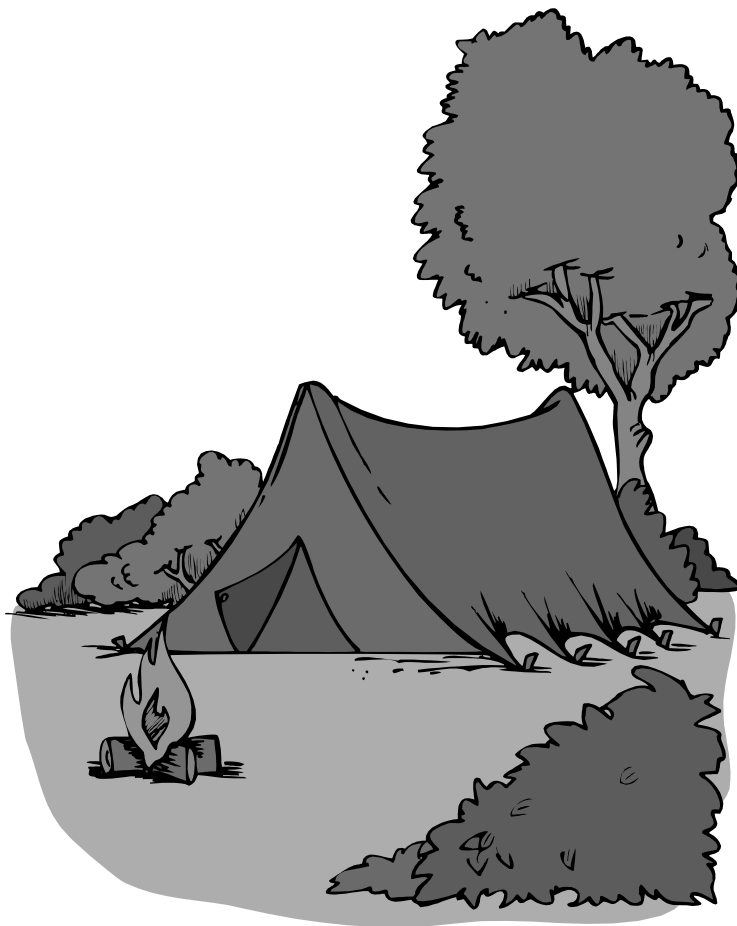


215th Edition

OCTOBER 2012

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Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Chairman's Blog

Well I've had six months now as Group Chairman and what a busy time it has been! I now realise all the things Bryan used to do behind the scenes which often go unnoticed. Incidentally, I was glad to see Bryan out and about recently after many months in hospital - best wishes Bryan.



My main role has been to Chair the Executive meetings where twelve or so of us make arrangements for the many activities which run throughout the year. This year so far we have had the Carnival, Jumble Sales and the fantastic District Camp which was enjoyed by all who attended. The Group Executive is made up of parents and leaders of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who give up a huge amount of their time to ensure our group is as successful as it is, and I would like to thank all of them for their tremendous efforts.

Carnival and Double Jumbles are our main source of income, raising £3,000-£4,000 every year which is essential for the financial well-being of the Group. Therefore, it is important that these events are well supported by all of the Group, and parents, so they remain successful.

The most challenging part of my new role so far has been taking over the reigns from the capable Bryan Sharpe, especially taking on the current solar panel project and dealing with all the associated paperwork and numerous phone calls.

The District Camp has to be the most exciting part so far. A lot of hard work goes into these events behind the scenes which is not seen by many people. The rewards for such a tremendous team effort is expressed on all of the young peoples' happy faces.

After all, what we are hopefully creating are happy memories for the future. I still remember some great camps I attended as a Cub some 40 years ago.

One of the highlights of the Camp was the large number of parent helpers attending. I hope that those who attended saw at first hand the 'pulling together' approach of a Camp and Scouting in general. I hope it will encourage them to step forward more often, the survival of the movement depends on people volunteering. It is hard work at times, but the rewards and social side of Scouting are huge.

We are privileged to own our Headquarters which we hire out to many local organisations and it provides us with a steady income that we can channel back into the scouting activities that your children enjoy. The building needs constant maintenance to keep it in good condition and only recently the boiler had to be replaced which was costly.

I am always on the lookout for parents who would like to help out in any way they can, whether it be some hoovering or dusting every now and then, or some painting and decorating. Please feel free to make yourselves known if you have skills and a little time to offer! "The more of you that can give, means the few of us who do the most, can do less."

And so to the future... This is always difficult to predict, but personally I would like a successful fundraising year and to see the rewards reinvested back into the Group. The painting of the hallway and stairs is a priority and the kitchen needs a good overhaul. I also have some other long term ideas tucked up my sleeve that I would like our Executive to consider in due course!

I look forward to the next six months of Scouting in Abbots Langley with great excitement and anticipation.

Bye for now,
Mike Benson

Microgeneration Project A Year On!



