



243rd Edition

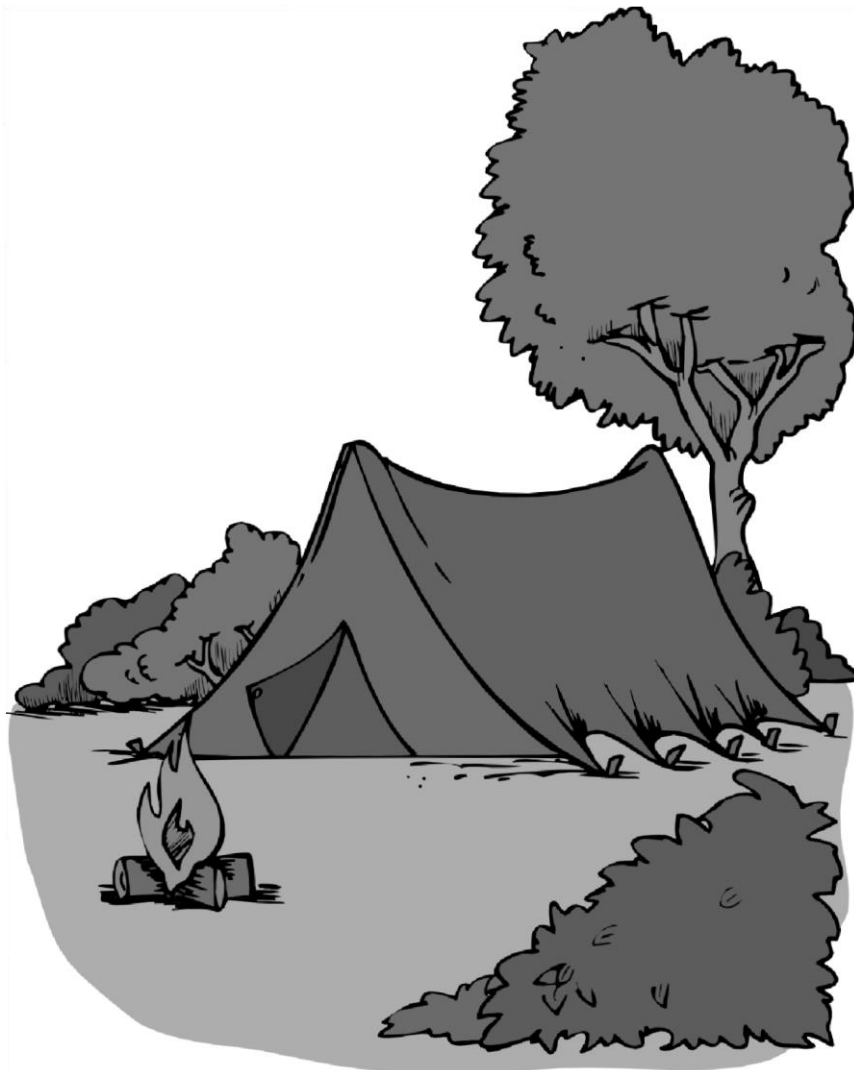
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Scouts

Woodsmoke



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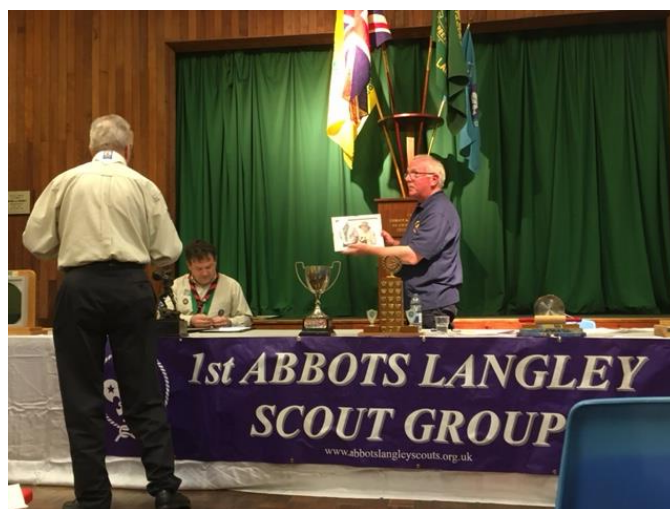
Chairman's Blog

