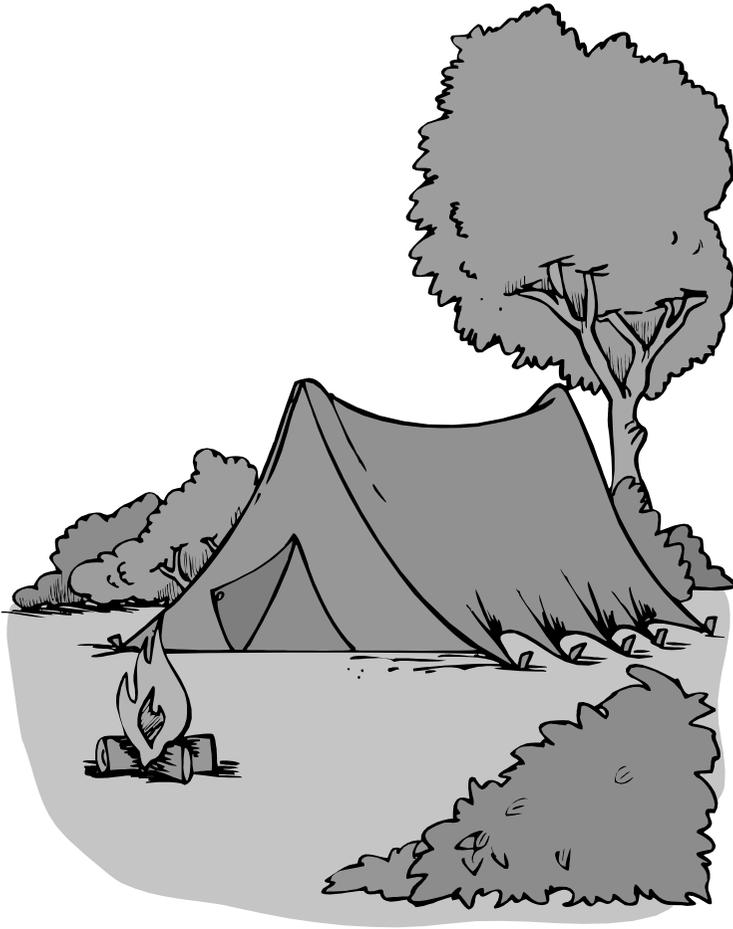


October 2006

Woodsmoke



Scout Troop News

Congratulations to ...

Matthew Bowden, Emily Drake, Sam Endemi, Ellie Hanson, Matthew Johnson, Joseph Lambert, Chris Oakley-Smith, Greg Turberfield and Henry Sugden on completing their Outdoor Challenge.

Emily Drake, Sam Endemi, Jasper Gillespie, Nikhil Kotecha, Joseph Lambert, Mark Lindsay, Chris Oakley-Smith, Alex Reid, Greg Turberfield, Dhiren Solanki and Henry Sugden on completing their Adventure Challenge.

Daniel Lowrie on completing 20 Nights Away.

Matthew Bowden, Ellie Hanson, Matthew Johnson, Joseph Lambert, Chris Oakley-Smith, Andrew Sturgess, Greg Turberfield and Henry Sugden on completing 10 Nights Away

Emily Drake, Sam Endemi, Stuart Henderson and Jack Lucas on completing 5 Nights Away.

Well Done
Clive



Memories of summer and a big thank you to all those who once again gave up their free time to man the Scout stall at the Carnival



Scouter in Charge's Bit

Congratulations to all those who completed their respective Chief Scouts Award last term. They were:

Silver Chief Scouts Award (Cubs) – Sam Charman, Jack Longbottom and Jonathan Waller

Gold Chief Scouts Award (Cubs) – Matthew Gentry

What an unbelievable Family Camp we had in June. A record 240 children and adults enjoyed a great weekend. I cannot praise enough all those who made it happen and I can only reiterate how lucky this Group is to have its own Group Fellowship. All but a few activity instructors gave up their time voluntarily and worked tirelessly to provide a fabulous weekend to remember. My particular thanks to the main organisers Dave Sturgess, Paul Hanson, John Harkin and Tony Dabson.

