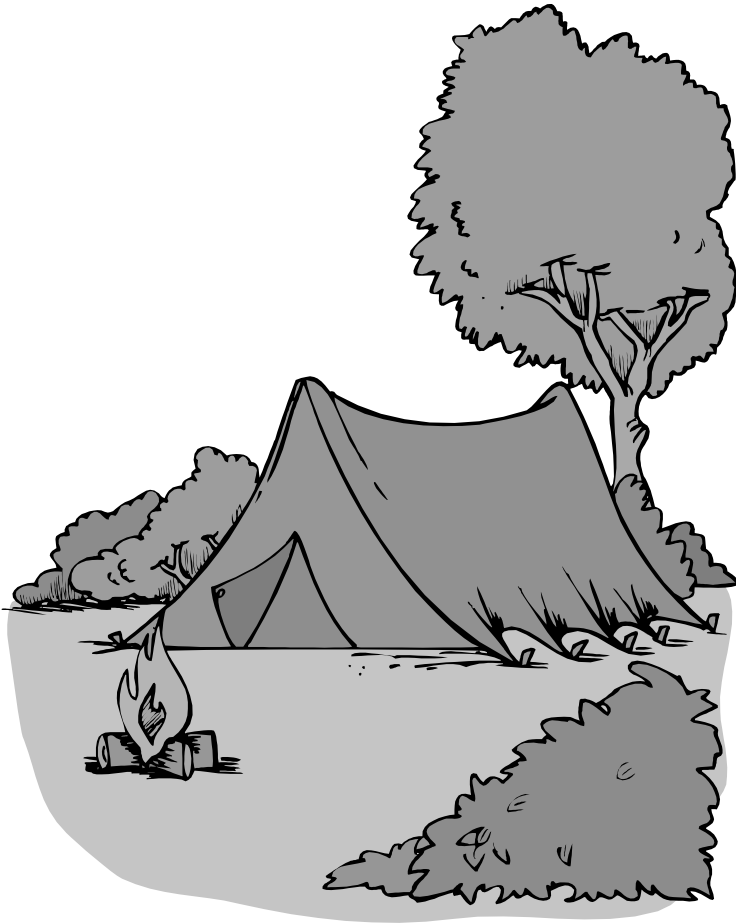


September 2004

Woodsmoke



Scout Troop News

Congratulations to -----

James Henderson and Matthew Gentry on completing their Outdoor Challenge.

Jonathan Benson, Joseph Bernie, Jack Butterfield, Shannon Courtenay, Keiran Coan, Rachel Essam, Matthew Gentry, Sam Gillespie, Jack Halcomb, James Hendrey, Sam Kidd, Grace McCarthy, Marc Redmond, George Styles, Joe Turberfield, Christopher Ward, Christopher Watts and Christopher Winder on achieving their Adventure Challenge.

Daniel Cobb and Rachel Essam on being awarded the Creative Challenge.

Well Done

Clive

FRED YOUNG

1930 – 2004

Pete Lythaby



Yet another sad moment for Abbots Langley Scout Group – Fred Young has died . I have had the pleasure of knowing Fred for most of my life – 40 years at least.

Fred was an energetic, enthusiastic and long term supporter of our Group. Having been born and bred in the village, he has always been a local lad. In 1962 he was asked by a childhood friend, who ran our 2nd cub pack, to ‘come along and help’. Due to the popularity of Scouting in the village Fred soon agreed to start a third cub pack. ‘C’ pack was born and it thrived, I had the pleasure of helping him as part of my ‘leadership training’.

After 10 years as a leader Fred suffered his first heart attack causing him to retreat, for a time. The strength of the man saw an amazing recovery and he returned to the Group as Treasurer, progressing to Chairman – at which he excelled. I became Group Scout Leader knowing I would have the total commitment and support of Fred.

Financially and more importantly Scouting in Abbots Langley became stronger, even though this was a difficult time – youngsters had far more opportunities to distract them from the strengths Scouting offered – we survived.

Fred, not just as Chairman, added hours to his dedication. Fund Raising was vital, the Group needed to add canoes, tents, all sorts of activities, to encourage and keep the youngsters we worked for, interested and regular members of the Group. Jumble sales, Christmas markets and village carnivals all provided the opportunity to raise money. Fred was there in the thick of it – supported by his family throughout his life. Grace his loving wife, Gary his son, Leslie his daughter and their families together with Fred’s sisters and many other relatives all supported the Group – thank you.

