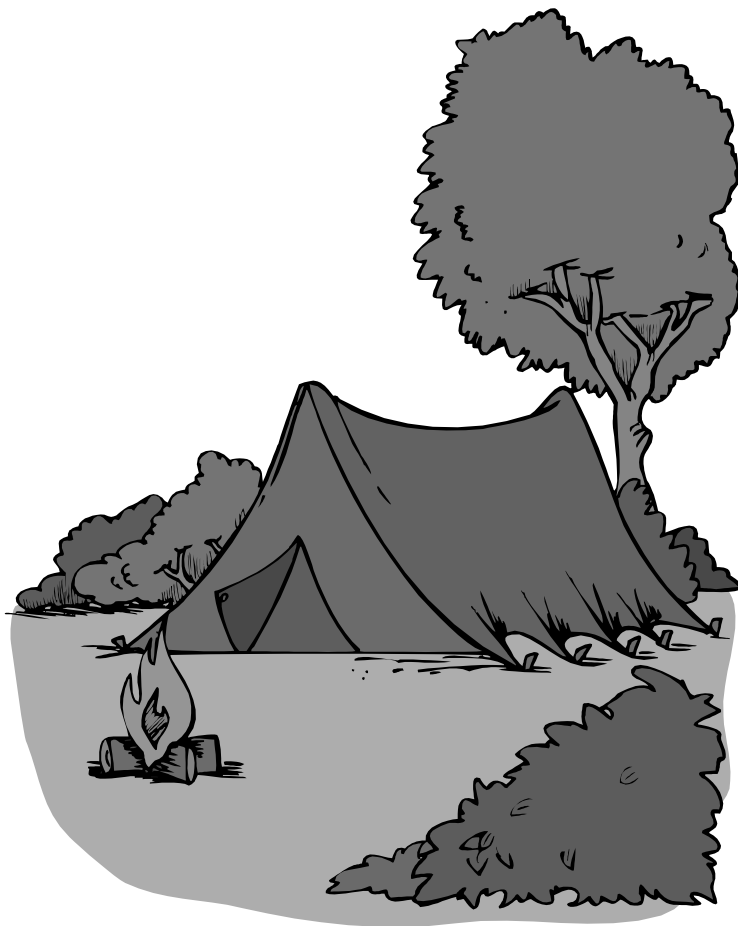


221st Edition

OCTOBER 2014

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Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

Chairman's Blog



I would like to welcome you all back as it's the start of a new term and a special warm welcome to the new members to our group. I hope you all enjoyed your summer break and have re-charged your batteries for the Autumn term ahead. It's been a quiet summer up at HQ with only a few hall bookings and our solar panels continue to provide income with £747.00 being generated between April and July, our highest feed-in-tariff yet. This money was put to good use in buying six replacement lightweight tables which each section can put to good use.

The Abbots Langley Carnival in June was another huge success with the bric-a-brac, plate smashing and hot dogs raising about £2000.00. The Pete Linskey training fund was topped up by a massive £175.00. Well done Nikki and Val on that one. My special thanks go to the whole team who assisted in this event-well done!

In July, months and months worth of planning came to fruition with our 2014 Group Camp. It is no mean feat to accommodate, entertain and feed in excess of one hundred and fifty people in the middle of Phasel's Wood which our organising team made happen. It was a huge success and everyone who took part had a fantastic time. We were joined around the camp fire for a sing-a-long on the Saturday night by twenty-five honoured guests who were past leaders and helpers from yesteryear. They were amazed at the size of our group today and the sheer numbers that are now involved. Thank you to all the Leaders and Active Support for organising and manning the

weekend activities and to Paul Hanson for providing the catering. Thank you also to all of the families who took part and made it such a special event. My special thanks go to Pauline Styles who fronted the whole camp for the first time and carried it off so well.....roll on the next one Pauline!



As you are all aware Clive is off to Japan next year for the World Scout Jamboree as a unit leader and a very successful Quiz Night was held at the end of September to raise funds for the scouts who are lucky enough to attend. Well done Alison Redmond for organising such a great evening.