As mentioned in the previous issue, 2007 is the Centenary of Scouting and many plans are being made to celebrate the event. Please take time to look on the HQ notice board at the calendar of events. In addition to these events, our District is planning a Centenary Camp for all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. So put the date of 25th – 28th May 2007, the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend, in your diary.

Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge



Scout Group Camp

Tansley Wood, Matlock, The Peak District

Bags packed, group photo taken, leaders ready, scouts excited and off we went on our journey to Matlock! After arriving and setting up our tents, we went off to explore our new home for the next week.

The river running through the camp provided many hours of wet (and smelly!) clothes, and fun for us scouts and explorers alike.

After tucking into lovely food, we headed for an early night (3 am!!) lots of laughter and rustling of sweet wrappers to be heard all around.

Brilliant 2nd day activities!! Favourite seemed to be abseiling which was coming down an 80ft sheer cliff—many overcame their fear of heights. Joe Turberfield and myself being the fastest at 18 seconds.

As always he food filled our hungry stomachs after a full and exciting day. Tony, Ed and Neil concocted one of their many wonderful meals of the week. An early night had by all (I don't think so!!) - many still playing cheat till the early hours!

Bright and early the next morning we set off after a hearty breakfast to walk and climb. We were harnessed up to climb the 40ft rock face, great fun to go up, and even more to come down. Shopping later in Matlock finished the day (souvenir time for you lucky mums and dad!).

Next day—raring to go on the hike we put on boots and filled water bottles. Very long and very hot—not all reached their destinations, you know who you are!! We refreshed our feet and in some cases our bodies in the cool water of the plunge pool.

Later that night a vote was held as to whether it would be swimming or Neil's famous dough baked chick, and I'm glad to say the chicken won!

Grace McCarthy

On Thursday we woke up to the sound of Tony banging a pan with a ladle and everyone got up (not much choice really). Today was the day that we were to spend our time doing that well known Scouting activity...a visit to Alton Towers. As soon as we got in the park, after a bit of a queue and a long walk, we headed straight for Oblivion and found no queue. After that it was the newest ride, Rita, Queen of Speed, a roller coaster that hits 100mph from a standing start. We didn't stop all day trying ride after ride, The Corkscrew, Nemesis, Air, Ripsaw and the rest. A great day.

On Friday morning my group went canoeing for 5 miles down a river through lots of rapids and finishing with an exciting slalom course. I didn't fall in once but we all had a laugh at Michael Benson, one of our leaders, who 'stacked it' twice. I thought the canoeing was really good. In the afternoon we went sailing Jack McCarthy and I shared a boat until I shoved him out and steered away. Ross came to his rescue which meant I had great fun handling the boat on my own. Later in the evening the Explorers set us some challenges and George, James, Jonathan and myself won the competition getting top marks in most of the challenges.

On Saturday morning my group went cycling. When we got to Middleton Top we all had a massive apple fight and I got hit in the face twice. It almost spoilt my looks. A number of people fell off their bikes the previous day so I was determined not to do the same. Unfortunately, about 6 metres from the end, I looked back to see where Michael had got to, lost control and crashed my bike. Slightly embarrassing. In the afternoon we went swimming and had an inflatable volleyball match.

That evening was the traditional camp banquet. Ed was Master of Ceremonies and kept banging his gavel (a massive mallet used for pitching tents) and making numerous toasts to everyone on the camp and what they had achieved. For the banquet we had a beautiful prawn and watermelon cocktail to start, a roast pork dinner and gateaux and cheese board to finish. This topped the week as it was really nice. My compliments to Tony, Ed and Neil for providing such good food for the whole week. After dinner we played lots of silly games.

Overall, I thought the camp was a great experience and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Roll on next year.

