



238th Edition

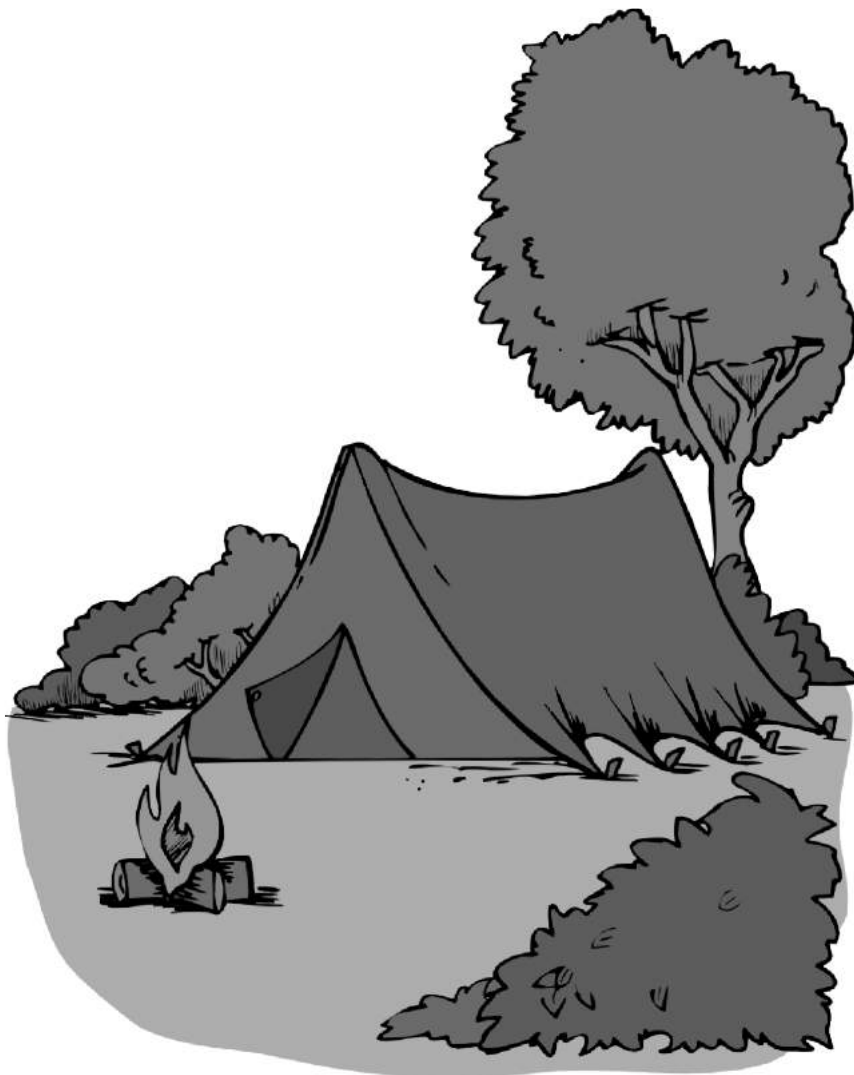
First published March 1954

October 2020



Scouts

Woodsmoke



www.abbotslanglescouts.org.uk

93rd AGM – 16th October 2020

Chairman's Report

In attendance was the District President, Roger Sands.

In the 111 years of our Group's history we find ourselves in one of our darkest hours as a result of Covid-19. As Scouts we have had to cope with many challenges over the last six months both here and around the country and indeed the World. The resumption of face to face scouting and some sort of normal life is still some way off.

The lack of fund-raising activities taking place has created an uncertain picture for us. Indeed The Scout Association in general, is facing a financial shortfall with an unclear future.

On a very personal level, back in March The Scout Group suffered a tragedy beyond words. The loss of our Group Scout Leader, Clive Winder, from Covid-19, aged 59 devastated us all. We are all still trying to come to terms with his absence. Clive was the backbone of our Group and since retiring twelve years ago, he devoted his life to Abbots and Scouting. He was a hugely active member of the District and County Teams and also led a contingency to the 2015 World Scout Jamboree in Japan. Only last year Clive attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace with his wife Sally, in recognition of his tireless commitment and voluntary work with the Scouts.

Clive has had a lasting impact on hundreds of young people who have passed through our Scout Group and many of our Young Leaders are testimony to his influence and direction which shaped so many of their lives.



Clive was not only our Group Scout Leader but a wonderful and dear friend to us all. We have all shared many camps and social activities together over the twenty-five years Clive was involved in Abbots Langley scouting and each of us have felt the impact of his sudden departure immensely. I am certain that everyone will cherish their own special memories of Clive and do their very best to live by even a few of their own things he stood for.

Our 2019 fundraising began with the Carnival and we raised nearly £2,000. The Jumble Sales in March and October totalled £2,600, the Christmas Market £1,100 and hall hire a further £2,000. Along with the £1,800 generated by the solar panels, the Group fundraising income total for 2019 was £9,500. This is a truly remarkable amount and would not be possible if it were not for the countless individuals who give up their time to make it happen. I sincerely thank you.

In June, the Group attended the District Camp at Lees Wood which was a huge success, helped by the glorious weather, and my thanks go to our camp committee and District organisers who made the whole event happen. The Scouts went to Matlock in Derbyshire for their summer camp and had a great time, despite the rain.

