

February 2004



1st Abbots Langley Scout Group

Woodsmoke@abbotslangley

Scout Troop News

Congratulations to -----

Jack Edwards, Tom Lambert, Emma Lowrie,
Marc McDonald, Tomas Redmond, Luke
Sharpe, Fred Sugden, Adam Welch and Julia
Wood on passing their Outdoor Challenge.
A great achievement.

James Siddaway on the completion of his
Creative Challenge.

Everyone who took part in the Green Beret
at Phasels Wood. Well Done



Cover Picture

*Queen's Scouts : Iain Stanley and Alan Kukielka with
County Commissioner Roger Sands at their
presentation.*

Scouter in Charge's Bit

Another term has flown by and all sections, except Explorers (more later), are running well thanks to our excellent leaders. I have visited the sections on a number of occasions and have been pleased to see more parents getting involved and helping out. This is a very positive improvement as the kids benefit greatly from doing their activities in smaller groups with more adults being around. Please don't be shy to offer your help, whether occasionally or regularly, as it is your children that benefit and, it is very fulfilling and rewarding.

Unfortunately, two of our leaders have decided to take a sabbatical from scouting. Russell Whiteley, our Scout Leader, has been with the Troop 7 years after being with another group for 11 years prior to that. My sincere thanks to him for all his hard work and friendship. I know the Scouts will miss him, and his corny jokes. Alison Redmond, our Assistant Cub Scout Leader, is also taking a break but hopes to return later next year. My thanks to Alison for her commitment and dedication.

The future of the Abbo's Explorer Unit hangs in the balance at the moment. Although this is a District based section, I am keen to promote the existence of Explorers at Abbots Langley as this is what the Scouts have indicated they want. They have been loyal to the Group since they were 6 years old and so I can understand why they want to remain linked and continue to meet at Abbots Langley. Matthew Sharpe, previously an Assistant Cub Scout Leader at the Group, has put himself forward

to become the Explorer Scout Leader, supported by a number of willing fathers.

Well done to all the fellowship members, ladies guild, parents and Scouts who helped at the October jumble sale and the Christmas Market. Both events raised nearly £2000 for the Group. I cannot stress enough how important these fund raising activities are with income this year topping £4000. More parents **must** get involved.

Finally, the Christingle was a great success with a great turn out from the Group sections and a marvellous £220 raised for the Children's Society. The service was further enhanced by the awarding of 'Medals of Merit' to Bryan Sharpe, our Chairman, and Michael 'Butch' Butcher for their 40 years service and dedication to the Scout Movement, and particularly this Group. My sincere congratulations to them both.

Clive Winder
Scouter in Charge



I wish you all a very Happy New year.

As you may have noticed in the last issue Mike Butcher (Butch) and I were awarded The Medal of Merit. This was presented to us at the Christingle Service, administered by Anna Matthews, our new Group Chaplin. Thank you Anna. As for the award, words are inadequate, but we both thank the Scouter In Charge.

The Jumble Sale raised over £1200 and the Christmas market reached £760. A big thanks to all who helped, and how nice to see so many parents present.

Some of the Committee, together with the Fellowship ran an assault course for the County Green Beret competition. Over 650 Scouts went over it!

I have also attended a County Archive Day at Well End Camp Site where our group had sent many items of memorabilia, and also met several old friends.

A Cheque for £230 has been received by the Group from the family of the late Mr Herbert Clark, this being donated instead of flowers. What a kind thought, and such a good idea, one to be remembered.

Thirty six people walked on Boxing day to Potters Crouch for the 56th Annual Walk and many more turned up at the venue.

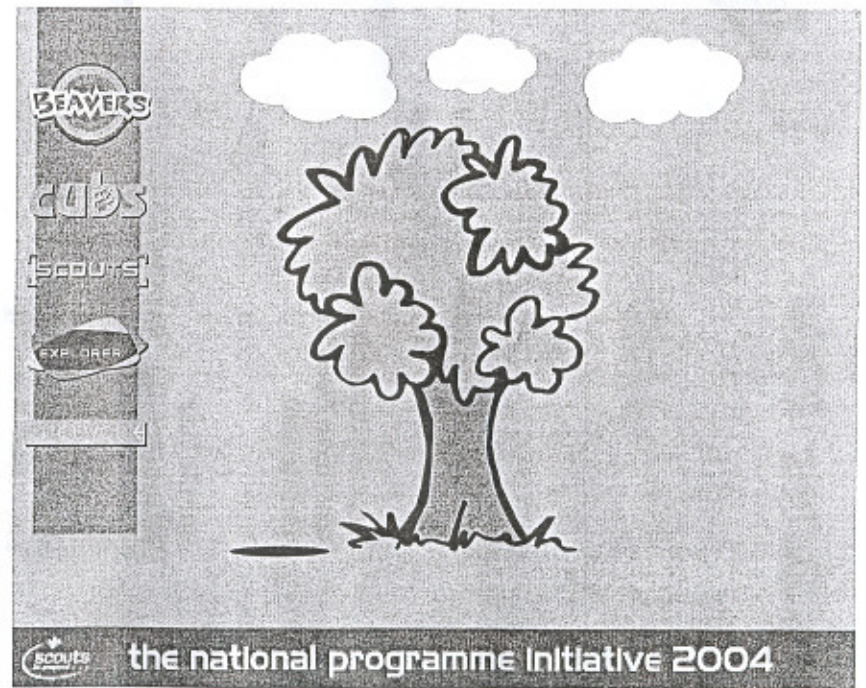
Talking of walking, remember life can be a long weary journey, but not if you begin each mile with an " S "

Bryan.

