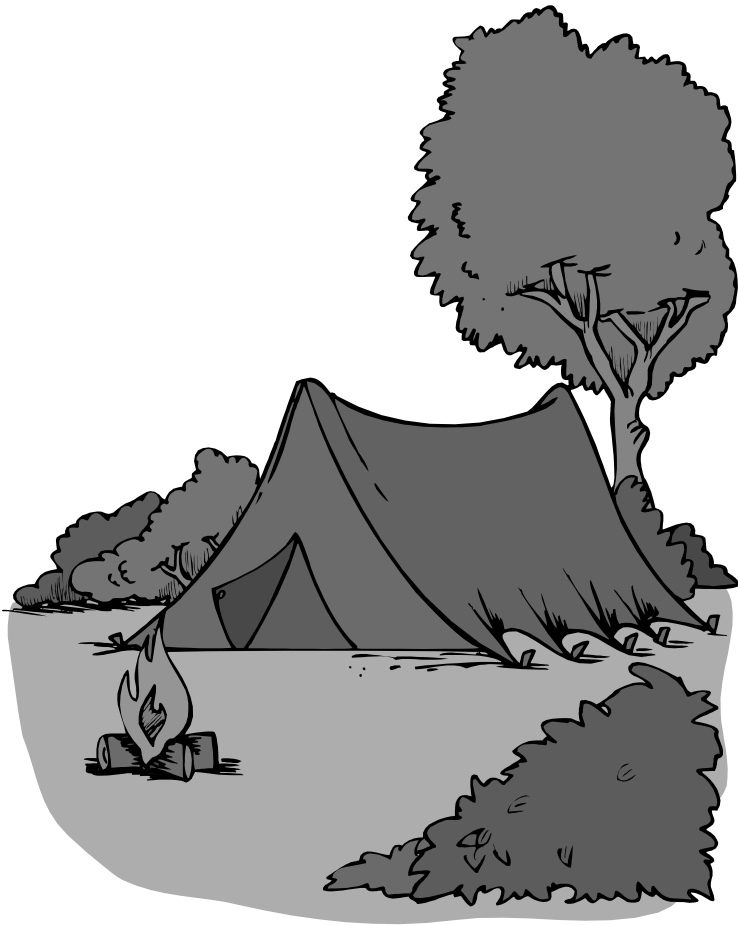


OCTOBER 2009

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Achievements

As mentioned in my GSLs report there were 5 Scouts who attained their Gold Chief Scouts Award. The Scouts went into overdrive in the Summer term achieving a massive total of 36 Challenge Awards between them.

Congratulations to:

- Joshua Davies, Scott Denton, Jordan Gadd, Liam Goodman, Ellen Hurdle, Miles Johnson, Nikhil Kotecha, Dean Millard, Amaelia Parmenter, Finlay Potiuk, Thomas Rose and Fiona Walldock on completing their Outdoor Challenge.
- James Cresswell, Joshua Davies, Oliver Dean, Jordan Gadd, Miles Johnson, Dean Millard and Thomas Rose on finishing their Adventure Challenge.
- Joshua Davies, Scott Denton, Jordan Gadd, Liam Goodman, Ellen Hurdle, Miles Johnson, Dean Millard, Amaelia Parmenter, Finlay Potiuk, Thomas Rose, Henry Sugden and Fiona Walldock on achieving their Expedition Challenge.
- Jasper Gillespie and Nikhil Kotecha on completing their Creative Challenge.
- Emily Drake on finishing her Fitness Challenge,
- Greg Benson and George Isherwood on attaining their Community Challenge.

Well Done!

Clive's Chat

Congratulations to our Scouts, Emily Drake, Jasper Gillespie, George Isherwood, Joseph Lambert and Henry Sugden who completed their Gold Chief Scouts Award last term, the highest award attainable. Good luck to them as they move up to Explorers.

A record 1000 sausages were cooked and sold at the Carnival by a fantastic team in a small working environment. In all with the proceeds from the bric-a-brac stall £1,700 was raised. The Watford Lions Club thanked us again for clearing up the litter on Sunday, which as you can see here included a very professional duo.



