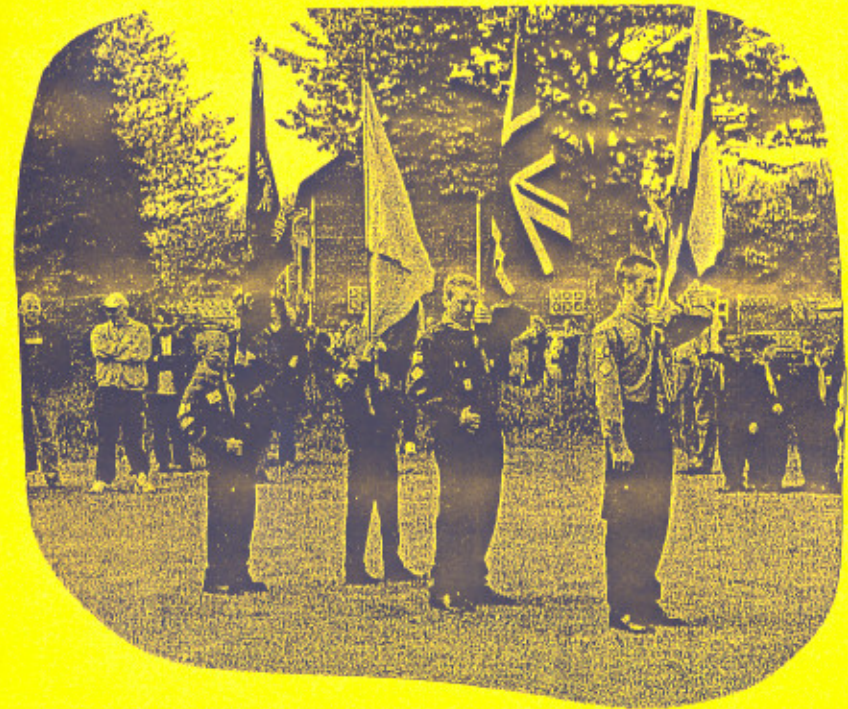


September 2003



1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley (3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford) Scout Group

**Woodsmoke@abbotslangley**



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

*I have awarded*  
THE MEDAL OF MERIT  
To

*Bryan Sharpe*  
And  
*Mick Butcher*

*1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley (3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford) Scout Group*



Congratulations from everyone in the  
Group

**Many thanks** to everyone who helped with our stalls at the Carnival. It was a very successful day with a profit of over £900 being made.

A special 'Thank you' must be given to Paul Hanson who organised our Hot Dog stall in a very professional way.

Lin Lythaby

## From the District Commissioner

Who on earth is that you might well ask?

I'm the one that some might see at District and Group events, presentations and St George's Day Parade.

I'm the one that sometimes gets to join in the fun and activities that all the young people enjoy.

I'm the one that worries about finding new Leaders to look after all the young people in Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts.

I'm the one that is asking all the young people of the 3<sup>rd</sup> North Watford who read Wood Smoke to do me a big favour. We need more adults to help provide the fun, excitement, challenges and activities that you all like.

I'm the one that will give a personal certificate to every young person who can get an adult to go along to a meeting, in any section and help in any way, for any length of time.

I'm the one that says thank you for your help as a member of the largest youth organisation in the world and look forward to seeing you at one of your meetings.

Roger Collins.  
District Commissioner.



# [SCOUTS]

Congratulations to ----

All the Scouts who attended the summer camp to Bishops Lydeard, Somerset and completed the new Expedition Challenge. A great achievement.

Ross Noonan and Dominic Benson on the completion of their Creative Challenge.

James Henderson, Tom Lambert, Emma Lowrie, Marc McDonald, Tomas Redmond, Chris Sheppard and Fred Sugden who have all completed their Adventure Challenge over the last term.

Clive



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

August named after the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar. He was the adopted son of Julius Caesar, who also had a month named after him July, not many people know that.

And so what has happened since May [she was not a Roman Emperor] We have had our Group Annual General meeting, and to my great surprise I was awarded a 40 year Long Service Award. Mike Butcher "Butch" also received one, it cant be that long surely?. The Abbots Langley Carnival was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, and we as a group had a great success raising nearly £ 1500 well done to every one.