By Joseph Bernie
Stags



Explorers

In front of many proud parents on the 26th September I am happy to announce that 11 Explorer Scouts and 2 leaders were invested into the new Explorer Unit. Dan Nathan, ACC for Explorer Scouts and Ian Leach, District Commissioner were present at the investiture and a great evening was had by all. The unit has now grown to 18 members and so far this term our meetings have been very active making good use of the daylight before the winter arrives. All the Explorer Scouts have enjoyed the climbing, canoeing, archery, crazy golf and were particularly amazed at the ice climbing wall at Phasels Wood. With Christmas soon upon us, we still have more exciting evenings such as pioneering, ready steady cook and Christmas dinner in the H.Q. With more scouts joining us in January the Explorer Unit will be achieving great things for the Centenary year of Scouting.

Alison Redmond
Explorer Scout Leader



Group Family Camp 2006

A view from the Camp Organiser

Well it's now a few months since the Group Family Camp, and I've just about recovered! It's a long time since I've been so tired after a weekend camp. But it was certainly worth it. And from the comments and thank-you notes I've received, it looks like everyone who took part in the camp enjoyed it as much as I did. It also sounds like most people ended up as tired as I was.

The previous camp back in 2004 saw about 150 people camping. But the 2006 camp got a fantastic response with almost 240 people asking to go. This included about 80% of the section members. Do we have enough tents? Are we going to have enough space to pitch them all? Can we feed that many? Can we run activities for that many? Will there be enough beer? Of course my answer to all these was 'yes'. That just left me the minor problem of finding out how!

But after several meetings, a few beers in the pub, and a bit of persuading here and there, all of these were solved. Some new tents, more pitches at Phasels Wood, and extra barrels of beer were some of the answers.

The weekend itself seemed to run pretty smoothly. Some would say thanks to good planning. But the truth might be that it had more to do with good luck, hard work and fantastic weather.

There were inevitably a few problems here and there. We ran out of beer and wine a little early on Saturday evening. Thankfully many

people had brought their own supplies so this wasn't a major problem. And we ran out of milk on Sunday morning. But thanks to a loan from the group who were camping just round the corner and a quick dash to the local shop by Paresh Solanki this near disaster was also quickly averted.

But perhaps the biggest problem was that there weren't quite enough staff. All of the staff at the camp were members of Abbots Langley Scout Fellowship. They all came along (and paid the full fee) to make the camp the success it was. My regret for the weekend is that they had to work all day and had virtually no time to relax or participate in any of the activities.

On that note I would like to thank a few of the Fellowship members...

- Paul Hanson for organising and cooking about 1,500 meals. Not only was this a mammoth catering effort, but there was always an amazing array of delicious food.
- Tony Dabson and Pauline Marett for their tireless assistance with the catering, cleaning and anything else I asked them to do.
- Tracy Gray for arranging the hugely popular competition on Saturday afternoon for about 220 people.
- Clive Winder for putting up with my constant requests for more tents and more CRB checks.

- And all the other members of the Abbots Langley Scout Fellowship who worked amazing hard all weekend helping with activities, catering, equipment, tents, cleaning, and 101 other jobs.

One extra thank-you must go the Royal Air Force. Having the Red Arrows fly past with smoke blazing just at the end of the closing ceremony was fantastic and amazing timing! What a way to close the camp.