The weekend of July 10th to 12th saw the Herts 100 camp at Tolmers attended by most scout groups in the county to celebrate 100 years of scouting in Hertfordshire. No less than 70 youngsters from our group attended and had a great time, as you will read in

Jeremy Cannock's article. I would like to thank all the leaders, Fellowship members and parents for making it a tremendous weekend. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into organising such a huge event but this was made considerably easier by the involvement of you all. Special thanks to the Catering team of Pauline, Rachel and Sarah for keeping us all well fed and watered. It was very encouraging to see so many parents get involved, most for the first time, and I hope this will continue in the future.

The Autumn term has kicked off with another great success with our Beavers Scouts. The River Beavers were victorious for the 2nd year in succession in the District Beaver Bangers competition and our Lake Beavers came 3rd in their first year at the event. Congratulations to all the participants who all had a great time.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

Top 10 Scouts 2008/9 Narrow Boat Weekend



On Friday 12th June, the Top 10 Scouts of the 1st Abbots Langley Scout Troop went on a narrow boat from Hunton Bridge to... well we were meant to go to Berkhamsted but went to well... you will find out what happened later. Clive and Michael Benson had put us into teams and asked us to think of team names. Liam Goodman, Greg Benson, Sam Pearson and Sean Hinks called themselves "The Shorties", Henry Sugden, Jasper Gillespie and George Isherwood called themselves "The Dreadlocks" and Jeremy Cannock, Joshua Coulson and Me, Amaelia Parmenter, couldn't think of a name so we just called ourselves "The Nobodies". We said bye to ours Mums and Dads and set off to the first lock across from where the boat was moored where we learnt the basics on how to steer the boat and work the locks. It wasn't long until we stopped and moored up next to the Waterside pub at Hunton Bridge. We met our parents in the garden for a drink or 2 and a packet of crisps. We then went back to the boat

(which hadn't floated away yet) and "The Shorties" made us some tomato soup and a nice buttered bread roll. Then off to bed.

We were up bright and early the next day and it was "The Nobodies" turn to make the breakfast, so we totted up who wanted what and got to work. After everyone had finished we cleared up and then relaxed while the other 2 teams were either on the locks or steering the boat. It was about 10.15am and we were at the Kings Langley lock, Liam was steering into the lock and it made a funny noise. Once we were in the lock Sean took over the steering, then the engine cut out and wouldn't start again. We began to worry as there were people waiting to use the lock. Liam came crawling along the boat to tell everybody at the front of the boat what had happened. We couldn't come out the lock so we had to evacuate the boat and all pull it out with the ropes. We moored up and tried to restart the boat but were unsuccessful. We then had to wait patiently for an Engineer to come so we relaxed and had lunch while we waited. Clive then got a call from the Engineer who said that another engineer would have to come all the way from Basingstoke. Clive decided that instead of us waiting he would ask some parents to pick us up and take us to the carnival.

Henry's Mum very kindly left what she was doing at home to come and pick me up along with Henry, Jasper and George. We got to the carnival and saw some of the floats heading back to School Mead. We made our way over to the rides and we had a go on the Waltzer. It wasn't all that good as normally we have a longer go and they normally spin us around faster. We headed over to the Scouts stall and saw the mile long lines that were queuing for hotdogs. Before we knew it, it was time to return. We got back to the boat and waited while Bob the engineer had a fiddle around in the engine. He noticed that the boat basically had no fuel!!! Bob went and got fuel but the engine still wouldn't start. Bob then found that some of the

parts were filled with water and had to take them off and put new ones on that he luckily had in his van. He started the engine for the last time as the battery was about to go and the engine started. We were all cheering and were able to set off once again at about 3.30pm.

We got to Hemel Hempstead, by the train station, and Joshua Coulson's Dad went and got us Fish and Chips for our supper. After we had all finished our supper, the "boys" went outside and started playing with their inflatable hammers. It was getting dark so we came inside and Clive started playing these word games that were very complicated unless you knew what the twist was. It was a late night once again.