Thanks to Dave Collette and his wife Yvonne for being quiz master and scorer at the quiz night which raised £840 for the 2015 Jamboree. We are all looking forward to the Real Ale and Wine Festival on 8th November.



The next group fundraiser is the October Double Jumble Sale which I hope will be well supported, so start clearing out your cupboards now.

I hope to see as many of you as possible supporting all of the up and coming events over the next twelve months.

Bye for now,

Mike Benson
Group Chairman

Clive's Chat

Many congratulations to Thomas Renphrey and Joe Woodger on the completion of their Gold Chief Scouts Award, to Myles Bromfield, Calum McKinney, Harry Moore and Freddie Sorrell on achieving their Silver Chief Scouts Award and to Sam Hill, Ellie Newing and Ben Newing on completing their Bronze Awards. Well done.

The Summer Term saw one of our main fund raising events with well over £2,000 raised at the village carnival. My sincere thanks to the Group Fellowship for organising the stalls and well done to all the Scouts who helped with the litter picking on the Sunday morning after the carnival.

The Group Family Camp, held at Phasels Wood in June, was a huge success and attended by nearly 200 people. It was a weekend packed with activities and fun. My thanks to Pauline Styles for co-ordinating the event, to Paul Hansen for the fabulous catering, to our Booking Secretary, Elaine Nottage, and to all the instructors, Fellowship members and helpers for running all the activities.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

SCOUT TROOP Achievements



We had another busy summer term with a huge amount of achievement, particularly at Scout Camp, and a total of 49 Challenge Awards completed. Many congratulations to -

- ◆ Gabriella Rose, Luke Quinn, Louis Geard, Finlay Hyland, Tom Williams, Dylan Alford, Oliver Greaves, Thomas O'Brien, Alex Chase, Rudy Farrell, Jacob Bruguier, Jonathan Davies, Finley Allen and Ben Rutherford on completing their first Scout Challenge, the Adventure Challenge,
- ◆ Gabriella Rose, Louis Geard, Joe Woodger, Karis Bromfield, Aidan Cheng, Tom Williams, Thomas O'Brien, Alex Chase, Rudy Farrell, George Dowding, Jonathan Davies and Finley Allen on achieving their Outdoor Challenge,
- ◆ Thomas Renphrey and Joe Woodger on attaining their Promise Challenge,
- ◆ Thomas Renphrey, Lucy Packman and George Dowding on achieving their Creative Challenge,
- ◆ Louis Geard, Thomas Renphrey, Hannah Trotman, Rudy Farrell, Samuel Hines and Daniel Nottage on the award of their Fitness Challenge,
- ◆ Gabriella Rose, Louis Geard, Joe Woodger, Karis Bromfield, Aidan Cheng, Tom Williams, Thomas O'Brien, Alex Chase, Rudy Farrell, George Dowding, Jonathan Davies and Finley Allen on attaining their Expedition Challenge.

2014 SUMMER CAMP

This year's Summer Camp was in Bishop Lydeard, in Somerset. This was my third camp and the other two had been great. It took three and a half hours to reach the hilly campsite and we pitched our tents soon after arriving, ready for six days of exciting activities.

On Sunday we were split into four groups. Two of the groups would do caving and climbing on Sunday, and on Monday they would go kayaking and mountain biking. The other 2 groups did the opposite. When we went caving we ventured down a cave known as Goat Church. It featured many tricky passages, such as the keyhole, the coffin lid and the letterbox. Even though it was very tight only one person got themselves painfully stuck. The climbing featured four walls, each varying in difficulty. We got into groups of three and everyone was assigned a different role: the climber, the belayer and the bucket monkey. We rotated our roles.

The other activities were kayaking and mountain biking. When kayaking, we came across many small drops and strong currents. With Dave and Sue's supervision, everything went well. Mountain biking was one of the week's most challenging activities. The route we took featured many steep hills, forcing us to push our bikes up quite a way. It took a considerably larger amount of time to reach the highest point than it did to descend from it. We rested at camp for a short while and then visited Taunton swimming pool.

