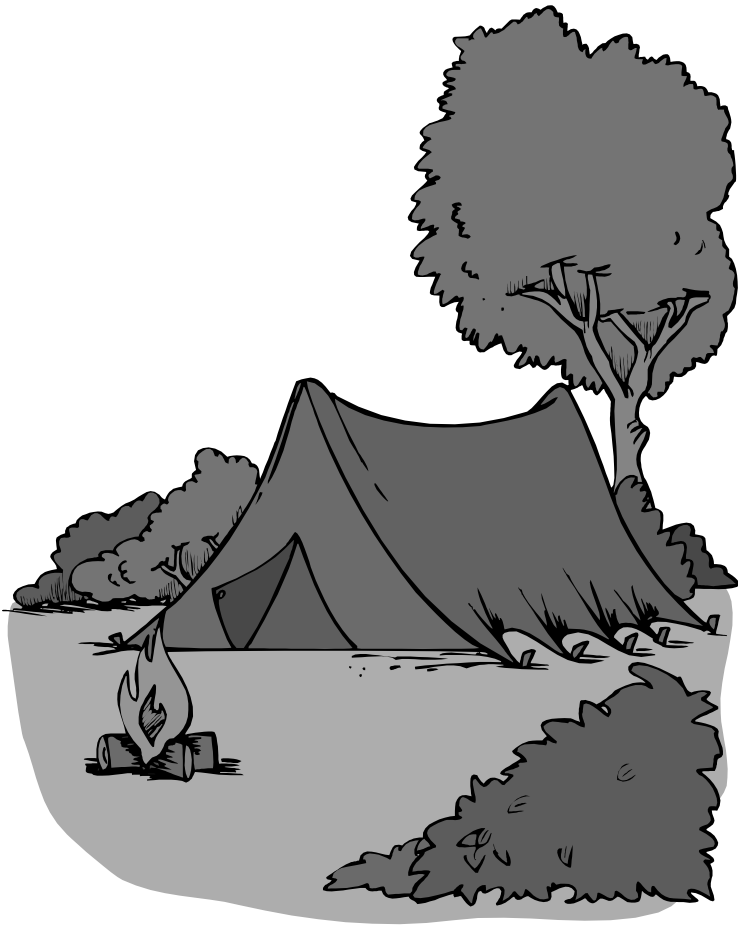


OCTOBER 2008

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk



Our congratulations to Christopher Winder for being Scout of the Year for the 2nd year running, seen here being presented with a trophy by Steve Quinn.

