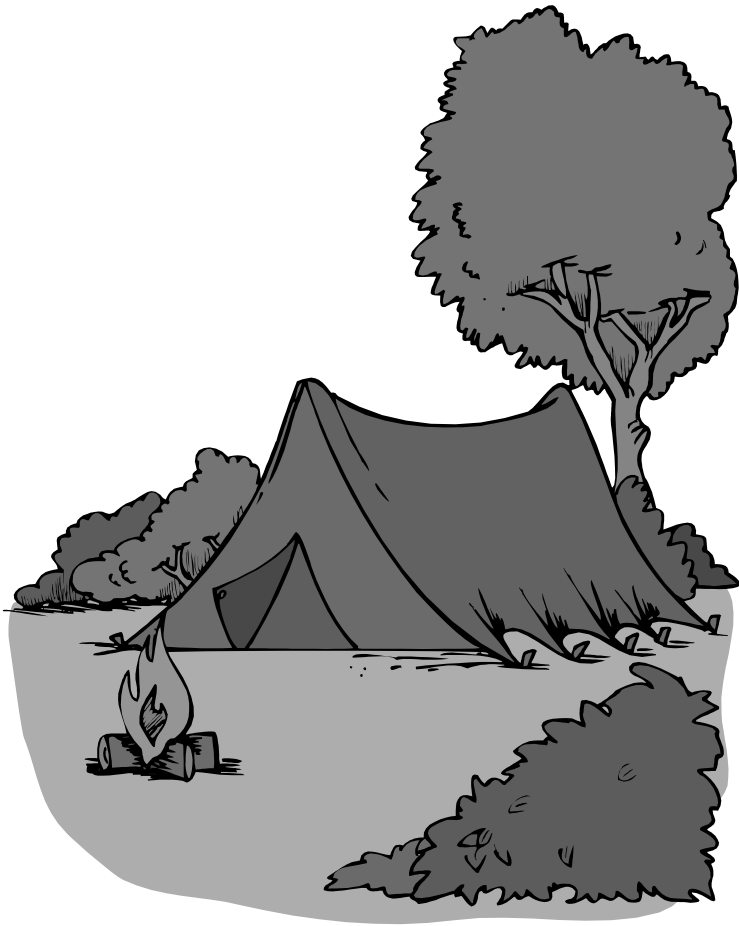


OCTOBER 2011

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

SCOUT TROOP Achievements

Congratulations to:

Oliver Heiling, Emily Mott, Joe Prior and Thomas Renphrey on completing their first Scout Challenge, the Adventure Challenge,

Oliver Dean, Toby Gamble, Ravi Kotecha, Dean Millard and Charlotte Trotman on achieving their Creative Challenge,

Scott Denton and April Turner on completing their Community Challenge and Fitness Challenge,

James Cresswell, Noa Davies, Joe Prior and Nicholas Smith on attaining their Expedition Challenge,

April Turner on achieving her Global Challenge,

James Cresswell, Noa Davies, Joe Prior and Nicholas Smith on completing their Outdoor Challenge,

Scott Denton on attaining his Promise Challenge,

Christopher Winder on completing his 11 years Joining In Award, and

Daniel Lowrie who was awarded his 75 Nights Away award an excellent achievement.

Well Done Everybody!

Clive

Clive's Chat

Many congratulations to Scott Denton and April Turner on achieving their Gold Chief Scouts Award, the highest award that a Scout can attain.

Congratulations also to our Cub Scouts, Alex Brugier, Harry Hurdle, Isaac Irvine, Oliver Munn and Kieran Redmond on completing their Silver Chief Scouts Award, and our Beavers, Adam Munn, Alex Chase and Rudy Farrell on attaining the Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Well done.

The Group Family Camp in June was yet again a brilliant event and was clearly enjoyed by all who attended. There was a huge amount of time and effort put into planning, organising and running the event by the leaders, Active Support members and numerous parents. My thanks to all, too numerous to mention, who got involved and helped out. Particular thanks to Dave Sturgess, the overall event organiser, and to Paul Hansen, whose catering was phenomenal.

The Summer Term also saw a couple of its main fund raising events with over £2,000 raised at the village carnival and our April 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 out.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

It was at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 5th July 2011 that we turned 'it' on. What? you may ask. No not just What - Kilowatt in fact!

For the 1st Abbots Langley 3rd Watford North now produce our own electricity with rooftop Solar Energy. We managed to obtain a generous 50% grant from the National Lottery and also help from the Co-Op Bank and this together with fund-raising, enabled us to pay for its installation.