The next morning we had another early start and were woken up by Michael's phone ringing. We were all up and dressed when breakfast was served and we got going at about 9ish. We went all the way to Winkwell where we were able to turn around in a tight spot, and head back to Hunton Bridge. We got back at about 4.30pm and we had to clean the boat, Hoover up and clean up the beds. I lost the toss and had the unlucky job of "toilet duty" It wasn't as bad as I thought it was though. We had finished putting the boards over the windows and it was time go home and have a nice rest, "supposedly" anyway.

Amaelia Parmenter, OTTERS



The Herts 100 Tolmers Camp 10th to 12th July 2009

This event was to celebrate one hundred years of scouting in Hertfordshire, and was attended by nearly 3000 Leaders, Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. From our Abbots Langley Group two mini-bus loads headed off on a sunny Friday evening to Tolmers Camp in Cuffley. Luckily we had no hold ups on the M25 and arrived to much laughter and excitement. We helped unload the trailer on the back of our new mini-bus and headed off to find our camping area. The tents were already up, which was a relief, and we got allocated six to a tent. Once we were settled we were allowed some exploring time. Dinner was back in our own area.



On Saturday the Beavers arrived for the day. After breakfast, everyone went to this big field where there was a stage with straw bails around it. That was the first time we got a feel of the enormity of the event and all the many camp leaders were introduced to us. Leaders were given red scarves and all young people yellow – the same yellow that Abbots Langley wears which made it difficult for our

own leaders as they couldn't easily spot us from our scarves (At least we all have a spare now!) So we all gathered in the field and were treated to some music and an opening speech. After the opening ceremony we were amazed to find out that we were allowed to go on what we liked and when we liked! We all had a booklet that was green for Scouts, yellow for Cubs and White & Pink for Explorers and Beavers (can't remember which was which). In these booklets it listed all the activities that your section was allowed to do. For the Scouts this included Rock Climbing, Lazar Tag, Canoeing, Air Pistol Shooting to mention only a few. The first thing I tried was the Inflatable Assault Course which was great fun. I spent most of the morning in the queue for Lazar Tag and ended up being the last group before lunch, but it was worth the wait. After lunch Liam and I went down to canoeing and Liam was the second fastest Scout to complete the course. I was proud and jealous at the same time.

We gathered back at camp and got ready with our superb lion masks and very noisy instruments. Why? Because we were about to join the Grand Finale – a Circus Parade. Clive was dressed up as the lion tamer and thoroughly enjoyed whipping us all! Other groups were dressed up as Clowns or Acrobats for example. It was very colourful and noisy – in fact, we turned out to be the loudest group (which was great). The long procession came to a halt in a field with a stage and we were entertained with more music including some people that can't sing, but we soon forgot about those when someone good came on. Later on we also found time to explore the woods and made our own cool den. In the evening there was a giant campfire in the field.



After a good night's sleep (including a session of chatting) we awoke to another glorious sunny day. Once we had breakfast we had to get all our stuff together and put it to one side. Then we were allowed to do more activities whilst the camp was being packed away. Finally it was time to go home. We carried the Cub's stuff to the trailer for them and they got to go home in the first minibus run. Whilst we waited for the minibus to return we relaxed on chairs. The traffic was bad and held the minibus up for its return but eventually we got back. At the Scout Hut we helped empty the trailer and put things away before going home.

Overall it was a great weekend camp and thanks from all of us to the Leaders and helpers for making it a brilliant event. I liked the fact that we could choose our own activities and organise our own time.

Jeremy Cannock, Assistant Patrol Leader, Foxes



Swimming Gala

We won! It was only the second time our group had done the swimming gala and we managed to win! We all tried our best but we mostly did it to have fun. The whole group worked as a team. Every Beaver, Cub and Scout wherever they came gave us points to help us win.

The atmosphere was great. The viewing gallery was full with parents and friends and sometimes the noise was deafening. Everybody cheered and encouraged every swimmer. There were lots of teams so the competition was quite fierce. Although fun and taking part were important everyone wanted to win.

There was a range of swimming abilities some really good and some learning. However good you could swim didn't stop the nerves. When I started my races my stomach was doing somersaults but once I got into the race all nerves went and the winning spirit kicked in. I did win one of my races, the breast stroke, and it felt fantastic.

