

February 2003



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



Woodsmoke@abbotslangley

Abbots Langley Scout Fellowship

*Invite Leaders, Supporters and
Explorer Scouts*

To share their Easter Weekend

at

Oxen Wood Activity Centre in Wiltshire

Come for the whole weekend or a part

It's up to you

***Contact Mick Butcher (Butch) on
01923 266073 for further details***



Hope you enjoy all
the photos in this issue

CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

WINTER 2003.

Christmas comes but once a year. But when it comes it brings good cheer. I do hope it did for all of you, and I wish you all a happy New Year.

I am very pleased to say that the Autumn Jumble Sale raised £ 1232-00. And the Christmas Market another £ 707-00. Clive ran a very successful Quiz Night I went along and really enjoyed myself; it also brought in some funds for the Jamboree trip.

The 75th. Anniversary Group Family Camp at Lees Wood went of with a bang; every one seemed to have a great time. I have received many thanks including letters, and have passed them on to the man who deserves the thanks namely Mike Butcher.

As I am in the thanking mode, I must mention Eugenie Moore who once again has sold Christmas goods and cards, and raised a tidy sum for the Scout Group funds. Also you will have noticed the Scout Hall floor up Stair's and down it has never looked so good, if you see Bib Butcher thank him I have, and let's sweep up after our meetings.

I understand that the Christingle Service went very well, and a good turn out thanks manly to Nigel Jones our Group Chaplain and helpers.

I helped with the Green Beret Weekend, together with other members of the Scout Fellowship, a bit muddy but a great success. My family and I have been to see the new Harry Potter film it's a must do go.

Finally a great benefactor to the Scout Group, William [JOCK] Telfer passed away in November, he was a real friend to the Group in its time of need. Here's to us twas like us darn few and they're all deed. w.Telfer. 1965.

BRYAN. S.SHARPE.



Scouter in Charge's Bit

I trust you all had a fun packed Christmas and cheerful New Year. The Autumn term was as active as ever and all four sections, including the new (ish) Explorer Unit, are running smoothly and still very strong. For those of you who may not be aware of the significant changes that the Scout Movement has undergone over the last couple of years, Scouts now finishes at the age of 14 with the new Explorer Unit for the 14 to 18 year olds replacing Venture Scouts. Although the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are all full, the Explorers have lots of space for new Members. So, if there are any older brothers and sisters out there, ex Scouts or just anyone in the Abbots Langley neighbourhood who fancies giving scouting a go then contact Tracy and Steve (telephone number on the inside front page).

September saw the 75th Anniversary Group Family Camp at Lees Wood. Everyone had a fabulous time participating in numerous new and varied activities over the weekend. Over a hundred people enjoyed the event, parents and children alike, which culminated with a pig roast around a campfire. My sincere thanks to all those who helped make the camp so successful, too numerous to mention individually, but particularly to Butch for co-ordinating the hard working team of volunteers. The intention is to hold this event on a bi-annual basis with 18th - 20th June 2004 being the next occasion.

Well done to all of you who were able to attend the Christingle service in December. It was a great turn out and the smell of burning Dolly Mixtures lingered in my nostrils for some days

after. An excellent total of £370 was raised for the Children's Society, double that of last year.

A reminder that our new minibus is still in need of some form of sponsorship. Surely there is a Mum or Dad out there who works for a company that would welcome some cheap advertising. The minibus is also available for use outside the Group, for a donation, and drivers can be provided if required.

I would also like to express my thanks to all those who have helped with the additional fundraising over the last 2 years to enable two of our boys, Iain Stanley and Jonathan Easter, to take part in the World Jamboree in Thailand. As I write this they are still in that far away place and I am extremely envious of them. I know that both they and their parents are very grateful for all the effort that has gone into providing them with this fantastic opportunity. I look forward to hearing of their exploits when they return.

Finally, may I wish you all a very healthy and prosperous 2003.

Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge



Our Christmas Market

On Friday evening, the 22nd November, the preparations for our Christmas Market commenced. All the work of the last few weeks came together.

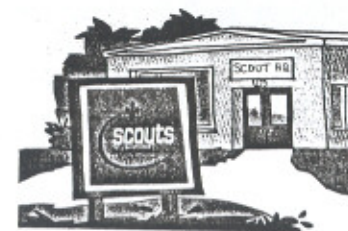
Saturday the 23rd was a horrible wet day, but many of our regular customers braved the weather, because they know what good bargains they can get at our Scout Headquarters. Although the number of people visiting was down we managed to raise just over £700. A big Thank You to everyone who helped us.

There was just one thing missing on the day – where were all the children with their mums and dads.

Please parents – we do need your support at these fund raising events. We have a building to maintain in order for your children to have somewhere to hold their activities.

Look forward to meeting some of you at our next fund raising events.

Lin Lythaby



75th Anniversary Group Camp Report



On Friday 20th September, the 1st Abbots Langley Scout group arrived at Lees Wood in the pitch black to pitch their tents for a weekend camp. Whilst the scouts were busy putting the tents up, the cubs were running around playing 'IT', making it hard for us because they kept tripping over the guy lines! Once the tents were up and everyone had finally decided where they were sleeping, we settled down in the marquee for some of Tony's hot chocolate. You may think that this made us all sleepy.....well think again! Let's just say there was more talking than sleeping done that night!

We woke up on Saturday at about 6 o'clock to see a dead pig lying on its side with two men slitting open its stomach! They poked a steel rod in through the pig's mouth and out of the other end, before announcing, 'This is tea!' We were put off our food for the rest of the day.

During the morning we were set lots of challenges - an obstacle course (that was fun), welly throwing, a tough game with the paddle boards and a sack race that lasted half an hour! The afternoon included abseiling for the brave and target rifle shooting.



'Many hands make light work at the Pig Roast'

75th Anniversary Group Family Camp

By the time we all got back to the camp we were so hungry we could hardly wait to eat the pig! It was quite tasty and I enjoyed it a lot.

Later that evening, we went to the camp fire circle for our traditional songs. Getting there was hard because it was pitch black and quite chilly. When we got to the circle the fire was roaring, warm and welcoming. After a while I think everybody was warmed up from the heat from the fire and the energetic singing.

We all slept well that night!

On Sunday morning we all went in groups on a long walk with compass bearings that nobody understood! When the walk had ended the leader presented the winning team with a tin of chocolates. After that we all had to take the tents down and pack up, which nobody wanted to do.

I really enjoyed the camp and hope to go on lots more.

Dominic Benson



75th Anniversary Camp

Next Issue you will be able to read about
our Scouts trip to
Thailand for the World Jamboree





Diary Dates

February

7 th	Scout Fellowship AGM	
18 th	Reflexology Demonstration	Ladies Guild

March

7 th	Mini Aspidistra Show	Fellowship
17 th	Group Executive Meeting	
18 th	Mr Howard Pryse	Ladies Guild

April

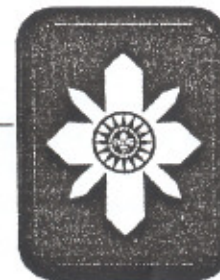
9 th & 12 th	Spring Double Jumble Sales	All
15 th	Kings Langley History Society	Ladies Guild
20 th	Items for Woodsmoke please	All

May

16 th	Group Annual General Meeting	All
19 th	Group Executive Meeting	
20 th	RSPB and Sri Lanka	Ladies Guild

June

7 th	Abbots Langley Village Carnival	All
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Chief Scout's Award

Many congratulations to Jonathan Easter and Jamie Winder on achieving one of the highest accolades in scouting, the Chief Scouts Award (under the previous award system). Only one other Scout has achieved this in the last 5 years in Group so it is no mean feat. It took a lot of time and effort so well done.