By sundown on the 5th July we had already produced 4 Kwh and within 3 weeks we had 308.4 Kwh to our credit. The system consists of 21 Solar Photovoltaic Panels with an estimated 3186 Kwh annual generation.



Applying for a grant from the National Lottery is no easy matter and any other group doing so would need to have the freehold of its property or a long leasehold. It has taken us 9 months of effort to achieve, but we think it well worthwhile. The system is guaranteed for 25 years. and we are paid quarterly at 43p per Kwh for all the power we produce, whether we use it or not.

We would like to thank the 2nd Billericay Scout Group who turned on their system in the Autumn of last year, for helping us in the initial stage of our project.

Bryan S Sharpe, Chairman
1st Abbots Langley 3rd Watford North

On 8th October the Group held a very successful Quiz Night to raise funds to pay for the outstanding amount on the solar panel installation. This raised £881.60 so a big thank you to everyone who came to support it. Also to those who donated raffle prizes - The Unicorn, Simon East Butchers, Duo Hairdressers, Dicks Folly Narrowboat project, Abbots Tandoori, Garston TV & Electrical and various individual members of the group.

A Very Big Thank You to You All!



Family Camp 2011

We set up on Thursday, the day before families from all over were going to gather at Phasels Wood for an action-packed weekend of activities varying from water balloon throwing, jumping in sacks and altogether having a good time. Then the following day, Friday, when we first arrived we had to all get briefed by Dave Sturgess who told us all the basic information we needed to know and the groups we were going to be in. The next thing we did was to pitch our tents for the weekend so we were prepared for upcoming days. Luckily everybody finished putting up their tents as it started to pour down with rain making it very muddy and wet.

The families arrived to a wonderful supper that the staff had prepared for us. Then we played a few wide games and settled down in our tents to recharge our batteries for the next couple of days.

The next day, Saturday, we awakened after a heavy overnight rainfall, had breakfast and then got together at the briefing point where Dave was going to tell us what activities we would be doing



- such as zip wire, the spider web, abseiling, crate stacking and



archery, and where they would be situated. Despite the bad weather it hadn't dampened our mood as we were raring to get started on all the activities. My group were doing the zip wire first which involved climbing up to the tower where you jumped

off a platform and then flew through the woods until the end of the wire. Another activity my group got involved in was abseiling which we all took part in, some more confident than others but we all at least had a go.

When we came back from our morning of activities we all noticed that the organisers had brought a hog with



them which was slowly roasting on a spit fire, so that later on everyone at the camp could tuck into some of the hog for dinner before camp-fire songs. It was a pretty full on day so we certainly needed feeding up.

In the afternoon we got put into different groups so we got to know more people, and the organisers had put out more challenges for our groups to overcome. After we had been briefed, Dave sent us off into the woods for the rest of the day.



The first challenge my group had to face was the water balloon throwing challenge. One of the old camp favourites. My team got quite a lot of balloons and earned a lot of points towards getting the trophy.



On Sunday the long and hoped for sun broke out so Dave lined up a football tournament and go-kart racing. My team did extremely well in the tournament and finished top, scoring the most goals and conceding the least. The go-kart racing was an all-round success as handmade carts were put to the test as it was a knock out tournament around a circuit to see who came first.

There was then a presentation to award the winning group from the earlier challenges with a cup, and sweets to the winners of the quizzes that were handed out earlier. I won the Scouting History quiz and other people won quizzes on sport, Disney films and TV soaps.



After the long day we helped pack all the equipment away as well as our tents.

By Miles Johnson
Assistant Patrol Leader
Foxes Patrol

My 3rd Family Camp

Despite knowing what to expect I was still excited by the prospect of an adventurous weekend. I did not however take into account the heavy rain that greeted us at the campsite on Friday evening, so much so that the lack of sleep through the heavy rain and wind made it the unofficial 4th weekend challenge. I had laughed at my sister (Lucy) for



packing her wellies but by Saturday morning it looked like a sensible decision. Luckily the tents were all still standing by the morning and we tucked into a lovely breakfast before tackling the day's challenges. We were team number 4 and during the morning took part in activities such as abseiling, archery, rifle shooting, crate stacking and the zip wire. After lunch we changed teams and took part in more competitive team challenges. We had a fantastic afternoon and although



we only finished 6th overall (out of 10 teams) we had a really good laugh, whilst attempting all the tasks. Paula (Beaver Leader) was hilarious all afternoon by trying to bribe the judges with cake!!