Our Scout Group AGM was held at the Scout Hall on Friday 13th May. The North Watford District Scouts were represented by Gregg Brennan (Assistant Scouts District Commissioner), Roger Sands (Scouts District President), Janet Sands (Scouts Vice District Commissioner). I was also pleased to welcome Stephen Giles-Medhurst, (Chairman, Abbots Langley Parish Council) and Maxine Hewath, (Curate from St Lawrence's Church, Abbots Langley) who kindly provided a prayer.

Awards for services to Scouts were presented at the AGM by Greg Brennan to Lin Lythaby – 40 years and Nicky Trotman – 30 years.



Roger Sands presented our Group with a framed photograph of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II attended by Bear Grylls, (Chief Scout), one of only a limited number, granted by kind permission of Lady Grylls which we will be immensely proud to display in our Scout Hall.



All parents of the 112 members of the sections: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had been sent invitations to attend the AGM, but I believe that only 2 parents were present. One possible reason for this may have been that there were no awards presented to young people on the evening as these had already been given out previously. The absence of parents at the AGM was, to say the least, disappointing and a missed opportunity for parents to meet and show appreciation to the leaders and other volunteers who give up their time to provide the young people of the Scout Group with a varied and active Scout experience.

Lin Lythaby, our Group President very kindly arranged for a plentiful supply of light food and drink refreshments that were enjoyed following the formal proceedings of the AGM. Thank you, Lin.

I am pleased to record the gaining of Chief Scout Awards by: James Shepherd, Thomas Shepherd, Oliver Nolan, Sebastian James, Jessica Whiting and Sean Lambert. The awards were presented on the final evening of the Scout Spring Programme by Dave Collette (North Watford District Commissioner). Well done all of you on achieving the highest award in Scouts. Zara James, aged 8, formerly belonging to one of our Beaver lodges but now moved up into Cubs was selected by the Abbots Langley Parish Council as "young person of the year" and awarded a cup in recognition. Very well done Zara.

We have unfortunately had to say goodbye to Amaelia Parmenter who, for work and personal reasons, resigned from her role as Scout Leader at the end of the spring term. I wish to thank Amaelia for stepping up at the outset and agreeing to take on a very demanding role. We wish Amaelia well in all her future ventures and trust she will want to continue her involvement with the Scouts. We hope there may be an opportunity for Amaelia to renew her association with our Scout Group again at some later stage.

Iain Stanley has been very generous with his time and in giving us the benefit of his Scout knowledge for the benefit of the Group Exec. Iain also agreed to take on the role of Group Scout Leader, albeit temporarily, until another full time GSL could be found. After almost 2 years, Iain is stepping back from his close involvement with our Group in order that he can concentrate fully upon his own Scout Group. We asked Scouts at District level if they could give Iain some form of official recognition for his work on behalf of our Group. I am pleased to report that the County Commissioner has presented Iain with a Commendation.

Two new members to the Group, Yvonne Stanley (Hall bookings) and Jeremy Bishop (Transport) have both been energetic in pursuing their individual responsibilities and brought in additional funds to the Group. Thank you both.

The finances of the Group are overall in good shape. I wish to thank Pauline Styles, our Group Treasurer for all her hard work in organising and keeping abreast of the Group's finances. Pauline is currently on a long-distance walking trek in Spain. We wish her well on her travels. The costs of ongoing maintenance and further potential improvements to our building and facilities are expensive. We will be running our popular hot dog stall at the Abbots Langley Carnival in June, the return of our Double Jumble Sale in October and the Christmas Market in November. Lin Lythaby, after many years of organising fund raising will now take a step back. We are looking to introduce a new team of fund raisers to take over the reins from Lin.

I am delighted to announce the imminent receipt of a grant of £1,000 for the maintenance of the climbing wall from the Tesco's Community Grant Scheme, achieving 2nd place in the 'shop and drop a token' scheme in their local branches of Tesco's. Thank you to all those who dropped their token into our box.