The end result was an overall win for 1st Abbots Langley / 3rd North Watford and we left the event with two large cups. One of the trophies for the scouts who won their section and one for the whole group for the overall winners. Every team member is looking forward to defending our title next year. We definitely now need a trophy cabinet!!

Jasper Gillespie
APL, Eagles

DIARY DATES

October

16th	Centenary Dance, Hunton Park	ALL
20th	TBC	Ladies Guild
25th	Triathlon	Scouts
31st–2nd Nov	Autumn Weekend Trip to Derbyshire	Fellowship

November

6th	Guided Walk	Fellowship
8th	Remembrance Day Parade	ALL
13th - 15th	Green Beret	Scouts
16th	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
17th	Christmas Decoration Making	Ladies Guild
21st	Christmas Market	ALL
28th	District Volleyball Competition	Cubs

December

4th	Traditional Games—Cricket Club	Fellowship
7th	Christingle Service	ALL
8th	TBC	Ladies Guild
10th	Qusar Christmas Party	Scouts
11th	Christmas Meal	Fellowship
14th	Christmas Party	Beavers
16th	Pantomime Visit	Cubs
26th	Boxing Day Walk 10.30 am Cecile Lodge	ALL

January

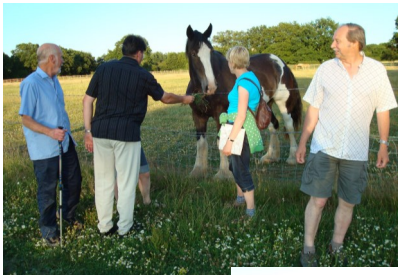
8th	Ten Pin Bowling	Fellowship
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February

6th	AGM	Fellowship
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A large number of people turned up to the barbecue held in **June**, kindly hosted at Pauline and Peter Marret's house instead of the usual communal BBQ's by the canalside. A variety of different sized sausages were in abundance, together with the glorious aroma of chicken tikka and lamb chops. Many thanks P&P!



The traditional Butch's Walk kindly arranged by Nicola Trotman was held on a pleasant evening in **July** around Colney Heath. There were various walking sticks bandied about, some for assistance and other's just for show.

Along the way the group split into two to enable some to take a shorter walk (or just get to the pub quicker).



This was where the navigation proved a little tricky and a group map consultation was called for.

Those with more stamina were rewarded with a short visit through Willows Farm to see goats, llama and piglets.



The foray in **August** was a visit to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in Bucknall Lane, arranged by the Fellowship Chairman, John Noonan who works there. A pleasant time was spent with a guided tour firmly strapped to our ears wandering through the latest innovations, with a short wander over to the model of the dam that Barnes Wallace used to test his bouncing bomb.



Also in **August** some members of the Fellowship met for outdoor bowls on the green behind the HQ and this time it didn't rain.

Editor

Mud Oven contest - Friday 5th Sept 2009

"Are you sure its down to me?" I asked as we closed the last discussion at the White Hart. The collection of Fellowship and Scouters we unanimous and thus I was left to organise a time old traditional night for the Fellowship and the site, access and coordination. Luckily due to a working relationship with the Phasels wood team I was able to get a couple of the less well used campsites (with in situ mud) and get the ball rolling. Dead easy in this day and age of technology to let the whole Fellowship know the details, cut and paste the email address and forward the itinerary to the troops, all done three weeks ahead of the date, all I had to now was sit back and watch the chaps come and go at their own leisure and the campsite should become a a forest of cleverly constructed mud based ovens. That was the plan.

At various times different people asked "Are you sure that's what we're doing ?" A few phone calls "Are you sure that's what we're doing ?" and a few general comments "Are you sure that's what we're doing ?" and the answer was always, that what's on



the programme and that's what the committee have decreed, therefore, that's what we're doing. Even the GSL had doubts but I knew that the Fellowship had done this in the past and it would be a great success. The final week before the Friday meeting and to my great surprise there was no sign of even a single mud oven, I decided that there must

be at least one and then mid-week a curious tower of twigs mud as string held together by TLC and luck sprung up from nowhere. I pressed ahead with my own construction and it was game on. Mutterings of poor communication were also filtering through the grapevine and then I realised that the Secretary had omitted to include her own email address on the email used for the cut and paste, whoops (not necessarily the exact words that came forth but young readership dictates a modicum of decorum).