Saturday evening was more sociable as the weather improved and we had all the day's activities to talk about. We enjoyed a roast hog for dinner and sang songs by the campfire, brilliantly led by Pete Linskey.

Sunday morning we awoke to yet another lovely big breakfast before taking part in the kart racing. The weather was now very hot and sunny and the morning's racing was the highlight of my weekend. We didn't do particularly well in the races (finishing 3rd twice and a 2nd) but it was great fun taking part and then cheering on friends in other races. After lunch it was time to take the tents down, pack away, and then hand out the awards to all the winners of the weekend events.

It was a fantastic weekend. Everybody had so much fun doing the activities and Paul Hansen provided excellent meals (much better than when I normally go camping with my family!!). A big thank you to Paul and all the volunteers and helpers for working so hard during the weekend which enabled it to be so much fun. The biggest thank you however, must go to Dave Sturgess for yet again organising a brilliant event. I cannot begin to imagine how much time and effort it takes to put it all together.

PS. I am already looking forward to my 4th Family Camp ... Thank You

By Jamie Tearle
Assistant Patrol Leader
Stags Patrol

Family camp – now that is what I call community!

I can't think of the Phasels Wood "Family camp" without a big grin creeping across my face. Yes, I had some pretty big bags under my eyes come Monday morning, an aching stomach from the letter posting sack race and legs that felt like warped stilts after trying to break the sound barrier pushing a go-cart madly around a track! But hell, I really enjoyed every minute!

As we set up the tent on Friday evening, and dark clouds loomed, the weekend ahead sloped into unknown territory. So many strangers, strips of striped tape marking rows like crime scenes, I realised how tired I was and wondered where the energy would come from. Yet tent set up, rain clouds open, as we set off splashing through puddles to find parts and construct catapults something mysterious took over. I became aware that the week behind, the inconvenience of the rain, the tiredness had been pushed out of the moment as I searched for the lost grail of elastic bands and green sticks! And as we sent a ball flying from our rickety catapult the lads and I punched the air as we passed all markers. What a fantastic time!

We live in a culture which bends over backwards to make things convenient and ever available, one that brings goods from vast distances to meet our demands. It is hardly surprising that we, in the western world, have lost so many of the practical skills of our ancestors. In a sense the world itself is laid out in the typical supermarket, displayed and packaged for our convenience. I wonder whether I would have found the catapult game as satisfying if all the parts were laid out at the entrance to my tent with detailed instructions showing how to make a "standard catapult."

The family camp underlined to me how powerful we are when we work together, enjoying and cooperating with nature and how thirsty we are for real community building.



Ian Bond

Scout Summer Camp 2011

Tansley Wood, Matlock

Day 1 Sunday

We were told to meet in the Abbot's Langley car park on Sunday. First we needed to load our bags into the minibus, hand in our phones, our cakes and our penknife's. Once everybody arrived at the car park we needed to have a group photo. After that, we said goodbye to our parents, we got into the minibus and set off. After two hours of travelling on the motorways we stopped off for lunch at a service station. We were told we had ten minutes to go to the toilet otherwise we would be shot. Once everyone got back to the bus alive we sat down and ate our lunch. Soon as everybody had finished eating we set off again.



After hours of driving we finally made it to Tansley wood. We all had to help get things from the trailer. Then we went to look around the camp site. There was a river running down the back of the campsite and lots of places to make fires. Then were told to set up our tents, we got into our groups and started putting up our tents. After minutes of frustration and confusion we put up the tents and started to load the tents with all our gear for



the week. We could see that all our gear made the tents look like a bomb site. After a while we went around the camp site to explore. After half an hour we found a tunnel going under a hill which had a stream running down it. So the first thing we thought to do was to go up the tunnel with a torch wearing our wet shoes. There were spiders on the top of the tunnel and the water was freezing cold. It took us ten minutes to get through the tunnel and at the end, was a stream of water that led down to the camp site. Then we quickly went back down the tunnel to the camp site. Once we got back to the campsite we got changed and were put into teams of three or four. We were going to do a couple challenges around the campsite. The first challenge we were given was a bucket strapped to a pulley system with two

people in the river filling the bucket with a cup, once they had filled the bucket the other person had to pull up the bucket and count of how many buckets they had filled.

