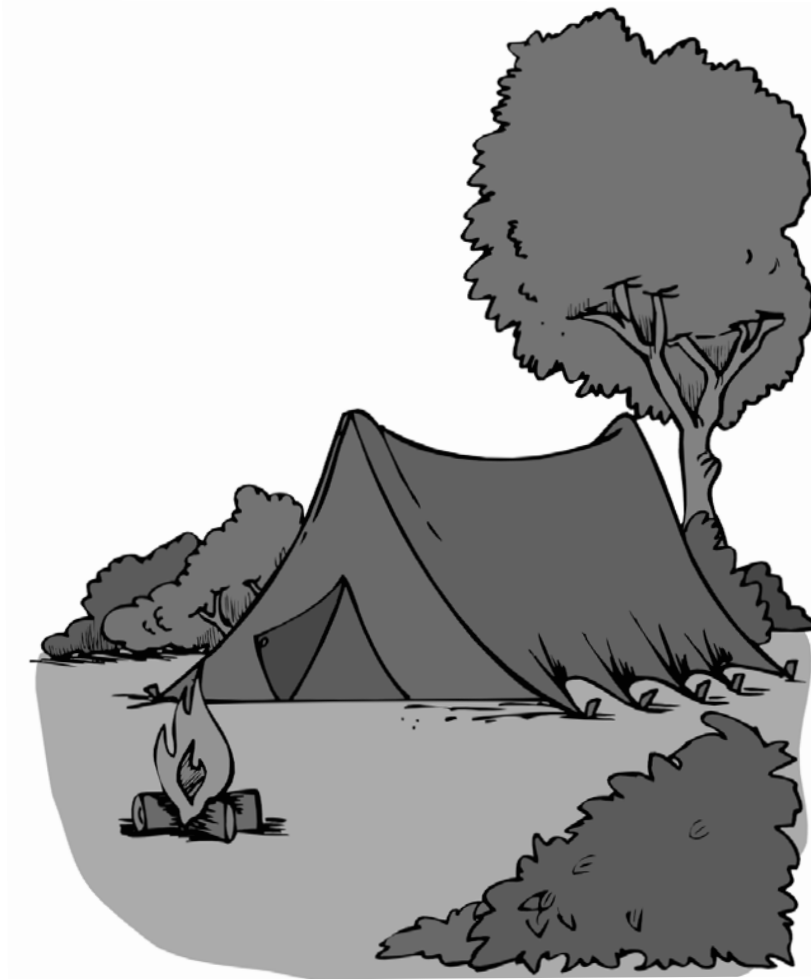




October 2017

*First published March 1954*

# Woodsmoke



[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)



# Chairman's Blog

Well here we are again as a new term begins. I hope you had a nice restful summer although the weather was quite disappointing. Having said that we still managed a hefty £712.00 income from our solar panels so the sun must have been shining on our HQ roof at least!



Welcome to all of the new members to our Group and I hope you enjoy scouting in Abbots Langley for many years to come. Don't forget you can get up to date news of events and section programmes at our website [www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)

Our biggest fundraiser since the last Woodsmoke was June's Carnival where we smashed plates, cooked sausages and burgers and sold bric-a-brac. With a huge effort from all of our volunteers that got involved we raised in excess of £2200.00. Well done to everyone that helped out but we really need more parental involvement at The Carnival and other fundraisers to ease the burden on large numbers of our volunteers who are in their 70's and 80's!

Further electrical updating work was carried out at HQ over the summer and the smoke and fire detection sensors were replaced. Our Annual fire safety drills will take place in November.

HQ maintenance is a hot topic at the moment and with the HQ being used more than ever it has been decided by our committee to hold termly maintenance days where odd jobs, cleaning, painting etc can be carried out by group members and I am pleased to say that we have several parents who have volunteered so far and I thank you in advance for that. Our first maintenance day is scheduled for Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Back in July nine months of planning came to fruition with our Family Camp taking place. This was a huge task - catering for, and entertaining,

170 people over the weekend and would not have been possible if it were not for the hard work and dedication of the camp sub-committee lead by Pauline, Active Support, Ladies Guild, Leaders and Parents who were involved. I'm sure you will join me in thanking them all for making this camp possible. Those who attended had a fantastic time and we will all look forward to the next one!!!

I am pleased to announce that we have a regular keep-fit mid-week hall booking once again on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. So please be aware of this and make a special effort to keep the hall, kitchen and toilet areas clean and tidy.