Scout Group 75th Anniversary Badge Design Competition

An amendment to The September Woodsmoke. The winner of the Cub Scout design competition was Joseph Bernie. Well done Joseph and my apologies for mixing up the names.

S.C.O.T CHALLENGE



75th Anniversary Camp



What is the SCOT challenge? It stands for Scout Compass Orienteering Trophy. We the 1st Abbots Langley entered four teams into this event held at Whippendell Woods on Thursday 3 November. In fact, we were the best-represented group from the district. The event was to be used as preparation for the Green Beret Challenge to follow.

What is orienteering all about?

Orienteering is a sport where competitors navigate their way between control points marked on a specially drawn map using a compass. Such events take place in a variety of places from parks to countryside, forest and moorlands. It is a perfect outdoor activity for schools, clubs and Scout Groups for all ages and abilities. It is an activity that can also be enjoyed in the school playing fields or playground. It is popular throughout Europe, America, Southern Africa, New Zealand and the Pacific rim.

The Event

On a wet miserable day the teams waited apprehensively at the start of the course clad in an array of brightly coloured waterproofs. Before setting off we had to plot our routes on the map where each base should be. We then set off at ten-minute intervals armed only with the map, compass and various forms of nourishment. It does get a bit chaotic out there in the wood with teams rushing around, usually in different directions.

Once all the teams had arrived back the judges worked out how each team had performed. So after a nervous wait the results were announced. Our best placed team of James Hood, Alistair Gabriel and Lawrence Hendrey finished in a very creditable 2nd place overall - very well done. Our other three teams also did well finishing 5th, 6th and 7th.

Conclusion

I think I speak for all those who took part in the event when I say that we all thoroughly enjoyed it. It encourages you to use your brain and the skills we have learnt at Scouts while getting you out in the fresh air.

Ross Noonan
Eagles

THE GREEN BERET CHALLENGE 2002

The Green Beret Challenge 2002 was exciting and fun, packed full of different activities. There were over 100 teams from different scout groups taking part. We had two teams on this challenge at Lees Wood. They were; Team 98 which included Katie (team captain), Rachel, Julia, Ben, Tom S, Jack M. Team 99 which included Tom W (team captain), Tom R, Chris, Adam W, Jack who was from a different scout group.

Friday 15th November

We got to Lees Wood and unpacked our kit into our tents, then we were put into our teams. We all got to sleep at about 12.30am not really thinking about all of the activities that we would be doing the next day.

Saturday 16th November

We woke up about 7.00am and went into the garage tent for a nice cooked breakfast of sausage, bacon, egg, beans, spaghetti hoops and bread. After breakfast we got all of our equipment and maps and sorted out where we needed to go first. Then Bernice gave us our day and night cards which had to be signed by the person running the activity that we did to show that we had done that activity. The day book had to be handed into a hut at 5.00pm, which was the end of the day exercises. My group, team 99, left camp at 9.00am and we went to where all of the activities were for the day exercises.

First of all we went to an activity that all of the team could do at the same time. We had to get on some wooden planks with foot holders on; we had to work as a team to get through the course. We raced against team 98 they beat us.

Next we went to do orienteering, which I thought we did quite well on. We had to mark on the points that we had to go to. At every point there was a post that had a sort of hole puncher on it. You had to punch it onto the correct box, e.g. if the hole puncher had 9 spikes on it then you would have to punch that onto the box that had the number 9 above it. We only had 20 or 30 minutes to get as many as possible, we got 4 out of 13.

Next we did one of my favourite activities, shooting. To be able to shoot the air rifle you have to have a permission slip. My team got at least four bulls eyes. We also had to complete an assault course that was really exhausting, most of us got really muddy. We also did other activities including; puzzles, games etc. When

we had returned to camp we all went inside the garage tent to have our dinner, we were about to sit down and enjoy our nice hot dinner I remembered that we hadn't given in our day card! So Adam W and myself had to sprint all of the way back down to the hut to hand our day cards in.