The next challenge was to remember something from a sheet of paper that was strapped to a tree. You only had 30 seconds to remember it and then you would write it down on another sheet. After that it was time for dinner. On the menu tonight was a Spanish meal, which was delicious. After dinner, it was time to plan for a Hike for the next day. It took everyone forever to plan the Hike; some people did it all wrong and needed to start again. We were all really tired and wanted to go to bed. It was only ten o'clock but when we were told to go to bed, what they really meant was to sit in your tents and stay up and chat.

Day 2 Monday

It was 7.29 in the morning and everybody was still asleep. But as soon as it became 7.30 you could hear the most horrific sound you will ever hear in your entire life. The Explorers were banging on a pan with a wooden spoon. Everybody started waking up and started to shout GO AWAY! Just to make it worse the Explorers came into the tents and unzipped the pods and hit the pan so hard you were really awake. Once everybody got up, we prepared breakfast and sat down and waited for the hot food to cook. Once breakfast was over, it was time for the activities to start. Some people did their hike first, others did rifle shooting and archery and the rest did Kayaking. My first activity was kayaking. We had to go in the minibus. As soon as we arrived we needed to unload the kayaks. Everybody started to shout out "I am having the white one," "I am having the black one," "No, I am having the black one". After all that arguing we finally had chosen our kayaks. We took them down to the river. The river had a strong current running down it which meant it was difficult to line up facing upstream. Once we all let go of each other's kayak's we set off downstream. There was always one person holding up the pack, so we needed to go slowly until that person had caught up with the rest of us. It did not take long until we came across some rapids, it was great fun.



The water just pulled you down the stream like the wind catches a sailing boat. Once we were all down the rapids, we set off for another half an hour

of kayaking, it was hard work. Then we came across a bank so we put our kayaks on the bank and sat down and had a quick rest. Trust me when the leaders said “quick,” they meant quick. After our short break we set off again only to find a tree that had collapsed over the river. Luckily, we found a part of the river that was not entirely blocked. There was just enough room to get by, one at a time. Once everyone



was through we reached some rapids and these were BIG. Everybody except one made it through the rapids without capsizing out their boat. After all that, we still needed to carry kayaks up a hill back to the van. We got changed and had our lunch and waited for the next group to come and swap with us.

We got in their mini bus and drove back to Tansley campsite. Once we arrived back at the camp we had to quickly get ready for our hike. We needed hiking boots, water proofs, insect repellent, water bottles and our maps that we had designed the night before. We were then taken in the minibus to the first checkpoint. At the first checkpoint we needed to find the bearing on the compass so we knew which direction to take. The whole walk was 13 miles. When we arrived at the last checkpoint we stopped at a children’s play area and went on the swings and the slides. We were all acting like five year olds because we were so happy that it was the end of the hike.

Once back at the camp we only had 10 minutes to get ready for a tent inspection. Most of the tents looked like a bomb site. Only if your tent was messy you would need to clean the toilets for a punishment and you really didn’t want to do that. When it came to the tent inspection nearly everyone’s belongings were tidy and the tents looked tidy enough to sleep in.

After the inspection, it was time to prepare dinner, everyone was really hungry. The food was delicious as normal. After everyone had eaten their dinner it was time for the camp fire. The fire started quite small but after 5 minutes you had trouble looking at it because it was so hot. Once the camp fire ended it was time to go to sleep. Most people went to sleep but some people stayed up chatting just like the night before.



Day 3 Tuesday

It was 7.30 in the morning and everyone was woken up by the banging of the pan and the wooden spoon. Everybody was saying "I hate that sound it is the worst sound I have heard in my entire life". When everybody had got ready, it was time for breakfast. It was another fry up and cereal. When we all finished eating it was time for more activities. Some people needed to go hiking, some people went Kayaking and the rest went rifle shooting and archery.

Today I had Archery and Rifle shooting. We needed to head down to the woods to find four rifles and four targets. Everybody had their own target to hit and we all just swapped round when everybody had their five shots. Some people managed hit the bull's eye and the bull's eye was only half a centimetre. When everybody had finished hitting the targets, we went down to the woods to find various toys strapped to trees for us to hit. It was really funny because some of the toys were next to the river, so if you shot them, they would go straight into the river. Once everybody had finished it was time for Archery. There were three targets and three sets of bows and arrows. We all took turns shooting at the target. Some people hit the target some people did not even hit it at all. The targets were in front of the river so if you missed the target, the arrows would go straight into the river which was a problem because we weren't allowed to get wet. We needed to find a way to get the arrows without falling in the river. We stepped on the rocks to get to the other side. Once we got all the arrows back we headed back to camp to have lunch. Whilst we were eating we started to write our postcards to home.