As you can see and read Fred had a magnetic personality that had the skill of attracting help from all age groups.

Another setback, more heart problems led him back to hospital and major surgery. Not a long-term problem! – back and active he was with us again, if not more enthusiastic.

Fred was awarded the ‘Thanks Badge’ the highest award given to a non-uniformed member of the Scout Association , for his total and committed dedication to the Group.

Sadly his biggest quality – his heart, let him down yet again, this time on the golf course – which he loved. Thank you Fred, we will all remember and miss you.

“DOBO” FREDERICK WILLIAM DOBSON

*Bryan Sharpe
Group Chairman*

1926 – 2004

We have with great sadness, to report the death of Fred Dobson.

Fred had been a member of this Scout Group for over 69 years. He joined the Scout troop in the mid thirties; in fact Billy Crush was his first patrol leader. Fred went through the ranks until he was called up to service in the army in the second world war. He was injured in France and sent home, only to return to form part of a new battalion of the Gordon Highlanders. Fred often recalled to us that most of the Highlanders came from London.



Fred got married in Germany, and soon returned with his wife Kitty, who became an assistant Cub Scout Leader. Some years later he agreed to become Rover Scout Leader of the 18 - 25 year olds, and during this time he instigated the new building fund for the great Headquarters we now have. He was also curator of the World Aspidistra Show.

In the late 1960's Fred and I decided to build a slide collection which we called "Abbots Langley Then and Now". We would find old photos and postcards and have them made into slide form. We would then go out and take a "now" shot of the old photo. We soon found out that "now" does not exist and that some were out of date before they were even processed. And so the well seen collection of Fred's slide show began. He was our local historian. More recently, the Langleybury Scout HQ was destroyed by fire, Fred was early on the scene, the fire brigade were still cooling the embers when Fred handed over monies and thereby started a rebuilding fund.

The last time I saw Fred in the nursing home in Bricket Wood he recalled to me the time that he and I climbed to the top of the Pimlico TB tower, 285 feet high (Fred's idea). He then recalled us both descending the well at Hazelwood Hunton Bridge 120 feet deep (also Fred's idea), therefore claiming to have been to the highest and lowest points in the Parish. Fred was very proud of this.

We all said a sad goodbye to Dobo at the West Herts Crematorium on Friday 6th August. and a memorial service will be held in St. Lawrence's Church at 11 a.m. on Saturday 2nd October 2004.



Scouter in Charge's Bit

Another scouting year starts on a high note with the presentation of the Silver Chief Scouts Award to five of our Cubs. My congratulations to Alec Dean, Adam Ferguson, Bradley Gooder, Josh Hill and Justin Hornsby-Cowan. A great achievement showing their commitment and hard work. Next stop Scouts and onto the Gold Award.

The Group Family camp in June was a terrific success with over 150 attendees, over half of them children, enjoying a wide variety of scouting activities, excellent weather and superb cuisine. My sincere thanks to all the Group Fellowship who organised and ran the camp particularly Dave and Alison Sturgess, Paul and Camilla Hanson, Tony Dabson and Pauline Marett.

One of our main fundraising events, the Autumn jumble sale, is fast approaching. Please offer your help if you can spare a couple of hours. As usual, I will be contacting the parents of two of the scout patrols to help. It's Otters and Stags turn this time.

Finally, congratulations and well done to Jack McCarthy who, following this years summer camp, was presented with the 50 Nights Away Award. A tremendous and difficult achievement that can only be attained through total commitment and dedication to scouting.



Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge

Scout Hall Hire

*Available during the daytime to hire for £17 an hour.
This includes the use of the hall, kitchen and upstairs.
Why not consider it for your child's birthday party?*

*Please contact
Bryan Sharpe on 01923 268242*

Did You Know?