On Tuesday everybody went on a hike around the Quantock Hills. It was not a very long hike (12.8 km) and groups hiked either anti-clockwise or clockwise. This hike featured different terrains, such as roads and forests. When we returned Clive and Alison set up a water slide in camp

and we had a great time running and sliding along some plastic sheeting. It was a great way of relaxing and cooling down. Wednesday was a day in camp with the Scouts learning how to construct bivouacs and make and cook on fires. Later we went shopping in Taunton.

Thursday marked our second and longest hike (14.5 km), during which everybody hiked from Dunkery on Exmoor to Dunster on the coast. This route was very hilly and difficult to traverse. But perhaps the most challenging section of the hike was the small forest during which nearly every group got lost. At the end was Dunster. My group arrived first but shopped for 30 minutes and therefore did not finish ahead of the others. To get back to camp, everybody got on a steam train (one group missed it and actually got a diesel engine instead).

Friday was the last day of activities. The older ones went sailing in the morning and the younger group did rifle shooting and archery and then we switched at lunch. The sailing was difficult as the boom kept swinging around everywhere and it was a windy day. On the way back to camp, Alison somehow ended up taking us to Devon. My group could only do rifle shooting as it was very wet on the archery range. That evening it was the banquet, a delicious three course meal where many toasts were made to things that happened on camp. The games that followed included the matchstick blowing contest and the doughnut eating game. On Saturday we broke camp, after having put away all of the equipment. The journey back took four hours, but we eventually arrived. Everyone joined in putting back all of the things we took on camp.

Thank you to Tony, Neil and Ed for making the excellent food, to Alison, Jason, Dave, Daniel and all the other leaders who helped out with the activities; and of course to Clive, for organising such a superb camp.

By Alex Bruguier
Patrol Leader, Eagles

Group Family Camp

June 2014

The Group Family Camp took place in June and despite a poor weather forecast it was yet again a brilliant event and was clearly enjoyed by all who attended. Those who hadn't already pitched their tents on Thursday evening (in the drizzle) arrived in somewhat cloudy chilly conditions on Friday evening to set-up camp. By 21:00 hrs most people had arrived and we tucked into some lovely chilli and salad, and with a little beer and wine drinking, it set us up for what was to come.

Saturday morning was an early start for most with excited children rising with the glorious sun! After a cooked breakfast every one found out the group they were in for the mornings activities which included zip wire, shooting, archery, abseiling, cresta run, crate stacking and human table football. It was great to see so many parents joining in the challenges along with the children.





At 13:00 hrs lunch was served at which point the heavens opened up, but we all had a good lunch under cover and we were all told that we were now being put into teams for afternoon challenges.

By 14:00 lunch was over, the rain had stopped and the sun was shining again, so the team challenges began. There were some fantastic team building ideas, who dreams them up? Each team had to work their way around stations throughout the woods and you had about 10 minutes to complete various tasks such as getting all your team through a net without touching the holes in the net as you passed through (some of the parents were a lot bigger than the holes!)

Other challenges involved being given one match and a tea bag and having 10 minutes to light a fire and make a cup of tea! Various underhand techniques were used and interpretations of the instruction were suspect to say the least! We all managed to complete the tasks with much laughter along the way. Team Van Persie were the winners, so basically they were the best at bending the rules!!

The high light of Saturday night was much beer and wine consumption around the campfire while we listened to Geoff Brown's camp fire songs, the favourite of most was Alice the

camel, and Dave Goodman singing songs whilst playing the ukulele . It was Dave and Nikki’s wedding anniversary and he brought tears to most peoples eyes when he sang to Nikki, “Always look on the bright side of life”



Clive Winder along with Explorers and members of the fellowship also performed with great gusto and nearly in tune in places!

Due to the days activities on Saturday and the beer and wine consumed in the evening, Sunday was a somewhat later start.

After another lovely cooked breakfast, we formed teams for the push kart challenge, this involves, mainly Dads, pushing, mainly children at break neck speed in karts with a piece of rope for steering and limited brakes and huge amounts of testosterone



and the need to win at all costs! After a few stops and restarts for safety reasons the final was hotly contested with team Exile being the victors.