Unfortunately, in common with other Scout and similar youth groups we currently have a shortage of leaders which, if not resolved urgently, will prevent us from maintaining the present membership level and ability to accommodate the increasing numbers of young people on the waiting list. I am immensely grateful to the parents and other helpers who, in the interim, have stepped up to help overcome the shortage of leaders. Without this essential extra assistance from parents and from members of the Scout Active Support unit and the Explorers Unit our leaders will find it increasingly difficult to cope. This could result in even fewer leaders and smaller sections. We do need to maintain and to build upon this additional help going forward and I ask those of you who may possibly be interested in either training to become a leader or can assist in some other way to contact either myself or their child's Section leader to learn more about how you can help.

Similarly, the Group is in urgent need of finding additional people to help run the Exec Committee who oversee the day to day running of the Scout Group and its facilities. Vacancies exist for a Group Secretary, Health & Safety and Fund-Raising Coordinators and a Facilities Manager. These are all important roles that are fundamental to the successful running of the Group. Rewarding opportunities exist for those interested in taking on interesting and challenging roles to augment the Group Exec. These vacant roles have previously been advertised in Woodsmoke including brief descriptions of what the posts entail. I acknowledge that, at first reading, the full job descriptions may appear daunting but please, please do not allow this to put you off finding out more about what is involved and how you may be able to help. There may be elements of the role that might appeal or which you believe you might be particularly good at. We are open to looking into ways of tailoring an individual's involvement to suit their personal capacity for helping the Group.

Bye for now,

Richard Gabriel
Scout Group Chairperson

Lake



During the spring term the Beavers had their first sessions on the newly installed Clive Winder Climbing Wall. It was greatly enjoyed by all, and they look forward to another session soon!

There were also some outside activities with the Beavers visiting St Lawrence's Church for their Faith badge, the RAF museum for their air activities badge and we went to mini golf just for fun!

The Beavers got very creative this term, making their own paper tartan check for Burns Night, dragons for Chinese New Year, decorating chocolate truffles for Valentine's Day and painting glass jars for Mother's Day.

We said goodbye to 5 Beavers heading up to Cubs – 4 of whom gained their Bronze badge!



Koala, Panda and Grizzly
Lake Beavers

River



Spring term was very busy at River Beavers. We worked hard to earn our Air Activities and Space badges, making paper airplanes and paperclip helicopters. Cub Leader Chris came for two weeks to teach us how to use the Clive Winder Climbing Wall. For lots of us, it was our very first time climbing, and we were very brave!

For Pancake Night, our four explorer helpers set up cookers in the hall and helped us to flip our own pancakes! We must be great cooks because the fire alarm didn't go off once!!! For Mother's Day, we made our mum's beautiful cards and tote bags with our handprints (so they can remember how small and cute our hands are). At the end of term, Helen arranged for us to have an epic Easter Egg Hunt at Lees Wood as the Easter Bunny heard we would be visiting.

For the summer term, we like to get outdoors as much as possible! We started off by welcoming our new Beavers and undertaking our Gardeners Badge. We planted cress, strawberries and sunflowers and are monitoring their growth on charts at home to see how quickly they grow.

For our communicator badge, we learnt about the many different forms of communication, including digital types and also about sign language, braille and morse code. We then made morse code keyrings with a different colour bead to represent dots, dashes and spaces to spell out our names.

Rachel led us on a super hike around Abbots Langley village and through the fields. We had lovely weather and Rachel told us all about the different plants and vegetables growing in the Farmer's fields. We came back to HQ through Leavesden Country Park and walked along the fairy garden, pointing out all the tiny fairy doors.

This week, we did some summer cooking and made 'armpit fudge'. Afterwards, Helen treated us to ice cream soda floats and all the sugar made us very hyper! We are looking forward to our Jubilee Party next week, with lots of party games and fancy dress.

Thank you as always to our amazing helpers, and especially to our Explorer Young Leaders, Ciara, James, Jess and Nye!