The Ladies Guild provide a valuable supporting role for many fundraising events. They are always looking for new members to join their group and anyone interested should contact Avice Young on 01923 265202

* * **Don't Forget** * *



*The double jumble sales will be on
13th and 16th October 2004*

DIARY DATES

October

1st	Fred's Talk	Fellowship
2nd	Fred Dobson's Memorial Service 11 a.m. at St Lawrence's Church	
13th/16th	Jumble Sale	ALL
16th	Peak Assault	Explorers
19th	Talk on Corsica & Sardinia	Ladies Guild
22-24th	Autumn Trip	Fellowship

November

5th	Ghost Tour of London	Fellowship
8th	Meeting	Executive Committee
14th	Remembrance Day Parade	ALL
16th	Chinese Brush Painting	Ladies Guild
19 - 21st	Green Beret Challenge	Scouts
19th	Christmas Market	ALL

December

3rd	Games Evening and Buffet v Abbots Langley Cricket Club	Fellowship
13th	Christingle Service	ALL
14th	Bell Ringing and Christmas Party	Ladies Guild

January

7th	Ten Pin Bowling	Fellowship
10th	Meeting	Executive Committee



Group Family Camp 18th to 20th June 2004

We arrived on Friday night at 7.00. The field seemed full of tents. (My dad told me later that 155 people attended.) All the troop were there, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, leaders and lots of families.

The weekend was packed with fun things to do. We started straight away with a wide game based on the Euro 2004 tournament. Some

parents went and hid in the woods with footballers names on their t-shirts, and you got a point every time you found one and got their autograph. The winners got a prize later.

After the wide game we had supper and sat round the camp fire. After this everyone went to bed straight away. (Well almost straight away) We all got up bright and early on Saturday morning. We had a full programme of activities which included climbing, archery, air rifle shooting and abseiling. Everyone had a great time including the mums and dads, (though they were not very good at some of the events). In the afternoon we did group activities which was great fun and included some great games like catch the balloon filled with water and how to start a fire and make a cup of tea. All the mums and dads got into the spirit of the event by trying to catch the water filled balloons and getting dripping wet.

In the evening we had a camp fire and toasted marshmallows over the fire. We all then went to bed and straight to sleep again (well maybe someone did). On Sunday we had a treasure hunt. This involved some orienteering and the adults in my team had no idea how to read a compass. (Surprise surprise we did not win).

To sum up. The weather, food and organization were great. My brother Philip aged 6 had a great time with the Beavers and I know my dad was happy as he kept telling me what good value the weekend was.

Chris Sheppard.
Scout Section

P.s. My dad just told me to say thanks to everyone who organized or ran the event.

And Now From a Parent's Point of View...

Thursday night saw us pitching tents on a deserted site in Phasels Wood. The scouts were over enthusiastically putting up tents for the weekend camp and you could hear the cry of "has anyone got a mallet?" all over the field as tent pegs were battered into the hard ground. With 150 people expected for the family camp it was difficult to envisage just where the tents were going to go. Most importantly, where were the cubs and scouts tents to be situated!



The rest of the tents were pitched on the Friday in a wonderful summer evening setting. However, the site very rapidly turned itself into something reminiscent of an Isle of Wight festival and the summer evening to a very cold wintry night. As people mingled and introduced themselves, the first game of the evening was collecting autographs from famous England football players who were situated in the woods, and as the evening took on an ever wintry feel it was saved by the wonderful chilli, nachos and sausages eaten round the camp fire to keep warm. I think everyone concerned would say it was probably the coldest evening they had spent out of doors under canvass, particularly those who were camping for the first time.

So very little sleep was had that night because of the Scouts (of course), the Cubs (of course), and the snoring (!) that probably none of us would have heard if it wasn't so perishingly cold that we were all kept awake with it, frantically trying to find things to put on. Still it wouldn't be a camp if you didn't feel weary and tired on the first morning. Bounding back the next day saw us throw ourselves into a whole day's activities. Many people conquered their fear of heights by abseiling for the first time. Some people refused at the last hurdle. Some climbed for the first time in many years, which are major achievements when you're pushing 50 and challenged!





What goes up,
must come down



Broken arm—that's no excuse



Watch where
you're
shooting



The afternoon team games were an assortment of skills and one of the things to be valued from these family camps is that young and old, or should I say Beavers to Parents can all combine in teamwork and get the same amount of fun out of an activity. Yes it's great fun lifting the kids through a tyre that is suspended six feet in the air, but what great teamwork and a sense of determination to achieve the task, not to mention the physical ability, to be able to put four grown adults through it as well.

The weather had been good to us all day with just spits of rain and as we regrouped in the evening and talked about our day we sat high on our hillside surveying the countryside around us feeling that we were in the middle of Devon, not two miles from Abbots Langley. We'd left all the cares of the world behind us to spend the weekend socialising with friends, family and children without the trapping of modern day life.