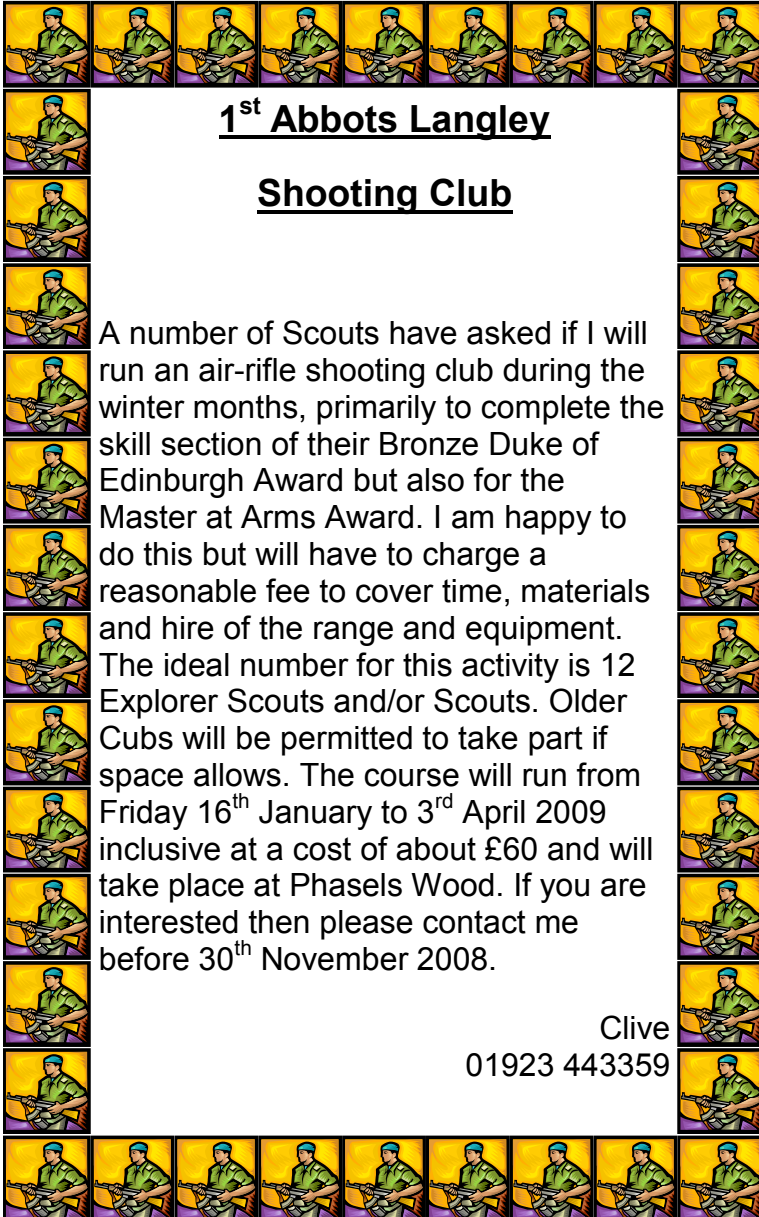
Clive's Chat

Many congratulations to our Cubs James Allan, Luke Ashton, Michael Bell, Jordan Gadd, Thomas Rose, Philip Sheppard and Harry Sherwin, who completed their Silver Chief Scouts Award.

The main event of the Summer Term was the very successful Group Family Camp at Phasels Wood on the 27th – 29th June. Over 180 members of the Group and their families along with a number of distinguished guests enjoyed a fantastic weekend of adventurous activities, scouting challenges, gourmet cooking and campfire entertainment. My sincere thanks, on behalf of all the participants, to Dave and Alison Sturgess, Paul and Camilla Hanson and all the Group Fellowship members for organising and running an unforgettable event and to all the parents that helped throughout the weekend.

Breaking news - Well done to the Beavers who won the Beaver Bangers Trophy for the first time in 15 years!

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader



1st Abbots Langley

Shooting Club

A number of Scouts have asked if I will run an air-rifle shooting club during the winter months, primarily to complete the skill section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award but also for the Master at Arms Award. I am happy to do this but will have to charge a reasonable fee to cover time, materials and hire of the range and equipment. The ideal number for this activity is 12 Explorer Scouts and/or Scouts. Older Cubs will be permitted to take part if space allows. The course will run from Friday 16th January to 3rd April 2009 inclusive at a cost of about £60 and will take place at Phasels Wood. If you are interested then please contact me before 30th November 2008.

Clive
01923 443359



**1st ABBOTS LANGLEY SCOUT TROOP
(3rd NORTH WATFORD)**

Scout Troop Achievements

Last term was a very busy term for achievements in the Scout Troop. Congratulations to -

- Greg Benson, Danny Brocklehurst, Jeremy Cannock, George Isherwood and Sam Reeve on attaining the Outdoor Challenge at this years summer camp,
- Alexander Babb, Jeremy Cannock, Josh Coulson, Scott Denton, Harry Drake, Amaelia Parmenter, Sam Pearson, Lewis Powell, Sam Reeve and Fiona Walldock on attaining their Adventure Challenge,
- Greg Benson, Danny Brocklehurst, Jeremy Cannock, George Isherwood, Joseph Lambert, Sam Reeve and Greg Turberfield on attaining the Expedition Challenge at this years summer camp
- George Isherwood and Henry Sugden on completing their Creative Challenge,
- Christopher Winder on completing his Fitness Challenge,
- Daniel Lowrie on achieving 50 Nights Away in scouting,
- Greg Benson, George Isherwood, Joseph Lambert, Sam Reeve, Henry Sugden and Greg Turberfield on completing 20 Nights Away,
- Christopher Winder on completing 8 Years Participation.

SUMMER CAMP 2008

The weather was hot and sunny. What a great day to go away, I thought. I hoped it would keep like this all week... I was wrong. Only a few people showed up in shorts instead of trousers. Penknives, phones and cakes were collected and mini buses were loaded quickly. So off we set.

The mini bus was buzzing with excitement. For some, it was their first time at camp, for others their last. We arrived at Beaver Lodge in the Forest of Dean and pitched our tents. We had a laugh as we had pitched on stinging nettles, so when we pegged out the guy ropes an unlucky few got stung. At dinner there was plenty of laughing and already people had been making a name for themselves at camp. As camp progressed, a few people got used to camp life and became more efficient and others just stayed as they were. The punishment list grew and especially for me. I ended up for some reason four times on the list!