SCOUTS GO GREEN

what's this all about ?

ask your leader



Diary Dates 2004



February		
6 th	St Albans Gang Show	Scout Fellowship
March		
5 th	Scout Fellowship AGM	
8 th	Executive Meeting	
31 st	Jumble Sale	
April		
3 rd	Jumble Sale	
18 th	St Georges Day Parade	
May		
7 th	Group Annual General Meeting	
10 th	Executive Meeting	
12 th	Watford North District Annual General Meeting	
June		
12 th	Abbots Langley Carnival	
18 th - 20 th	Family Camp at Phasels Wood	
July		
9 th	Watford North District Cub Camp	
12 th	Executive Meeting	
25 th -		
1 st August	Scout Summer Camp in Wales	
September		
13 th	Executive Meeting	
October		
13 th	Jumble Sale	
16 th	Jumble Sale	
November		
8 th	Executive Meeting	
14 th	Remembrance Day Parade	
20 th	Christmas Market	
December		
13 th	Christingle Service	

Scout Fellowship meetings held on 1st Friday in the month
Ladies Guild meetings held on 3rd Tuesday in the month
Unless notified otherwise

Group Secretarywhy I do it

In 1996, when both my sons were Scouts, I attended the annual AGM. Fred Young was the Chairman and needed a new Group Secretary. A volunteer was called for and I was 'persuaded' by my friendly neighbour (locally known as Butch) and a fellow parent to volunteer. Fred was very welcoming and well, I am still here 7 years later!

My main function is to take down minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and the AGM, with the occasional letter for the Chairman. I had never taken minutes before and was rather nervous at the first meeting. However, my only (!) error that evening was to mistake Pat Dwyer for a woman. Oops! I found it quite daunting at first, sitting at the Chairman's table facing the Committee, who were scrutinizing the minutes I had produced. I still have a few nervous moments when our present Chairman, Bryan Sharpe, asks the Committee if they agree that the minutes are a true and accurate account of the previous meeting.

Nevertheless, it gives me a certain pleasure to be able to file away my copy without having to make amendments.

Also, I now have a greater insight into how the Group works and the enormous effort needed by everyone to keep the Group going so that my and your children can enjoy the very best of Scouting.

Glenis Kingston



The October Jumble Sales were very successful and we raised £1100

Thank you to all the parents who helped with Jumble collecting and who turned up on the Wednesday and Saturday to help. All this extra help really does make a difference.



We had good results at the Christmas Market as well. This time we raised over £700

Sadly this event was not well supported by either children or parents. We really do need your help at these fund raising events, so please look at the Diary Dates for 2004 and see how you can offer your help.

Lin Lythaby

1st Abbots Langley Scouts Summer Camp 2003

On Saturday morning we set off for Bishops Lydeard at 11am, and arrived at about 3pm in the afternoon. We then all set up tents in the rain and hoped for good weather in the morning.

Sunday morning came too early but bringing good weather. In the morning I went canoeing which was good fun because we shot a weir, which was really exciting, and played water polo. We went to Cheddar Gorge in the afternoon and went caving. We all got kitted out in overalls and hard hats and were shown around the big show caves. Then we went down into the narrow parts of the caves that were really dark and spooky (not for people with claustrophobia!).

On Monday, we went back to Cheddar Gorge for climbing which was good, apart from the abseiling that was a bit scary because at the top it seemed a lot further down than it actually was! In the afternoon everyone went and climbed the Quantock Hills, and slept a lot better that night.

Tuesday was a bit wet, which was a shame because we were building bivvies in the woods. We came up with a new sport, dell sledging, where you sit on a pallet and get pushed down a steep, muddy side of a dell. That night it continued raining which was a shame seeing as we were supposed to be sleeping in the bivies that night and so most of us decided to sleep in the nice, dry, comfortable, warm tents.

We went for another hike on Wednesday where we ended up in Dunster by the beach. It was nice as there were loads of crabs, and someone actually caught an eel, which was really good. When we got back Clive produced a strange gadget that you put your thumb into a hole and it randomly picked a victim and it then electrocuted them! It was quite funny watching people's faces when they were electrocuted.

On Thursday we went to Taunton that wasn't quite as adventurous as all of the activities we had already done, but was still good. And then in the afternoon, because sailing had been cancelled, which was a bit of a shame, we went kite flying with Neil in the next field and "dart" throwing which was really good.

On Friday morning we went pitch and putting which was funny (with the flying golf clubs and very annoying bunkers!). In the afternoon we went pony trekking, which was a bit sore on the bum but was still good. That night we had the camp feast which was good fun with lots of games like eating the donut on a bit of string.

We broke camp and packed the minibuses the next morning ready to go home. We set off for home after lunch to arrive home at about 6.30pm.

Many thanks for a great camp to Tony, Clive, Phil, Neil and Ed, and to the Canoeists, Pete, Dave and Sue.

By Spiderman
(James Siddaway, APL Otters)

From: Brianpleasants@aol.com
Sent: 11 December 2003 22:11
To: roger.sands@btinternet.com; taylorrs@ozemail.com.au;
 margot@golfcart.com.au; marlene@mtedder.fsbusiness.co.uk;
 rodneytregear@hotmail.net.au
Subject: Yuletide

Hi,
 Just to let you know that from January 16th. our permanent address will be
 7 Craig Court, Cheltenham, 3192, Victoria.
 We're off to Wellington for Xmas and will be back on January 1st.
 Can't wait to get settled into our lovely new home.
 Best wishes
 Brian



I do hope that you have enjoyed reading this issue of Woodsmoke.

I hope to publish again in April.

All articles to me please by the middle of March.

Thank you.

Janet

..... Hall Happenings

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

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