Once we arrived there was lots of work to do for everyone (some more than others) unloading the bus and putting up tents, at least until me, Greg and Sam found a cricket bat and a football, then we decided to leave the work to everyone else. I was sharing a tent with: Greg, Sam, Dean, Thomas and Jordan, and we kept our tent pretty tidy for the whole camp.

We woke up for breakfast every morning at 8 o'clock and then we would start the activity for that day, these included: Shooting and archery, kayaking, 2 hikes, go karting and lots more. For one of the challenge badges we had to build a bivouac in the woods and sleep in it for a night, it was more of a challenge to build them rather than sleeping in them as it was forecast rain that night so we had to make sure it was built well. But when it got to bedtime and we had to sleep under our own shelter it ended up being a lot more fun than we thought. Admittedly it was a bit small for three people and Sam described it as 'cosy'. On the last night of the camp was the banquet with great food and endless amounts of toasts to different people and things that happened on camp (some that are better unmentioned), and then after everyone had eaten it was inside to play games for the rest of the evening.

On the final morning of the camp everything was packed away, we had flag down and presentations before leaving to get back to Abbots after a long and enjoyed camp with some new memories from the year. I would highly recommend going to anyone that hasn't already.

By Scott Denton

APL, Stags

DIARY DATES

November

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 5th | Aspidistra & Fireworks, Ivinghoe | Fellowship |
| 13th/14th | Set up for Green Beret | Fellowship |
| 14th | Remembrance Day Parade | ALL |
| 15th | Executive Meeting | Exec Committee |
| 16th, 2.30—4.30 | Quiz at Head Quarters | Ladies Guild |
| 19th | Giant Games Competition | Cubs |
| 19th-21st | Green Beret, Phasels Wood | Scouts |
| 27th | Christmas Market | ALL |

December

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 3rd | Christmas Meal | Fellowship |
| 6th | Christingle | ALL |
| 10th | Games Night, Cricket Club | Fellowship |
| 14th , 7 for 7.30 | Christmas Meal at organised venue | Ladies Guild |
| 16th | Pantomime—Watford Palace | Beaveres |
| 16th | Quasar | Scouts |

January

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 7th | Bowling, Hollywood Bowl | Fellowship |
| 17th | Executive Meeting | Exec Committee |

February

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 4th | Fellowship AGM | Fellowship |
| 15th, 2.30—4.30 | At the Head Quarters | Ladies Guild |

Rose Baldry

1919 to 2010



Scout Group Supporter
Executive Committee Member and
Founder of the Ladies Guild

Rose was born in Brentford on 14th December 1919. The family moved to Queens Road Watford and then to Harebreaks Watford. She started her schooling at Alexandra school, but then the family moved to Abbots Langley in the High Street and then to the new houses, at that time, in the Crescent. Rose then started at the village school in Abbots in 1932. On leaving school she got a job with Gravestock's the Butchers, then a better job at the Ovaltine factory. After a short break in work she became a cashier for Simon's the Butchers and finally she almost ran the Kings Langley Post Office. Rose married Arthur in September 1939. Her father had said that there would have to be a war before he would let her marry him. Four weeks later war broke out. Arthur joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and served in Italy for most of his time.

Rose and Arthur had a boy Michael in 1943 and moved to the top of Tibbs Hill in 1954. Michael had joined the Cub Scouts and so Rose began to support the Group with gusto! She became devoted to Scouting. In 1954 the supporters of the group had a meeting to form a Guild, Rose turned up and was told that this is for Men only. But a year later Rose had a meeting and formed a Guild for Ladies only, and it still meets to this day. Fund raising cake making, tea making and helping with the construction of our present HQ, Arthur and Michael laid and fixed 19 tons of tiles to the roof.

At the stone laying of the new HQ Ralph Read of the Gang Show fame was asked to do the honour and Rose had him home to lunch. She was very proud to have been asked. On one of the Guild weekends away she met the Chief Scout Sir Charles Maclean and shook his hand and swore that she would never wash that hand again, but I think that she did.