Unfortunately the weather seemed to have it in for us because every time we had to cook on an open fire, it started raining. The soup we made was far from delicious, but luckily we got to relax in a warm pool in the afternoon.

The activities were great fun. There was caving, climbing, cycling, kayaking and bivouacking. One person freaked out as we entered the caves before caving. Climbing wasn't a big hit within our group but fine with the other group. Cycling caused minimal damage except one boy who fell over from a standing position somehow. The kayaking trip was a relaxing and enjoyable trip down the river Wye.

Then came the bivouacking. It was easy to build, but sleeping in it for a whole night was the hard part. You couldn't fit four people inside, as some of us aren't that small, but we had to. The younger scouts were lucky because they were all small so they had room.

The most memorable incident on camp was Henry Sugden on the rope swing across the stream when he crashed into the bank. He won't be screen testing for the position of Tarzan.

The banquet was amazing with wonderful food and the games were really funny. Poor unsuspecting people had tricks played on them, but for the rest of us it was great. The flexibility game was particularly good (this was where we had to reach down and pick up a cardboard box with our teeth and the box got smaller and smaller each time). My legs were in pain the next day.

It was a brilliant camp as usual. Thanks to all the Leaders for organising it.

Joe Lambert
Patrol Leader, Otters

Group Family Camp 2008
Phasels Wood Camp site
Friday 27th - Sunday 29th June '08

During the camp, I enjoyed myself thoroughly right from the start. Me and my mate Joseph went straight to our allocated tent as we arrived a 7pm, to begin such an adventurous trip. Unpacking our things and lying down our comfortable bed to be (sleeping bag), we could not care less as we tucked in to our well deserved hot chocolate.

Waking up very early with much excitement, we started the day with a cooked breakfast to prepare us for a fun-packed day. Throughout the weekend I took part in rifle shooting, archery, climbing, abseiling, crate stacking, wide games and a treasure hunt. Overall, my favourite was the rifle shooting.



Saturday afternoon was filled with numerous challenges for everyone to try. All the families were put into teams and were able to have a go at everything. Everybody had a great time as the weather was fantastic and people were able to get to know different people and families in the Group. Everyone mixed well and had great fun. The Fellowship did a great job of organising and running the various challenges.



On the Saturday evening, it was the huge pig roast and everyone enjoyed watching it being cooked on a spit, followed by a smoky camp fire that we all surrounded.

Special guests who have supported the Scout Group for many years, Group members from the past and some District Leaders were invited and seated on the top table. They were waited on and served by the Scouts themselves. Throughout the

night, we enjoyed a huge banquet, and the food was delicious. It was supplied by 'The Hansons' and a team of members of the Group Fellowship. When the night came to a close, we all headed back to our tents and slept extremely well after the great amount of food we stuffed ourselves with.





Sunday morning activities were a big surprise: Riding on a hovercraft and Go-carting

First I went on the hovercraft with Henry and Joseph but we had to wear helmets. It was great fun and fast, and I could feel the grass seeds crashing onto my helmet visor as we were going quite fast.

Then I went on the go-carts. There were 2 single go-carts and one double go-cart. I was very lucky to get a go in the single go-cart, it was great fun and I went round the course twice.

After the weekend full of excitement, the amount of fresh air and completed activities sent me straight to the bath to get thoroughly cleaned ! and straight to bed.

By Greg Turberfield
Assistant Patrol Leader, Foxes

DIARY DATES

October

15th	Jumble Sale	All
17th - 19th	Peak Assault	Explorers
18th	Jumble Sale	All
21st	Quiz Night	Ladies Guild
26th	County & District Triathlon Competition - Lees Wood	Scouts
31st—2nd	Autumn Weekend Sleepover	Fellowship

November

9th	Remembrance Parade	All
14th	County Museum 100 Yrs of Scouting - Well End	Fellowship
14th-16th	Green Beret - Lees Wood	Scouts
17th	Scout Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
18th	Talk	Ladies Guild
22nd	Xmas Market	All
22nd	District Christmas Party - at 5th North Watford	Beavers
22nd	District Volleyball Competition - Woodside Leisure Centre	Cubs

December

5th	Xmas Meal	Fellowship
8th	Christingle Service	All
9th	Christmas Party	Ladies Guild
17th	Pantomime - Dick Whittington at the Palace Theatre, Watford	Beavers
26th	Boxing Day Walk	All



A very successful canal side BBQ was held at Marsworth in June when the evening weather was very kind to us. The charcoal, as always, took a while to really get going, but *friendly banter* and *double-entendre* was bandied about as usual whilst waiting for the food to be cooked.