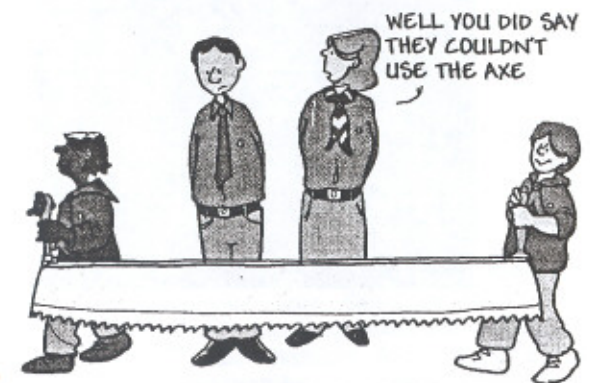
At 7.00pm we all set off for the night exercise, which went on until 11.00pm. We didn't do much in the night exercises because the queues were too long. The first thing that we did on the night exercise was making a hot cup of tea or soup, which every team had to do before 10.00pm otherwise you would be disqualified! My team were the first team to do this activity we completed it successfully. The next activity that we did you had to climb through different holes that were made out of rope, the whole team had to get to the other side of the maze trying not to touch any of the ropes.

The last activity was to build a flagpole out of bamboo and string that was free standing, it had to have the Union flag on the top of it as well. After that activity my team decided to give the night card into the hut and go back to camp to have a well earned rest.

Sunday 17th November

Once everybody had gradually woken up we had to move all of our kit into the garage tent so that we could take our tents down. Once all of the tents were down we had to go to a meeting in the middle of Lees wood, we got told who had won what and what position our team came. Team 98 came 61st out of about 130. My team, team 99, didn't get given a position because we only had five team members when each team is meant to have six team members. After that we went back to camp. When we got to camp everything had been packed into the minibus. Then, when everybody was ready, we went back to the scout hut. At the scout hut we had to unpack everything and put it all back from where it came from. The tents were left to dry up in the attic. After everything was packed away we all went home.

By Tom Ward



snake talk

On the 22nd of November Nick Bessant gave a presentation on snakes.

First of all we learnt that snakes were not the only reptile and we had a slide show showing many other types of reptile like turtles, crocodiles and lizards.

We then had a slide show on all the different types of snake including the two most common ones in Britain the adder and grass snake along with many foreign snakes like cobras.

Then we had another slide show about how his snake ate a dead mouse and a dead rabbit that was very good!

Then the best bit was that we got to see real snakes, it was great. We also saw a gecko then at the end we got to hold a snake even people who were scared of snakes held it, and everyone went home happy it was excellent

By Sam Huggett



Congratulations to ----

Dominic Benson, Adam Bignell, Luke Connor, Jack Courtenay, Katie Essam, Alastair Gabriel, Ben Halcomb, Lawrence Hendrey, Sam Hugget, Alex Hughes, Anthony Knight, Robin Lambert, Jack McCarthy, Nick Morris, Ross Noonan, Simon Pearce, Tom Sibbit, James Sidaway, Tom Ward and Lisa Winder on the completion of their Outdoor Challenge and Adventure Challenge. A great achievement

Also to Stephen Dunstone, James Hood, Jack Horton, Paul Simmons, Tom Williams and Julia Wood who have completed their Adventure Challenge.

All the Scouts who participated in the annual District Scout Compass Orienteering Trophy (SCOT) and the County Green Beret. We achieved second place in the SCOT, so very well done to Lawrence Hendrey, Alistair Gabriel and James Hood.

The scouts who passed numerous Activity Awards over the last term particularly those who were presented with their '20 Nights Away' Award. These were Jack Courtenay, Alastair Gabriel, Ben Halcomb, Lawrence Hendrey, Alex Hughes, Jack McCarthy, Ross Noonan, Simon Pearce, Tom Sibbit, James Sidaway and Lisa Winder.

NEWS FLASH.....