After obtaining a generous 50% grant from the National Lottery and some help from the Co-op bank, together with fundraising and a quiz night, we were finally in a position to pay for the microgeneration project. In order to satisfy the grant conditions we increased the thickness of insulation in the loft and included cavity wall insulation before the installation of 21 solar photovoltaic panels. The panels were installed by Engensa Ltd and the loft and cavity wall insulation by Baring insulation Ltd.

Our toilet cisterns already have restrictive flushes to conserve water usage and our windows were changed to double glazing to conserve heat loss. We are now in the process of changing the light bulbs to low energy ones and a digital heating thermostat and programmer will make our heating times more accurate and efficient. We changed our boiler to a more efficient combination type to reduce our gas usage. We have also installed automatic lighting in the toilets so the lights only come on while they are occupied and have hand dryers to reduce paper towel usage.

In May of 2011 we saw a presentation of the system at the Group's AGM, and after its installation some tours were made to show the system off! The panels are guaranteed for 25 years and were turned on on 5th July 2011. We should be paid 43p per KWh every quarter, and we estimate producing 3186 Kwh per annum.

To date we have generated about 4000KWH of electricity and are due to receive about £1700 from Eon as part of their Feed In Tariff scheme as well as free electricity for the past 12 months.

Once again a genius idea of the President Bryan Sharpe, and with help from the Executive Committee has made this another first for the Abbots Langley Head Quarters. Not only was the building built by former members, but the spirit continues today in enhancing the fabulous asset that the Group has of a warm, sturdy and now 21st century eco-friendly facility that benefits the group and local community who use it.

Clive's Chat

Many congratulations to Josh Coulson, James Cresswell, Toby Gamble and Jamie Tearle on achieving their Gold Chief Scouts Award, to Daniel Coulson on completing his Silver Chief Scouts Award and to Harry Argent-Phillips, Kieran Burt, Billy Powell and Miles Pyatt on attaining their Bronze Chief Scouts Award. Well done.



In June, over 70 of our younger members attended the District 40th Anniversary Camp & Activity Day at Lees Wood. It was a great occasion and everyone had a fantastic time. Many thanks to the Leaders, members of the Active Support team and an excellent number of parents for attending and helping with the setting up and running of the event.



The Summer Term also saw a couple of its main fund raising events with over £2,000 raised at the village carnival and our jumble sale achieving a record £1,500. We owe a lot to all those adults in the Scout Group who put in countless hours on behalf of all our youngsters to raise significant funds. My thanks to the many parents who got involved and helped out.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

Scout Troop Achievements

We had a very busy and fruitful summer term with a huge amount of achievements. Many congratulations to -

- Alex Bruguier, Daniel Cameron, Henry Caplan, Roslyn Chase, Daniel Cooke, Daniel Coulson, Ben Davies, Oliver Durack, Leo Farrington, Elie Harris, Harry Hurdle, Max Morvan, Oliver Munn, Kieran Redmond, Matthew Smith, Jamie Tiffen, Hannah Trotman, Alex Weston and Joe Woodger on completing their first Scout Challenge, the Adventure Challenge;
- Alex Bruguier, Daniel Cameron, Henry Caplan, Roslyn Chase, Ben Davies, Oliver Heilling, Max Morvan, Oliver Munn, Jamie Tearle, Jamie Tiffen, Hannah Trotman and Alex Weston on achieving their Outdoor Challenge;
- Miles Johnson, Josh Coulson, Toby Gamble, Nicholas Smith, Jamie Tearle and James Cresswell on attaining their Promise Challenge;
- Joe Prior, Connor Hill and James Cresswell on achieving their Creative Challenge;
- Josh Coulson, James Cresswell, Toby Gamble and Jamie Tearle on completing their Fitness Challenge;
- Robert Armstrong and Jamie Tearle on the award of their Community Challenge;
- Alex Bruguier, Daniel Cameron, Henry Caplan, Roslyn Chase, Oliver Heilling, Max Morvan, Oliver Munn, Jamie Tearle, Jamie Tiffen, Hannah Trotman and Alex Weston on attaining their Expedition Challenge;
- Alex Bruguier, Josh Coulson, Oliver Heilling, Kieran Redmond, Timothy Cannock, Oliver Munn, Hannah Trotman and James Cresswell on achieving her Global Challenge.

Very well done. An incredible 65 Scout Challenges awarded in just one term. So many we couldn't fit them on the inside page!

Clive

2012 District Anniversary Camp

This year's District camp went down great! With all Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers involved. We were firstly down at Lees Wood on Thursday, setting up our tents with the company of all the other North Watford scout groups also pitching theirs. Once we had finished, we were of up the field playing some traditional Foxes and Hounds.



On Friday we were all packed and ready to make our way back to Lees Wood, so we all chucked our bags in the trailer and set off.

Once we arrived at Lees Wood we all got into our tents and began unpacking our camping equipment ready for the following days. We had dinner which included a scrummy BBQ! And then went off to do some field games and have a traditional campfire. It was not long after we headed back to our tents to go to sleep, well for some people!