The Village Remembrance Service, in November, saw 118 uniformed members take part, with each section very well represented and impeccably turned out. December's Christingle service at St Lawrence's Church was very well attended and £429 was donated to The Children's Society. Twenty attendees took part in the 70th annual Boxing Day walk.

My congratulations go to Explorer Scouts, Ros and Alex Chase who attended The World Scout Jamboree in The USA during August. They had a fantastic time and greatly appreciated all those who participated in the March Quiz Night that supported them with their fundraising.

Our Group structure has undergone some recent changes. Our longstanding Woodsmoke Editor Pauline Styles, has, after sixteen years, now handed over the reins to a new parent Anna Ebden, whom I welcome to our Executive Committee and wish her luck with her new role.

My sincere thanks go to Pauline for her tremendous contribution to the Group's history and archive, for maintaining a record of all the scouting events for so many years, thank you.

I am pleased to say that Pauline has taken on a new role, as Group Treasurer, after Peter Serlin stepped down from his role due to health reasons. I would like to thank Peter for his contribution over the last four years and wish him a speedy recovery and good luck with his future ventures.



Wendy Cousins, who looked after the Rainforest Cub Accounts, and Val Rogan, who was part of our fundraising committee, have decided to step down from their roles and I would like to thank them both for their dedicated contribution to scouting in Abbots Langley. Joanna Sawika has also stepped down from her role as Health and Safety Officer. She also held the position of Group Secretary for a short while and I would like to thank her for her five years continuous service.

Our long standing Cub Leader, Chris Frith, has hung up his gold scarf after 35 years. Chris will be sadly missed by all of his Cubs over the years. Indeed, one of his original Cubs, Iain Stanley, who is now a GSL in Aylesbury, is testimony to Chris' success as a Cub leader. Thank you Chris, on behalf of the Group, for your tireless commitment and dedication to Abbos over the years and to scouting in general.

I would like to also give special thanks to our Executive Committee and Active Support who have helped out over the past twelve months. In particular Pauline, Iain, Alison and Dave Collette who have helped me steady the ship these past, very turbulent, seven months.

Next year, I will have been Group Chairman for ten years and I have decided that next May's AGM will be my last. For about twelve months now I have been considering my role as Chairman and had even discussed stepping down from the role with Clive. I feel this is a fitting time to let someone else bring new ideas to the Group and take it to the next phase of its existence. I am very happy to inform you that Richard Gabriel will be supporting me for the next seven months with a view to take over as Chairman at May's AGM. I look forward to working with Richard during this time, as he learns the ropes and am confident that he has the commitment and energy needed to move the Group forward.

I would like to close by recognising and thanking each and every one of you for the tremendous effort and time given to Scouting whether you are a member of the Leadership Team, Active Support, Ladies Guild, Executive Committee, District and County Scout Associations or Parents. You all contribute to our young peoples' participation in the adventure of a lifetime. I give you all a tremendous thank you and a very big well done!



Pauline Styles, Mike Benson and Bib Butcher receiving Awards for Merit in recognition of their outstanding service to Scouting

Michael Benson
Chairman

Group Scout Leader and Scout Leader Annual Report 2020

The total Group membership at the 2020 Census was 149 (2019 = 160). The individual section numbers were:

Beaver Scouts	27 (35)
Cub Scouts	51 (58)
Scouts	42 (35)
Leaders & Assistants	29 (32)

The Lagoon Beaver Colony closed in the July of 2019 meaning a reduction in the number of Beaver Scouts. However, the increase overall in Beavers passing through the ranks has ultimately increased the numbers in the Scout Troop.

There were 4 additions to the adult leadership team. Having completed 4 years as a Young Leader with Rainforest Cubs, Hannah Stephenson took on the adult role of Section Assistant. Nicola Trotman has returned to Cubs after a break from scouting and is now an Assistant Cub Scout Leader with Rainforest Cubs. Richard, Paul, Louise and Suli still remain part of the Cub team but Cheryl remains on maternity leave and sadly we have had to say farewell to Chris Frith a long standing Cub Leader.

After suspending Lake Beavers for a year, due to lack of leaders, we re-launched the Colony in January 2019 on a Saturday morning with Dani Chalk as the Beaver Leader and the addition of Stacy Ward as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader. Geeta Agarwal also took out an appointment as an ABSL with River Beavers, but sadly only stayed a term. I am pleased to welcome back to Beavers, Helen Welch after the birth of her son Lennon. Helen is still supported by Rachel and Lin.

A few leaders stepped down from active involvement and thanks go to Dave Goodman, Aisling Benson and Karen Taylor for their support over the years.

A big thank you to all our Group members who were involved in the various fundraising activities in the Autumn proving that parents being more involved in fundraising resulted in a much greater turnout of helpers.

I would like to express my thanks to all our volunteers who ran the successful jumble sales this year raising essential funds for the Group.

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. 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. Thanks to all those who 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.

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

Other Activities and Competitions

With regard to other successes, our Scouts have been very busy participating in various County and District events. Two teams of Scouts had a great time in the District Watopoly in September with another two teams entering the Green Beret in November. The Green Beret teams were very successful with one team winning the District trophy for the 2nd year running with the other team coming runner-up. Three teams entered the District Cooking Competition this term with the team of Millie Geard, Francesca Dean, Jessica Whiting and Theo Hunter winning the trophy for the 10th year in a row.