Rose finally fell victim to dementia. I visited her occasionally, in a very nice and comfortable nursing home in Rickmansworth.

Rose the great organizer, fundraiser and supporter, but most of all, you could be sure that she was always full to the brim with FUN.

Bryan S. Sharpe
Chairman

Grace Young

Grace's scouting started with running a Brownie pack in Bedmond. She then became involved with Abbots Langley Scouts when her husband Fred became a Cub Leader well over 40 years ago, supporting him and taking boys on pack holidays.



Grace joined the Ladies Guild in the early days and later when Fred was Chairman of the Group and Grace was on the Executive Committee she became involved with the fundraising.

When you called into Grace and Fred's home their sitting room would be covered with half completed jigsaw puzzles and games all being checked for the next fund raising event, and as they lived at the top of Tibbs Hill they were always happy to be an extra call for the Boxing Day walkers.

In the 1980s when Scout funds were in the red, fundraising had to be stepped up with extra "Good as new Mornings", Sunday Car boots, Double Jumble and Christmas Market, mall with Grace in Charge. She even managed to talk many of her and Fred's family to help at events.

Grace loved collecting things for Scout events and could always be relied on to have box of crackers and a raffle prize tucked away in a cupboard. When Grace became less mobile she was still keen to come to the jumble sales and would sit in her chair by the door taking the money and laughing with the many friends made over the years. Some of the last conversations I had with Grace were that she missed her jumbles, and Abbots Langley Scouts will miss Grace Young.

Lin Lythaby



It was a lovely summer's evening in July when members of the Fellowship made a visit to **The Dean**

Hole. It was an event waited for with much excitement as we had heard stories told over the years of its existence in a secret location on the outskirts of the Parish of Abbots Langley. We met in a car park and were escorted down a country lane by none other than the Intrepid Explorer, Chairman Bryan S. Sharpe and his trusty sidekick Fellow Excavator Bib Butcher. It was only by Luck and Health and Safety that we were not blindfolded to stop us divulging where the ancient site could be found in the future.

Now, the discovery of this dean hole all started back in 1967 when the Caving Section of Abbots Langley Scouts was asked by the British Cave Research Group based at Berkhamsted to find the existence of a freshwater underground shrimp called the "Niphargus Fontanus" in the wells of the local vicinity. It was Brigadier E A Glennie who explained to Bryan how to trap the shrimps by lowering a jam jar down the well with a funnel in the end and a piece of English cheese at the bottom. Yes, they laughed too as it sounded so ridiculous, but true enough it worked and they soon discovered some. Soon after they discovered some more in the bottom of Eddie Miller's well at the back of his sweet shop at No 32 Abbots Langley High Street.

The shrimps were rushed to Brigadier E A Glennie at Berkhamsted to analyse, by someone holding the jam jar on the back of Alan Rees' motorbike! The Brigadier took one look and phoned Fred Dobson claiming that they were trying to fool him by bringing shrimps back from Somerset. You see, it appeared that this specimen was not just *Niphargus Fontanus*, but none other than *Niphargus Fontanus Acqualarum Shoti* and had never been discovered north of the River Thames before. The next day he arrived at Eddie Miller's well and pumped them out and sure enough he confirmed it for himself.

With renewed enthusiasm they advertised for more wells to explore and a gardener at Hazelewood House, now Hunton Park, said there was a very deep well of about 120ft attached to the house. After exploration it proved completely dry, but they did thoroughly enjoy themselves abseiling down through the chalk.

Then a hole in a nearby garden was discovered but when they started digging they got absolutely nowhere. Bryan had an idea that they might have discovered a dean hole, so a visit was arranged to the London museum in the grounds of Clarence house for research. Later on they surveyed it from above the ground as they wanted to see if was in a spider shape.