The following morning we were up bright and early for great traditional English fry up and were ready for the activities. There were many great activities to choose from. The first one we took part in was the big bouncy wrecking ball; the aim of the game was to knock



your 4 opponents off their stands to win, so this is exactly what we did. After that we headed to the giant table football, which was great, and won 3-2 with some great goals and our man of the match was Timothy Cannock. Once we



had finished I headed over to the pushcarts to take part in a race against 2 others, which was great fun even when your shoes come flying off your feet!



Once we had finished our activities we headed back to

grab some lunch and once again headed out to the field for more activities. The Castle Run and the Topple Bull were great and far better than most of us expected! So finally tired out, we trudged in the rain back to our tents to relax and have some warm dinner, but the day was not over just

yet!

We all got ready for the field disco and our band representing us included Ros and Alex Chase, Oli and Adam Munn, April Turner, Dave Goodman and George Styles all



playing some great instruments. They all did a great job playing as we all danced along in our big union jack hats! The best part I'm sure you will all agree on was seeing Clive and Alison up and showing their best dance moves, that really made it a day to remember! But most of the scouts will agree that the worst was all coming back with burned tongues from the boiling but tasty hot chocolate!





The following morning we were up and ready for the District 2012 It's a Knockout competition. All Groups we given a Commonwealth country to represent, with ours being Zambia. We all had our faces painted and our instruments ready to play and cheer on our team. Unfortunately it's a bit embarrassing when you are wearing a big green top with huge pieces of card representing the Zambian flag sewed to your top!



But no matter, we headed out to the playing fields to begin the competition and the first challenge was the 7 manned sack race, including 1 beaver, cub, scout all sitting in the sack and 4 Explorers

carrying the sack and we achieved a great victory, even though we had a wrong turn. After we had the Post Box Run, which the aim was to get as many letters through the door as possible and put them into the bag and with great effort we came 1st and we were top of the leader board at this point. There were only a



couple of challenges left to go and we were doing exceptionally well in all of them. The final challenge was the 'Cup and Water'. The atmosphere was intense. We all tried our best in the challenge and the aim of the game was to

carry a cup of water in your mouth and drop it into the bucket and the team with the most water in the bucket wins! But there was a catch... you were all tied up by the leg, so instead of a 3 legged race it was more of a 6 legged race!

All of us tired out and soaking wet from the rain we all gathered round to watch our District Commissioner, Ian Leach, receive his Silver Acorn. It was then announced that we were the overall winners of the competition and we headed back to camp with me and Liam holding our victorious team's flag. We then sadly had to pack our bags for the journey home.

I'm sure that every single member of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who went on the camp will agree, it was a wonderful camp and a super thanks to all the organisers, and my personal thanks to Clive for getting my form in even though there was a little confusion! I do hope there will be many more camps like this!

Once again thank you to everyone!

Rob Armstrong
Patrol Leader, Eagles



Camp all set up - home from home. Pauline (Scoop), Tony (AS Man), Mike (Radar). Otherwise known as the Woodsmoke Editor, Fellowship/ Active Support Manager and The Chairman

Camp fires burning,
Camp fires burning ...



Cheryl Gillbrand (Jungle Cub Leader), Lucy Tearle and Amaelia Parmenter (Lake Beavers), Harry the Hornet (wearing his safety helmet ready for the go karts), Richard Gabriel behind (Active Support), John Gomme (AS), Alison Redmond (Explorer Leader), Dave Goodman (Asst Scout Leader)



Sarah Lowrie (far left), Eddie Chalk, Hazel Harkin and Holly Noonan. "How does this game work again?"



"Are you dry in there Alison?"

Summer Scout Camp

This summer's scout camp was at Beaver Lodge in the Forest of Dean. All the Scouts met in the Abbots Langley car park behind the shops, all kit was handed in and the minibuses loaded up. Once everyone was ready we gathered for a group photo and then set off on our long journey.



When we got to the campsite there was a lot to do, including setting up the tents. When we had finished we were allowed to paddle in the very shallow stream that ran through the campsite to cool off as it was a warm day.

In the first few days we did lots of activities – including canoeing and caving. We learned a lot of backwoods skills including making our own bivouacs and slept out in them. We went out in the minibus and trailer and used our penknives to cut the ferns for the roof of the bivouacs. We practiced lots of camping and survival skills. We were split into groups to do these different activities each morning and afternoon. We went swimming as well. Unfortunately, we were only able to sleep out in them for

one night. Some local youths set fire to one of them when we weren't around so our leaders wouldn't let us sleep in them anymore to be safe.

The biggest challenge for the week was completing the two expeditions we needed to do for our Expedition Challenge badge. The first part was a hike that started at Goodrich Castle car park and then came back there. It was a very warm day and by the time we got back we were hot and tired and no-one had the energy to look round the castle which Clive had organised with English Heritage. The second Expedition challenge was to hike from the campsite to Lydney where we got to go swimming and shopping and then we caught a steam train back to the campsite in Parkend.

In the last couple of days we all did the activities of Archery, Rifle Shooting and Cycling which most people enjoyed. By the end of the week we were all tired and by Sunday were ready to pack up and go home. Awards were given out before we left. We packed



What Leaders have to do to get some peace and quiet

up our tents and kit into the minibuses and headed home. It had been a busy week and I had a great time. Thanks to all the leaders and helpers for giving up their week for our enjoyment.

