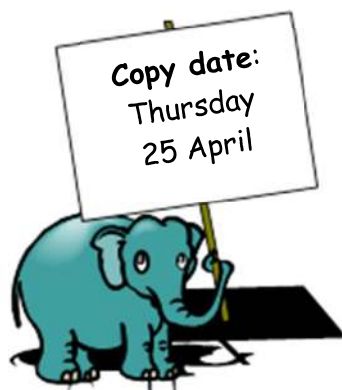


"In the military, soldiers practise erecting their tarps and tents as quickly as possible, and so should you. It's a skill you could well be glad of if you need quick shelter when the weather suddenly changes or if you're losing light quickly at the end of the day. The ultimate test is against the clock and in the dark."

Bear Grylls - Living Wild



Links Editor

Lesley Bixby

1 Springfield Avenue, London, SW20 9JR

thebixbys@talktalk.net

Wimbledon and Wandle



Links

April 2013 - Issue no. 92

Apr 17	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	District Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
20	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
21	St George's Day Parade	Sacred Heart
24	SAS Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
28	Cub Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
May 3-5	Older Scouts' and PLs' camp	Thriftwood
4	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	District AGM	1 st Lower Morden HQ 8pm
11	SASU outing	Waddesdon Manor
13	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	6/12 th Mitcham HQ 8pm
15	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	Cub Football competition	Raynes Park High School

District Commissioner

I was recently at a presentation given by Bryony Balen, a Scout Network member from Derbyshire, who, at 21 years of age, is the youngest person to ski to the South Pole, a feat she achieved last year on the anniversary of Scott's ill-fated trip of 1912. This remarkable achievement was the culmination of four years of hard training and fund-raising following an Explorer meeting at which the previous youngest person to ski to the Pole gave a talk to the Scouts about his expedition.

There is no doubt that she is an exceptional woman and ski-ing to the South Pole is not for everyone, but she would not have even contemplated this unless she had been given the self-belief that comes from quality scouting. The skills that we give to our scouts during their years in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts can come to fruition in many, less newsworthy adventures where they can be independent, self-sufficient and self regulating. In the midst of a society that is risk averse, it is extremely important that through the programme that we offer we do not shy away from giving our scouts, consistent with their age and ability, the opportunity to be independent, self-sufficient and self regulating.

Congratulations to everyone who has received awards this year and particular congratulations to John Smith (SAS) on being awarded a Bar to the Silver Acorn.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you at the St George's Day Parade on 21st April.

Joe

Training dates

Date	Module	Title	Time
28 Apr	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
28 Apr	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30
18 May	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.00
18 May	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
18 May	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
18 May	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
21 Sep	12	Providing a Balanced Programme	9.30-13.30
28 Sep	16	Residential experiences	10.00-13.00
19 Oct	11	Administration (Leaders)	10.00-11.30
19 Oct	19	International	11.45-13.00
19 Oct	17	Activities Outdoors	14.00-16.30
16 Nov	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00-12.00
16 Nov	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
16 Nov	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
16 Nov	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
7 Dec	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
7 Dec	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30

All Modules are at the 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SJ except **Module 38** which will be held at Bears Wood Campsite, Forestdale, New Addington, Croydon CR0 9JH
Each training module costs £3 except Module 38 which is £40.

Applications forms for the main modules and first aid can be downloaded from the County website www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk or contact
Mrs Joan Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden, SM4 4DX
tel: 020 8540 5115 - e mail: joan.glsWstraining@btinternet.com

Modules 20-26 for Line Managers and Commissioners will be run as required. Contact Joan Condon for more information.

If anyone has anything for the Bran Tub, please let me know beforehand if possible. Thanks.

Explorer Scouts - Neil McLauchlan (checkpoint 11)



Red Flare - Croydon District/County Night Exercise: Very well done to all the teams from our District who entered this incident night hike. There were 36 teams who took part on a clear night in very muddy conditions. All who I spoke to had a fun event.

Very well done to St Saviours Explorer Unit and Raynes Park Explorer Unit who came joint 6th overall. Extremely well done to the Raynes Park Network Unit who came 2nd overall.

Our district results are as below:

- Team 2 St Saviours ESU - Finished 6th
- Team 4 Flying Penguins ESU - Finished 35th
- Team 5 Merton Park ESU - Finished 22nd
- Team 19 Raynes Park ESU - Finished 6th
- Team 28 Raynes Park NSU - Finished 2nd
- Team 44 Mitcham ESU 'A' - Finished 32nd
- Team 47 Mitcham ESU 'B' - Finished 25th

I hope to see a good turnout again next year

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey



It was good to see so many members at the AGM on Tuesday. I think you will agree we had a most enjoyable evening.

If you did not sign up at the AGM for St George's Day on 21st April, please let David know if you are able to help.

Any more members wanting to come to the Beetle Drive/Fish Supper on Wednesday 24th April, please let me have your fish orders by Monday 22nd April.

Reminders for May - the District AGM, at 1st Lower Morden DHQ, on 8th May. We would like to have all members present as we wish to up our profile and try and attract more members.

Saturday 11th May our trip to Waddesdon Manor - numbers a.s.a.p. to David please.

We look forward to seeing everyone at St George's Day, on 21st April and at the District AGM on the 8th May.