They dug an exploratory hole at the side under a tree root and excavated to about 10 feet until Bryan's supply of shoring material (as he was in the building trade) ran out, and they were getting nowhere, so they decided to dig a trench (like they do on Time Team). Of course, this was in 1968 and the TV programme had not been aired, so we must credit them with another innovation! They dug straight down 22 ft and finally it opened up into a very small hole that was probably made by a fox using it as a winter home.

Bryan was so excited with the discovery as his powerful torch shone onto pure blackness in the cavity that he must have felt like Howard Carter on entering the tomb of Tutenhkmun and couldn't sleep that night. The next morning Bryan, Bib and Fred dug their way through and discovered it was definitely a Dean hole.

Now, the question, dear reader on which you have been puzzling on this many a long page: "*what is a dean hole*" is that basically it is a chalk and flint mine dating back to between about 1500 to 1800. The centre was like a large wine bottle, narrow at the top, wide at the bottom, and it had 4 tunnels running off from the centre. So they worked out roughly where the cork of the bottle would be and Bryan got a 2" diameter scaffold pole and poked around and finally it went through. That was where the original entrance would have been with a winch and large bucket, with two or three men down the bottom shovelling in the chalk and flint and taking it out of the top on a jenny wheel.



And so, on that summer's evening in July members of the Fellowship ventured through the undergrowth and with torches poised, descended into the dark cavern.

There was a big tunnel of about 13 ft high that would have been mined on two levels, one person up high on the

shelf shovelling it down and one person undermining him slightly as they went along to produce quicker output. What a job!



You could see little candle burn marks on the chalk where the men had worked. Candles or any sort of lighting was a very expensive item whether it was oil or wax, so they cut a little hole in the wall between one tunnel and another so that they could put a candle in between to light two tunnels at once and economise on candles.

Of course it was pitch black in there the night of our visit with only our torches showing the way and when this photo was taken all we could see was an eerie face. Until the flash went off of course.

One of the most famous stories on the origin of the hole was the one that Fred Dobson had made up, that it lead to St. Albans Abbey!



*Recounted by Bryan Sharpe
with additional material by Pauline Styles*

Bang and Twang



Twas a dark, dark night, deep in the lonely cold woods, where they all met, some anxious, others uncomfortable and just a few aware of what was about to happen. Many sought to find answers by making phone calls, others used email, and probably even googled, to seek for the meaning of the invitation to meet at Phasels wood for the Fellowship Bang and Twang; as they gathered and talked, it became clear that the evening was going to involve guns and pain, steady nerves and calm attitude would ensure survival, anything less and the penalty would be severe.

Then arrived a hansom young man carrying four air rifles and a selection of bows and arrows, the game was on. The Fellowship had met to compete in a shooting and archery night, where all members were encouraged to have a go, and as the evening progressed the best scores were recorded to see if we had any budding protégés for the Olympics. There were a few surprises, Bib (Dead Eye Dick) was a very good shot, put down to sniper training in the army by himself, poaching being cited by others for his expertise. Among the ladies Rachel (Annie Oakley) Drake had a spectacular, just point it and see what you hit, style. She may not have hit the targets often, but the style was impressive. Mark Stead arrive a little after the main group but showed a competitive character that put everyone on notice that he could be the one to beat, while Pauline Styles pushed the scores

high for the ladies. The evening proved entertaining as the group battled to shoot better than each other with the occasional gibe and bits of hilarity as errors and techniques were honed by the range master for the evening, yours truly.

On the hour, the gang holstered the rifles and the cowboys now turned Injun (I know how it's supposed to be spelt, but not how they say it in the Western's is it?). The same format followed on the archery range and for some, possibly quite a few, the directions of how to shoot accurately brought back memories of being told off at school, they must have been very naughty back then as Tracy, Rachel and both Pauline's giggled their way through the session with the aforementioned comparison being cited as the cause of the chuckling. Mark again pushed the scoring to the limit which was to be expected as a past member of an archery club, but the instructor didn't let him off with a cruise to victory, and it all came down to the final shot (big pause please, build up the suspense, go and make a cup of tea, just like you see on all those telly programmes where someone wins loses or gets voted off). The poor instructor just couldn't make the last shot a winner, a simple blue, red or gold would have done, a black was all that was achieved and Mark Stead was confirmed the night bang and twang victor. Well done to him and all those that participated. The usual post mortem took place at The Boot where a few drinks and a bit of Chinese whispers meant that we all had hit far more gold's and 10's than the evidence suggested.