After lunch it was time for Pioneering bridge building. There was a river running down the back of our campsite and what we needed to do was to build a bridge to get to the other side of the river. We used ropes, beams, staves and string. It was a big job. Every one of us got involved with building the bridge. Firstly, we needed to build the frame of the bridge and then we built the plank to walk across to the other side of the river. We made lots of knots in the rope so we knew it was sturdy enough to walk across safely without falling into the river and getting soaking wet. After we assembled the bridge it was time to plan our expedition for the following day. It was going to be a bigger hike than on

Monday. We needed to plan our routes and draw the route on the map and find out the grid reference on the map so we could use the compass if we got lost. Once we had completed planning of the Expedition, we needed to prepare our own dinners with the help of the leaders. We all got into groups and cooked different dinners. Once we finished eating it was time to go to sleep. Once again the tents got into a mess again, so that was another job for the tent inspection for tomorrow.

Day 4 Wednesday

It was 7.30 in the morning and we were all asleep in our tents until the banging of the frying pan and the wooden spoon. We all had a big fry up and cereal because it was the day of the expedition.

We all checked that we had our water proofs, our hiking boots, and bottle of water, lunch, and fruit and our maps and compasses. We were driven in the minibus to the first checkpoint. When we arrived we were all very competitive to see who would get to the last checkpoint first. We all set off quickly but after half an hour we were all asking to stop for a drink. It did not help that when there were hundreds of midges flying around you in the boiling heat. It was so exhausting! We stopped half way at a playground to eat some of our lunch and to go to the toilet. After a rest we had lots of energy and we were determined to finish the expedition and without having to stop again. We finally reached the last checkpoint we were so happy, we jumped into the stream and cooled down. Once everybody had returned to the final checkpoint we got into the stream to start to look for fish in the water. We checked under rocks and saw some really big fish, we even managed to catch some of them and put them in a child's bucket who was also fishing, and we helped and added to his bucket. Back at camp we needed to prepare dinner outdoors for each other. Dinner was prepared using a bucket. We placed three full bags of flour and a whole bag of salt into the bucket adding enough water to make a dough. Half the dough was placed in a tray. A whole chicken was placed on top of the dough and spices were added. Then the whole chicken was wrapped in the other half of the dough. The chicken was placed in the open camp fire and left to cook for two hours. When it had finished cooking it was black. We carried it over to the cooking area, using a hammer and chisel we got to the chicken it was the most delicious piece of chicken I have ever tasted.



Once everyone had finished eating their dinner, we all sat around the camp fire. We were all thinking about the next day, because the next day we would be going to Alton Towers. We were all discussing what rides to go on and which ones would be really scary. We were all very tired from a busy day so we didn't stay up very late.

By Nicholas Smith
Patrol Leader, Stags Patrol

Thursday was one of the highlights of the camp, the whole troop visited Alton Towers. Most of us were excited but some were nervous wrecks (I presume most of the leaders were in this category.) After parking which seemed miles away, we were given our tickets and entered the park. Straight away us girls walked to the fastest ride in the park, 'Rita'. The nearer we got the scarier it looked but we were determined to go on it. Once we got off all we could think about was how our hair looked and had our make-up run. As for the boys, all they could think about was where the nearest Burger King was. Throughout the day we went on many more amazing rides and we finished it off with 'Oblivion', the tallest ride in the park. SCARY! The day finished at the swimming pool so the leaders knew that the boys would have had at least one wash for the week.



Friday and Saturday were both challenging days. All the groups rotated doing different activities. These were Caving, Rock Climbing and Abseiling. My group were the first to do abseiling. Firstly there was quite a climb to the top of the quarry, where we secured our harnesses. Tom made it look really easy as he got down in five seconds but when we got closer to the edge the nerves kicked in. It took a lot of courage to get over the edge and lean back but once that was done it was pretty easy (unless you looked down). With encouragement most of us made it.



In the afternoon we went rock climbing, which was tougher than it looked, especially when Amaelia was belaying you. When we got back to camp everyone was exhausted and it was an early night. Saturday morning we went caving. After getting hot having to walk up a big hill we finally reached the cave. Once inside it was pitch black and cold, so I was glad we had those big suits on. After an hour of crawling around and squeezing through small gaps we finally reached the outside again. In the afternoon we had a quick look around the shops and then headed back to camp to prepare for the banquet. This was a fantastic evening with games (even though I got bruises on my legs from playing the table game), toasts and a big campfire. A great time was had by all.