The sacrificial pig was duly carved, barbecued chicken, sausages, burgers and delicious salads served up to a very hungry audience, all followed by hearty singing around the campfire. Sleep was easy that night, and for those who still had the strength and not too many bruises there were treasure hunts and orienteering the next day. Although the camp was not due to finish until Sunday afternoon it was unfortunate that it clashed with School fetes and so most people broke camp during the morning.





The organisers were there till the bitter end clearing up, and a VERY BIG THANK YOU to all concerned. **Dave and Alison Sturgess** did a brilliant job taking on the organisation of a camp that 'Butch' had originally booked. They put such a tremendous amount of effort into the whole thing and it was such a success that I fear they will be called upon for the next one which is likely to be in 2006. Likewise **Paul Hanson** and Tony Dabson and Pauline Marett who cooked for the whole weekend and did us proud. Never before have I lived so well whilst camping and even with the physical activity, managed to put on weight.

Thanks of course also to **Clive** for his commitment over the weekend and for single-handedly packing away all of the scout tents. And a big thank you also to the **Fellowship** members who devised and supervised the activities and helped with all the background tasks (we will have to get our own back somehow). Last but not least to **Bib Butcher for organising the pig roast.**

The weekend was very heavily subsidised by the Group for you all to enjoy and we hope to see many more of you at the next one.

Summer Camp

Ystradgynlais

24th to 31st July 2004



The Brecon Beacons

On Sunday morning we met in the village car park, and after some scouts had been invested we set out for Wales. I felt a bit nervous on the way there because last time I went I was ill and had to come home, but when I got there I was fine. The campsite we were staying at was great as it had a playing field with goal posts, and we played football as soon as we got off the mini bus. We pitched our tents and had a tour around the site.

The next morning was sunny and there wasn't a sound until Tony stood outside our tent with a frying pan and started banging it to wake us up. The first day we went windsurfing which was great fun as we had never tried it before. We also went pony trekking.

On Tuesday we went sailing which was difficult, maybe because there wasn't any wind! We had to turn our boat over so the sail was in the water beneath us. Our job was to turn the boat upright without getting wet.

On Wednesday we went on a hike that was very tiring. We walked for miles but again we got lost and didn't know where to go. Eventually we got back that evening and we all sat down to a barbeque which was delicious.

On Thursday we went bike riding. This wasn't so bad apart from the massive hill that we had to cycle up. (Some of us walked). A few of us went too far and got lost again (it seemed we were always getting lost). We also went caving, but because I am a bit claustrophobic I didn't go into the caves. I heard the caving was really good though so I might try to go down next year.

On Friday we went canoeing and got very wet because we had to roll out of the canoes to get back to the bank. Later that day we went shopping which was fun but I got lost in the back streets.

We had a banquet on Saturday and played various games. It was quite good food and I really like it. We all got packed and ready on the Sunday and set off back home. I really liked the summer camp and I recommend you all to come next time.

Thanks to Tony, Clive, Phil, Neil, Michael and Ed, and to the canoeists, Pete, Dave and Sue for a great Camp.

By James Hood
APL STAGS

Brecon Beacons Summer Camp - Wednesday to Sunday

On Wednesday morning we had a circular hike in the Brecon Beacons. This was fun but challenging and many of us got blisters, including me! In the morning we hiked to a stream and when we got there we played wide games. We then hiked to a river where we had a barbecue. Afterwards we went swimming in a freezing cold mountain waterfall.

On Thursday we went to a beach near Swansea, which was a bit disappointing because it wasn't very clean, possibly caused by the nearby docks. We played games and flew kites on the beach. We also buried James Henderson in the sand but Clive spoilt it by digging him up. We spent the afternoon in camp with some scouts going fishing. In the evening we all went to the local swimming pool. Unfortunately, we just managed to get a go on the slide before the pool closed it. In the evening we had a campfire and made camp food.

The troop was split into four groups for the last two days to do canoeing, caving, mountain biking and shopping. On Friday my group went caving in the morning and mountain biking in the afternoon. I lost my watch in the cave but it was too dark and cramped to find it! It was all good fun though. Our tents were inspected when we got back.

On Saturday I went canoeing followed by shopping in Brecon. We had a camp banquet in the evening which is traditional every year and includes games, a campfire and special food. We didn't sleep much that night as it was the last night of camp. We broke camp on Sunday morning, had flag down and prayers and we left just after lunch. We arrived home early evening, tired and dirty, but happy.

A big thanks to all the leaders and helpers involved.