Oliver Heilling
Patrol Leader, Foxes

In the Spotlight....

In each edition of Woodsmoke we will meet a different person from the Group and learn a bit about them and what makes them tick

By Holly Noonan



Name: Bryan Sharpe.

Place of birth: Hatfield.

Occupation: Retired builder. I started as a carpenter and became a foreman, then a general foreman. Then I decided to form my own company, Abbrick Construction, which stood for Abbots and Bricket Wood, as I was in partnership with a man from Bricket Wood.

When did you become involved with AL Scout

Group? When I was 8 years old (about 67 years ago). I had a friend in Bedmond and we used to play in the woods there. We came across some Cubs camping and we were fascinated and watched them from the bushes. One of the leaders came over and invited us to join the Group and it went from there.

What role(s) do/did you play at the Group? I was a Cub, Scout, Senior Scout and Rover Scout. Then I was in the Fellowship and became Chairman of the Group in about 1999, a role I carried out for 13 years until this May. Now I have just taken over the role of President.

When you were young(er), what did you want to be? A window cleaner, then an electrician. I was good at woodwork at school, so I went on a couple of courses for joinery.

Who is your hero and why? Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton – Antarctic explorer. His ship got wrecked in 1915 and they evacuated onto an iceberg. Shackleton and one or two crew members sailed in one of the life boats to one of the whaling islands and then returned over a year later to rescue the rest of his crew.

First car: Morris 8, 1937 model, when I was 18. (The 8 stands for the horse power). I had 3 motorbikes before that!

Favourite food: Roast dinner, gammon steak with pineapple, any kind of fish!

Hobbies: Previously I used to love caving, climbing, mountaineering. Now I enjoy the Abbots Langley history society and gardening.

Most memorable moment: The birth of each of my children.

Favourite part of Abbots Langley: I like walking across the fields in the St.

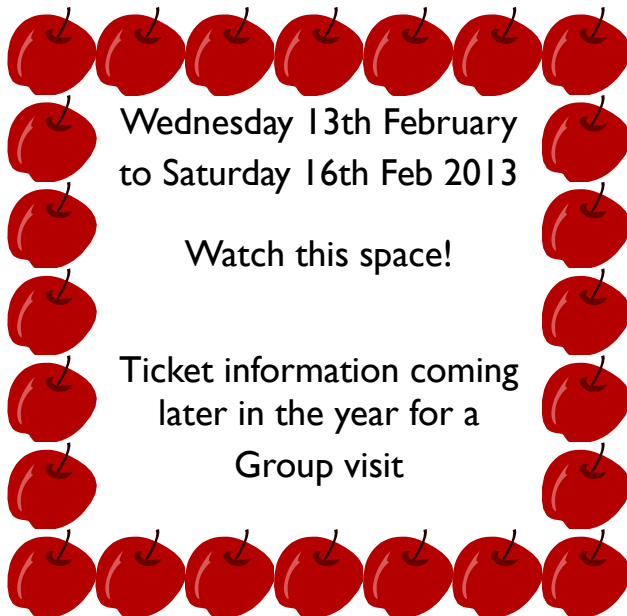
Albans direction, along part of the route of the Boxing Day walk.

Who would you most like to meet, dead or alive? Chris Bonington – famous mountaineer who climbed Mt. Everest and encouraged other people to do so. I actually did meet him once at a lecture he did in Stevenage about one of his expeditions, but I'd like to meet him again!

If you could have one wish, what would it be? That all my four children and my 9 (and a half!) grandchildren live happy lives.

What do you enjoy most about being involved with AL Scouts? The friendships I have formed over the years and the many activities I have been involved with.

St Albans & District Scout & Guide Gang Show





Becoming a Queen's Scout is the highest youth award that can be achieved in Scouting, and so many congratulations to Tomas Redmond in achieving his award.

Thoughts and Thanks, words from a Queens Scout

To me Scouting is epitomised with outdoor adventure. I believe scouting should be about getting outdoors, there is a beautiful world out there with amazing things to see and do. I have been fortunate enough to travel a lot and have some amazing experiences, the desire to do this stems from the introduction of new activities discovered through Scouting. My passion lies with climbing, and it is this how I define myself and live my life, it is this that allows me to travel all over the world, and for this I owe all to scouting.



I hate the Xbox culture that impacts young people today; far too many live within the virtual world. This virtual world doesn't come close to reality in any aspects of excitement or discovery, every feeling, emotion, adrenaline rush and learning is a minute percentage of that the real world has to offer. The real world is so beautiful and varied, offering countless things to see and do, places to go and people to meet, offering a lifetime's worth of experience.

One of the greatest strengths of Scouting is how it disregards the virtual world, weekly meetings and weekend activities do not happen via the internet or games consoles, there is no place for that in scouting. It allows young people to discover for themselves the amazing things that can be done in the real world, one week you could be kayaking down a river, the next abseiling down a cliff face. There is a whole host of sports and activities that can be enjoyed, all surrounded by good friends.