Night Owls District Competition - 2-3rd March 2019

Our team came in 10th but I'm pleased to say that one of our other teams, with Emma Pinchbeck, Lucy Newman, Emma Renphrey, Ben Chase and Luke Pinchbeck, came first. A big thanks to all the base leaders and everyone who helped organise the Night Owls event.

Green Beret 15-17 Lees Wood

The Abbos Pathfinder team took the trophy for the District Green Beret.

District Cooking Competition

One team came 4th and for the 10th year in a row the other team won the District Trophy. Thanks go to Tony, Jason and parents for their help and support with our preparation and practices. Well done to everyone who attended the Remembrance Day Parade in November. There was an excellent turnout from our youngsters. The Christingle at St Lawrence's church was also a very enjoyable and successful event with the church full and £429 being raised for the Children's Society. And finally, a huge thank you to all our Group members and parents who were involved in the various fundraising activities last term. The new policy of parents assisting with our fundraising events resulted in a much greater turnout of helpers at the Autumn jumble sale and the Christmas Market.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Executive Committee. They do an excellent job of running the group behind the scenes and, along with the leaders, are the unsung heroes of the scout group. My special thanks also to the Abbo's Active Support unit who provide assistance with the numerous fundraising events, Green Beret Assault Course and various scouting activities. And finally, my thanks to our 12 young leaders who provide tremendous support to the adult leaders in the various sections over the year. Our young leaders are proving to be our future adult leaders and long may that continue.

Jungle Cubs

Annual Report 2019-20

Jungle Cubs had another fun packed year in 2019-20, taking part in many exciting activities and visits including; the de Havilland Museum, the Henderson Hub, Garston Fire Station, Leavesden Country Park, Rock Up (intu Watford), plus the annual summer relocation to Phasels Wood for a whole host of adventurous activities, including crate stacking, potholing, Aeroball, bungee trampolines and the cresta run to name a few...

Members of the Jungle Cub Pack attended the 2019 District Group Scout Camp at Lees Wood, where they mixed with their fellow Scouts and Beavers over a weekend of fun and adventure, taking part in various outdoor activities and the 'Olympics', where the 'Abbo's' claimed first place despite a poor performance by two of their Cub Scout Leaders (who shall remain unnamed) in the three legged egg and spoon race!

The Cubs watched the dress reversal of The Village Moonlighters pantomime performance 'Wild West - The Panto' at the Henderson Hub - a great time had by all with all the Cubs joining in rounds of heckling throughout the performance, whilst the usual double entendres gently drifted over their heads, much to the relief of their Leaders!

We also had a visitor from the New Hope trust who talked to the Cubs about homelessness and the important work that their organisation are doing in the area. The Cubs had some brilliant ideas for the new space that the charity were developing, donated items for the 2019 Harvest appeal and also raised some money through a tuck shop at our annual Christmas film night.

A long list of badges were completed over the year and we celebrated with our older Cubs as they moved up to Scouts, with special congratulations to those who earned their Chief Scouts Silver Award: Dean, Theo, Freddie, Isabelle and Dylan.

In February, the Sixers also had a special treat with an outing to the Science Museum in London, organised by the Watford North District team. After that, we were obviously in lockdown, which also resulted in the loss of a much loved and respected Scout leader in Clive. During lockdown it therefore became that much more important to stay connected. We held meetings on Zoom with plenty of games, making sure we had lots of fun. Scavenger hunt was the most popular game, followed closely by Giants, Wizards and Trolls! Cubs also completed badges at home, participated in the Great Indoors Weekender and, during the Autumn term, ventured outdoors again in smaller groups, where they completed their Navigation and Naturalist badges up at Whippendell woods.

Finally, a few thank-you's.. to all our parents who come along and help at meetings, especially Jo Hunter for managing the badges and Helen Taylor for organising the parent rota. I would also like to thank Paul, Assistant Leader and Cheryl for looking after the accounts as well as our Young Leaders; Alex, Daniel, Andrew, Zachary, Harry and Ben. Huge thanks to the team at Rainforest and Watford North District Cubs for their support and last but not least, our Exec Committee and Active Support members for all the hard work they do behind the scenes that keep the group functioning and for the fund raising activities they organise during the year.

Richard Livermore-Hardy
Jungle Cub Scout Leader

Rainforest Cubs

Annual Report 2019-20

Our Pack has remained somewhat stable in terms of its size and demographic over the past c18 months since the last AGM of May 2019, in the Summer Term of 2019 we had a total of 29 Cubs made up of 19 Male and 10 Female Youth Members, this Term (Autumn 2020) we have 27 Cubs made up of 16 Male and 11 Female Youth Members. A total decline of 2 Youth Member during this period but again an increase in the Pack's Female Youth demographic on the previous year. Such a continued and stable Pack size and diversity of membership reflects not only the success of our Group locally but also the benefits of Scouting Nationally to Young People as we continue to grow and diversify and offer an increasing array of new, exciting and adventurous activities shaped by the needs and input of Young People. With two successful Beaver Colonies in our Group and an extensive waiting list, we hope to continue to promote and facilitate Cub Scouting in a physical and virtual form to an increasing number of Young People within the local community over the coming year.

Rainforest Cubs Leadership Team has decreased over the last year with now 5 Volunteer Leaders, following Chris Frith's recent decision to sadly not return to Scouting and step down from his long-served role as Rainforest Cub Scout Leader. We'd like to thank Chris for his continued service to the growth and success of both the Rainforest Cub Pack and 1st Abbots Langley, 3rd North Watford Scout. I am pleased to take on the role of Cub Scout Leader for the Rainforest Cub Pack having progressed through the movement and been a member of the Pack as a Cub myself with Chris as the Cub Scout Leader at the time. I am excited to continue to build upon and develop these successes and facilitate an exciting and adventurous programme.