Sunday morning although tired, we rose early to get packed up and dismiss camp. Tents were taken down and the spare food was consumed. Everyone changed into their uniform and the last things got loaded onto the minibuses. Everyone then fell in and were ready to break camp. Many new campers received the Expedition and Outdoor Challenge Awards for all the activities they achieved during the week and there were also a lot of Nights Away badges given out. After this we broke camp and then all jumped onto the minibuses and in high spirits set off on the journey home. Overall it was a great camp and surprisingly it didn't rain at all.

By Fiona Walldock
Assistant Patrol Leader
Otters Patrol



DIARY DATES

November

4th	Fireworks, Manor House Grounds	Fellowship
12th	Green Beret Assault Course setup	Fellowship/Explorers
13th	Remembrance Day Parade 10.30 am	All
18th -20th	Green Beret	Scouts
21st	Group Executive Meeting	Exec
26th	Christmas Market	All

December

2nd	Christmas Meal	Fellowship
5th	Christingle, 7.30 pm at St. Lawrence's	All
13th	Christmas Party at 2.30 pm	Ladies Guild
15th	District Pantomime at Palace Theatre	All
16th	Explorer Christmas Dinner at HQ	Explorers
26th	Boxing Day Walk	Fellowship

January

6th	Ten Pin Bowling	Fellowship
16th	Group Executive Meeting	Exec
20th	Meeting	Ladies Guild

February

3rd	AGM	Fellowship
8th	Tring Brewery Visit	Fellowship
17th/18th	Scouting Skills	Scouts
17th	Meeting	Ladies Guild

March

3rd	District Swimming Gala	All
11th	Beaver Handicraft Competition	Beavers
18th	County Triathlon	Scouts
19th	Group Executive Meeting	Exec

April

22nd	St George's Day (TBC)	ALL
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May

4-6th	Top Ten Scouts Narrowboat Trip	Scouts
18th	Group AGM	All
21st	Group Executive Meeting	Exec



scouts.org.uk/activesupport

Ladies Guild



The Fellowship activities over the summer months have been fast and furious. June, being one of the busiest months of the year in terms of support, but it seems a long way away now.



“Butch’s” walk on 3rd was near Wheathampstead, through a new copse, though we did have trouble finding the saplings. It was a good turnout and we managed to retire to a pleasant hostelry afterwards and some were even lucky enough to win in the meat raffle.

I’ve found one!





Numerous members of the Fellowship and Ladies Guild turned out again, as they do each year, to run the Group's stall at the Carnival. This is a busy day usually starting the night before loading up the marques, gas bottles, tables, chairs and bric-a-brac. Not to mention the chest that Michael Benson made up for the crockery smashing stall that Explorers run, along with plates and ornaments galore.

Once on the field the annual ritual of "what pole goes where?" and "which way should the barbecue face"? begins amidst shouts of "whose got the flag pole?" and "we definitely need more tables!" It's ordered chaos, but we actually do know what we're doing after years of practice!

Many of you probably don't know that way back in the 1950s the Scouts held an annual Fete in the Vicarage Gardens for anyone to attend. Each fete had a theme and everyone used to dress to play the part - Cowboys and Indians and Dickensian

characters and the like. In the Coronation year of 1953 the Scout Group approached the Parish Council and a few other organisations to hold a joint Village carnival. This was arranged and so the first Abbots Langley Carnival was born. The Rover Crew at the time decided to build a vehicle for the procession which was duly named “The Crew Creeper”. It was based on the cartoons of wacky machines that Ronald Searle had drawn for the 1951 Festival of Britain.

The float was built in Bedmond and entered in the Bedmond carnival where it won first prize. Then it was towed



Standing L to R: Geoff Funnell, Butch (17), Jack Botwright, Fred Dobson, Brian Simmons
Seated R to L: Alan Botwright, Ivan Atkins, Bryan Sharpe (15)

to Abbots Langley but as they went down Bedmond Hill they lost control and it crashed into the bank and the undercarriage which was a boiler, came away. So it was towed back to Bedmond to be repaired and finally back to Abbots Langley where they won that carnival as well.

No sooner had the BBQs cooled from the carnival they were off again two weeks later to the Family Camp where the Fellowship supported the catering and games for the weekend. Another very rewarding and enjoyable venture!