This leads me to another benefit of Scouting, the friends you make. Ask any older Scout and they will say how close they still are with people they met through Scouts. Sharing such incredible experiences, both good and bad, allows people to bond together, often the closest friendships are formed through long wet cold

nights on a hillside. Scouting forges true, honest friendships, and particularly at an age where young people, full of social pressures, can defer down non-desirable paths. It allows friendships to grow with like-minded people in a safe and secure environment.

I certainly believe Scouting has a huge place in the 21st century, developing young minds and allowing young people to thrive in a friendly environment offering so many opportunities. It is crucial at a time where young people are growing up faster through negative social pressure and missing out on the adventure of childhood, Scouting



allows kids to be kids. It laid the foundations of who I am today and the path I take. Without it I would probably be the same as a lot of people I know, simply living for the night out at the weekend, instead having just got back from a climbing road trip around England and Wales,

before I go to climb in the Alps. Who needs the night out at the weekend, there is a whole world out there.

I would like to thank my mum and Abbots Langley Scouts for introducing me to Scouting through beavers, cubs and scouts, with particular thanks to Clive Winder for putting up with me when I was a scout and running such a great troop as to maintain interest for that difficult age group. Also Hemel Hempstead Explorers and Network for letting me join when I was 16 and providing an excellent unit. In addition for putting on all the expeditions and the brilliant way they run their DofE and Scout awards, they really are at the top of the game and the awards coming through exemplify their hard work.

Lochearnhead Scout station also deserves thanks for showing me the mountains and everything they have to offer, and planting the desire to go back into them as much as possible.

Finally I want to pay tribute to the late Pete Linskey, and I receive this award in honour of him. He introduced me to rock climbing, taught me the essentials, took me on my first outdoor climbing trip, even gave me my first outdoor job and ultimately unleashed the adventure lifestyle I live by.

Tomas Redmond



As always in Explorer's we have had a very action packed programme during the summer term, from survival skills and golf to high ropes and sailing. With weekends away to the Norfolk Broads and the Brecon Beacons in addition to the county expedition to Lochearnhead, a great time was had by all in various parts of the country.

A huge thank you to all the explorers, parents and friends for helping us raise £696 at the carnival. It was hard work with running the tea and cake stall plus the plate smashing stand, but our efforts paid off with the large amount of money raised. We spent most of the money on much needed equipment. Thank you to all of you that made and donated cakes for us to sell.

Our Explorer unit has grown from strength to strength; we now have 26 Explorers Scouts in our unit, and the unit is set to continue achieving over the next and subsequent terms. We will be getting outdoors more with numerous trips to experience the beauty the UK has to offer, in addition we have started the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which has proven to be hugely popular and hopefully will also grow from strength to strength.

Thank you all once again, without your support, help and feedback we would really be struggling.

Finally, as I'm sure you're aware our only limiting factor is leaders, so this is a plea for anyone to give up any amount of time to help, or if you know any young adults who would be interested please get in touch.



Alison Redmond
Explorer Leader

Brecon Beacon Weekend!

Friday:

The coach was scheduled to leave at 7:00, but due to some unforeseen circumstance, our departure was delayed until 7:50 so as a result (and a wrong turning along the way) we didn't arrive at Brecon Farm House until 1:05am on Saturday morning.

After we removed all of our bags from the roof of the mini bus and had a mug of hot chocolate we were sent to bed because we had "a long hike in the morning!" so we fell asleep.

Saturday:

At about 8:00am Saturday, most of us were up and having a breakfast of cereal, bacon, eggs, sausages and mugs of tea with alarming amounts of sugar. Those that weren't up soon got up as the smell of cooking bacon were irresistible...

After breakfast, we departed on our separate hikes with 4-5 explorers and 2 leaders to a group and it was very much a case of here's a map, find somewhere interesting in the area and find your way there! We

revelled in the freedom of it (once we found our actual starting place)! We walked from 10:00am to about 5:00pm – apart from one group that arrived back at HQ gone 6:00pm.

Over hill and under hill, through valleys and past farms... all in the sun! It was amazing. Our map reading skills were good enough not to get us lost, and our rucksacks weren't too heavy because we didn't need to pack that much to take out with us.



When we got back that evening, we relaxed on our bunks, ate sweets and when the 3rd group got back we had a delicious meal of spaghetti bolognaise. In the evening Tom Redmond gave his D of E and Queens Scout presentation. Once the projector was 'sorted out' it was a very informative and compelling presentation, but delivered in a casual way with a humorous element.

Sunday:

The next morning we were woken up by Tom, and told to pack all our stuff before we had breakfast. Challenge accepted. A record time, we were packed (though maybe not as neatly as when we had arrived) and were enjoying our bacon sausages and tea once again, before cleaned up our base and set off. This time we had a definite route. Go up one mountain, go around to the other peak, come down and make your way to the car park. Easier said than done. This time, we were walking from 9:00am to 2:43pm and covered 7.5km.