Clive

ABBO'S SCOUTS VICTORIOUS

Abbots Langley Scouts lifted the Trophy after taking first place at the District Wide Games Competition on Saturday 18th January. The winning team 'Bandits' consisted of Dominic Benson, Ben Halcomb, Robin Lambert, Jack McCarthy and Tom Sibbit. A total of eleven teams participated in a well organised and enjoyable event, thanks to the 6th North Watford. An additional bonus is that "The Abbo's" also took second position. Congratulations to all.

**A QUIZ FOR ALL PARENTS TO TEST YOUR
KNOWLEDGE**

1. How long has your child been a Member of the 1st Abbots Langley Scout Group?
2. How many children are there in our Scout Group?
3. How many fund raising events does your Scout Group have each year?
4. How much was raised by these events last year?
5. How many parents helped in any way at these events?
6. Did YOU assist at any of these events?

Answers:

1. Anything up to 12 years, assuming they stop being a child at 18.
2. Approximately 100.
3. 4 – Two jumble sales, the Abbots Langley carnival and the Christmas Market.
4. Over £3,500.
5. Let's put it this way, I wouldn't have to take my socks off to count.
6. Only you can answer this one but the answer is probably NO.

The reason I am raising this now, albeit in a semi-humorous way, is an early warning of an impending problem. Your Group is strong and reasonably well off thanks to a history of parental fund raising involvement. Unfortunately, this seems to have stopped which has resulted in problems with organising and running these valuable events. I am therefore asking each family to contribute a couple of hours per year towards one of the fund raising events. This is less than each of the Leaders do voluntarily for your child every week. If this doesn't happen there will be no alternative but to increase subs by £35+. The next Jumble Sale is in April so please come forward and help your Group.



Jock Telfer

And

The Abbots Langley Scout Group

On his arrival in Abbots, he was visited by two members of the Scout Group. This welcome was too greatly benefit Abbots Langley Scouts in the future. From then on he allowed the scouts to use his farm, providing he was informed.

The Scout Group had decided to build anew Scout Hall and needed money, Jock then allowed them to run in conjunction with the St. Albans motor cycle club, and later with the Chesham Auto club, grasstrack and Autocross meetings on his land. This raised hundreds of pounds and at today's value thousands for the new building.

An amusing incident occurred at the first Autocross meeting, being a canny Scot Jock had told all that this was to raise money for the Scouts and that NO cars would be allowed into his fields without a ticket.

A Scout Leader a newcomer from North Watford was put on the gate, when a small green car turned up with no ticket, you cant come in here the gate keeper said!, But I am the farmer came the reply, I don't care who you are said the gatekeeper Bib Butcher who was later to become he son in law.

On building the new Scout Hall it could be said of many that it could not have been done without you. But in Jock Telfer's case it was very true, he loaned tractors, trailers and building equipment and himself.

During the building program the Scouts and Cubs met on his farm in a marquee. He later became Chairman of the Group and served for many years. He was later talked into allowing the Scouts to build a large 32-foot high climbing wall in the badger dell on his land the first climbing wall in Hertfordshire. The Scouts tried to pay him back in a small way by helping to pick and store his potatoes each year, but no way could they ever make up for his generosity. It was said if you have a logistic problem or indeed any problem see BILL JOCK TELFER.

Bryan Sharpe for the Abbots Langley Scouts.



ANN WELCH

Members of the Group will be saddened to hear of the untimely and sudden passing of Ann Welch, wife of our recent Group Scout Leader, Mick.

She was just 45 years old, and a great support to Mick and their son Tim.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mick and the whole family, including Helen our Beaver Scout Leader.

The funeral was well attended by Scouting folk from all over the Watford area, including our DC and the County Commissioner.



The next issue of Woodsmoke will be published at the beginning of May.

All items to me please by 20th April.

*Thank you
Editor*

..... Hall Happenings

Monday	Brownies
Tuesday	Beavers Ladies Guild <i>Third in month</i>
Wednesday	Cub Scouts
Thursday	Scouts
Friday	Fellowship <i>First in month</i>

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