The Pack currently has 2 Young Leaders assisting toward the Volunteering Sections of their DofE programmes, in addition to 3 parents/ex-parents who assist the running of our Section in a variety of ways. The Pack is still seeking an individual to take on the administration of the Cubs accounts as Wendy Cousins who has overseen this for 8 years is now looking to retire from this role, if there are any parents of the Pack present who would like to take up this role and join the Rainforest Cub Pack Leadership Team it would be greatly appreciated.

Once again Rainforest Cubs have had a busy and active year in the period May 2019 – October 2020 taking part in an extensive array of exciting and adventurous activities complimented by a variety of themed activity and craft evenings, local visits and more recently the exploration of the potential of virtual Scouting. All with a focus on completing badgework.

S

Some of more notable and exciting undertakings of the past 18 months include; air rifle shooting, backwoods cooking, human table football, Family BBQ & games at Lees Wood, The Village Moonlighters Pantomime performance of Wild West, pancake night, Warhammer model making, Rock-Up Watford, an Art Exhibition at Henderson Hub, a visit to North Watford Fire Station, a ghost walk around Leavesden Country Park exploring the more supernatural history of the Hospital and a visit to Metro Bank in Watford.

Newly for this year Cub Scouting ventured into the virtual realm and we are pleased to have offered, although slightly later than most a number of Pack meetings through Zoom during the later part of the Summer Term and over the course of the Summer Holiday, to continue to provide some form of Scouting and platform for the connection of the shared experiences and friendship within the Pack, in addition to a form of 'escape' during the prolonged and unsettling experienced of all during the national lockdown and rather sudden and abrupt suspension of physical Cub Pack meetings. With an average attendance of 7 Cubs and being accessed by a total of 12 Cubs across the period we delivered virtual activities including; a scavenger hunt, bingo, pub style quiz and cake in a mug. All of which proved very successful and we hope to build upon the knowledge and experience learnt from these with our future virtual meetings planned for this (Autumn) Term.

We had hoped to facilitate a weekend long virtual Camp in the Summer Holidays although were forced to cancel this due to lack of interest, a number of Cubs did however attend the Scouts virtual Camp and others achieved Nights Away camping in their garden's and dens or blanket forts indoors during lockdown.

Cubs have through many of these physical and virtual activities and visits been able to complete a host of badgework including: Our Adventure Challenge Award, Our Outdoor Challenge Award, Our World Challenge Badge, Teamwork Challenge Award, Navigator Stage II Staged Activity Badge, Artist Activity Badge, Backwoods Cooking Activity Badge, Fire Safety Activity Badge, Home Help Activity Badge and Pioneer Activity Badge.

As we begin to resume face-to-face Scouting in small groups at outdoor venues with periodic virtual Pack meetings to safely facilitate the entire Pack we hope to continue to offer and provide Cubs the ability to obtain an extensive range of unique badges while undertaking new and exciting activities, adventures and experiences. Already this term we have had a couple of weeks at Whippendell Woods and Leavesden Country Park for some navigation and wide games and are working towards the Cubs Our Teamwork Challenge Award, Navigator Stage II Staged Activity Badge, Naturalist Activity Badge and Local Knowledge Activity Badge.

In addition to these various programmed activities and visits the Cubs have also over the year supported and attended a number of Group and District Events, including Watford North's St Georges Day Parade, Abbots Langley's Remembrance Day Parade, St Lawrence's Church Christingle Service and the Groups Jumble Sales. In June of 2019 around half of the Pack attended the much anticipated and enjoyed District Group Camp, a weekend camp held at Lees Wood taking part and engaging in a wide range of existing and adventurous activities and Wacky Olympics Competition.

In addition to the array of Challenge Award Staged Activity Badges and Activity Badges undertaken and completed by Cubs over the past c18 months, a total of 10 Cubs been able to complete their Chief Scouts Silver Award, the highest achievement in Cubs. My congratulations to the following for their dedication and commitment towards completing this Award; Jake Atherton, Eva Fey, Luke May, Emilian Sawika, Kenan Schofield, Abby Tamsitt, Ben Tankard, Anthony Vassiliou, Juliet Vassiliou and Mia Weightman.

Chris Watts
Rainforest Cub Scout Leader

Scouts

Annual Report 2019-20

What a tough year this has been for us all. With the huge loss of our Group Scout Leader Clive, we've all been left with a big hole in our hearts. After losing Clive, I have stepped up to the challenge of becoming Scout Leader - I hope only to make Clive proud and pass on all the knowledge that he taught me to the next generation.

Our total membership at the 2019 Census for was 42 young members. During the year of 2019 many competitions were entered such as Night Owls, Green Beret, The District Cooking Competition and Watopoly. Our teams all did brilliantly and even bought some of the trophies home again for the tenth year running. The Green Beret teams were very successful with one team winning the District trophy for the 2nd year running with the other team coming runner-up.

Three teams entered the District Cooking Competition this term with the team of Millie Geard, Francesca Dean, Jessica Whiting and Theo Hunter winning the trophy for the 10th year in a row. Our other team came a brilliant 4th. Thanks go to Tony and Jason as well as the parents for their help and support with our preparation and practices.