It was an amazing walk, with breath taking views at the top of Pen Y Fan and the sun was with us all the way...until the 2nd peak. Then clouds blew in and obstructed the view and it suddenly got chilly. We stopped for lunch at around 12:30 (just below the 2nd peak) and had the sandwiches Alison had made the night before. We continued our walk and finally met up with everyone in the car park, once back in the coach we headed home.



That about concludes our highly enjoyable weekend away in the Brecon Beacons.

By Thomas Rose

Bobbing about on the Broads 25th – 27th May 2012

Around 7pm on Friday 25th May members of the Watford North Explorer Scout group boarded the minibus and set off for Norfolk. Not 10 minutes into the journey we had to stop as many of the bags were in danger of falling off the roof of the minibus. We then had to spend half an hour getting them tied back on safely. The rest of the journey went without a hitch!

We arrived at the boat docks around 11pm and unloaded in the darkness, dumping our gear in the boathouse. Then we had a safety brief followed by a much needed sleep.

The following day we were woken up early and greeted by the sight of the Wherry named Albion (nicknamed the death star due to its sail). We were 'shown the ropes', then we were assigned to our boats. Being aboard the motorboat we set off first and aided those in the half deckers to set sail. Meanwhile the Albion raised its sail and slowly joined us. We had a fun filled morning and then docked for lunch aboard the Wherry. We continued sailing after swapping boats and eventually got to our mooring site and continued to have a great time. We rafted up all the boats together in the middle of the lake where we were to spend the night under



canvas.

Sunday morning we were awoken, had breakfast and got under way in the boats. We were towed to our starting point. Chris and I attempted to raise the sail in high winds, resulting in me getting a nice dunking as the boom smacked me in the face. All good fun! We had another great day sailing back to the starting point. We packed up and headed for home.



It was a memorable weekend, great fun and made lots of new friends. Looking forward to the next one.

By Liam Goodman

Lochearnhead – 50th Anniversary



As one of the 7 scout sites that Hertfordshire own, Lochearnhead has been open for 50 years, so to celebrate, a number of important members of Hertfordshire Scouts and a few explorers spent some time in Scotland.

On Friday 3rd August, at 21:00, 8 explorers from Watford North met at Vespa's headquarters at 5th Watford North. The drive to mid Scotland took until 6 in the morning, and not getting any sleep. Upon arrival we unpacked the minibus and took our belongings into a cabin. A quick tour followed, then the guests arrived. These included

the Head of Scouts in Hertfordshire, ex-head of Scouts in Hertfordshire and many other important people.

After a buffet style lunch, we went for a short hike, about 7km, we were being taught along the way about how to safely walk in the mountains with a length of rope. After a long night and eventful day, we finally got into our bunks and slept like logs.

The second day was taken up by a 27 mile bike ride from Lochearnhead to Killin, this took all day. The hilly scenery of Scotland, with the

lochs and forests were amazing, everyone was in awe. It was completely knackered though.

The next three days were taken up by a hike, approximately 20km. We took a path down a valley with mountains and hills either side. On the second day we hiked and climbed Ben Challum (1049ft) before setting up camp near a lochan, the midges swarmed everyone, so we had to apply the spray heavily. We trooped into Crainlarich on the third day, exhausted and tired. The ride back in the minibus was blissful, being off your feet and on a comfy chair after three days on your feet was more than welcome. We got back to the cabins and showered and changed, before heading off for some shopping in Callander.

As the week was closing, no one wanted to leave, but quite the opposite of what everyone was expecting, the weather was holding out

perfectly, and for the day sailing it could not have been more perfect. With not much wind on Loch Earn, sailing was easy as there wasn't much to do. That was fine by everyone as we were still very exhausted from the previous day.

The last day was split for people that wanted to do different things, half of us did sailing and the other half did cycling. With no wind and blazing sun, both cycling and sailing were a challenge, but for everyone it was another great day, and a perfect end to a long week.

This was by far one of the best weeks of my life, with all the activities and amazing scenery, coupled with awesome home-made food, I would recommend this site for anyone who gets the opportunity to do it.

Daniel Lowrie
Albatross Explorers

DIARY DATES

October

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 17th & 20th | Double Jumble Sales | All |
| 26th-28th | Weekend to Ironbridge, Shropshire | Fellowship |

November

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2nd, 19.30 | Craft Evening, HQ | Fellowship |
| 10th | Construct Green Beret course | Fellowship |
| 11th, 10.30 | Remembrance Day parade | All |
| 17th-18th | Green Beret | Scouts |
| 19th | Group Executive Meeting | Exec |
| 20th, 14.00 | Margaret Forrester - Guess the Object | Ladies Guild |
| 30th | Set up Christmas Market (evening) | Fellowship |

December

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1st. 09.00 | Christmas Market | All |
| 2nd. 15.00 | Christingle candle making, HQ | All welcome |
| 3rd, 19.30 | Christingle at St. Lawrence's Church | All |
| 7th, 19.30 | Christmas Meal, Two Brewers | Fellowship |
| 21st | Christmas Tasting | Fellowship |
| 26th, 10.30 | Boxing Day Walk, Love Lane | Fellowship |
| 11th, 14.30 | Christmas Party at HQ | Ladies Guild |