There was also a two lap race between Clive Winder and Pauline Styles. After lunch, as the drizzle began it was time to break camp before we had the presentations to the various winners.

Brain Benders - The Wacky Racers
Movie Madness - 6 Must Have Beers,
Dingbats - Elizabeth Dunstone
were just some of the winners of the various competitions.

The weather was most kind to us and the food was super, thanks to Paul Hansen whose catering was phenomenal. Finally we have to thank all of those who planned and supported the event. 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. Particular thanks has to go to Pauline Styles the overall event organiser, who spent goodness knows how much time in planning everything down to the last detail thus ensuring that everything ran like clockwork and made it such an enjoyable weekend for all involved. If you weren't able to make it this time then make sure you don't miss the next one!

Kevin Brown



Challenges and Activities and Relaxation too!
Here at Abbos we like to be different



Keith Culpeck's full sized bed erected in his tent



Dave "ukulele" Goodman



Sarah modelling the Fellowship t-shirt



DIARY DATES

October

15 & 18	Double Jumble Sale	All
21	Meeting—7.30pm	Ladies Guild

November

7	TBC	Active Support
8/9	Green Beret—Build Assault Course	Active Support
8	Real Ale & Wine Evening - Jamboree fundraiser	All
9	Remembrance Day	All
14-16	Green Beret	Scouts/AS
17	Executive Meeting – 8pm	Exec Committee
18	Meeting—2pm	Ladies Guild
22	Christmas Market 10—1pm	All
30	Christingle Candle making 3pm HQ	All welcome

December

1	Christingle Service	All
5	Christmas Meal	Active Support
9 at 2pm	Christmas Party	Ladies Guild
26	Boxing Day Walk, 10.30 Love Lane	Active Support

January

9	Roulette	Active Support
19	Executive Meeting—8pm	Exec Committee
20	Meeting—2pm	Ladies Guild

February

6	Active Support AGM	Active Support
17	Meeting—2pm	Ladies Guild
17	District Curry Night—Abbots Tandoori	All
28	Chiltern Challenge	Explorers



Please come and support Clive as he fundraises for the 2015 World Scout Jamboree



Proceeds help to train and support Scouts and Explorers attending and to subsidise Scouts from 3rd world countries

Real Ale and Wine Festival Live Music

Scout HQ, Langley Road, Abbots Langley

8th November 2014 from 7pm

A selection of ales or wine to taste

Entry by ticket only of which there are three types – (1) £22 for 6 Real Ales (2) £18 for 5 French Wines (125ml glass) (3) £15 for 3 Real Ales (4) £10 Soft Drinks.

All ticket options include hot food.

Apply for tickets to Clive on 01923 443559
or email clive.winder@ntlworld.com

Closing date for tickets is 31st October





Christmas Market

10 am to 1pm Scout HQ

22nd November 2014

Please come and support the Group.
Buy presents, cards and wrapping at
bargain prices

Donations of good quality
bric-a-brac, bottles, perfume etc all
welcome beforehand.

Please give to your section leader or
leave on the stage
Help also wanted to run stalls.
Please phone Lin if you can help on
01923 675201

No mean feat as Richard had found an unwelcome visitor in his boot on putting them on! Excellent map reading by Alastair - and we couldn't ask for better weather.

We split into several groups for Saturday's walking - Some on a 12 mile walk tracing the River Wye; others on a shorter 7 miler across country from the bunkhouse and the last group at a more gentle pace.

Our group took a walk from Parkend, stopping at the Mountain Bike centre for a well deserved lunch, gate crashing a wedding for a tipple at Speech House, and back via Cannop Ponds.

We had a sumptuous banquet courtesy of Pauline as Tony as usual on Saturday evening, followed by a few after dinner games.



Dave had arranged for us to take Canadian canoes down the Wye on Sunday morning and this really was great fun and hope to be repeated soon. As the river



was quite shallow we had a few interesting little rapids to manoeuvre, especially as I was steering, and couldn't...

So, the fun over with for another year we turn our attention to jumble sales, Green Beret assault course, Christmas Market and Christingle. Why not join us?