Night Owls District Competition - 2-3rd March 2019 Our Night Owl team came in 10th but I'm pleased to say that one of our other teams, with Emma Pinchbeck, Lucy Newman, Emma Renphrey, Ben Chase and Luke Pinchbeck, came first. A big thanks to all the base leaders and everyone who helped organise the Night Owls event.

Many badges have been attained by all our scouts since May 2019 Including 8 Gold Chief Scout awards - this is the highest achievable badge in Scouts, and takes many hours of work, time and dedication to complete.

The summer term was particularly busy at Scout Camp, where a total of 34 Challenge Awards were completed as well as numerous Nights Away, Hikes Away and Time on the Water activity badges. The total awards in the year were:

World & Teamwork Challenges

Katy Packman
Luke Bond
Lucy Newman
Emma Renphrey

Skills Challenge

Harry Moore
Luke Bond
Ben Chase
Emma Pinchbeck
Lucy Newman
Katy Packman

Personal Challenge

Andrew Grant
Katy Packman
Leila Whiting
Emma Pinchbeck
Lucy Newman
Emma Renphrey
Zachary Hines

Creative Challenge

Andrew Grant
Ben Chase
Luke Bond
Katy Packman
Leila Whiting
Zachary Hines
Harry Moore
Ellie Newing
Lucy Newman
Emma Renphrey

World Challenge

Andrew Grant
Zachary Hines
Katy Packman
Leila Whiting
David Laing
Jeffrey Gill
Jessica Newman
Luke Pinchbeck
Elizabeth Dunstone

Teamwork Challenge

Rose Carter
Millie Geard
Sean Lambert
Harry Moore
Ben Newing
Ellie Newing
James Shephard
Jessica Whiting
Emma Pinchbeck
Ben Chase
Leila Whiting

Team Leader Challenge

Andrew Grant
Zachary Hines
Katy Packman
Leila Whiting
Emma Pinchbeck
Lucy Newman
Emma Renphrey

Adventure 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
Millie Geard

Outdoor Challenge

Ellie Newing
Jeffrey Gill
Nye Farrington
Ben Newing
Ciara Deegan
Amar Kapoor
Jessica Newman
Millie Geard
Sean Lambert
Jessica Whiting

Expedition Challenge

Jeffrey Gill

We have once again had a busy and active year in the period May 2019 – October 2020 taking part in an huge variety of exciting and adventurous activities including air rifle shooting, archery, outdoor cooking, Warhammer model making, a visit to the Central Watford Fire Station, a ghost walk around Leavesden Country Park exploring the more supernatural history of the Hospital and a visit to Metro Bank in Watford.

As well as these various programmed activities; Scouts have also supported and attended a number of Group & District Events this last year including: St Georges Day parade, the Remembrance Day Parade, the Christingle Service and the Group Jumble Sales. The Christingle at St Lawrence's church was also a very enjoyable and successful event with the church full and £429 being raised for the Children's Society.

In June 2019 a huge number of our Scouts attended the much anticipated District Group Camp - a weekend camp held at Lee's Wood - which hosted an abundance of activities from bouncy castles to archery and even a ride in a police car!

In July 2019 the Scout Troop embarked on the Annual Summer Scout Camp to Matlock, Derbyshire. A week jam packed with activities from Kayaking to Abseiling to a visit to Alton Towers (although this was the day the heavens decided to open) It was fair to say, not one scout was left with dry belongings that day! We had hoped to embark on our Annual Summer Scout Camp in July 2020, but due to the government restrictions this wasn't possible and we had to unfortunately cancel this. Planning is already underway for a hopeful Summer Camp next year (2021) FINGERS CROSSED!

With the sad news that we wouldn't be able to attend our annual summer camp this year, some of our leaders came together to create a week's long virtual camp, which was enjoyed by over 20 of our members. Our leaders worked very hard to facilitate a programme including activities such as route planning, flag making and even virtual campfires! The week was enjoyed by all participants - and my thanks goes to all the leaders that made it a success.

Since September 2020 every Thursday evening we have invited Scouts to join in zoom calls with various activities planned each week, from bingo and scavenger hunts, to building the tallest tower you can out of marshmallows! Most recently with the help of parents at home, we were able to complete our Mechanics Badge, with our leaders creating fun interactive videos, for the Scouts to join in with at home. As always, my sincere thanks go to all our leaders and group members for their continued support throughout the year for delivering such a varied programme for the scouts to enjoy.

Amaelia Parmenter
Scout Leader

Chris Frith

Chris started his scouting as a Cub in the 9th North Watford and joined the Abbots Langley Scout Group as a Venture Scout at the age of 16.

After ventures he stayed involved and in 1995 he was an assistant, alongside Lin Lythaby, in the Cub pack being run by Brian Hawkins. When Brian tendered his resignation due to pressure of work in 1997, Gerald Wilson took up the mantle of Cub Leader and Chris was his assistant, along with Matt Sharpe. In 2006 he took over as Cub Leader after Gerry died and held this position until June 2020 when he decided to step down.



Over the years Chris has given countless hours each week running the pack, and a particular favourite of his were Cub camps, with those lovely green nigers!



Here he is at one of the camps with other Assistant and Cub Leaders



He could always be found wearing his brown felt hat that had a scarf tied around it.

Now we know it was used for a cheeky snooze after a late night dealing with the Cubs!