Up and coming events over the next few weeks include our Race Night on Friday October 6<sup>th</sup> followed by our Jumble Sales on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October.....so start sorting your jumble out now!

Further on in the diary, The Group Executive are involved in discussions with the local History Society and The Group have been invited to be part of The 100 year World War One Commemorations next year. Many founder members of our Scout Group were involved in the conflict and sadly many did not return home so feel it is fitting that we participate in some shape or form. Further details will follow.

Another project our Executive Committee are considering is the purchase of a heart defibrillator machine which would be sited at HQ for emergency use. Our Group Mini-bus continues to be used extensively and unfortunately needed some major mechanical repairs over the summer which put a large hole in the bank balance so please come out and support your Group at the various fundraisers held over the forthcoming weeks and months and as I have said before.....Your Scout Group Needs You!

I hope you enjoy the scouting calendar ahead and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the forthcoming weeks and months, but until then,

Bye for now.

Mike Benson (Group Chairman)

# Clive's Chat



I'm pleased to announce that we have 4 new leaders taking up positions in the Group this term.

I'd like to welcome Dani Chalk as our new Lake Beaver Leader and Kelsie Herbert as the new ABSL with Lake Beavers. Both are new to the Group and Dani is new to scouting so please give them all your support.

Richard Livermore-Hardy has joined Jungle Cubs as an ACSL and Connor Hill has come through our very successful Young Leadership scheme to become an ABSL with Lagoon Beavers.

I welcome them all to our fabulous leadership team and hope they enjoy themselves in their roles. My thanks, again, to Lisa Sharpe and Paula Gomme who started the Lake Beaver Colony 9 years ago and for all their commitment since. They will always be part of the Group.

The Summer Term saw one of our main fundraising events of the year at the village carnival and my sincere thanks to all of those involved in what was a long but very successful day. Well done also 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. It was a weekend packed with activities and fun. My thanks to Pauline Styles for co-ordinating the event, to Paul Hansen and Tony Dabson for the fabulous catering, to our Booking Secretary, Elaine Nottage, and to all the instructors, Active Support members and helpers for running all the activities.



**Clive Winder**  
**Group Scout Leader**

Last term we were very busy having lots of fun! We went to Leavesden Country Park having packed our own bags and carried them on a hike. We even had a go at den building. Here is the bivouac we made using chopped logs.



We also went to Phasels Wood and tried out the Cresta Run. Some of our beavers also attended the scout family camp at Phasels Wood and had a fantastic time! They camped for two nights and got to try loads of exciting activities including team building games, archery, human hungry hippos and enjoyed a big sing-song around the campfire.

We had a fantastic turn out at the Abbots Langley Carnival. Perhaps you saw us in the parade? We walked for miles in very hot weather but had great fun joining in with the local community.





Later in the term, we went to the Apple Store to learn all about coding. We got to try some very technical apps which taught us the basics of coding, and then had a chance to play with some Spheros (which are mini orb-shaped robots which are controlled using an app). We had lots of fun, but struggled to keep them inside the tracks they built for us and ended up chasing them all over the shop and causing chaos!



A huge thank you as always to my Leadership team; Nikki, Karen, Becca and Connor.

Hollie Goodman  
Lagoon Beavers



**S**pring Term at Cubs was exciting as we got to do a lot of our activities outside. We went to Phasels Wood where we shot air rifles. It was very hard to hit the bullseye but I did once and I got nine points. I have kept the target in my room. Potholing was very dark especially when I didn't have a torch but it was still fun.

We managed to stack 16 crates high in our team on the crate stacking challenge. We learnt how to pack up our own stuff which was useful as we went on family camp.

Family camp was amazing and we had a really big tent. We did so many activities and I saw someone get stuck on the zip wire - it was a lady.



We won the letter game - our team was called Team Chicken and our prize was sweets. I even had to do my own washing up at camp. My personal challenge was to open my curtains and make my bed every day, which I still do.

Scouting is very important to me and my family - my Great Uncle Wallace is currently the District President of Bangor, Northern Ireland.

Freddie Sillwood aged 8





Chris Watts, Assistant Cub Scout Leader with Rainforest Cubs, was presented with his Wood badge by Dave Collette, District Commissioner, at the Group Family Camp.

Congratulations to Chris for putting in all the hard work!

## Phasels Wood Activity Family Camp 2017 (30/06 -02/07/17)

I loved family camp! I came with my dad, I think he liked it too (not in the night, he had trouble sleeping) the activities were AWESOME! I mainly liked archery the most along with the teamwork games.