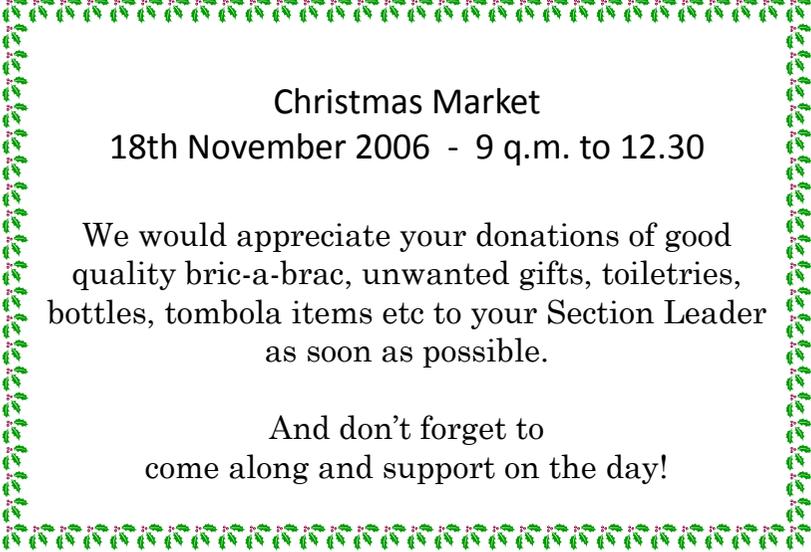
The end of the camp was actually one of my biggest worries. Would myself and a few dedicated helpers be left to do all the clearing up when all we really wanted to do was go home and sleep? But thanks to tremendous support from everyone the job of clearing up was quick and easy. So it wasn't long before I was home and asleep!

So was the hard work worth it? Absolutely yes. I saw so many people doing amazing things throughout the weekend.

- Camping for the first time.
- Completing activities and challenges that they never thought they could do.
- Meeting other parents and members of the Group and forging new friendships.







Christmas Market
18th November 2006 - 9 a.m. to 12.30

We would appreciate your donations of good quality bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts, toiletries, bottles, tombola items etc to your Section Leader as soon as possible.

And don't forget to
come along and support on the day!



Fame at Last!

During the summer when you were all having a well deserved rest the Scout HQ was being used to film a children's TV programme.

The new series of Living It! will start broadcasting again in November and will feature the main hall and stage in an episode. The programme will be on CBBC which is channel 701 on NTL. You may even see



DIARY DATES

November

10th	Games Evening	Fellowship
12th	Remembrance Day Parade	ALL
18th	Christmas Market	ALL
17th - 19th	Green Beret Challenge	Scouts

December

1st	Xmas Pudding and Port Tasting	Fellowship
1st/2nd	District Gang Show at HQ	Cubs
11th	Christingle Service	ALL
14th	Quasar	Scouts
15th - 17th	Xmas Trip	Fellowship

NEWS FROM CUBS...



In April we welcomed James Allan, Tom Longbottom, Robert Fry, Michael Bell and Luke Ashton to our Pack. The Summer term is a great time to join as there are so many outdoor activities organised and all of the boys immediately got stuck into everything, soon proving to be assets to the Pack.

We had quite a traditional theme running last term, and so with this in mind, one of our first meetings was entitled '90 years of Cub Scouting'. The boys learnt about the origins and spirit of Scouting, old uniforms (long socks, shorts and fetching cap.....remember those, Dads?) and we uncovered lots of famous Cubs, too (Sir David Attenborough, Neil Armstrong, Sterling Moss, David Beckham.....).

Other activities included mastering, or not, the skills of; map reading, tying knots, tracking and planning a camp. These all served as useful preparation for the Cracknell Shield at Lees Wood on July 1st. This was an important date for those who followed the football World Cup and so we were very grateful to the boys who volunteered to represent us. Although we didn't manage to bring home any silverware this year, our team had a great time trying! Well done Luke Ashton, Greg Benson, Sam Charman, Josh Faulks, Sam Pearson and Jonathan Waller.

By the end of the term, most boys had completed their Outdoor Challenge Award and all have started the Caring Challenge Award with a really interesting visit to Garston Fire Station.

Our last meeting was a family barbeque at Lees Wood which is always a great opportunity to get together over a drink and a sausage! Many thanks for your generous donations which totalled a staggering £100. As this is ample for drinks and biscuits we can put the rest towards craft materials, etc.

We said goodbye and good luck to Sam Charman, Jack Longbottom and Jonathan Waller who have moved up to Scouts. Each had achieved his Cub Scout Silver Award, the highest award in Cubs, so well done to you all.

Many thanks to the many parents who regularly offer to help. As always, it is much appreciated and of course, essential.

*Jo (Pack Assistant) Chris (CSL)
Aisling (ACSL) Holly (ACSL)*

Over to you, boys.....



Backwoods Cooking

at

Lees Wood

Back in May we went to Lees Wood to do the assault course and cook sausages (and have marshmallows for afters).

For the cooking, we first of all had to go into the woods to find a good stick that would hold a sausage over the embers of a fire. When you found a good stick you gave it to a helper and they sharpened it so that the sausage would stay on your stick. But there were more in the fire than our tummies! After the sausages were cooked we were all allowed marshmallows which were lovely.

The assault course was great fun. My favourite part of the course was the monkey bars. It was really dark in the tunnels and you could hear our voices echoing from each end. By the time we finished my hands were stinging from all the climbing and crawling around.



Greg Benson (Blue Seconder)

The Family Camp

It was Friday 16th June. We loaded up the car with our camping equipment and set off for Phasels Wood.



We arrived late and set up our tent as it was getting dark. Once our tent was up, we joined the others around the camp fire. Soon I was ready for bed.

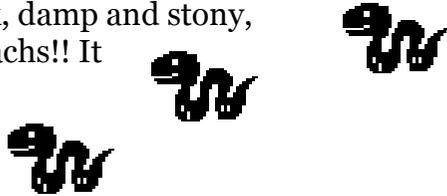
Saturday was spent taking part in team challenges and activities. I tried rock climbing, abseiling, rifle shooting and archery. My favourite was the rock climbing.

On Sunday, we took part in a football quiz and our team won. We had a presentation at the end of the weekend and our team got a box of chocolates for winning the quiz.

Sean Hinks (Brown Seconder)

Summer Activities at Cubs

All of our cub pack went pot holing to Phasels Wood one sunny, hot evening in July. The tunnels were different sizes, two were big and one was very narrow. Greg, Sean H, Kieran and I went down the narrow tunnel together. Before going down I had butterflies because I don't like enclosed spaces but I knew I had to do it! The tunnel was dark, damp and stony, we had to crawl on our stomachs!! It was great fun.



James Landon (White Seconder)

Wanted Assistant Beaver Leader

The section is desperately in need of an Assistant Leader who is prepared to become warranted and assist in running the colony.

Did you enjoy the group family camp? - Then come and put some of that team spirit into practise

Helen does such a brilliant job but she does need an Assistant Leader to help run the Colony on a regular basis, so please contact Clive on 01923 443359 as a



This year Beaver Scouts are celebrating their 20th anniversary, and in June our colony took to the streets of Abbots Langley in the carnival. We had a large banner carried by two strong dads (many thanks) and all of the beavers waved flags and wore badges that we made at our meetings. The boys also had whiskers and teeth painted on their faces, and considering the heat we were lucky there weren't any strange tan lines. It was a lovely day and we had a great turn out. My thanks go to all of the Beavers and their parents who came along

This term is the most hectic of the year. We have already had Beaver Bangers at Lees Wood and been bowling at Woodside. And with the District 20th anniversary party, the district pantomime, singing at Margaret House, the Christingle Service, Remembrance day parade and the end of

term party to come, we have still got to squeeze our computer badge in somewhere.

I would like to thank all parents who have helped over the term, your help is essential.



Many thanks
Helen Welch
Beaver Leader

Uniform and Boot Banks

There is a new uniform cupboard in the Scout Hall complete with shelves and hanging space. For a small donation you can obtain items of uniform for Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

What we need to start the ball rolling are donations of good quality clean trousers, shirts or tops to be given to your Section leader.

What a useful way of bridging the gap when legs grow fast with only a few months before moving into a new section!

* * *

Don't forget we also have a boot bank available, in various sizes and of course are always grateful to receive new donations of these as well.

When we have enough kit to start the Bank we will let you know how to obtain clothing.

Hall Happenings

Monday	3rd Abbots Langley Brownies
Tuesday	Beaver Scouts Ladies Guild (Third in the Month) Explorer Scouts
Wednesday	Cub Scouts
Thursday	1st Abbots Langley Brownies Scouts
Friday	Girl Guides Fellowship (First in the Month)

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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