Last minute phone calls and eating humble pie got me off that particular hook and finally the night of the competition arrived, with two ovens in place the prospect of a lonely evening in the woods lay ahead. There had been apologies forwarded and excuses received, but through the gloom of the evening light bodies approached the venue, and they had offerings (no oven but at least offerings). As the night progressed the architect of muddy towers also arrived with guest and the competition started. A random fire served as a general cooking area and the ovens were put to use for a collection of fayre most of which was edible and some turned out to be very tasty indeed.



The end result was that a good number of the Fellowship attended, most having eaten prior to venturing out, and three meals were prepared, a simple sausage and roll combination taking third prize, a three course extravaganza of tuna melt, roast lamb followed by apple pies served with wine came a good second whilst the mud tower produced a fine fish dish which

tasted terrific. Due to the economic recession and the current harsh restraints on fiscal policy encouraged by the government, there were no formal prizes but honours went to Tony Dabson and at the end of the day (it was dark so use of the over worked expression is justified) most of us retired to the Unicorn and the sub committee has decided that fun, though it was to do this event, it will probably be one of those once in a decade things. If anyone wants to run this event more frequently please feel free to pick up the reigns I will happily give you all the advice and support needed (don't do it).



Thanks to all those that took part or came along it was a fun night out.

Pete Linskey

Apart from these events organised once a month, the Fellowship have been busy supporting the group. They cooked sausages at the carnival, set up and assisted at the Herts 100, and the Scouts summer camp as well as helping in weekly activities the sections were involved in.

They work hard and play hard, so take a look at the next activities planned and come along and join in.

“Ed”

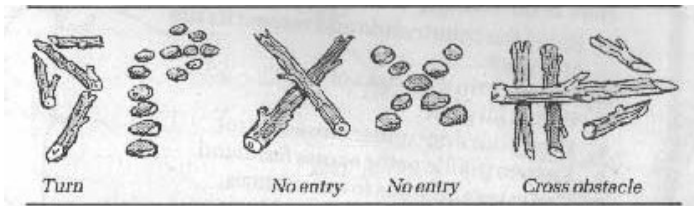
Fun at.....



At the beginning of the Summer term we welcomed six new Cubs to the Pack. These were Benjamin Davies, Joe Woodger, Kieran Redmond, Sonny Ealham, Isaac Irvine and Thomas Norton. Welcome aboard boys, and to an action-packed programme of activities!

Our first outdoor activity was tracking in Whippendell Woods. The Cubs learnt how to lay tracks using sticks and stones, so that someone else could follow their trails. Each group made a track, and then swapped over to follow each other's clues and see if they ended up in the same place!

Over a period of two weeks the Olympics visited Abbots Langley



park, except this was Cub Olympics! Working towards their Fitness Challenge badge, the Cubs had to try and improve their scores and times in the second week, by partaking in an array of activities, including running, throwing, long jump, hurdles and skipping. We were really lucky with the weather, and at the end of Cub Olympics each Cub received a gold medal for effort and participation!





We had two busy weeks at Phasels Wood doing pot-holing and crate-stacking. Here's Connor Jungnickel-Judge bravely building his crate tower. Don't look down Connor!

One of the Cub parents, Julie Cannock, created a fantastic Treasure Trail around the village. The Cubs had to look out for landmarks following a map and a catalogue of photos. Once back at HQ, the Cubs solved clues to receive their "treasure"! Thank you Julie for a brilliant treasure hunt.

Back at Phasels Wood the Cubs did some Backwoods cooking, cooking sausages and marshmallows over a fire, and also had fun flying kites on the hillside. By the end of the two evenings there was a lot of tangled string and



some very full tummies!



We finished our Summer term with a delicious Barbeque for all the family at Lees Wood. Thank you to the parents, Steve and Liz Hill, Julie Cannock and Gary Bruguier, who masterminded it... planning, shopping, setting up and cooking. Thank you. Thank

you as well to Norman Brandon who came along to award Silver Awards to the four Cubs who were moving up to Scouts, James Awcock, Jake Taylor, Daniel Weston and Robert Armstrong. Well done to you all and have a great time at Scouts.