**Friday:** Today we arrived at camp, having put up our tents, we played a game of Countdown, we had to find letters and numbers in the forest and return them to our team table and the adults found the largest word or number they could make from these. It rained a bit and that spoiled the campfire a little bit, but the food was delicious!

**Saturday:** This day was an early start at 06:00 then to a delicious warm

breakfast of bacon, eggs, cereal and sausages. We were then divided into morning activity groups, named after rivers. I was in Ouse. We then took part in a number of adventurous activities, we went on cresta run, create stacking and on this massive zipline and it was so awesome.



After lunch we played a number of team based activities, we played an exhausting post delivery game where we nearly collapsed in the sacks after that it was a hilarious game. The funniest was the leaky pipes games, where you had to try and block out the water to get the ping pong ball from the top.

That night we roasted marshmallows over the campfire and sang some campfire songs, then at 12:00 we finally went to bed.



**Sunday:** A later start today to a breakfast of pancakes, pastry's and French toast after that a game of giant human hungry hippos. Where a child lies on a cart with an adult pushing them, while the child holds a basket trying to fill it with balls, then the adult pulls them back and they empty their basket into a barrel, this repeats over and over again.

This has been an amazing camp, I would like to thank everyone the leaders, the Scouts and the people who organised everything, just a great thank you to all for making this camp possible.

Elizabeth Dunstone, Rainforest Cubs.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

We had a busy summer term, particularly at Scout Camp, and a total of 21 Challenge Awards completed.

**Many congratulations to -**

- Harry Argent-Philips, Adam Brown, Ben Chase, Madeleine Fowler-Davies, Lucy Newman, Katy Packman, Emma Pinchbeck, Jamie Wells and Leila Whiting on completing their Outdoor Challenge and Expedition Challenge,
- Zachary Hines and Emma Renphrey on achieving their Expedition Challenge,
- Taj Kapoor on attaining his Creative Challenge,
- Ben Chase, Zachary Hines, Lucy Newman, Katy Packman, Emma Pinchbeck, Emma Renphrey, Jamie Wells and Leila Whiting on completing their Adventure Challenge,
- And Andrew Bell on completing his World Challenge.

Very well done!

*Clive*



Whilst holidaying in Italy during August, Francesca Mash spotted some Italian Scouts at Milan airport.

Eager to speak to them and tell them she was a Scout in England, they were very pleased to meet her and happy to have their photo taken with her. Despite the obvious language difficulties they had a nice chat assisted by Francesca's mother, Sandra, acting as interpreter!

Its good to know that Francesca has been communicating as a member of the wider world Scout movement :)





# Group Family C







# Camp 2017

## 2017 Top 10 Scouts Narrowboat Weekend

On the 16th June – 18th June, I was lucky enough to stay on a narrowboat as one of the Top 10 Scouts of the Year along with Louis Geard, Taj Kapoor, Emma Renphrey, Emma Pinchbeck, Zachary Hines, Samuel Hines, Daniel Nottage, Alex Chase and Andrew Bell. It was a great experience, and we were lucky to have a really hot and sunny weekend too!

On Friday, we met up with our parents and siblings in the pub garden, and spent ages playing football, and just generally chatting.

Over the weekend we had a rota, and everyone had a job to do, unless they were on rest, whether it was opening and closing the locks, most of the time sharing with other people, which was very difficult (but we made friends), helping with meals, or steering the boat. I really enjoyed steering because I was in control of the boat, but it was a lot of pressure because I didn't want to crash! Louis had a little bit of a crash, and it caused everyone on the boat a great shock and the fire extinguisher to fall off of the wall!

Andrew and Louis brought fishing rods so that they could fish from the roof. Zachary also tried fishing too, when we had moored up on Saturday evening, but ended up getting the hook caught on some private decking on the other side of the canal. This resulted in Louis and Andrew trying to find the house, then looking very awkward as someone let them in to release it.

All the food was amazing, thanks to Alison, but on Saturday night we had fish and chips, which was also delicious. We also played some silly games, which were very hard but easy once you got the hang of them.

Sunday was a bit too hot, and the roof of the narrowboat was sizzling so much we couldn't even sit on it! That was bad for everyone, especially our fishermen. Only one person fell in – Andrew – and the whole weekend was injury free, apart from Emma Renphrey, who, while turning the locks, lost her grip on the windlass, making it spin like crazy and hit her hand, before splashing into the water and causing us to get out the magnet and attract the windlass that way.