Chairman's Chatter

Over the last 3 years, in these times of financial austerity, the Executive has sought to lessen the direct costs to our Members. This has resulted in the District Levy being abolished; 100% of all profits from the Store being returned to Groups and no charges for the use of Morden Hall DHQ.

Priority has been given to the District Plan, which is financed this year to the extent of £19000. This includes £5000 for Explorers, £4000 for core Scout training and £6000 returnable to Groups for Wood Badge holders. An additional £1700 is allocated for compulsory Leader training. Essential repairs to keep DHQ standing are financed to the extent of £6500.

Kenneth Black Hall is the key to all these Plans, in that rental income from the site now totals £31500 per annum.

It is for this reason, that I was very disappointed last weekend when only Peter Treagust and myself (both with bad backs), turned up to fill the 6 yard skip we had hired. The fact that we managed to fill the skip in the two hours allocated, obviously speaks volumes for todays over 50s and over 60s; albeit my current pain is a constant reminder!

We rarely ask for help from the wider District, because as ex and current Leaders, we are more than aware of the pressures everyone faces with balancing home, work and your own Groups. However, I do have to say that in the future we will have to look at employing outside contractors and this can only be at the expense of reduced future allocations to the District Plan.

Andy

District AGM

All Leaders, Assistants, Executive members and supporters are invited to the District AGM on Wednesday 8 May 2013,
8pm
1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, Morden.

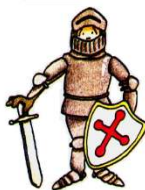
Please wear uniform if appropriate.

St Georges Day Parade and Service

We look forward to seeing everyone at St George's Day Parade and Service this year.

Details can be found on the website

www.wimbledonandwandlecouts.org/stgdp13.htm



Mini Census

Region have again asked us to provide figures for the mini-census at the end of April. Joe will be speaking to GSLs about this but your Sectional ADCs may also ask you for your numbers. Please co-operate and give them what they ask for - this should be a very simple exercise as all Section Leaders should know exactly how many members they have (no breakdown is required). Joe will be collecting the adult figures.

County AGM

The County AGM is on **Wednesday 12 June, 8pm at 22nd Wimbledon HQ**. Can we have a really good turn-out from Wimbledon and Wandle Leaders to hear about our District's successes at County level and to learn the latest about the plans for the County Base on the old 7th Morden's HQ plot?

Appointments Committee - Joan Burgess

Due to a printing problem at Gilwell recent Warrant Certificates have been delayed. However, they are now coming through and congratulations go to the following Leaders on taking up their new appointments:

Lynette Craughwell ABSL 1 Morden	Nicholas Day ASL 9 Wimbledon
Tim Kerridge AGSL 22 Wimbledon	Lily Kirkbride GSA 5 Morden
Stephen Lyon ABSL 13 Wimbledon	Helen Thain ASL 23 Mitcham
Jason Thain ASL 23 Mitcham	
Thomas Carter AEXSL Flying Penguins	James Conlon AEXSL Mitcham
William Gavin AEXSL Mitcham	Joanna Lynch EXSL Mitcham
Robert Fowler AEXSL Vikings	Nigel Swain EXSL St. Saviours
Aidan O'Neill AEXSL West Barnes Lane	Vicky Tullett EXSL Merton Park
David Williams EXSL Sharks	

Don't forget to apply for your Repeat CRB when you receive the Reminder. Warrants WILL be cancelled automatically once the CRB has expired.

Section Reports

Beaver Report - Andrew Hayward



Apologies that the Beaver Bike Ride didn't take place on the 24 March but the weather beat us yet again. We're hoping to rearrange the activity for a warmer and drier time of year!

Many thanks to those Colonies who have replied with regards to the **Gilwell Fun Day**. If you haven't replied I'm afraid you were too late as the cut off was Good Friday.

If you have any concerns or issues with regards to the Sports Day then please get in contact with me asap.

Congratulations to any leaders within the Beaver Section that have received an award for the St George's Day Awards

Scout report - Dave Bixby



County Night Exercise: Well done to all 8 teams from our District who took on the weather to compete in the County Night Exercise based around Boidierhurst. It was very wet and very muddy and I have great admiration for the Leaders who spent the night manning checkpoints despite everything. Special congratulations go to the team from the 22nd Wimbledon who won and also to the team of girls from the 23rd Wimbledon who refused to give up and pressed on to complete their first ever proper Scout event at just before 3 o'clock in the morning.

Canal Boat Experience: Don't forget to book your places if you fancy trying your hand on a canal boat.

This year our usual narrow boat has been replaced by a wide beam one, approximately 3m, and so provides a totally different challenge. The two morning sessions are booked, but both Saturday and Sunday afternoons are still available.

If you are concerned about bringing your Scouts, come and have a go yourself, to find out what it is all about.

Patrol Leaders' and Older Scouts' Camp: about half the places have been filled but a few Troops who have said they will be sending Scouts to the camp have yet to send in their forms. *Please remember that places are only booked once I have received the form and the £15 camp fee - and that goes for Leaders too.*

Please do encourage any leaders helping with your Troops who may not have experienced this type of basic skills event in the past to attend. It promises to be a great weekend.

Troop Scouters' meeting: Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th May. Please try to get someone along to represent your Troop, even if it is your meeting night.