January

| | | |
|------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 4th | Ten Pin Bowling, Hollywood Bowl | Fellowship |
| 21st | Group Executive Meeting | Exec |

February

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1st | AGM & Cheese and Wine | Fellowship |
| 19th, 14.30 | Theme to be agreed | Ladies Guild |
| 13th - 16th | St Albans Gang Show | All |



It has been an extremely busy time in Fellowship since the last Woodsmoke. No sooner was the AGM over in **May**, when the Carnival sausages were rushing towards us at an alarming rate. All hands to the decks again for a

mammoth 1400 cook off. We didn't quite make all the sales due to the weather being a little colder, and everyone was partied out (and pockets empty) after the long jubilee weekend.



We gained a new member at the AGM, John Gomme and he was thrown into the events of the summer without his feet touching the floor. Thanks John, you've passed the test! If any others of you liked the colour of the T-shirt and would like to join - step right up ...



No sooner had we scrubbed down the BBQ, we were packing up for the event of the year—the District Anniversary camp in **June**. As you can see all of the photos in this issue have a theme - no one has come away unscathed! Thank you so much to Fellowship members, leaders and parents who helped over the weekend. I think some of you actually enjoyed it and I hear you can't wait for the next one.



Mark Stead ran a Geocaching evening in July as part of the Scout programme and we released a travel bug called “Pete Linskey’s World Jamboree” (the third in the series), to commemorate his death.

We found it!

If you want to track these on www.geocaching.com the references are TB4K334, TB4JT9N and TB4J4NV.

One barmy summer’s evening in **July 16** of us trooped into London to see *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Globe Theatre. We ventured across the Millennium (wobbly) Bridge and were rewarded with the wonderful sight of Tower Bridge adorned with Olympic rings. The Shard had opened the night before and could just be glimpsed between buildings.





It was a wonderful evening and a very funny performance, made all the more comfortable by bringing our own cushions.



In **August** Richard (seen below with wife Ruth) organised a picnic in St Albans park. The theme was “Not The Olympics”. We

each brought food to share, tables, chairs and even a gazebo adorned with bunting. It was like “extreme picnicing” as



we really know how to live in the Fellowship! Games were set out for us to try - volleyball and throw the dart seemed to be the favourites with some people being a bit silly and putting the court marker cones on their heads!

Into **September** and with the nights drawing in we were hard pushed to complete our walk around Heronsgate. We had to resort to using head torches as we entered the woods and those who were Geocaching along the way made it back to the refreshments even later. Of particular interest at one stop on route, we saw an Emu in a field who came running across to greet us. Not a sight you see every day! A good turn out and also accompanied by two dogs.

The **October** meeting was at Top Golf where 13 of us rocked up into 3 separate booths to play. I particularly enjoyed this event because I achieved the highest score of 82. It was pointed out to me that my wood was supposed to send the ball a good 400 yards instead of the 44 yards hit, but I didn't care because by getting it anywhere in the nearest hole gave me more points than hitting it further. That was my technique, which appeared to pay off.

There have been a few other trips during the months with a party getting involved in a treasure hunt in Berkhamsted and the annual lawn bowls evening organised by Bib.

We are very glad that Bryan Sharpe is now back at home recuperating, and maybe we can entice him out for the **November** craft evening. Anyone welcome to join, just email Tony Dabson.

Don't forget that Fellowship need to support the Green Beret again this year, make the Christingle Candles and of course help at the jumble sales. But until then, enjoy yourselves on the weekend away to Ironbridge at the end of the month - update in next issue (and volunteer to write it pretty pleeeeeease!)

Pauline Styles

All Change in the Jungle for 'Rainforest' Cubs

At our end of Summer 'indoor picnic' we said a sad farewell to Rama who after two years has moved to High Wycombe and is training to become a primary school teacher – how we didn't put him off working with children for life, I don't know. However the pack has been very fortunate in gaining two replacement leaders Baghera and Baloo.

Cub of the term (Summer) was Adam Munn, who has also deserted the pack and moved to Derbyshire. We wish him all the best in his new pack.

So far this term we have played rounders on Manor House Playing fields where we all got drenched, as the heavens opened ten minutes before the end of the meeting. Had lots of fun with chocolate, guessing the chocolate bar, producing collages from the wrappers and making lollipops.



We walked from Apsley to Kings Langley on the Grand Union Canal tow path and learned a little about the canal's history and what life was like living on a narrowboat. This week Emma from The Young Peoples Drama Centre is coming in to run a taster session for those of us who are now looking at secondary schools. Four weeks in and we have already had a very varied programme, I hope the Cubs enjoy the activities as much as I do.

cubs

Jungle

Is the BEST!!

District camp 24th July - 26th July

Last term the jungle Cubs had a term full of fun. We done many events but potholing was probably my favourite! We had to crawl through underground, messy, tunnels full of water and mud and it even started raining.