We all had loads of fun, and all three leaders, Clive, Alison and Mike, were really nice. Overall, the whole experience was fantastic and relaxing and I'd love to do it again.

**Lucy Newman, Otters Patrol**

## Scout Camp 2017

Day one of scout camp: Cakes made, vans loaded, we set off expecting a sunny week enjoying all of our activities and having a marshmallow feast around the campfire. All of this was a reality – except for the part about the sun! After unpacking and setting up everyone took refuge from the weather in their tents. Maybe the six books one camper bought would come in handy. Finally when the rain stopped we set up the barbecues for dinner (although it took a while to get all of the fires going). The funniest thing so far was watching people fight with the squirry cream from the ‘smores’.

Day two was our first set of activities. Clip n Climb is a unique climbing centre with a variety of wall types that you are simply clipped onto and then you can climb. Great fun, but we did gain red, sore and blistered hands. Next was kayaking. I won't tell you what a couple of boys did in the boats – YUCK!!! Although it was a bit of a laugh finding out who was in them at the end. Nevertheless, we couldn't really blame them as they were in the kayaks for five hours, finding their way around an overgrown river. We were joined by our instructors, Dave, Sue and Pete, and used the skills we learnt from them on the canal in Scouts to weave our way through the wildlife.

The next morning we split back into our three groups and did the activity that the group did not do the day before. For my group this was archery and rifle shooting which took place back at camp. To make it even more fun people had sweets which we tried to knock down with our pellets.

In the afternoon we went to Felpham sailing club and swam in the sea going right up to our necks in the water, having mobs of salt water trying to blind us. Subsequently we put on life jackets and went out in groups of four with an instructor to sail on a type of boat called a Pico. Some of us even had a go at steering – but we had to be careful doing a move called ‘attack’ to not fall in! Once that was finished we got to have our **FIRST HOT SHOWER**. It was so nice,



especially as we had just been in the freezing sea water. Dinner was also delicious; cottage pie provided by the sailing club.

Day four was our first hike. Having planned the route previously at Scouts we set off. Our group had to walk over 12 kilometres in order to reach the Arundel Lido. On the way we walked past the castle and created our own entertainment; a sing-a-long with all the songs from 'Frozen' as the movie is set in Arundel... Very funny but I feel sorry for the people that we passed on the way, hearing our screeching voices. Once we got to the lido we found out not only had our route had been 3k longer than the others but maybe they had also walked quicker so the other group had already been swimming and playing with the floats for nearly two hours! After another shower we had time to shop for tuck before returning to camp and another tasty evening meal which we cooked ourselves, although I am not sure how we all managed to eat it after the crisps and chocolate!

By Emma Pinchbeck

Otters Patrol

(I am looking forward to scout camp 2018!)

On Thursday we did camp cleanliness and multiple other activities including pioneering, route planning, whittling (chiselling in Harry's case) and camp layout. In pioneering we made a Roman emperors chair and tested its strength by carrying people a certain distance. After that came route planning which was planning for the hike we were going to do on Saturday. Then came camp layout where we learned about wind direction and how to place things while setting up a campsite and how to protect it from rabbit infested gravy ponds. After that was chiselling (whittling) where we were taught how to use knives and axes safely but you would be amazed at how careless some people managed to be.



On Friday we went go karting and played golf. My group did golf first which was hitting a ball into a hole in the least shots possible but then we were bribed with sweets if we got a hole in one. As we had time



to kill we also played mini golf where Richard showed us up big time. Then lunch on the beach where Lucy Newman got absolutely soaked when she stood on a rock while the tide was coming in. Needless to say this rock was extremely close to the sea. Then it was go karting and by this time the roads were slippery where it had been raining heavily. But in my opinion we all managed to do better than Daniel who was continuously facing the wrong way even though the roads were dry when he was driving. Race one was for fun and getting to grips with the controls. Race two was for a place and not to crash into other people. Race three was for a time which meant on the track it didn't matter what place you were in it just mattered how fast you went. Then came racing time for the adults who took it very seriously, so I won't go into finer details.



Now it was Saturday the night of the Banquet but first a hike. During the hike it started to rain heavily but all was great as when we got back to the camp we had hot chocolate and cake waiting for us. The banquet was incredibly loud (or it could have just been me) and fun we were also joined by some of the leaders from the Littlehampton Scout Group. During toasts Dean got a surprise from Clive and strange toasts were made such as the boys who had to relieve themselves in Kayaks. No pointing fingers or anything but Adam and Zachary just so happened to be in such a group. Then came the games which was the best part of the night and the new scouts thoroughly enjoyed them. After that it was bed because we had packing to go in the morning.

Sunday was busy but we quickly got packed up and took the wrecked tents to the dump. When everything was packed away we had a lunch of hotdogs and cake with awards given out afterwards. Soon after, it was onto the minibuses and back home. On the minibus most people slept or acted like they were at a party. About two hours and a dog scaring, we were back home and packing up. When all of that was finally over we all went home.

Emma Renphrey  
Otters Patrol

## Friday Night at The Cricket Club

Greetings! Once again it was the first Friday in July and once again we all met up to celebrate this event. This time it was an evening of pub games.

Now, I don't know about you but to me this could only have meant a quiet gathering at some hostelry to the background clatter of glasses, dominoes and the odd roar of ribald laughter. OK so that might have been the scene in Grandpa's day but this is now, the twenty-first century. Yes the chink of glasses; yes the clatter of dominoes and yes; the odd guffaw but add to this a new wave (to me, that is) of board and card games and here you have ALSAS games evening and a pretty good one too.

We were welcomed to the Abbo's Cricket Club bar by the smiling and ever helpful steward. After the usual overtures, we settled down to a batch of traditional games, played midst the hubbub of friendly chat (and the odd mandatory guffaw).

"Have you ever played 'Trax' and 'Blokus'"? Asked a voice seemingly coming from the depths of a pint of 'Side Pocket For a Toad', one of the truly memorable ales from Tring Brewery'.

"Eh ?" I asked, trying to  
'with

sound  
it'. Now I

was in unfamiliar territory and I suddenly realised that I was about to join the enlightened inner circle of The New Pub Games movement.

If there is one thing that I have learnt during my wanderings through life is that the simpler the rules of a game, the better the

enjoyment but the more complex the game. Eventually, after the moral support of Mr. Toad's side pocket I was hooked. OK, so I did lose every game but, as they say, 'its the taking part that matters', or some such rubbish.





Finally those words that sadden every heart 'Last orders ladies and gents if you please' were quoted and still buzzing with the evening's euphoria, we emerged into warm glow of a typical Abbots Langley Summer evening.

Thanks Clive. Thanks Richard. Thanks everybody for a most memorable and totally enjoyable time. Now I can hold my head up amongst my peers and boast that I have played 'Blockus' and 'Trax' then watch as the gathering turn an interesting shade of envious green.

**Octonerd**



Abbots Langley Scout Active Support's (SAS) September meeting was a visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor, home to the Hara Krishna movement and based in Aldenham just a few miles from Abbots Langley. The movement was established in 1973 by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, of whom there are many life like statues around the temple.

## ACTIVE SUPPORT

The very entertaining tour guide Tulsi took 18 members and friends of the SAS first around the grounds before the light was lost and then into the temple. The grounds are beautiful and are managed by a 3 man team, the George Harrison garden was extremely peaceful and the sunken garden definitely had a calming effect. The estate was donated to ISKCON by the late Beatle, George Harrison and one of the benches within the garden came directly from George's personal garden. However we were not told exactly which one, but all were beautiful carved and some very ornate.



We moved through the grounds to the most splendid cow shed I have ever seen. It also incorporated a diary and shop which are open to the public. The cow is seen as a sacred animal within the Hara Krishna faith and during the tour and Tulsi's talk some of the herd managed to slightly up stage her with appropriately timed noises or impromptu appearances over her shoulder.



We moved on to the green houses that was home to the sacred basil plant and passed the food gardens used for teaching schools. The produce from the site allows thousands of people a day to be fed. Either based within the site or via the charity that feeds 100's of homeless within the London area a day.

The pots within the kitchens were huge, a beaver scout could bathe in one of these due to their size. (not recommend).

Once all shoes had been removed we went inside the 16th century Tudor building, and it was wonderful to see all the detailing of the grand stair case and wood panelling had been kept. It was fascinating to be told that there are 108 saints, all women, and to hear the details of the beliefs of the Hara Krishna followers. Tulsi is the first to admit that this can be very difficult to understand and there are many different types of Hinduism. But in summary all faiths seem to take a different path in life on earth, but our end goal of where we wish to be, and with whom, is basically all the same.

Our tour was finished with 15 minutes listening to the singing and slightly hypnotic music within the prayer room. This venue is open to the public and tours can be booked it's definitely worth a visit for all the family to enjoy. Also very thought provoking.

**Hazel Harkin**

(Thanks go to Hazel for arranging such an interesting evening, Ed)

# Stour Valley Weekend

29 September - 1 October 2017

If like me you are scratching your head to think where this part of the world is, you might be surprised to find out that it is actually six miles or so north of Colchester, and forms the border between Essex and Suffolk. The valley is dotted with lovely little villages, with rickety, half-timbered Tudor houses and elegant Georgian dwellings cluster around medieval churches, with square towers.

Having travelled up sharing various lifts we were delighted to find the Stour Valley Bunkhouse YHA was a newly built, clean, property with good facilities - but a very noisy fridge! Having unpacked, we had a quick turnaround and headed to the local hostelry for dinner.



The next day, the route along the Stour valley footpath included an interesting track crossing over the railway line - Is there anything coming?? And then we were onwards, just as the sun came out, which gave us beautiful views of the area made







famous in the paintings of John Constable. We reached Flatford Mill, the site of the masterpiece "The Haywain", where we tried to recreate a photo or two.

Even the cows looked like paintings as our route meandered on to the village of

Dedham where we had lunch, before retracing our route. The Three Amigos had ventured off on a different journey to find some whelks and a good pint of beer - although i'm not sure they were successful in either!

Back at base we enjoyed a sumptuous evening meal, followed later by more cheese and a tasting of port. A plaque seen in a shop window that day seemed to sum it all up. The ten of us then went on to exercise our



brains by completing a giant quizword or two and thus the "Brassica" award was created. This will remain a fond part of future Active Support Trips - and if you want to know what that's all about? Come along to the next one and you'll find out...



And so, we completed our weekend on Sunday by visiting Thorington Hall, a farmhouse built in the 1600's and only open one day a year, onto a vineyard to try the freshly picked wet walnuts, and then into Lavenham, to view the historic Guildhall, not to mention the tea room.

Having once again enjoyed the camaraderie over the weekend, we went our weary way home. Thanks to Tony and Pauline as always for shopping and cooking, and for Rachel in researching properties, and everyone else, who made us all smile - you know who you are !!

**Pauline**

# DIARY DATES

## October

6	Race Night 7pm - HQ	ALL over 18s
11 & 14	Double Jumble Sale	ALL
17	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild

## November

3	Banger Tasting 8pm - HQ	Active Support
4	Construct Green Beret Course Phasels Wood	ALL
12	Remembrance Day Parade - 10.30 am	ALL
18	Green Beret	Scouts/Active Support
20	Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ	Exec Committee
21	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild
25	Christmas Market - HQ 10 - 12.30	ALL

## December

1	Christmas Meal - The Two Brewers	Active Support
3	Christingle candle making - 3pm HQ	ALL Welcome
4	Christingle Service - 7pm St. Lawrence's Church	ALL
5 or 12	Christmas Party - 2 pm	Ladies Guild
26	68th Boxing Day Walk 10.15 Love Lane	ALL over 18s

## January

5	Casino Night 8pm - HQ	Active Support
15	Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ	Exec Committee
21	District Cooking Competition	Scouts

## February

2	AGM - Cheese and Wine 8pm - HQ	Active Support
20	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild

## March

2	Active Support Meeting 8pm	Active Support
19	Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ	Exec Committee
20	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2 pm	Ladies Guild

## April

6	Active Support Meeting 8pm	Active Support
17	Ladies Guild Meeting - 7 pm	Ladies Guild

## May

4	Active Support Meeting 8pm	Active Support
15	Ladies Guild Meeting - 7 pm	Ladies Guild
18	Group AGM 8pm HQ	ALL
21	Executive Meeting 8.15pm - HQ	Exec Committee

## June

1	Active Support Meeting 8pm	Active Support
19	Ladies Guild Meeting - 7 pm	Ladies Guild



# Hall Happenings

Monday	4.45 - 6.15pm	Beavers Scouts (Lake)
	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Abbo's Explorer Scouts
	7.00 - 10.00 pm	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month) 2pm October to March
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Rainforest)
Thursday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (Lagoon)
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	8pm	Active Support (1st in Month)

Pauline Styles  
**Woodsmoke Editor**

**Deadline for next issue - 19 January 2018**

Woodsmoke is online to view and print at  
**[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)**



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

**[www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk)**