Friday July 11<sup>th</sup> I became a grandfather again Liam another future Abbots scout.

On Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> August I visited together with my daughter Jo the Abbots Langley summer campsite at Bishops Lydeard near Taunton in Somerset. What a wonderful site, and as an honoured guest I was made very welcome, thank you to all the Scouter's and helpers. I do hope the Scouts and parents appreciate their hard work, and the fact that they give up some of their holidays to run such an excellent camp.

During this month we also had the hottest day for 110 years 38 degrees, so not a bad time ah. Good old Augustus Caesar.

Bryan Group Chairman.



# cubs

## BROWN PACK

At cubs this summer we've had lots of activities organised. First we went to Lees Wood and played Wide games. They were really fun. We played a game called Foxes and Hounds and half of the group were foxes and half were hounds. The foxes had to run around in the woods and hide and the hounds had to catch them. It was raining down really hard and everyone got soaked. It was great fun!

When we did caving at Phasels Wood two people got locked in right at the end and we had to go back for them. The caving was really fun. I've done it before and I had to make a home made head torch out of two wrist bands and two torches. I looked a bit like a tunnelling mole.

The tobogganing was changed to pedal cars which is new at Phasels Wood and it was really fun because it had been raining the previous night and on a step that we went down there was a big puddle that you had to go into and the Cub leader blocked off the edges with tyres so he made us go through the puddle. It was really bumpy and there was a steering wheel that kept coming off so we had to put that peddle car back in the garage.

The next week I did Backwards cooking and it was quite funny because I kept dropping my sausage. The first time I dropped it on the ground and it was all dusty, the second time I dropped it in the fire. But luckily Adam Fergusson's dad toasted a sausage for me and gave it to be afterwards. It was quite fun.

The second week I did the assault course. I didn't get to do much because right at the beginning I cut my hand I couldn't do anything else. Mostly people didn't want to be timed so they went on the big tubes over to one side and afterwards we played rounders.



Then came the highlight of the term – The Cub camp at Lees Wood. On Friday night at about 10 o'clock there was a wide game. It involved going into the woods, finding discs and taking them back to be counted. I put on my new head torch, so this time I didn't look like a mole! Everyone stayed up really late in the tent.

On Saturday after breakfast we visited lots of different packs to do activities such as scavenger hunts, searching for snakes in mud pools and eating wiggly grubs. But of course the snakes weren't real! The wiggly grubs were real but you didn't have to eat them. You put your hand in a jar with another jar inside it. The jar inside was full of sweets so that when you put your hand in you pulled out a sweet instead of a grub. Also that day we did an assault course with water which was really nice because it was very hot. You had to fill up a bin bag with water and carry it around all the obstacles and empty it into a bucket. But you see the bag had a hole in it! Each pack raced against one other pack. I couldn't do it though because I had to do the climbing wall when it was our pack's turn to do it. When all the packs had done it once the leaders had a go. It was very funny to watch.

In the evening we had a camp fire and sang lots of songs. My favourite was

 He jumped out of an aeroplane at 40 thousand

feet ... 

On Sunday morning we did the activities we didn't have time to do before. We were dismissed at 3.30 and took all of our stuff home. It was a really wicked camp and I enjoyed it. It was my last camp with the Cubs as I am going to Scouts in September where I'm looking forward to lots more adventures!

George Styles ... Sixer

## Diary Dates

### September

- 12<sup>th</sup> Lawn Bowls with Scout Fellowship
- 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting at the HQ
- 16<sup>th</sup> Ladies Guild Meeting at the HQ

### October

- 3<sup>rd</sup> National Trust Walk with Scout Fellowship
- 15<sup>th</sup>/
- 18<sup>th</sup> Double Jumble Sale
- 21<sup>st</sup> Ladies Guild Meeting at the HQ

### November

- 7<sup>th</sup> Cooking with Scout Fellowship
- 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Market at the HQ
- 17<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting at the HQ
- 18<sup>th</sup> Ladies Guild Meeting at the HQ

### December

- 5<sup>th</sup> Cider Tasting with Scout Fellowship
- 8<sup>th</sup> Christingle Service at St Lawrences

### January 2004

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ten Pin Bowling with Scout Fellowship
- 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting at the HQ



### Scouter in Charge's Bit

Firstly, my thanks to our two Explorer Scouts, Iain Stanley and Jonathan Easter, for their presentation on 2<sup>nd</sup> May about their trip to the World Scout Jamboree in Thailand. It was an enthusiastic and well presented talk and they clearly had a fantastic time.

The AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> May was well attended as usual and it was particularly good to see a few more parents and Scouts. The occasion was further enhanced by the presence of the District Commissioner and Chairman of the Parish Council and by the presentation of some well deserved and hard earned awards. My sincere congratulations to both Bryan Sharpe, our Chairman, and Michael 'Butch' Butcher on their Special Commendations for Long Service to the Scout Movement. I thank them for their very good, secret resumes of each other's career in scouting, particularly as they were unaware that they would be on the receiving end of the awards. My congratulations also to Jonathan Easter and Jamie Winder who were presented with their Chief Scouts Award by the District ADC (Scouts), Richard Price. The evening closed as usual with an excellent spread provided by Lyn and Eugene and an informal chin wag over a glass or two of wine. My thanks to them both.

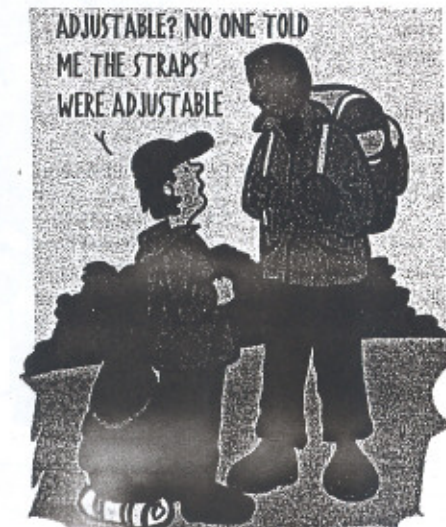
The District Cub Camp at Lees Wood was a great success. 24 of our Cubs attended and enjoyed a wide selection of activities and games. My thanks to the Leaders for working hard to make it a memorable event for the boys and also to the parents and the 4 Scouts, Dominic, Tomas, Fred

and Tom, who helped over the weekend. It was great to see the parents get involved and the other sections lending a hand when needed.

As I have mentioned in a previous Woodsmoke, the Leaders of the Explorer Unit have had to move away from the area due to work commitments. My thanks to Steve and Tracy for running the Unit over the last 2 years and I wish them well in their future endeavours. Unfortunately, this leaves a big hole that urgently needs to be filled. Matthew Sharpe, previously an ACSL at the Group, has kindly agreed to become the Assistant Explorer Scout Leader, but an Explorer Scout Leader is still required. Ideally, the position needs to be filled now (September) particularly as there are a further 12 Scouts due to move up to Explorers in the next 6 months. Perhaps there is a Dad willing to take on the role if only for a specific period, i.e. while their son is in the Unit.

Lastly, well done to all the fellowship members, ladies guild and Scouts who helped at the Village Carnival raising very valuable funds for the benefit of the Group.

Clive Winder  
Scouter in Charge





## EXPLORERS REPORT.

It has been a busy year for the Explorers, with events including Peak Assault, the 40 mile walk, a weekend camp, canoeing, climbing and a visit to the Mirror group to name but a few.

All the Explorers have now been invested, having set a tradition for themselves of being invested at Lees Wood around a roaring fire; a tradition which we hope they will continue.

As many of you already know we are moving away and will no longer be running the unit. We would like to say thank you to everyone in the group and the district for all their help and support. We have both enjoyed our time as leaders and we will both miss everyone, especially the explorers, as we have both enjoyed watching their development and growing maturity from scouts to explorers. We wish all the explorer scouts every success for now and in the future, and hope that they will enjoy scouting for many more years to come.

So it is a final farewell from Steve and Tracey to you all, we will let you all know our future address when it has been confirmed.