July saw a group of 10 or so enjoying a game of golf at Penfold's Pitch and Putt in Garston, which was won by

August is the annual barbecue that used to be held by the side of the canal at Bulbourne and in recent years someone has volunteered their garden instead. This year the Chairman, Pete Linskey held it and it was a great success, with people bringing their own food to cook, and salads and desserts to share.

We went to Dunstable Downs in September to fly kites. Well some of us did, and others went to the wrong location (no names mentioned!). I didn't take any photos as I was too busy trying to get my Ebay special purchase oriental dragon all the way from Hong Kong to fly without dive-bombing every minute. But the highlight, as it is every year, was seeing Mr Sharpe bring out a new kite to fly. This year was no exception as he had a deluxe version that

threatened to lift him off the ground with its force. Luckily a passer-by stopped to give him a lesson and hold him down, otherwise it might have been a “piglet” moment with him floating away in the night sky.

Lastly we spent a very enjoyable evening in October having a Whiskey tasting session courtesy of Mr Linskey, who gave us all the gen as we sniffed and sipped, but it was unanimous that the last one smelt like TCP and was the preferred last choice!

And so we have come through the Summer to Autumn time and leaves starting to gently fall. We shall be away on the annual weekend at the end of the October half term, and this year 19 of us are staying at a bunk house at the bottom of Kinder Scout in Derbyshire.

I think the weather will prove too wet to walk it though, so we may need to plan a less boggy route. You can read all about this and other escapades in the next issue in the New Year.

Do please let us know if you want to join us on any meeting, we are always looking for new members, and next year’s programme will be devised at the AGM in February if you want to add your own ideas.

Most importantly to all current members - 10.15 for 10.30 at Love Lane on 26th December for the Boxing Day Walk.

See you all there ...

Pauline

cubs

Rainforest

Summer Frolics!!

We had a fun-packed, frantic summer term in the Rainforest Cub Pack this year with some exciting activities and challenges.

The term started with three new cubs joining the pack who were all welcomed with open paws!



The key focus of this term was to complete the fitness challenge badge and to this end we arranged the 'Fit-Cub Olympics'. The aim was to measure the level of improvement of each cub in five physical activities over a two week period with a week of healthy eating and exercise in between. Some of the activities were wellie-throwing, hurdles and my personal favourite hole-hooping! On the whole the results were fantastic so well done to all the super fit Cubs!

Along the same vein as the Olympics was a hugely educational talk on nutrition along with some tasty treats, -although not everyone found them tasty!



As we basked in the beautiful summer weather we enjoyed some bush cooking in Lees Wood, some Aero-Ball and Cresta-Running in Phasels Wood and a 'Top 6 Treat' at Top Golf for the best performing cubs of last term.



Despite all of that, one of my favourite events was under a roof! The Jungle Book Production at the Watford Palace Theatre was nothing short of enchanting with some deliciously creative costume design and some real top-notch acting.



Mowgli meets Kaa for the first time in 'The Jungle Book' at the Palace Theatre.

We then finished the term off at Lees Wood with five of the cubs earning the prestigious Silver Award. Congratulations to Oliver Munn, Isaac Irvine, Harry Hurdle, Kieran Redmond and Alex Bruguier for what is a fantastic achievement.



I will end this update with a massive thank you once again to all of the parents that have given us so much support this term. We couldn't do it without you!



Andrew Richardson (Rama)
A.C.S.L Rainforest Cub Pack

Jungle

cubs

Camping with Cubs

By Roslyn Chase, Jungle Cubs, September 2011.

Camping is great fun. It includes enjoyment, skill practice, and a good way to build friendships.

Jungle cubs have had two opportunities to go camping since the pack started in early 2010. We had the District Cub Camp last summer, and the Group Family Camp this summer.

For the District Cub Camp at Lees Wood we had fabulous weather, and needed lots of sun cream. It was a great camp because we got to go without our parents, but did see friends from other cub packs in the district. We learnt a lot of skills like making camp fires, camp cooking, how to work as a team, and, most importantly, camp fire songs! There was a tidy tent competition, which the girls won!

The family camp started with lots and lots of rain, and we got very muddy. There was lots and lots of hot chocolate and good food to keep us warm. It was nice to snuggle in a warm sleeping bag. The rain on the tent was very noisy and it was hard to go to sleep.

However, by the next day it was roasting hot. We were all looking for shade and drinking lots of squash. Luckily the sunshine dried the tents out so they were easy to take down.