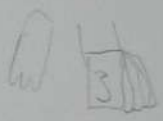
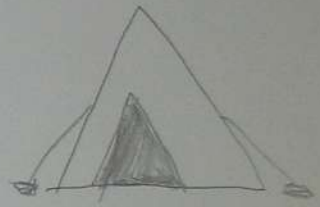
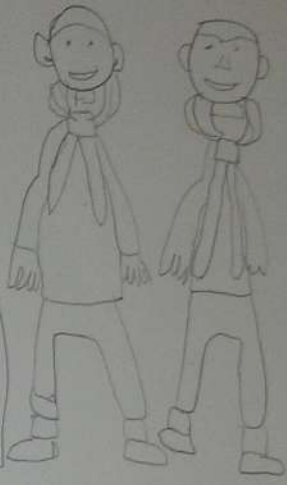
There was also a two night camp! It was from Friday 24th July to Sunday 26th July. On Saturday lots of activities were on and we could explore the camp. At the shop I bought lots of

sweets and thimble. Lots of are activities are outdoors like rounders and work towards badger. I also liked the day when ~~where~~ we went to bees wood for our "bigfoot" activities.

We were given a card with a number on and we went round in groups seeing if we could beat the adult's number. It was really fun!

I really enjoy cubs and have made many new friends, some from my school class. I hope this term will be as good as last term.

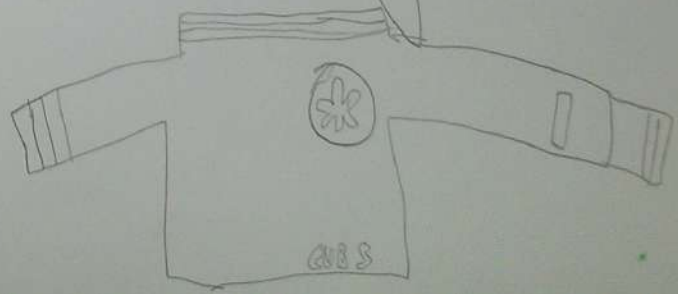
Jago



CUBS



Jay O



CUBS Artical

By George Dawling

LEES WOOD

At Lees wood we got put into small groups to go in separate tents to other people. The next day we started some activities. Some of the activities were a giant table football

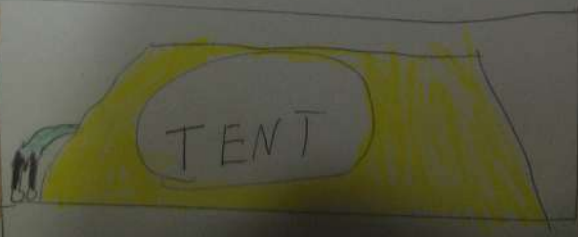
where you're the mini people and you get strapped up and you get to kick the ball. You also can do some archery but don't worry you can't



get hurt. One of the really popular activities was the rifle shooting, there was always a big cue.

In the night we had marshmallows.

Would you like to go on the next camp to Lees wood?





Lake Beavers

This term at Lake Beavers has been action packed! Once again we entered the carnival in the stroller category. The theme was 'Olympics', there were



certainly a lot of Jessica Ennis, Rebecca Adlington and Tom Daley look-alikes. We were so pleased to have WON first prize in the stroller's category. Well Done to all the beavers (both

Lake and River) who competed in the procession.

We have also worked very hard this term in achieving badges such as: Outdoor Challenge, Healthy Eating and Health and Fitness. WELL DONE to all the beavers who completed these Badges.



And last but no means least, best wishes to all those beavers who have left the Lake Beaver Colony and joined either the Rainforest or Jungle Cub Packs, they are: James Brewer, Liliana Clark, Leo Dorsett, Joseph Geard, Thomas Greaves, Harriet Perris, Ben Scarborough and Joshua Wilkins. Good Luck!!!

Amaelia Eve Parmenter
Young Leader

District Camp



Lining up for the go karts



Sing a-long!

River Beavers



Once again we have had a very busy summer term, working towards a number of different badges and having loads of fun at the same time!



Taking advantage of the nice weather, we planned a trip to Phasel's woods, where we all had a fantastic time trying out the toboggan run. This is going towards our Fitness Badge, which we will be working on more this term.

Thank you to all the beavers that came to the Carnival. We won 1st place youth organisation again this year, and looked absolutely fantastic with Olympic torches and shiny gold medals





Congratulations to Harry, Miles, Kieran and Billy, who were all presented their bronze badges by Norman Brandon; the Assistant District Commissioner. We will all miss you and wish you the best of luck for cubs.

Thank you to Helen, Lynn Jamie and Ravi for all their help this term.

Hollie Goodman Assistant Beaver Leader

The Christmas Market will be on 1st December.
Please could any unwanted toys, books, bric-a-brac or raffle prizes be brought up to the HQ the week before.

We hope to see you all there!

Hall Happenings

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday | 5.30 - 7.00 pm | Beaver Scouts (Lake) |
| Tuesday | 5.30 - 7.00 pm | Beaver Scouts (River) |
| | 7.45 - 9.45 pm | Albbatross 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