Then in July we tramped up to Ivinghoe Beacon to fly kites. There was an array of designs which flew with differing degrees of success! The little pocket kite went up the easiest and stayed up the longest, but the Chairman took the prize for the best design of a WW1 bi-plane.

Unfortunately August's lawn bowls evening c/o the Abbots Langley Bowls Club was a complete washout, and all the eager beavers ready to play had to retire to the bar early. Shame!

Here they can be seen taking shelter, all except for "Hands" who appeared rather shy when posing.



The September meeting was a ghost walk around St Albans. We roamed the length and breadth of the High Street hearing tales of the Wars of the Roses massacre, grave robbing and ghostly ghoulist stories around the Abbey. The evening started pleasantly enough but the weather got soggy and soggy as the evening wore on meaning by the time we adjourned to the Pub we were sopping all over the floor.



More recently there was a visit to Tring for a tour of the Brewery, fish and chip supper and a sampling of the produce. Here is a picture of Pete in work mode.

In between all of the fun and games the Fellowship give a terrific amount of support to the unit. They ran the ever successful hot-dog stall at the carnival alongside the Ladies Guild in the Bric-a-Brac section; the Family

Camp wouldn't have been possible with out their assistance in running the event, and support in other areas of activities such as the Scout camp.

Ladies Guild

Here is the Ladies Guild entry into the flower festival on patron saints. The display depicts a camp fire and is representative of St George, the Scout's patron saint.





ALBBATROSS E.S.U.

The Unit so far this term have been tobogganing and climbing over at Phasels as well as doing a treasure hunt round the village and completing one off the 100 challenges for the District. In celebration of 100 years of Hertfordshire Scouting they managed to decorate and consume 100 fairy cakes.

They have also decided to go to Ireland next year for their Expedition, and over the next few months they will be organising this with help and support from the leaders. We are also narrowing down the Country we would like to go to in 2010 and the choices are between South Africa or New Zealand. To achieve this we will need to do a lot of fund raising and so far we have managed to raise £1500 pounds through a few odd jobs.

As a result of this I have agreed to run a New York style Salsa beginners course which will be held on Monday nights from 7.30 till 8.30 pm. It will last for five weeks and cost £25 per head. It is for over 18 teens only and starts on 13th October. Please come along and support as all the money is going to the expedition fund.

Yours In Scouting

James Harris

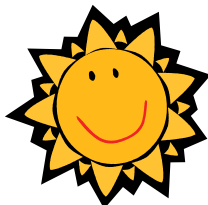
Albbatross Explorer Scout Leader



News from Cubs!



We decided to start the Summer term on a patriotic note, and did a game that involved learning about the flags and saints of the countries in Great Britain. Good practice for the leaders as well as the Cubs! We also welcomed Thomas Bell to our Pack, the only Beaver to join us this term. We hope you enjoyed your first term with us Thomas. Chris Watts, an Albatross Explorer, also joined us this term, helping out at the weekly meetings as well as getting involved in the planning. He has been a great asset to the Pack and always willing to get stuck in. Thanks for your help Chris!



Whilst every term at Cubs is always fun-packed and exciting(!), the Summer term is always popular because we do a lot of outdoor activities. We were really lucky with the weather this year, as every evening we were outdoors was dry, as far as I can remember!

This started in week 2 when we took to the streets of Abbots Langley to deliver leaflets for the Double Jumble Sale. Although this doesn't sound very interesting, the Cubs always seem to really enjoy this!

Next we worked on the Home Safety badge as a Pack. The Cubs had to find the location of the stop-cock, fuse box and gas meter in their home, and know what to do if there is a water leak or power cut. We also talked about what we would do if a fire broke out in our house and how to make an emergency phone call. Some hazards were



set up in the kitchen at HQ, such as knives hanging off the edge of work surfaces, and cables trailing across the floor, and in small groups, the Cubs had to try and spot all the hazards. Well done to everyone who completed this badge, a very important one to have!

We had a couple of fun weeks up at Phasels Wood, where the boys did Pot Holing and the Cresta Run - whizzing down a slope in small carts! Even our Explorer Scout helper, Chris, managed to squeeze through some of the tunnels! Luckily he didn't get stuck as I didn't like the idea of going down to rescue him!

After Half Term we had our popular "Bring A Friend" evening. This year it was held at Lee's Wood on a lovely warm evening. We had a number of bases, including a scavenger hunt, hoopla, giant Jenga, and some kind of whizzing rocket, to name but a few! Lots of fun was had by Cubs and friends alike.