Well done to the Cubs who joined in some of the extra activities this term. Alex Bruguier, Charlotte Trotman, Lewis Cresswell and Timmy Cannock worked well as a team at the North Star Centenary Challenge at Lees Wood, where their various Cub skills were tested and marked.

A good number of Cubs came on the Herts 100 Centenary Camp at Tolmer's. It was a fantastic weekend packed full of activities and entertainment. Our District was in the yellow sub-camp, so for the lively carnival procession, we had to dress up as golden lions. Look at the great artwork of Mr. Patel... but am I a lion or tiger?!!



A very big thank you to all the parents that gave up their time to help with Cubs this term. As you can see, your support and efforts are greatly appreciated and worthwhile. Thank you. Thank you as well for the dedicated help from our young leaders Chris Watts, Jonny Benson, and Josh Hill. And also to Milli Stratton and Paul Irvine for their brilliant help each week.

Chris Frith (CSL)

Holly Noonan (ACSL)

Chris Watts, Jonny Benson, Josh Hill (YL's)



River Colony

This term Beavers had a fun packed time. We undertook our Air activity badge and friendship badge. As part of the air activity badge, the Beavers made



wonderful paper planes as part of a national challenge where Beavers donated £2 to charity. We also made kites, which were decorated and test flown at the scout hut before setting off to Dunstable Downs for our family hike.

As part of friendship badge the Beavers visited Margaret House where they were allocated a flower bed. Beavers and leaders armed with spades and folks, watering cans and buckets entered Margaret house and found our flowerbed. As the Lake Colony Beavers had completed half of the flowerbed it was left to us to finish it off. We planted big bushes and small shrubs and watered them all in before setting off back to the hut, all hot and muddy.

Thanks to all the Leaders and helpers for such a great term.

Helen Welch
Julia Wood

Beavers' Giant Sleepover

For the second year running 1st Abbots Langley Beavers have taken part in the Giant sleepover. However, this year other groups from the district joined us!

The fun started as soon as everybody came through the door, since there were lots of new and unfamiliar faces we started with an activity to get to them to know each other. As the evening progressed, the beavers decorated cups for Fathers Day, had a mini disco as well as playing lots of games. Everybody helped each other out, let their hair down and really got into the spirit. Before we knew it, it was dinner time, the beavers (and leaders) enjoyed lovely sausages chips and beans along with home made cakes by Lin.

After dinner, everybody sat down to make dream catchers, decorated with colour and feathers these were the ideal remedy to a quiet nights sleep (or so the leaders thought). Next came the time to sort the beds out, with over 40 beavers and their sleeping stuff everybody picked their spot for their bed, got into their PJ's and got out their teddies ready for judging. With everybody's teddies lined up, Lin was the judge, the boys and girls all won prizes for their teddies for different reasons and it was great fun.

At 10 O'clock we all went up stairs to watch episodes of Horrid Henry, with roars of laughter all the beavers munched away on cakes and sweets long into the night. At half past 11 the time came to brush our teeth and then settle down into bed. Finally after a lot of toilet trips and cups of water, all the beavers lay silently in their beds for what was going to be a long night!! With all the leaders on the stage watching over them, everybody dropped off and woke up the next morning bright and early at 6:30. With breakfast done it was time to pack up. To end the wonderful sleepover, the beavers took part in a national teeth brushing event, with all people attending the Giant sleepover brushing their teeth at the same time. With lots of minty fresh beavers ready to go, they were given their goodie bags and were collected by their parents.

A great time was had by all, making new friends, playing new games and creating some lovely craft pieces. A huge thank you to Helen who organised the whole event, to all the other leaders who came, and the Dads.

Hurry up next year!!!!

Julia Wood



Christmas Market

21st November 2009 - 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!

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
Thursday	5.15 - 6.45 pm	1st Abbots Langley Brownies
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	8pm	Fellowship (1st in Month)

Don't forget to look at the website for more photos of this term's activities and you can download Woodsmokes to read

www.abbotslangley scouts.org.uk

We would like to be able to email to let you know when updates have happened to the website and send reminders so if you would like to be kept informed please send your email address and name to pauline.styles@ntlworld.com

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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