By Fred Sugden
Patrol Leader, Foxes



ACHIEVEMENTS

Badgework is very popular and two main badges were undertaken this term, during our weekly meetings and through tasks to be done at home.

Most of the boys have been awarded the Athletes

Badge and Local Knowledge Activity Badge. Some boys also do badges on their own and bring in work to show us. It's great to see such enthusiasm.

Well done everyone, and there will be more opportunities this term to gain some more badges for your sleeves!



In June, eight of our Cubs took part in the Cracknell Shield at Lees Wood: Alec Dean, Adam Ferguson, Josh Hill, Justin Hornsby-Cowan, Matthew Johnson, Stuart Henderson, Kieran Guffick and Jack Longbottom. This was a district event with 17 teams entering and began with a uniform and kit inspection. The teams then had to visit various bases set up in the woods and answer questions on a wide range of topics, for example, the commonwealth countries, flags, map reading, Jungle Book characters, the Scout law, promise and motto, tie knots, tackle the assault course etc. etc. To our great surprise (as we had not entered the competition before) our boys won the Chairman's Shield, which meant they had come top of the teams in the North Watford section. They also came second out of the 17 teams competing for the Cracknell Shield and thoroughly deserve our hearty congratulations - well done boys!!

Just a few weeks ago, five boys who have just moved up to Scouts, came back to our Cub meeting to receive their Chief Scout Silver Award from Norman Brandon (ADCC). This is the highest award within Cubs and requires a great deal of work by the boys. It was lovely to see them back and their achievement provides great inspiration for the younger Cubs in our Pack. Congratulations, therefore to Justin Hornsby-Cowan, Josh Hill, Adam Ferguson, Bradley Gooder and Alec Dean.

Gerry, Chris, Jo and Aisling

TOP CUBS OUTING

'On the 8th May 2004, seven cubs (including myself) and a scout, went canoeing at the Aquadrome in Rickmansworth. The other people who went were Kieran Guffick, Josh Hill, Jonathan Benson, Matthew Johnson, Christopher Winder, Nikhil Kotecha, Jack Lucas and myself, Justin Hornsby-Cowan.

When we all arrived I felt an explosion of excitement in me and found it very hard to keep calm. Myself and Josh both had to miss a party to go canoeing but it was just as well because going canoeing was a thrilling experience!

When all of us got into our canoes and were in the water, we needed time to get used to them. Canoeing isn't something you get used to easily, this is why we did some races to get the hang of it. We played quite a few games with our instructor, David, such as water polo. We all found that we fell in the water a couple of times, but the canoeing proved to be so much fun that we didn't really care.

I found it quite depressing when we had to stop, but it was a relief to get into the showers as we were all ice cold from top to bottom. When we had all got dressed and were ready to go, we said our goodbyes and set off on the road back home!

JUSTIN HORNSBY-COWAN

'I was lucky enough to be one of the top eight cubs taken to Rickmansworth Aquadrome to do canoeing. I was a little bit nervous because I've never done canoeing before but I was excited when we got into the water. I was a bit wobbly at the start but that's all part of the fun! My best bit was when we made a raft. We all got the canoes next to each other and a few of us had to stand up and put one foot in our cockpit and the other foot in our neighbour's cockpit. We then floated out in the lake and everyone had to get onto two canoes. There were three people on my canoe, front and back, and two people on the other then suddenly we all fell in the lake!!! We had to quickly swim to shore - we were freezing!

MATTHEW JOHNSON



CUB TALK...

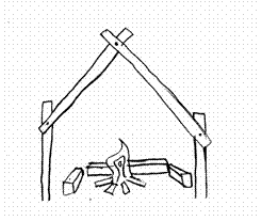
“ This term we did a local walk through Jacketsfield and across East Lane to get our Local Knowledge Badge. We did our Athletes Badge at Woodside on the running track which was really good fun.”