GOODBYE

FROM TRACEY BEAMONT AND STEVE DICKETY (AND EDWARD.)



Janet Sands  
53 Magnolia Avenue  
ABBOTS LANGLEY  
WD5 OSW

13 July 2003

Dear Janet,

I have recently taken the role of COUNTY ARCHIVIST and have been commissioned to write the definitive history of Hertfordshire Scouting for publication by 2007, the centenary of scouting and 150 years since the birth of our Founder.

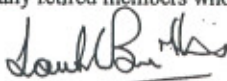
I am currently receiving, assessing and classifying information received. Most Scout Groups have a history. This may be recorded by photographs, logbooks, newspaper articles, artefacts and other memorabilia. Quite a few Groups have sent me booklets detailing their history reached at 70/80/90 years depending upon when the Group was first registered. Much of this makes intriguing and fascinating reading and snippets are being identified and registered as very relevant for consideration for inclusion.

I have discovered a little about your Group already. In 1964 the 1<sup>st</sup> ABBOTS LANGLEY Rover Scouts (*Rover Scouts were Scouts over 18 who did not have a Leader appointment. This Section was abolished in September 1967*) went on an International expedition by minibus to Yugoslavia. In doing so they visited 10 different Countries, camping on 10 different sites. Later in the year they had a caving expedition to 'Lambs Lear' in the Mendips and found that a ladder 70ft long was required. Keeping active, they had a weekend on the Thames at Wargrave. Disaster struck when they found out something else - Nine burly Rovers in a punt was five too many!!!

The Rover Crew also devised and organised the WORLD ASPIDISTRA SHOW. This was held every year for 6 years on the top of Ivinghoe Beacon. The first year 36 people turned up and at the final Show on 12 November 1966 nearly 1000 people turned up from all over the Country. The rules were very simple, each competitor had to walk a distance of 5 miles carrying their Aspidistras, and arrive at the Beacon at about midnight. There were 3 engraved prizes and every competitor was given a certificate to prove they attended the last World Aspidistra Show organised by the Rovers of the 44 SWH Crew.

Prior to 1972 your Group was known as 44<sup>TH</sup> SOUTH WEST HERTS and in 1965 competed and won the Tempest Hicks Bowl for advanced Ambulance work.

I would be delighted to hear from you if you have any contribution to the County Archives. In particular I would be interested if you have any retired members whom I could meet up with.

  
FRANK L BRITTAIN  
COUNTY ARCHIVIST



Hertfordshire County Scout Council  
County Headquarters: Well End Activity Centre, Well End Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 5PR  
Telephone: 020 8236 0040 Fax: 020 8236 0045 e-mail: admin@herts-scouts.net www.herts-scouts.net  
County Commissioner: Roger J. Sands County President: Morris le Fleming DL County Chairman: Michael Colne DL  
Charity No. 302606 VAT Registration No. 761 4559 10



HERTFORDSHIRE SCOUTS  
FRANK BRITTAIN  
50 SLIMMONS DRIVE  
ST ALBANS, HERTS AL4 9AP  
HOME 01727 860086  
FAX 01727 848140  
MOBILE 07850 818600  
COUNTY ARCHIVIST



Recent visitors to Abbots Langley were Brian (Biff) and Toni Pleasants, prior to their departure to Australia.

They would be pleased to hear from any of their old Scouting friends.

They can be contacted at

3 Ash Grove  
Norwich NR3 4BE  
Norfolk

*Hope that you have enjoyed reading this issue of Woodsmoke. We will publish again in February 2004.*

*All items to me please by the beginning of January 2004.*

*Thank You*



## ..... Hall Happenings .....

Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Abbots Langley Brownies
Tuesday	Beaver Scouts Ladies Guild <i>Third in month</i>
Wednesday	Cub Scouts
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley Brownies Scouts
Friday	Girl Guides Fellowship <i>First in month</i>

Newsletter Editor

Janet Sands  
53 Magnolia Avenue Abbots Langley  
Herts WD5 0SW  
01923 681035  
e mail [roger.sands@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.sands@btinternet.com)