Hollie Goodman and Helen Welch
River Beavers

Jungle

cubs

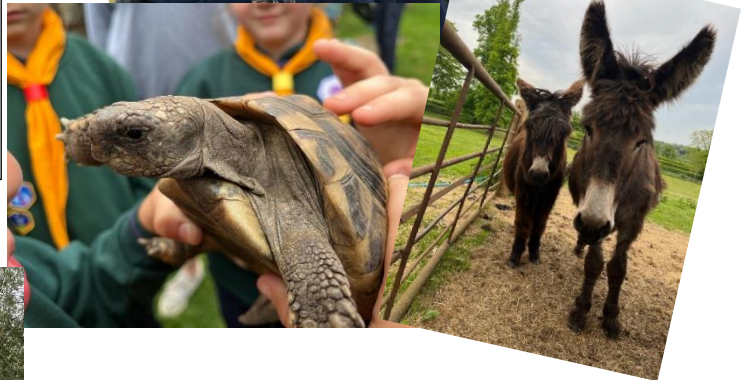
Here's a round-up of what the Jungle Cubs have been up to since the Spring term 2022 – some of our brilliant Sixers and Seconders have talked about their highlights below.

Matilda age 9

My favourite activity we have done this term was going to Langleybury farm. I found it really fun how we got to feed the animals and look around, I also liked how we were allowed to hold the guinea pigs and rabbits and once you held them you started to fall in love.

I've also enjoyed the crafting activities from making rockets with our six to having a talk about aeroplanes and making them.

It's also been amazing how I have recently been the seconder of red six and how I have been lucky enough to become cub of the week.



Refueling a bottle rocket at Lees Wood



Zac age 10

This term I really enjoyed going to Langleybury Children's Farm because we got to feed the animals and see what other food they eat. It was also really fun because we got to hold some of the animals, for example, bunnies, guinea pigs and tortoises. My favourite part was holding the bunny – he was so big and fluffy!

We had a visit to HQ from a pilot from De Havilland Aircraft Museum. He was originally in the US Navy and told us about the different types of planes through history as well modern aircraft. At the museum he uses a flight simulator to practise flying. It was really interesting and amazing!

Jacob age 9

I have really enjoyed Cubs since the start of term. Since the start of term, we've played games for St gorges day, went to Langleybury children's farm and had someone from de Haviland aircraft museum.

For St gorges day we played some games to do with St gorges and we looked at what he did to become a saint. When someone from de Haviland came in from the museum he took us through the history of airplanes and how they have evolved since the wright brothers. We also made paper aeroplanes and did a race.

At Langleybury farm we went around and fed and swathe animals. I really enjoyed this because we got to interact with the animals which I'd never done before. I have really enjoyed cubs and I intend to carry on as long as I can.



Leo age 10

We are lucky at Jungle Cubs that Akela comes up with fun and varied activities for us to do each week. During the Spring term we built our own rockets and then launched them at Phasels Wood, visited a Hari Krishna Temple and carried out lots of interesting experiments during science week. My favourite meeting was making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday as we got to put delicious toppings on them and eat them afterwards! I am looking forward to the Summer Term as we will be going rifle shooting, pond dipping, orienteering, and lots of other entertaining activities outdoors.

and finally....

We welcomed Young Leader Oliver Nolan who will be volunteering at Jungle Cubs as part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Oliver has settled in really well and the Cubs are enjoying getting to know him.

SCOUTS

Sadly, Amaelia stood down as Scout Leader at the end of the spring term. Everyone is very grateful for everything she has done for the troop.



Dave Collette, Amaelia Parmenter and Charlie Trotman on Amaelia's last evening as Scout Leader

During the first part of the summer term the Scouts have been enjoying lots of outdoor activities: outdoor cooking, orienteering, rifle shooting, archery, cresta run, aero ball, abseiling, gladiator challenge, pedal carts and fire lighting.



Diary Dates

September

12 Executive Meeting

20 Ladies Guild Meeting – 2pm

Exec Committee

Ladies Guild

October

17 Executive Meeting

18 Ladies Guild Meeting – 2pm

Exec Committee

Ladies Guild

November

15 Ladies Guild Meeting – 2pm

21 Executive Meeting

Ladies Guild

Exec Committee

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

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

#YouShape



Scouts

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

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