(Alec Dean)

“We do lots of games in the hall at Cubs, like crab football. They are really good fun.” (George Jenkins)

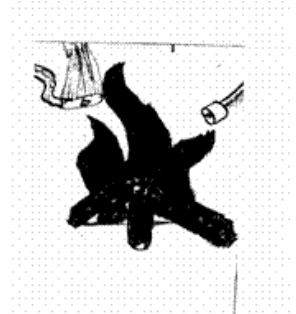
“When we went to Lees Wood, I went on the assault course, through the tunnels, on the net and more. Thank you for those trips.” (Sam Sheridan)



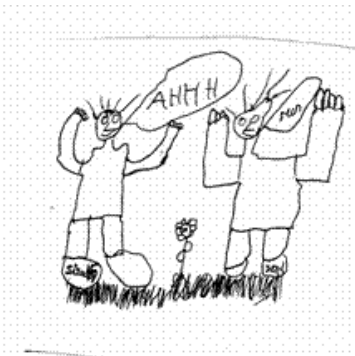


“This term I liked orienteering best because it was very exciting.....I think Cubs is very good.” (Nikhil Kotecha)

“We went to Phasels Wood and did map reading, finding markers that were on trees. We had a lot of fun.” (Perry Goodchild)



“At Lees wood I cooked sausages and marshmallows. I had a GREAT time!” (Michael Scott)



“WE WENT TO LEES WOOD FOR WIDE GAMES.” (JASPER GILLESPIE)



A year in the life of a Beaver

What have we done this year? We have had lots of fun and enjoyed some quiet activities, including cooking and some really, really noisy ones, such as rounders and snowball. 20 of us meet every week without fail, on Tuesday at 6.00 pm.

The year started out with Beaver Bangers. Lots of Beavers went, the theme was the Olympics. We went as Australia and made tabards out of sheets, which we decorated, and competed in games. It didn't rain and a good day was had by all.



Our first badge of the year was Swimming. A group went to Watford Central Baths and showed the tester all that was required, including swimming 50 metres.

Next we worked to achieve our Craft Badge. We made fathers day cards and clay animals. We also enjoyed junk modelling, with a transport theme. There was a great many interesting versions of lorries and spaceships!



Lots of Beaver's and their families went on the Group Family Camp. The challenges were enthusiastically enjoyed and they had fun playing football as the sun went down. A highlight was the pig roasting and where the pole went was a topic of long conversations. Later they sat around the campfire singing songs and enjoying their first experience of Scout camping, although it was a bit nippy!

All the boys had a great time and were given their Camping Badge for staying out overnight.

One of their favourite topics was working towards their Animal Badge. We met Jason's pets; his dog, Max, and gorgeous rabbits called Fudge and Bubbles. Jason talked to the Beavers about how to care for his pets and they excitedly asked questions. The following week the vet came to visit us. She talked all about caring for animals and let each Beaver listen to his own heart with a stethoscope. They asked lots of questions; one beaver asked about how to raise some tiny mice that his family had recently found abandoned. Next, they had to keep an observational diary about their pets. All the Beavers were very enthusiastic when they came back after the holidays with details of their pets activities. There we descriptions of dogs, cats, rabbits and the odd fish.



On top of all these activities they worked for their Outdoor Badge. We went for organised walks, including a visit to the pig farm, which provoked lots of ugh's! as they watched the pigs activities.

The year finished with a barbecue and the Beavers and leaders parted for the summer. And so another year starts, Beaver's Bangers is coming up again and the Beavers are looking forward to meeting up, playing some games and working towards two new badges.

We had a fantastic year, lets hope this year is as good.

Rachel Drake
Beaver Parent

* * *Don't Forget* * *



*The Christmas Market will be on the
20th November this year, so come along
and get shopping!*

*Here are the answers to
last edition's wordsearch*

N	I	G	H	T	T	R	I	F	F	I	D	F	W
H	B	O	N	C	S	T	T	R	S	B	O	I	O
M	L	O	V	B	C	A	M	P	T	I	N	N	O
H	B	X	W	K	O	P	C	A	P	Y	K	H	D
O	T	I	E	Z	U	P	S	T	A	R	E	A	S
I	Z	S	Z	K	T	T	R	R	I	T	D	K	M
B	A	D	G	E	S	G	H	O	T	V	I	C	O
W	O	G	G	L	E	A	I	L	M	T	I	H	K
B	L	T	F	M	S	T	R	D	W	I	T	T	E
L	F	A	C	D	L	O	L	A	F	Y	S	T	Y
I	F	B	W	H	E	E	G	V	G	K	C	E	I

Hall Happenings

Monday	3rd Abbots Langley Brownies
Tuesday	Beaver Scouts Ladies Guild (Third in the Month)
Wednesday	Cub Scouts Explorer Scouts
Thursday	1st Abbots Langley Brownies Scouts
Friday	Girl Guides Fellowship (First in the Month)

*I hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of the
Woodsmoke. The next issue will be in January.*

Pauline

Woodsmoke Editor

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