So long Chris and thanks for all your hard work over the years, it was very much appreciated.

Pauline Styles

Lake and River



Summer Term 2020 wasn't quite what we expected it to be! After breaking up for lockdown in March, we had a few months of no Beavers but came back with a bang with our virtual sleepover camp in May. Beavers made their own camps at home which ranged from tents, trampolines and homemade forts using blankets! Everyone named their camps and made their own flag to display.

At the sleepover, we made broad bean greenhouses using kitchen roll and sandwich bags. It was great to see all the beans growing in the weeks after. We also had an exercise and dance session with Explorer Katie creating a special routine for the Beavers to follow. Snacks were made by using fruit to create little characters- edible amusement for all!

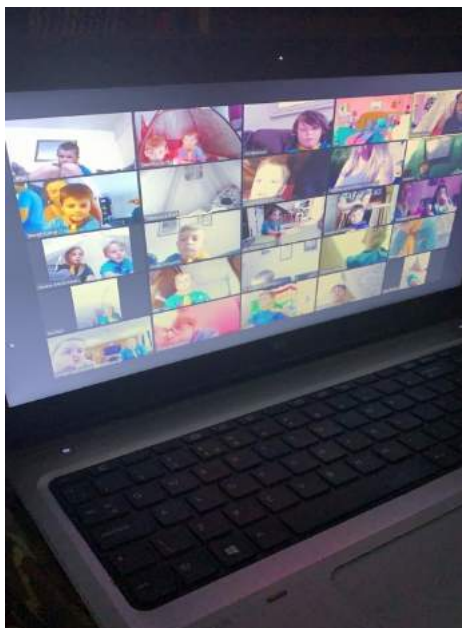
We ended the sleepover with hot chocolate and a bedtime story read by the leaders. It was very different to our usual camps but still great fun!

Online sessions started after half term, with all the Beavers working towards their Indoor Challenge badge. We had a lot of fun trying yoga following the story of the grumpy rabbit and practising all the poses for the health and fitness stage. The teamwork session was also very interesting with everyone working together playing guess who, I spy and making up a quiz for the other Beavers to play.

We also had an enjoyable international themed session where we learned about other Beavers around the world and how their uniforms and badges are different to ours. We learned the colours in French and how to play an Indonesian version of rock, paper, scissors.

The online sessions wrapped up with a reptile visit from Matt at Codicote Reptiles who showed us all his exotic animals including snakes, lizards and even a tortoise! We were very lucky to be given the chance to name Matt's newest addition to his menagerie - a Rankins dragon. After a poll on their Facebook page we are very pleased to announce the winning name was... Abbo!

It's been an unusual term but we were so pleased with the turnout for our online sessions – thank you Beavers for all your hard work this term!



Koala, Panda and Grizzly – Lake
Helen – River

Jungle

cubs

We had an eventful 2020...
Here's a round-up of what we've been up to!

We did manage a Sixers trip to the Science Museum before Lockdown, which was great fun. Since then, we've had meetings and games on Zoom (and used the wordle above to show what being a cub scout means to us), we've undertaken several Badges at Home, participated in the Great Indoors Weekender and for the Autumn term, we've been out in the woods being adventurous!



Whippendell Woods Group 1



Whippendell Woods Group 2

Our brilliant Sixers and Seconders have talked about some of their highlights below

Thomas aged 10 years

During lockdown we couldn't go to Cubs meetings so we had remote meetings on Zoom instead. It was really good to see each other. We did quizzes, a scavenger hunt and played games like Giants, Wizards, Trolls. We also worked on badges at home so we could learn new skills. I did Home Help and Cook which my family were happy with. I made Spaghetti Carbonara! In the summer, I also worked on my Navigator badge with a friend, we learnt how to use a compass and read a map. We uploaded photos and stuff to the online scout manager to prove we had done the activities. We even got the badges delivered to our homes!

Aoife aged 10 years

LOCKDOWN 2020 meant missing out on being with family, friends, and fellow Cubs - not able to create adventures, learn new skills and be together for giggles. BUT then virtual cubs started, and we could see each other again. We were encouraged to do badges and activities whilst at home. Camping was my thing - with a little help I put my tent up, blew up my camp bed and grabbed my sleeping bag (plus a few luxury items that you would not normally use on camp). I even got to light a campfire to make delicious Smores before going to bed - I loved it so much I stayed out for five nights.

Lily aged 10 years

At Whippendell Woods we had lots of fun looking at leaves and searching for bugs. I especially liked when we looked for bugs because we had to flip over logs and try and catch them. I knew we would have fun looking at the leaves because we had to search for them and I found some on the forest floor and we could have a closer look at the shape, size and colour. It was also really nice to be outdoors in the Woods having fun with the other Cubs.



Joseph aged 10 years

St George's Day and Scouting Promise

St George is the Patron Saint of England and is the Patron Saint of Scouting. To quote Baden-Powell: "All Scouts should know his story. St. George was typical of what a Scout should be. When he was faced by a difficulty or danger, however great it appeared, even in the shape of a dragon - he did not avoid it or fear it but went at it with all the power he could ...On St George's day we say our St George's day promise because everyone should remember his strength and bravery when he defeated the dragon in the 11th century.