Pauline Styles



Jungle

Last term at Cubs was so much fun!!! The good weather meant Akela had planned most of the activities to be outside. It gave us a chance to try stuff most of us had not had the chance to do before as well as being very enjoyable. I was also extremely proud to earn my seconders stripes for my six.

We had a great time at Woodside athletics track where we were all trying to gain our athletics or athletics plus badge, trying to beat our times from last year.

The next two weeks we aimed to complete our naturalist badge. One of the things we did was a leaf hunt, another was a bird spotting chart which we completed at home for a week. It is surprising how many different birds you can see if you make the effort to look for them.

A few weeks later Dave (a blind footballer) came to talk to us about his exciting career. He told us that the football pitch he played on would have a big metal barrier around the edge to reflect the sound so he can hear more easily, he also told us that the goal keeper is the only player on the pitch that can see. After that he played a couple of games with us, one of which was passing a football they would have played with on their pitch. We had to start throwing the ball when he said a part of his body.

Another week we had a wide game, we played rounder's at Lees wood. My team played really well and just managed to win the game!

My favourite part of the summer term was Family Camp, we worked in teams, made lots of new friends and faced lots of challenges, even though it rained a bit no one cared. We stayed up late singing songs around the camp fire drinking hot chocolate. In the mornings we awoke to the delicious smell of bacon on the BBQ and were lucky to have cooked breakfast before we set off for the day. On Sunday the dads got a bit competitive trying to win the go-cart race. We all had to name our teams and it was so funny to watch the dads nearly crash and run so fast they were out of breath.

The last week of term, we went to Phasels Wood to do crate stacking. We had a few goes and everyone was amazed at how high they could get. Most people used all of the crates, as we were so high they had to pass the last few crates up on the end of a pole. I was a bit nervous at first but once I was up there I was determined to try to use all of the crates too. It was very exhilarating and exciting to jump down from the top, obviously I was wearing my safety harness... lol... Once we had all had enough Akela set up the BBQ. We even roasted marshmallows on it! Unfortunately that night we had to say goodbye to some jungle cubs that were moving on to scouts. We all wished them luck in the new adventures they will be facing. I am really looking forward to next term and meeting the new cubs we will be welcoming to our pack!!!

by Emma Pinchbeck



Lake Beavers

Once again, this term has been a busy, and most definitely fun one at Lake Beavers. We had glitz and glamour brought to the scout hut with Beavers Got Talent! The Beavers performed an array of talents throughout the night, with everything from gymnastics to magic on show.



As the summer neared, so did the annual carnival. Each year, the Beavers have run a stall, with money raised being donated to a charity. This year, the charity was the Keech Hospice. With a successful turnout of Beavers at the carnival, all equipped with their loud voices to draw in passers by, the stall was busy all day long. It was great fun at the carnival, and as well as having a brilliant day, the Lake Beavers had also managed to raise £40 for the Keech Hospice. Upon receiving the money from the Beaver group, a certificate was presented by the hospice to the Beavers, to congratulate them for all of their hard work.

With the summer in full swing, the Beavers were more eager than ever to go outside and explore. Luckily for them, a village quiz had been arranged to feed their curiosity. The Beavers set off, armed with their question sheet and a pen, each hoping that their team would get the most answers correct.

Lots of whispering made sure the other teams wouldn't be getting any free answers; no one was giving anything away, even when we'd stopped off for juice in the park there was no conferring. Once back in the scout HQ the sheets were taken in and the winner was announced the following week.

As another term drew to a close at Lake Beavers, there was one thing left to do: Have a party! The theme for this end of term party was Alice in Wonderland. With the party appropriately named 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party', the Beavers had pulled out all the stops and arrived dressed for the occasion. A spread of party treats had been set out, with all the Beavers taking along something to share with the rest of the group. Once a few party games had been played, the Beavers tucked in to their banquet.



The end of the term also brought with it, the end of one of the best loved young leaders' time with the group. At 18, Amaelia had finally reached the time in her life where university was calling. Being a young leader, and now a leader, with the group for four years, Amaelia will be greatly missed from both the Beavers, and the beaver leaders. We are all very grateful for the countless hours Amaelia has devoted to the group and wish her well at university.