Another active evening was had on our Games and Cycling event at Manor House Park, where the Cubs seemed to have endless energy whizzing round and round the park for the majority of the evening! We also had a competitive game of rounders with leaders and Explorers getting involved. Holly still can't hit the ball!

We were then back at Lee's Wood for more outdoors fun, with Backwoods cooking and Scouting Skills. Akela Chris showed the boys how to put up a



tent and make sure the guide ropes were properly pegged in, and Jo, Holly and Chris helped the boys cook sausages and marshmallows over a fire, on sticks the boys had found in the woods themselves. I think only a couple of sausages ended up in the dust on the floor!

Towards the end of term we had an Orienteering Challenge at Phasels Wood, where the boys raced around the site with leaders in tow, trying to match up the numbers and letters, seeing who could find the most in the evening. Even though we tend to do this activity every summer, none of us can ever remember where any of the signs are!

Our term ended on a lovely summer's evening at Lee's Wood, where we held our popular Family Barbeque. Thank you to everyone who came along and who made donations towards the food and drink. We had a number of important people there, including Norman Brandon (ADC), Ian Leach (District Commissioner), and Ivor Thomas (County Commissioner), who presented the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service to Clive Winder (who is also an important person!). There were lots and lots badges to be awarded,



including the Global Challenge badge to Jordan Gadd, the Creative Challenge to Ravi Kotecha, Thomas Rose, Harry Sherwin and Jordan Gadd, the Fitness Challenge to Thomas Rose and Jordan Gadd, the Outdoor Challenge to George Rollinson, William Bell and Ashley Patel. And well done to Jake Taylor and Jordan Stagg who received their first Nights Away badge, and to all the Cubs who worked hard on various Activity badges, including the Sports Enthusiast badge, Home Help, Home Safety, Chef, Book Reader and the Athlete's badge. Well done boys! A big congratulations to the seven Cubs who were awarded their Chief Scout's Silver Award, the highest award in Cubs: James Allan, Luke Ashton, Michael Bell, Jordan Gadd, Thomas Rose, Philip Sheppard and Harry Sherwin. We hope they are having a great time at Scouts, as well as Ellen Hurdle and Tom Longbottom, who also moved up!

At the end of June we had our Group Family Camp at Phasels Wood, which a number of Cubs and their families attended. The weather was fantastic



for the whole weekend, right up until the end when it started drizzling during the award ceremonies and everyone huddled under the gazebos! There was an array of fun-packed activities on Saturday, including rock-climbing,

crate stacking, abseiling, archery and rifle shooting, rounded up by a hog-roast and camp fire in the evening, led by the infamous Pete Linskey. Sunday comprised of a number of bases, which required effective team-work, communication and skill. The teams competed against each other, carrying out activities such as building a catapult, 'rounding up sheep', and boiling the perfect egg in 10 minutes. All of the bases were great fun, resulting in lots of laughter and smiles. A big thank you to Dave Sturgess and his team for organising such a great weekend.

A big thank you to all parents who helped out at our meetings last term, and for your continued support this term, it is greatly appreciated and really helps things run more smoothly.

Chris (CSL) Holly (ACSL)

Aisling (ACSL) Jo (Pack Assistant)

Chris Watts (Young Leader)

Activity badges achieved:

Sports Enthusiast - Jordan Gadd, Ravi Kotecha; Home Help - Ravi Kotecha; Home Safety - Ashley Patel, James Allan, Thomas Rose; Chef - Jordan Gadd; Book Reader - Ravi Kotecha; Athlete's badge - Michael Bell, William Bell, Harry Sherwin, Ashley Patel, Timmy Cannock, Connor Hill. James Allan; Joining-in Award - Toby Gamble (3 years), Thomas Rose, Jordan Gadd (4 years)

Name: Katie Welch

Age 5

Some of the family camp drawing competition entries



Name: Gabriella Rose



More pictures on the website where they can be seen more clearly.

Jin Sei Kai Shotokan Karate Association



9.45 am Sundays at Scout HQ, Langley Road
Assemble for a 10am start, beginning with a 15 minute warm-up of gentle stretching exercises to limber up the muscles and mind. Working in ability groups they run through basic karate moves, and after a halfway break the groups resume to concentrate on various forms of movements and sparring sessions, ending with a warm down.

This form of karate is about self defence, fitness and health. Sessions are taught by experienced and qualified instructors. Please call Dr Any Lewry on 07774 161685 or turn up on the day for an informal chat.

Hall Happenings

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

Don't forget to look at the website for more photos of this term's activities, including the family camp
www.abbotslangley scouts.org.uk

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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