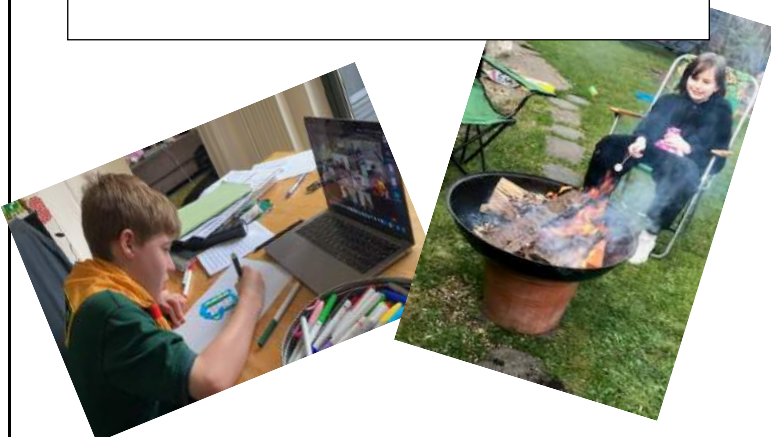
The Great Indoors Weekender

During the coronavirus pandemic we were sadly unavailable to do our cub camp at Leeswood. Our leaders came up with an idea to have our activities on zoom and Jungle cubs did origami and made little cub jumpers out of paper and coloured them in. We also did navigation by learning how to use a compass and also how to map read. There were lots activities to choose from.



Cormac aged 10 years

On Monday evening, the weather was sunny ideal for a trip down the woods. When we arrived at Whippendell woods each of the cubs were given a compass by Richard our leader. Firstly, we were shown how to use the compass, and then we were asked to find North to make sure we understood the compass. We were each given a map. On the map there were various points (a, b and c). We had to find our way using the compass points provided. We spent approximately 30 minutes walking around the woods and reaching each of the different points. It was a fun experience and I really enjoyed it in the Woods, having fun with the other Cubs!



Rainforest



After February half-term we made pancakes in the Scout hall and they were yummy! I love it when we make pancakes at Cubs. We made batter and then cooked the batter in a frying pan on a stove using gas cans. There were lots of toppings to choose from to put on the top of the pancake. Then when you'd finished designing your pancake, you get to eat it.



In March we made presents for Mother's Day. I made a card and a book mark from fabric and buttons. I ironed the fabric to make it smooth and then I sewed a button onto the fabric to decorate it.

After this Cubs had to close because of Corona virus.

During the summer holidays there were some virtual zoom meetings which I really enjoyed.

The first one was a scavenger hunt. We had to run around our houses finding certain objects. Some of the things we had to find were a wooden spoon, a toothbrush and an ice cube.

Another week we did bingo. We had a printed bingo paper and someone called the numbers. We had to dot the numbers as they were called out and the winner was the first person to get all of the numbers.

After that we had a quiz night where we were asked questions. We had to write down our answers on a piece of paper and see who got the most questions correct.

The last zoom meeting during the summer holidays was making a cake in a mug. I really enjoyed doing this. The cake tasted really good!

In September, we were allowed to do cubs socially again. We did a nature walk around Whippendell Woods and we had to identify different trees and find bugs!

The next week we went to Whippendell Woods again to learn about navigation. We had to bring compasses and we also had a map and navigated to different locations through the woods.

Then we met at Leavesden Country Park for games. Some Cubs made up games which was fun. I ran a game called Copy Cat which is similar to wink murder and other Cubs led games such as, chair football and another was where we had to walk as slow as we could and copy someone and the last one there wins.

We did another baking session on zoom where we made a fridge cake. After we'd all made our cakes we played the Price is Right where we guessed the price of different objects.

Last week we walked around Leavesden Country Park and looked at the history of it. There was a sheet to find answers to questions around the park.

SCOUTS

Abbos Home Camp-Out 2020

Usual summer camp cancelled by a pandemic? Not a problem for 1st Abbots Langley Scout Group, instead a week long virtual camp was in store! The camp was held between the 3rd and 8th of August and available to all the Scouts in the troop, with a mix of those who had originally planned to attend our summer camp and those that couldn't make it participating. We were also joined by some siblings of the Scouts from Beavers and Cubs that wanted a bit of fun to keep themselves occupied for the week.

Among the activities on offer were some traditional camp skills and some new online sessions that have been popular over the lockdown period with other Scout groups. Carried out on Zoom, the most popular activities were strawberry lace knot tying, origami and our very own 'bake-off' competition. The Scouts were less fond of the route planning and subsequent hikes, but managed them fantastically anyway. Throughout the week, the kids also got a chance to be awarded nights and hikes away badges, by staying in their bedroom dens that were made on the first day of camp and going on hikes whenever they could. They were also all able to achieve their creative activity badge by participating in the 'bake-off' and making their very own Scout flag. With lots of prizes up for grabs during the week, it was a chance for the Scouts to see each other and compete in friendly competitions.