The Family Camp was at Phasels Wood and there were loads of great activities in the woods. We worked as groups with other families, and Batman group were lucky enough to come second!! We also got the opportunity to try out the zip wire, abseiling, rifle shooting, archery, and crate staking. I would really like to try the crate staking again, but not break my nose this time!



However, I had such a good time, I managed to forget about my nose and carry on camping.

On the Sunday we had Go Cart Races which were great fun as long as you could steer well. The Dad's got really



competitive, but luckily there were no serious injuries.

In October, we will be having the Jungle Cubs Night Hike, and getting to have a sleepover at the Scout Hut. I am looking forward to showing my younger brother, who has just started with Jungle Cubs, how to camp as a Cub!!

Daniel Nottage - "What I enjoy most about Cubs:

- Summer Camp was fun; I enjoyed sleeping in my tent and taking part in the fun activities. The food was really nice too!
- Being with my friends every Friday and having lots of fun
- Having the chance to win the Cub of the Week (and winning it!)
- Earning badges and working towards them
- Playing games like Fish & Chips
- Going on visits - my favourite was the Apsley Paper Mill

“Just want to say thank you to you and the team for another superb family camp. Everyone works so hard and it makes for a fantastic experience.

As usual the catering was great and it was a treat to be looked after all weekend. Hog roast - fabulous.

I'm sorry we had to leave on Sunday - I hear our teams won both the morning (team 1) and afternoon (Robin) sessions on Saturday.

We all had a great time, please pass our thanks on to the rest of the team”

Thanks again, Kate Bell and family

A Thank You From The Parents

“Just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and everyone involved in the weekend. We couldn't have been looked after any more and are very grateful indeed. We had the time of our lives and eagerly await the next one!!!”

Elaine, Tony and Daniel Nottage

“ Just wanted to say a big thank you for the superb weekend that you and the rest of the team gave us this weekend.

This was our first camping experience with the Cubs and were a little unsure what to expect..... It surpassed anything that we had thought it would be and was thoroughly enjoyed by Samuel (new cub) and his brother Zachary, who at the age of 5 cannot join until the start of next year....something he finds hard to accept.... If he could, he would be in the Beavers NOW!!!!

The organisation and catering were spot on... We all cannot express how much we enjoyed the weekend, it's a shame its only every other year, but I guess that gives those involved a chance to recover and makes the family camp weekend more special....

Please extend our heartfelt thanks to all those involved and we are looking forward to the next one which hopefully will have a drier start to it!”

Paul, Debbie, Samuel and Zachary Hines



September 2011.

Dear Supporter

Hertfordshire Scouts Lottery – only 700 to go!

Have you heard about our Lottery? Maybe you have already bought your chance? If you have, a big thank you for your support. The lottery is supporting local Scout Groups like ours, plus our Hertfordshire Scouts Activity Centres around the county and the rest of the UK.

To date, since we launched the Lottery we have sold some 900 memberships – a great start. However, we do need to sell another 700 to ensure real success. This is where you come in. You can join the Lottery by visiting www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/lottery and printing off the application form. Or, ask our Scout Group for a leaflet. *Then complete it, sign it and post in an ordinary envelope, no stamp required, to:*

Hertfordshire Scouts Lottery
FREEPOST RSJY-TCSE-KAHK
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PE

You will then receive a letter confirming your unique lucky number and you will be entered in the weekly draws for the weekly prizes of £1,000, plus smaller prizes.

Right now, if our Group is one of the first 3 to get Lottery membership sales of 50 from 1st August, we will win a £100 Scout Shops Voucher!

Do please consider joining, and introduce friends and relatives if you can. You will be helping our local Scout Group and Hertfordshire Scouts Activity Centres.

Thank you!

Don't forget to put the unique number for our group on the form before you post it - 2301

Hertfordshire County Scout Council

County Headquarters: Well End Activity Centre, Well End Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 5PR
Tel: 020 8236 0040 Fax: 020 8236 0045 e-mail: admin@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk
County Commissioner: **Richard Harrington** County President: **Nicholas Halsey DL** County Chairman: **Michael Shurety**
Charity No: 302606 Scottish Charity No: 39650 VAT registration No: 761 4558 19

You can also download a lottery form at <http://www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk/attachments/article/349/HCSCLotteryApplicationForm.pdf>
Copies also available in the HQ Foyer

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	Albatross 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)

www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



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