The question is will it happen again next year.

Ps The bang was shooting the twang the archery
(the noise of the toys)

Pete Linskey

Fellowship Weekend to Faversham 29 - 31 October 2010



Various members of the Fellowship enjoyed a weekend in a bunk house near Faversham recently. The group split into two for a flat leisurely walk near Faversham and a hillier up and down and up and down challenge from Nicola Trotman who as usual planned an excellent route that left us all lethargic for the evening.

However, we perked up for the evening meal with lashings of custard and a game devised by Cheryl for those who could tear themselves away from the Sudoku. Miming the likes of Margaret Thatcher, Jack Hobbs and Heather Mills proved hilarious and highly entertaining for those who didn't fall asleep.



Very well done to the organisers Tony and Pauline, and see you same time next year!

Fun at Rainforest cubs



The Summer term is all about being outside and making the most of the good weather....well mostly good! We welcomed Thomas Humphrey and Dominic Dean on board the Rainforest Pack and dived straight in to a host of outdoor antics.



We used our local park in Abbots Langley to get active: one evening we went bike riding; and on another night we took part in the Athletic Antics evening, testing our skills at running, throwing, hurdles and long jump.

We cooked some yummy food over open fires at Lees Wood, including sizzling sausages and melting marshmallows.

At Phasels Wood we took part in various activities over three weeks. We braved the depths underground in the pot-holing circuits, we climbed the heights of the stone climbing wall, and we exercised our map-reading skills during orienteering.

We then tested our knowledge of Abbots Langley by following a Treasure Trail around the village. We had to solve clues in the form of small paper scrolls, which would lead to the next scroll hidden in all kinds of places...bushes, trees, flower beds, road signs, notice boards. Each group successfully found their treasure at the end of their trail!



We rounded up the Summer term with a delicious barbeque for all the family at Lees Wood. Many thanks to Teresa Woodger for master-minding the event, along with help from her husband Kevin, Laura French, and everyone else who ensured the evening was a huge success.



Towards the end of term, some of the Cubs from the Rainforest and Jungle Packs attended the Medieval District Cub Camp at Lees Wood. It was a fantastic weekend, consisting of medieval themed activities, traditional camp fire and songs, delicious camp meals, making medieval costumes, and exciting Wide games in the woods. A huge congratulations to the Rainforest Pack, who came first in the scoring of the activities against all the other Packs on the camp!

Congratulations as well to all the Cubs who achieved their Outdoor Challenge badge this term, and also to those who gained their Outdoor Plus Challenge. Well done!



We said goodbye to a number of our older Cubs at the end of the Summer, including Sam Biggerstaff, Greg Read, Tom Bell and Liam O'Sullivan. Good luck boys and we hope you take some fun memories of Cubs with you. Heather Cripps went up to Scouts and we hope she is having a great time! Ashley Patel also went up but sadly has had to leave due to a clash with football commitments!

Thank you to all the parents who helped last term. Without your help we would not be able to do some of the more exciting activities on the programme, which the Cubs obviously love!

Chris (Akela) CSL

Jonny (Kaa) YL

Holly (Baloo) ACSL

Chris (Bagheera) YL

Nicky (Chil) ACSL

Malena (Hattee)

Paul (Shere Khan) Parent Helper

Parent Helper

Jungle cubs

It's been just over 8 months since Jungle Cubs started back in March and I can't believe how much fun and how rewarding it can be! There are tough times as with anything, but watching the cubs learn and progress is priceless. I wouldn't miss it for the World!

We have had a fun-packed Summer and Autumn term what with our First Ever camp as well as a heap of investitures and adventures from learning about the origins of Akela & the cubs to camp-erecting to a Hare Krishna temple visit! I think I speak for all when I say it's been thoroughly enjoyable and I can't wait for our next adventures in and outside the HQ. I'd like to thank all the parents of our cubs for their help and hard work, it's really appreciated. I'll be calling up those parents still to assist to take it in turns - those of you who haven't helped - it is really fun and the cubs are great!

I'm looking forward to awarding the cubs with their Challenge Badges as soon as we get finished with the tasks set this term, as well as awarding the cub with the most points who at the moment is Alex Weston! Keep it up Alex, and the rest of you Jungle Cubs - you know what you are aiming for!

*Akela Cheryl
Jungle Cubs*

River Beavers



Well last term at beavers was manic! In June we had our joint sleepover which was great fun having the two colonies together. The Beavers all got on so well, and we all kept very busy with various crafts and activities. We had a disco, a midnight feast and the ever popular Horrid Henry DVD. In the morning all the Beavers took home a photo of themselves and a goody bag full of prizes they had all won the night before. All the helpers were wonderful and Lin's cooking was gratefully appreciated. We all had a fabulous time, bring on the next one in February.



We took part in the Abbots Langley Carnival again and our theme this year was Chinese Year of the Tiger. We had over 30 uniformed beavers, cubs, scouts and leaders turn out which was great. The weather was kind again and everyone made it all the way round the route which is no mean feat. Our thanks go to everyone who turned up and represented our group. I'm told we looked great. Next year it will be 25 years of beaver scouts, so watch this space.



We also enjoyed a trip to Lees Wood one evening as part of our outdoor challenge badge. We had a great time on the equipment and had a lovely picnic after a walk round the nature trail.

We ended the term with a beach party and had a bouncy castle set up in the hall. The beavers thought all there Christmases had come at once. We had to say goodbye to Isobel Hurdle and Sam Gatsky who left us to go to cubs, we wish them luck.



Many thanks to all

Helen Welch
River Beaver Leader

Lake Beavers

Beavers Bangers 2010

This was our second Beavers Bangers which took place at Lees wood in September. The theme this year was Super Heroes and the Beavers came up with some very good ideas which ended in our Super Hero being called Stretch George



named
after his
designer
George

Humphries.

Roger Leach

It was during the recess in August that we received the sad news of the passing of Roger Leach, Warden of Lees Wood and involved in Hertfordshire Scouting for more than 50 years. Many a happy camp has been held at Lees Wood over the years in a place that Roger had dedicated a lot of time and energy to make it a wonderful place to be.

Roger's Scouting began as a boy in the 30th Watford South and as a Leader in the 1st North Watford Senior Scouts, and North Watford Venture Scout Unit. He served in the Phasels Wood Service Crew and performed in the early Watford Gang Shows and was Stage Director when the show moved to Watford Palace Theatre.

County-wise he was a key player in Peak Assaults up to a few years ago and Green Berets since their inception, plus many other large events and activities. A holder of the Silver Wolf, few have done so much for the youth of Hertfordshire.

He will be sadly missed.

Hall Happenings

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday | 5.30 - 7.00 pm | Beaver Scouts (Lake) |
| Tuesday | 6.00 - 7.30 pm | Beaver Scouts (River) |
| | 7.45 - 9.45 pm | Explorer Scouts |
| | 8.00 - 10.00 pm | Ladies Guild (3rd in Month) |
| Wednesday | 6.30 - 8.00 pm | Cub Scouts (Rainforest) |
| Thursday | 7.30 - 9.30 pm | Scouts |
| Friday | 5.30—7.00 pm | Cub Scouts (Jungle) |
| | 8pm | Fellowship (1st in Month) |

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to this issue of Woodsmoke. If anyone else out there has photos or wishes to write an article don't be shy. Let your section leader know and you could be in full colour print in the next issue!!

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Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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