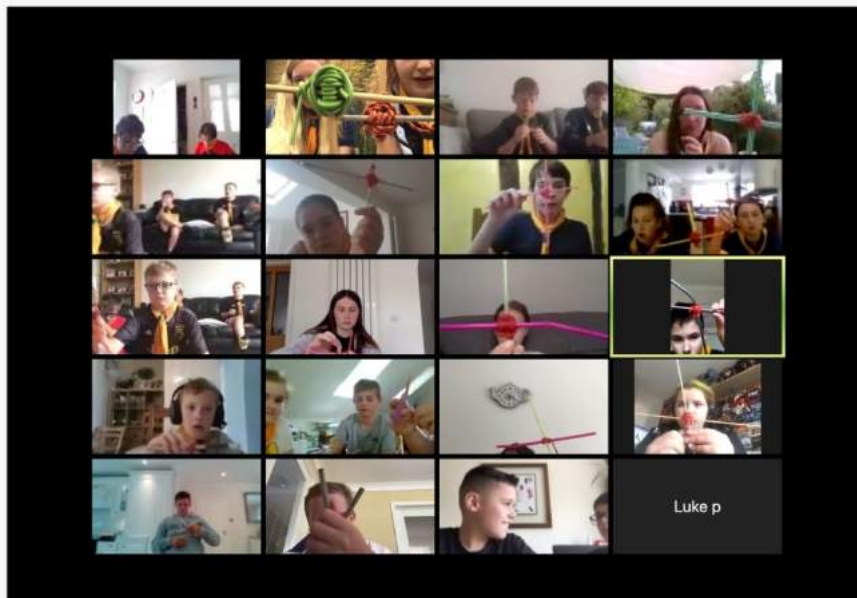
We were amazed at how the Scouts went above and beyond the tasks the leaders set, they made it their own and jumped into the fun with two feet. One bubble of kids camped out in their garden for 2 nights, making all their own meals over a fire and even had a home cinema set up for their evening activity. Another few kids were camping together while away and joined in with us when they could. One night they cooked for their families on a BBQ before creating glow stick men and having a mini party.



While the organisation of the camp was a long and sometimes painful process, we learned a lot about how scouting perseveres. The Scouts kept to all their key values even from miles apart, helping each other with activities, working as teams during the quiz and supporting each other from a distance. The Scouts easily adapted to a difficult and challenging situation and made the most out of what they had. Due to these uncertain times the camp was designed to be as flexible as possible, and many of the activities could be undertaken at any time. This turned out to be especially useful as by the time camp had come around many parents were back at work after being furloughed and some of the Scouts had to join in when they could; but they did it with just as much enthusiasm and commitment as during our zoom meetings. Scouts even joined in on their holidays which we never thought would be possible but they made it happen!

The week's camp ended with a campfire evening over Zoom. Although the campfire for some of the Scouts was just a tealight they were still all able to toast their marshmallows. Around the campfire, we had a short reflection on the week letting us know what they most and least enjoyed. Letting us know they had enjoyed the week as much as we did was incredibly rewarding. We also discussed what they've been doing over the last few months and talked about how it's impacted them, their friends and families. As this was the first time we were all able to be together since lockdown in March it was an important catch up for both Scouts and Leaders.

Despite all the difficulties our group and Scouting has faced this year we were all able to have a fantastic time. Scouts, parents and leaders thoroughly enjoyed the week, and some didn't want it to end! The camp proved just what everyone in Scouting can do if we all put our minds to it. We hope to resume our normal week long summer camp next year and can't wait to see what else the young people are capable of. But for now bring on more online meetings in September!



Lucy Packman and Charlie Trotman
Assistant Scout Leaders

ACTIVE SUPPORT

SAS has seen little activity since the onset of the pandemic (covid-19) at the beginning of the year. Any face to face meetings were not permitted during the lockdown period, in accordance with the Government's regulations.

Following the relaxation of the restrictions and the imposition of the "a maximum of 6" rule potential SAS social events have, one by one been cancelled due to one reason or another. A couple of "zoom" meetings did take place online which proved quite good fun despite the obvious limitations.

With the potential onset of the threatened "2nd Wave" future Group events at which SAS would have been involved have been cancelled – the October jumble sale, the Green Beret assault course in November, the Christmas Market. Also, it seems highly unlikely that we will be able to join together for a Christmas meal at the beginning of December.

In the meantime, I plan to hold another "zoom" social meeting at the beginning of November and also to try and organise a special "held at a safe distance" event in lieu of the Christmas get-together. Please contact me with any ideas you may have for this.

This difficult time will end, eventually. Needless to say, the Group will have to carefully examine its options and to plan for future activities including fund raising opportunities. Scout Active Support will doubtless be involved in this, so look out for opportunities to help.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again "on the other side" when we get through this. Until then, stay safe and stay well.

Richard Gabriel
Scout Active Support Manager

Diary Dates

November

6	Quiz – Whiz, Bang and Sparklers – online meeting	Active Support
8	Remembrance Sunday	All
16	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee

December

1 – 11	Posting of Christmas cards to the Scout Group post	All
4	Festive Christmas Get Together – online meeting	Active Support
6	Christingle Candle Making	All
7	Christingle	All
18 – 22	Delivery of Christmas cards by Scout Group post	Act. Support/parents
26	Boxing Day Walk	All

January

8	New Year, New Beginnings – online meeting	Active Support
18	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
19	Ladies Guild Meeting – 2pm – TBC	Ladies Guild

February

5	Scout Active Support AGM – online meeting	Active Support
16	Ladies Guild Meeting – 2pm – TBC	Ladies Guild

March

15	Executive Meeting	Exec Committee
16	Ladies Guild Meeting – 2pm – TBC	Ladies Guild

Hall Happenings

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

Anna Ebdon
Woodsmoke Editor

woodsmoke@abbotslangleyscouts.org.uk

Deadline for next issue – 1st February 2021

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

#YouShape



Scouts

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

www.AbbotsLangleyscouts.org.uk