By James Cresswell
Young Leader, Lake Beavers



River Beavers

River Beavers have been very busy over the summer, working towards our Outdoor Challenge Badge, Health and Fitness Badge and Adventure Badge.

We have been to Phasels Wood twice this year. The first time, we had a go on the Cresta Run, using the karts to race down the hill on wooden tracks. A couple of weeks ago, we went back to Phasels and tried their Aeroball, bouncing on a trampoline to throw the sponge ball into the opposing nets. Both very exciting activities we had never tried before.

Some of our Beavers were lucky enough to take part in our Family Camp. As we camped for two nights, we earned our Stage 2 Nights Away Badge, and tried loads of new activities including zip wire, human table football and a variety of team games. We also got to sing 'Alice the Camel' at the campfire on the last night.

River Beavers had a summer outing with Lagoon Beavers visiting Willows Farm Village. It was a very busy day. We got to meet the animals and feed them special pellets. Then we saw all the shows; betting on sheep in the sheep races, and learning about the birds in the falconry display. We met the special guest (Tree Fo Tom) and he taught us his dance, rode



Tristan the Run-Away Tractor and earned golden medals panning for fools gold.



Four of our oldest beavers (who have sadly now moved up to cubs) have done extremely well and been awarded the Bronze Chief Scout Award (the highest award in beavers). Well done Miles, Freddie, Harry and Calum. We wish you the best of luck in cubs.

This term we have lots of exciting events in store, including a trip to the pantomime to see Cinderella. We will be working towards our collectors badge, animal friend badge and creative challenge badges.

As always, thank you to Helen, Lin, Ravi and Jess for all their hard work.

Hollie Goodman
Assistant Beaver Scout Leader



Lagoon Beavers

Lagoon's beavers have had a very busy first summer term, taking part in lots of different activities, and visiting different sites to earn as many badges as possible.

Our first trip of the summer took us to Phasel's Wood, where we played on the Cresta Run. This has four downhill tracks with karts that can be pushed from the top of the hill.



We had tons of races and lots of fun. That same weekend, some of our beavers came

to our group's Family Camp. At family camp we spent two nights in tents, worked through hundreds of activities including abseiling, wall climbing, crate stacking and many more, and on the last night sung in front of all the adults around the campfire.



Our summer outing this year was to Willows Farm Village, where they had a special guest – Tree Fo Tom!!

We met and fed the animals, rode the tractor, panned for gold (and earned a medal), watched the sheep racing and the falconry display, and played in ALL of the play areas. There was so much to do we had to run everywhere, and were exhausted by the end of the day (parents, we hope this was appreciated!)



To celebrate the end of the Summer Term, we had a Pirate Themed Party! Our costumes were awesome (and very scary!) and we played pirate games, walked the plank, and even scavenged for treasure.

This term we will be working towards our Animal Friend Badge. We have made clay animal models and clay animal magnets, and we will be making bird feeders very soon. Next week, Lagoon Beavers will be visiting Pets at Home in Watford, who will very kindly be explaining how to take care of our animals, and showing us all the different types of pets people might have.

As always a big thank you to Alice, Alix, Connor, Jeremy and Jamie for all their help this term.

Hollie Goodman
Beaver Scout Leader

Hall Happenings

Monday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lake)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 7.45 - 9.45 pm 8.00 - 10.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River) Abbo's Explorer Scouts Ladies Guild (3rd in Month) 2pm Winter/7.30pm Summer
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Rainforest)
Thursday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 7.30 - 9.30 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lagoon) Scouts
Friday	5.30 - 7.00 pm 8pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle) Active Support (1st in Month)

Now that we have so many sections in the Group there will only be a certain amount printed and placed in the foyer at HQ to take away. Other copies will be circulated by email and are always downloadable from the website, see address on back cover. But if you could offer any assistance in printing please contact the Editor.

All the best

Woodsmoke Editor

Pauline Styles



1st Abbots Langley (3rd Watford North) Scout Group
www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk