



236th Edition

First published March 1954

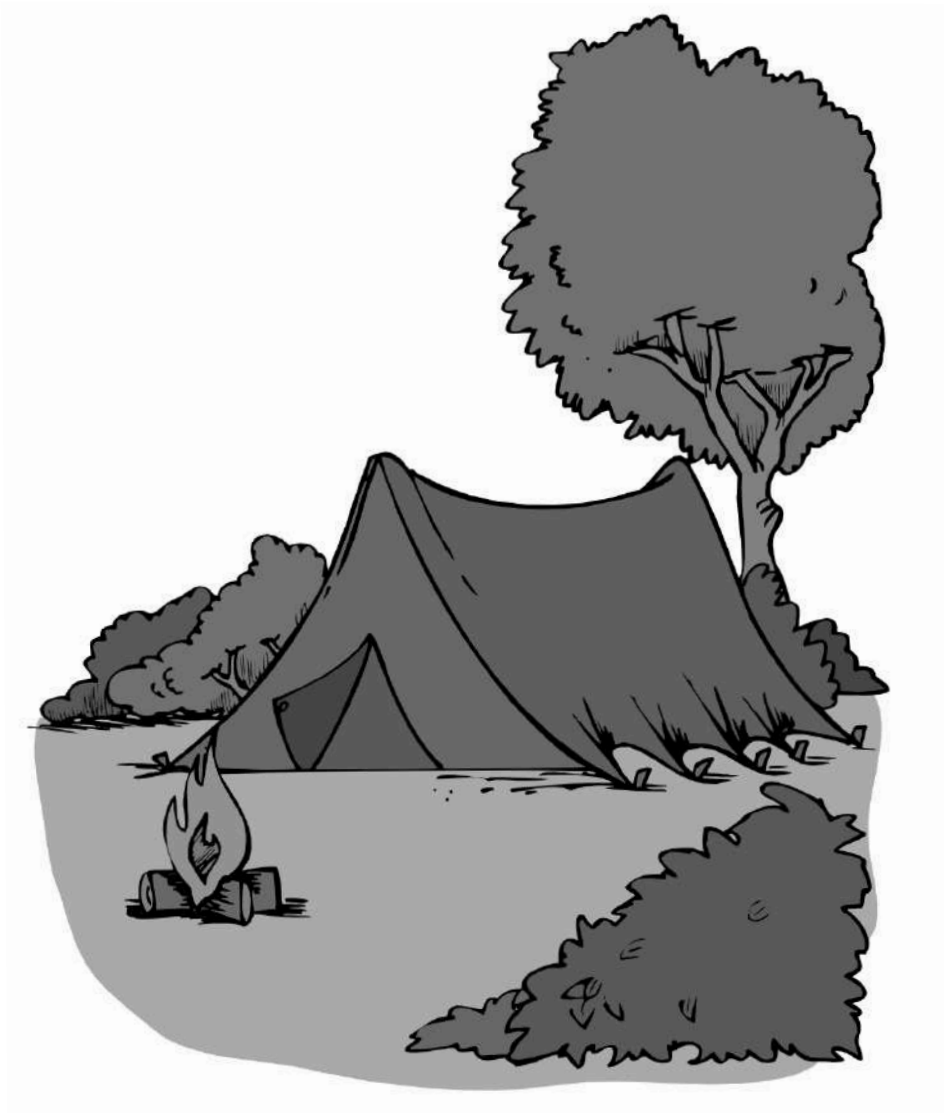
November 2019



Scouts

Woodsmoke

**CELEBRATING THE GROUP'S 110TH
ANNIVERSARY YEAR
15TH JUNE 1909 TO 2019**



www.abbotslangleyscouts.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.

Things have been quiet at HQ over the summer period with only a handful of weekend hall bookings but I'm glad to say keep-fit and pilates have continued their weekly hall use throughout the summer months. You can keep up to date with all of the Groups programmes, news and events at www.abbotslanglescout.org.uk.

The solar panels generated £766.00 over the summer which will contribute towards our fundraising.

The carnival in June was another great success and raised about £2000.00. My special thanks go to the whole team involved with this event-well done.

In July, months and months' worth of planning came to fruition and The District Camp took place at Lees Wood. Over 300 district members took part in the camp which was a huge success. Thank-you to our group camp committee who helped organise the event and to all of our Group members who took part - we look forward to the next one in two years' time!

The Scouts had a rather wet but fantastic camp in Matlock, Derbyshire in August.

The Double Jumble Sale on Wednesday October 9th and Saturday October 12th raised £1,350 for the group.

As mentioned in the last Woodsmoke our parent rota is working well and I would like to thank all those that have volunteered for various events so far. We had an HQ maintenance day on Saturday October 19th which Jo will be contacting you about in the near future. We are still in need of some volunteers to help keep the HQ spick and span so if this interests you please contact one of us and we will explain in more detail what is required.

The police investigation into the HQ burglary back in March is slow but still on-going.

Fire drills are due to take place after half term, hopefully some time in November.

Up and coming events in the scouting calendar include the Village Remembrance parade on Sunday November 10th, The Green Beret competition Saturday November 16th (course construction Saturday November 2nd) Christmas Market Saturday November 23rd and Christingle Monday December 2nd.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of this term and I look forward to meeting many of you at these events over the next few weeks.

Bye for now.
Mike Benson

Clive's Chat

The District Camp held in June was a huge success with 60 of our Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders camping and having a fabulous weekend of activities and fun. A great time was also had by the leaders and parents that go involved and supported the event. My thanks to all of the adults that helped with setting up, camping and breaking camp.



The Village Carnival is one of our main fundraising events of the year and was very well supported. My sincere thanks to all those that assisted in what was a long, albeit windy, very successful day. The continued help from those on the parent assistance rota is tremendous as the workload is a much easier when spread over a lot more adults. Well done also to all the Scouts who helped with the litter picking on the Sunday morning after the carnival. We were complimented by the carnival organisers.

Clive Winder
Group Scout Leader

Scout Troop Achievements

As usual our summer term was as busy as ever, particularly at Scout Camp, and a total of 34 Challenge Awards were completed as well as numerous Nights Away, Hikes Away and Time on the Water activity badges. Many congratulations to -

- Ellie Newing, Jeffrey Gill, Nye Farrington, Ben Newing, Ciara Deegan, Amar Kapoor, Jessica Newman, Millie Geard, Sean Lambert and Jessica Whiting on completing their Outdoor Challenge,
- Jeffrey Gill on attaining his Expedition Challenge,
- Andrew Grant, Ben Chase, Luke Bond, Katy Packman and Leila Whiting on achieving their Creative Challenge,
- Ellie Newing, David Laing, Jeffrey Gill, Nye Farrington, Ben Newing, James Fewster, Alfie Crawley, Ciara Deegan, William Potts, Amar Kapoor, Jessica Newman, Luke Pinchbeck and Millie Geard on the award of their Adventure Challenge,
- And David Laing, Jeffrey Gill, Jessica Newman, Luke Pinchbeck and Elizabeth Dunstone on completing their World Challenge.

Very well done!
Clive

Lake Beaver's last term was full of fun filled activities, allowing the children to earn several badges. We took many trips out of the HQ, including two trips to Phasels Wood where the Beavers had fun racing each other on the pedal racers and the cresta run - earning their Adventure Challenge Badge.



We had multiple sessions

where the beavers improved their skills in sports, cooking and crafts. When



earning their experiment badge we made fake lava lamps, left skittles in water and watched the patterns form, as well as other fun scientific experiments.

One session we joined up with the River Beavers and took a trip to the DeHavilland Museum. The children really enjoyed looking around the old planes and filling out the activity booklet.

We finished the term by going out to Langleybury Farm where the Beavers had bags of animal food to feed the different animals. It was a great term where all the Beaver's got closer and learned many things!



Dani Chalk

Rainforest

cubs

Hello, my name is **Luke May** and I am one of the sixers in 3rd North Watford.

In the summer of 2019, I went to the Watford North District Group Camp at Lees Wood for two nights. I stayed in a tent with three other people that are in my Cub Pack. Because I went to cub camp back in 2018, and have been to many sleepovers, I wasn't scared of being away from my family for two nights.



First on Friday, when we got there we unpacked and had our dinner, for dinner was pasta and meatballs. Next, we had a disco with all the other Scout Groups from North Watford, it was a blast dancing in the forest! After that, we roasted some tasty marshmallows over the campfire and went to bed in the tents at 10:30 pm.



When we woke up on Saturday, we had breakfast and we chatted until 9:50am. Then we went around the whole of Lees Wood doing the onsite activities and those organised by other Groups, there was so much to do! Each Group had a theme that they had to try and base their activities on.

This year subject was Disney – Pixar movies, ours Groups Theme was Coco. I have never seen Coco before, so I was curious about the movie.



Part of the Coco themed gate with pictures from all of the groups

Next, we had soup for lunch. Once we had that, we had a yogurt cup search with all the other Groups. I only collected two but I was happy doing it. Penultimately, we had a campfire and jokes and sing alongs from a guy, some were very funny! Finally, we had curry for dinner and went to bed also at 10:30 pm.



On Sunday, we woke up and ate breakfast until 08:50 am, where we had a closing ceremony and packed our stuff. Last but not least, our parents picked us up and we went home.

Busy in the tent making bird food



Some participants on the Abbos base at District Camp - Ski Pods. Very concentrated approach to moving the planks around the course.

Pixar's Toy Story was the theme for this base where the toys had to escape across the road under traffic cones.



Rainforest

cubs

On Wednesday we went to Lees Wood and set up all the tents for Saturdays summer camp!

On Saturday morning we arrived there and did all different types of activities like the bouncy castle, or backwards cooking and more. When it got dark we made a fire and got to toast marshmallows which was delicious and really fun. Then, when it got dark we headed off to sleep. But what was a bonus is that there is a good tuck shop which is yummy and amazing.

On the next Wednesday we went pot holing which was great. It was fun because you get dirty and you get to spend time with your friends. Also it's quite scary because you have to go underground in tunnels which are really dark and it's in a really long confined space. It's really fun. Imagine doing this every day !!

On another night we went out to go shooting which was great fun! You even get to shoot a real Rifle, but don't worry you are you are very safe. You even get to shoot your own target and get to take it home and show off in front of your friends saying that you completed the challenge.Fun!

On another Wednesday we went and did table football which was awesome. You go on a team red or blue and you're strapped to a bouncy castle then when they blow the whistle you can kick the ball and try score! You are now like a real table football game and trying to win against your friends.

On the last day of the summer holiday there is a massive family barbecue where you can bring your friends and family to Lees wood and the club leaders will will provide the food. For your food you can get burgers or hotdogs or salad and more. But one of the most favourite things for the children is that you get a massive desert from the choices of ice cream and cake with any toppings. It's truly wonderful and delicious.



It was a great summer term
Mia Weightman age 10

This year's Summer Camp was great fun as we had a lot of activities to do: climbing, kayaking, hiking, swimming, cooking and much more.

The first day started with us (the Scouts) meeting in Abbots Langley car park, where we sorted out who was going in what bus and where to put some of the extra equipment that we weren't allowed to put in our bags i.e. knives and money. In the end we got going at around 10:30, all of us were in high spirits for the adventures that were to come.

We arrived at camp and immediately started setting up the tents. Then once the mess tent was erected, we are put into our tent groups and then tasked with putting our tents up. This took only around 15 minutes so once we were done we headed back to the hall (where the leaders were) for further instructions.

The next day after breakfast we went on our first activities with our groups. My groups first activity was to construct a bridge to place across the stream that ran across the site. We had 2 hours to come up with the design and construct the bridge itself, the design we ended up going with was that of a portable drawbridge split into two parts for ease of use it ended up holding the weight of all of us very well and we were very happy after that. In the evening we cooked our own dinner over cook fires we had constructed ourselves, we were having BBQs and we all loved them we went to sleep that night feeling content at our first full day in camp.



On Tuesday we woke up to the sound of banging pots in our ears and realised that it was time for breakfast, then after breakfast we were arranged into groups of three, I was with William and Andrew We then got on the coaches and found ourselves on route to Alton towers as you can imagine we were very excited and our excitement got greater when it rained as there were hardly any queues so we managed to get on every ride, it was a little rainy though but that meant that all the rides barely had any queues at all; the longest my group had to wait was 45 minutes for the wicker man but that was our first ride so we didn't really mind.

On Wednesday we went to the emergency services museum, which was very good as we got to learn a lot about the emergency services, the way they operate and the history behind it. I found the police section very interesting as in the jail cell there were small bits of information about the convicts there; some really nasty characters who had committed awful crimes.

SCOUTS

On Thursday we went caving and climbing which was fun and I got over one of my fears (slightly) which was heights whilst abseiling down a 25ft cliff which was quite exhilarating and I highly recommend it. The caving part was great; however there were some tight crawls but nothing too bad. Overall one of the best days.

On Friday we did climbing on a local rock outcrop and then it was time for the banquet which was brilliant as the food was a roast which we all enjoyed it. Then on Saturday it came for the time to



leave and we had the final scout meeting of the year; badges were given out and we all went home having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Thanks to all the leaders for a great time.

Ben Newing, Foxes Patrol





Lovely day for a hike

Volunteers on the Carnival sausage sizzling stall





Butch's Walk

Nine intrepid members of Scout Fellowship set off on a lovely summer evening on Friday, 5th August to ramble across the fields and through the woods north of Wheathampstead. Led by Nicola Trotman along a comfortable 3.5 mile circular route we returned to the Cross Keys P.H. to enjoy a convivial drink and for a chat. Thank you Nicola. Peter Marett

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

A merry band of 11 people from Scout Active Support enjoyed a delicious meal together at the Fava Bar & Grill on Friday, 6th September. The restaurant is located at 3 Cunningham Way, Leavesden. It specializes in Mediterranean cuisine.

Would we go there again? YES! We gave it a big **10** out of **10**. Richard Gabriel

S.A.S weekend 27 - 29 September Big Mose Bunk-house, National Trust Dudmaston Estate near Bridgnorth, Shropshire

It was my first time away with the S.A.S. My not in the know friends were very impressed (and a bit surprised!) to think I would be doing daring & exciting Top- Secret activities, especially given the weather forecast was for rain, more rain and strong winds.....

Many of us travelled through. or arrived in, heavy rain. So heavy we read in the car for some time before squelching in. How nice to find Tony and Bib there with the kettle on!

Once inside we explored and I had a moment of panic wondering if I would still be able to get up into the top bunk I had keenly volunteered to occupy. As it was over half a century since I had last tried I had a quick practice whilst no one else was around to see my ungainly ascent and descent. Well I managed and really enjoyed sleeping on the top bunk again - it took me back to School and Guide trips and stays in Youth Hostels - happy days!

Once everyone started arriving, poor Richard became increasingly unpopular with those who rather fancied actually having a pillow to put in the pillow slip which we were told to bring (by said Richard). Numerous pillow-related digs, jokes and yearnings followed, plus a mass desire to have pillow fights!

Some of us were happy to improvise (especially ex-Girl Guides-see above!) others enjoyed going on and on and on

The first night we all went off to the nearby Pub "The Six Ashes" for Dinner and were warmly welcomed and given an area to ourselves so we wouldn't scare the locals, having heard the rumour we were the S.A.S. Meals were a bit variable - some better than others, but not bad. Then back to base for cheese and biscuits and coffee, plus quite a lot of port for some.

The next day we were well fed by Bib and Tony with hearty breakfasts to set us up for the day's walking. Tony also organized all the grub for packed lunches on both days so we were in no danger of starving.



The day turned sunny & bright with plenty of blue sky & thankfully the strong winds failed to materialize & we set off on a varied & interesting long walk (about 8 miles in total) through woodland and open farmland, along lakes and streams, around and in the extensive grounds of the Dudmaston Estate. As the family were in residence and it was not an open day, some parts were closed, but we all had a very enjoyable walk nonetheless. It was a delight and surprise to find a smashing little coffee and snack shack at one point when we were flagging somewhat.

Tony & Bib visited Ironbridge and went to an Exhibition whilst us walkers were out, plus more shopping in case we ran out of grub!

On our return to Big Mose Bunk House we were fortified by more tea and coffee & Ruth's delicious cakes

before resting, watching the World Athletics Championships or reading and chatting. Later on we enjoyed a noisy and companionable meal of jasagnes and salad with garlic bread prepared by me and Ruth. As always on such week-ends everyone mucked in taking turns at the various minor duties that were needed which was not at all onerous (so don't be put off if you are thinking of coming next year-Somerset I think.)

Many of us had also taken the opportunity to visit National Trust properties en route and on the way home. There are a lot in Shropshire and surrounding counties. Dave & Sue took the opportunity to do some long runs as well as the walk - very energetic.

I think we all felt a bit sad to depart on Sunday morning as it was such a nice place. Shropshire is a beautiful and unspoilt county and it was fun and enjoyable to be together over a couple of days. John & I really enjoyed the weekend and hope to go again next year. Thank you to everyone involved in organizing it, especially Richard & Ruth, Tony & Bib & the rest for your company and fellowship.

Janette Noonan

P.S. Did I remember to mention PILLOWS?

Wine and Chocolate Evening

On the evening of Friday the first in November the Abbots Langley scout hall played host to a group of Abbots Langley Scout Active Support members and their guests to listen to a talk on wine and chocolate. This was given by Kirsty Strickland a local chocolateer and expert in all things to do with the delightful stuff from a company called Choccie Drop. The talk was accompanied by a practical demonstration of 'Chocolate and Wine.' Well, it made a delightful change from the eternal blathering of "experts" of the political persuasion about all things Brexit.

On a table at the side of the hall was a line of bottles containing some interesting looking liquids. As well as these were intriguing boxes of small discs of chocolate. Wine and chocolate as promised. Further more, the bottle labels murmured names like Brancott Estate, Sauvignon Blanc, Oriel Rose, Apothic Red, First Cape Shiraz and a 10 Ten year old Tawney port. Lovely!

Over the following two hours or so were treated to a fascinating talk on the delights of combining wines while eating complimentary types of chocolate. I don't think that I have enjoyed a practical so much for years. Informative too. My favourite was a glass of Apothic Red wine (a blend of four Californian grapes) while eating Lindt raspberry Intense. Wow! Other chocolates viz: Callebaut lemon, Lindor strawberries & cream, Green and Black's Maya Gold and Callebaut caramel milk chocolate were tried and the results hotly debated around the hall.



Eventually the evening reluctantly drew to a close with a richly deserved round of applause. Thanks Kirsty. Thanks Richard for organising what must be logged as a most successful evening.

Ancient

Just to cull the myth that Active Support do nothing more than eat, drink and be merry - here are some being active in constructing the assault course for the Green Beret competition at Lees Wood.

DIARY DATES

November

1	Chocolate and Port Tasting	Active Support
2	Set up bases for Green Beret, Lees Wood	Active Support
10	Remembrance Day Parade - 10.30 am in village	All
15-17	Green Beret - Lees Wood	Scouts
16	Man base for Green Beret, Lees Wood	Active Support
18	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
19	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild
23	Christmas Market	Ladies Guild/AS

December

2	Christingle	All
6	Christmas Meal	Active Support
10	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild
26	70th Anniversary Boxing Day Walk. Meet at 10.15am at Love Lane (opp AL School). At 10.30 we walk to The Holly Bush in Potters Crouch. Walkers can then choose to take a beer and a song with us, or walk home. No dogs or children are allowed in the Holly Bush pub. (please wear/bring something with a 70th theme to celebrate!)	All

January

3	What is it? - HQ 8pm	Active Support
19	District Cooking Competition - 10am HQ	Scouts
20	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
21	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild

February

7	Active Support AGM - 8.15pm HQ	Active Support
18	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild

March

6	Gin with a Twist	Active Support
7	District Night Owls Competition - 2pm Lees Wood	Scouts
16	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
17	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild

April

3	TBC	Active Support
6	Curry Night - Abbots Tandoori	All
21	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild

May

1	TBC	Active Support
14	District Wide Games Competition - 7.30pm Lees Wood	Scouts
15	Scout Group Presentation Evening & AGM - 8pm HQ	All
18	Executive Meeting 8.15pm HQ	Exec Committee
19	Ladies Guild Meeting - 2.00 pm	Ladies Guild

Hall Happenings

Monday	6.15 - 7.45 pm	Cub Scouts (Jungle)
Tuesday	5.30 - 7.00 pm	Beaver Scouts (River)
	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Abbo's Explorer Scouts
	2.00 - 4.30 pm	Ladies Guild (3rd in Month)
Wednesday	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cub Scouts (Rainforest)
Thursday	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Scouts
Friday	8pm	Active Support (1st in Month)
Saturday	10.30 - 12.00 am	Lake Beavers

Pauline Styles
Woodsmoke Editor

Deadline for next issue - 1st February 2020

Woodsmoke is online to view and print at
www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

#YouShape



Scouts

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

www.abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk