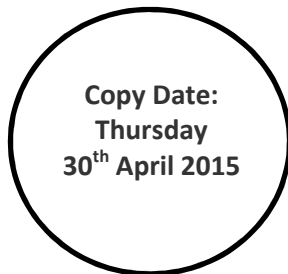


We have been asked to provide refreshments again this year for the District AGM. We shall, therefore, be wanting your help on Wednesday, 6th May. Again, please let Robert know if you can help. The AGM, this year will be held at the 19th Wimbledon H.Q.

Finally, we are having a Beetle Drive/Fish 'n' Chip supper on Wednesday 27th May. Please let Jean Gould know if you can attend and let Linda Vaudrey have your fish order by Friday 22nd May.

Discounted tickets for Scout Groups

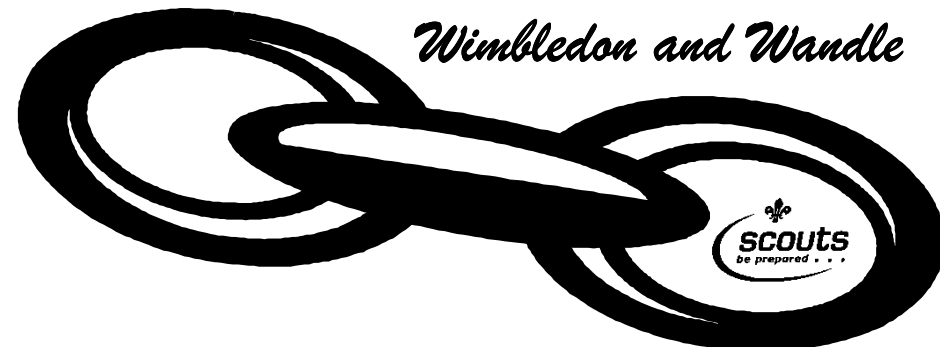
British Basketball League (BBL) Play-off Final will be held on Sunday 10th May 2015 (4pm) at The O2 in London. If you would like to take a party go to <http://www.bbl.org.uk/playofffinal> for information and special price tickets.



"You can do what you have to do, and sometimes you can do it even better than you think you can."

Jimmy Carter

Links Editor
Lesley Bixby
thebixbys@talktalk.net



Links

April 2015 - Issue no. 111

Apr 3	No store – Easter holidays	
9	No store – Easter holidays	
10-12	Explorer Award qualifying exp.	North Downs/New Forest
15	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
19	Cub Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
26	St George's Day Parade and Service	
May 1-3	Scouts Leadership Skills weekend	Southwood
2	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
2-4	Explorer Award qualifying exp.	North Downs/New Forest
6	District AGM	19 th Wimbledon HQ
11	District Team Meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15-17	GLSW Mountain Leadership weekend	Bethesda
16	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
17	Cubs' Football competition	Tbc
19	Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
27	SASU Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm

District Commissioner

Following the Compass debacle I am extremely grateful for the great efforts that everyone made to get the paper based Census returns in so promptly, the draft figures are now in for the District census. Once the figures are confirmed we will be able to see where the increases and decreases are and act accordingly. A big thank-you to Muriel Treagust for putting the census together, which, this year, was quite a challenge!

The debacle has generated problems for us all, particularly in the realms of DBS checking (which is sort of working at the moment), dealing with new adult applications, dealing with changes of role applications, Appointment Advisory Committee interviews and adult training. Until the birth of Son of Compass we may have to institute local arrangements, which will need to be paper based. Once the details are worked out we will circulate the interim processes so that recruitment, appointment and training do not grind to a complete halt.

Back in the real world of Scouting, congratulations to the Scout teams that swept the board at the County Cooking competition, the Explorer teams that competed in Red Flare recently (particularly St Saviour's ESU who came second) and 1st Wimbledon Cubs who won the County Quiz for the second time. Thanks also to Dave Bixby and the team who put on a very successful practical skills days for some 50 plus Scouts last weekend.

Finally, may I congratulate Vicky Tullet of 1st Merton Park who has been awarded a Bar to the Silver Acorn by the Chief Scout.

Joe

Congratulations to the 13th Wimbledon who came 2nd.

Cub Adventure Day: We have been asked to provide an aerial runway (aka zip line) for the Cub Adventure Day at Frylands Wood on Sunday 19 April. If you are available to either help with the build on Saturday or be part of the operating team on Sunday or both, please get in touch.

We need a minimum of 5 to operate the runway safely. Full training would be given if needed.

Older Scouts Leadership Skills Week-end 1-3 May: As you read this, any application for places should be with me. If they aren't get in touch asap.

Canal Boat Experience: The narrow boat organisation that we used to use for our District canal experience week-ends ceased trading at Christmas 2013.

The operation has now been taken over by Waterway Experiences, a 100% voluntary organisation.

They are still based at Nash Mills base which is not far from Phasels Wood camp site.

For more details visit www.wexp.org.uk

Waterway Experiences

Nash Mills Recreation Centre, Hertfordshire, HP3 9TE.

Our next **Scout Section meeting** is on Tuesday 19th May 8.00 pm. at Morden Hall DHQ

Explorers – Neil McLauchlan

Spring Award Hikes: Have been planned and are now taking place for both Scout Awards and the Duke of Edinburgh's award.

Last Leaders meeting: Was held at the Raynes Park ESU venue. Thanks to Lucy for being our hostess.

Red Flare: We had several teams entering this year. Well done to all who entered and particular very well done to one of the St Saviours teams who came 2nd overall!

St George's Day Parade: Full details soon

Next Leaders meeting: Wed 3rd June 2015; DHQ 8.00pm

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

Firstly, a big thank you to all those who helped on Operation Red Flare. Our help was greatly appreciated by the organisers and we received many pleasing comments. Well done everyone.

We hope to see all members at our Annual Meeting on Wednesday 25th March, 7.45 for 8.00 p.m.

We shall also be assisting again this year at the St George's Day Service on Sunday 26th April. Please let Robert know if you can help



EXPLORERS



this is a great day out for Beavers and you the leaders do not have to do anything but attend as the team at Gilwell do it all for you. I hope to see you at St. George's day parade but I might be on crutches? If not, I hope to see you at the District A.G.M.

Cub Report – Michèle McNamara

CSL Meeting March – this clashed with safety training in the district and was therefore cancelled. I did try and come up with an alternative date prior to Easter but had so many negative responses, I decided to cancel the meeting completely.



Activity Day – This is being held on April 19th at Frylands Wood, Mia Patterson has sent out all the details via e-mail if you haven't received them please contact her. Regarding payment and dropping off of medical /permission forms, if you are unable to get them to me by post, I am trying to arrange an evening at Morden Hall HQ for drop off, will send out details as soon as I am able. If anyone has any queries regarding this event, please contact Mia or Martin directly.

Football – As our next CSL meeting will be just before this proposed activity, I will issue details beforehand by post. Please note the date for registering and paying for this event, which I will send with the details and forms, please respond on time. Hopefully this will be ASAP but please be aware that my computer has crashed again and I am waiting for my son to sort it out.

Scout Report – Dave Bixby

Scout Football: My thanks to Gary Baker and his team for running another successful football competition. Thanks also go those Leaders that went the extra mile and assisted by acting as referees during the day. Congratulations are due to the 5th Morden for taking home the silverware.



Skills Day: We had a very successful Scouting Skills Day. All the Scouts that I spoke to on the day seemed to have had a good time.

The weather was kind to us and there were lots of Scouts chopping wood, whittling, refreshing their first aid and pitching all types of tents to name but a few.

It was interesting that some Troops didn't offer this to their Scouts even though it wasn't necessary for the Leaders to be there.

Some Scouts just came and went during the day to suit their other commitments. A number of the Troops who were not represented are also facing challenges regarding numbers and a lack of activity so I would have thought encouraging your Scouts to take part was a no brainer.

County Night Exercise: This year the number of entries from Wimbledon & Wandle was down quite significantly. Any particular reason? Time of year, venue, format need a refresh? Please let us have your thoughts so that organisers can keep County events, and District for that matter, relevant and up to date.

Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

A very big "Thank You" to everyone who came together to finalise the Census and to each and every one of our Groups who have all made payment to Keith Angliss. You have helped to make what has been a painful process a lot easier!

Another big "Thank You" to Keith Angliss for coming up to DHQ twice firstly to collect the books and bank statements for those making up the District Accounts and then for coming up again to collect cheques from Groups a month later. Keith has now finalised the District Accounts and they should be independently verified in time for approval by the Executive after Easter and then for the AGM on 6th May.

I'm afraid that we are no further forward in finding a District Treasurer. This position has been a constant issue throughout my five years as Chairman and frankly one I could now do without! I have offered to Joe to resign and do it myself, but he didn't seem too keen to take the offer up!

It is perhaps worth recording that outside of the annual accounting exercise, we are talking about authorising just 82 payments (mainly internet banking, so no cheques to write and post) and 36 receipts; again mostly automated. In the last 3 months I have countersigned two cheques for Keith and all other payments have taken a couple of minutes each on the internet. Surely, we can find someone between us, who can spare a little time and attend six meetings a year? Yes, there is more to do with the annual accounting exercise, but if needs be we will have to pay for that help or look at ways of rationalising the District's bank accounts.

Bernie Pike is standing down as book keeper for the District Store. I know you would want to join us all in thanking Bernie for his decades of support to Scouting in the Borough. It does mean Brian is looking for someone to help him with his record keeping, so please discuss with Brian on a Thursday evening.

If by the time you read this, you have not responded to Alan Green with an update as to District property; then you have missed the deadline! We all have a duty to ensure that charity owned (District) property is properly insured and that means we must have up to date information please! Our insurance will be renewed at the start of May, so if you haven't been in touch please do so now.

Response to the County Trustee Meeting has been low and thank you to those Groups who have explained why. I have passed on comments to County about the short notice for a weekend and the date being at the start of School Holidays. I will filter down information on the new training once I have more information.

To quote from the County Executive: "One big issue for Executives is to ensure that we are seen to be Youth Driven and giving our young people the opportunity to have a bigger say and to ensure that their ideas are valued. One suggestion is that Districts have a young person on the Executive".

The Executive haven't had the chance yet to sit down and discuss this and I am aware that time until the District AGM is very short. However, if there is any young person(s) who may want to self-nominate, or who you might want to suggest, then I'm sure we can make the necessary arrangements in time for ratification at our AGM. If anyone wants to have an informal discussion then I would be pleased to discuss.

Arrangements for the District AGM are now finalised. This is an opportunity for everyone to see the new building at 19th Wimbledon and hopefully hear from the new County Commissioner. The **formal part of the meeting will start at 8:30pm** and there will be a chance from 7:45pm and indeed after the AGM to view the building and avail yourself of refreshments.

Andy

DHQ Report – Alan Green

Mary's garden is looking great but the grass in the field has taken a pounding over the winter so we have sown more grass seed in an attempt to restore the sward.

Work is progressing in repairing the disabled toilet and changing the layout of the doors. As part of the improvements we have found space to install a pole that beavers can use for dancing when working towards the new gymnastics badge.

More and more groups are using the hall so if you are planning to do so, get your booking to Betty Cronk in plenty of time.

Band at Ignite – Richard Thorpe

On Sunday 15th March Drummers of the Wimbledon, Wandle & Sutton and Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Bands Joined Members of the Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, Police Cadets and Army Cadets in the Jack Petchey Ignite Event at The Theatre Royal Drury Lane celebrating 15 years of the Jack Petchey Foundation.

It was a long day of rehearsals, meeting 10am and not returning home until 11:30pm. We performed as a Youth in Uniform Drum Corps, Playing 4 Pieces in a 7 Minute Slot on Stage. The Youngsters were a credit to the Scout Association.

More News for March.....

The District band were in King George's Recreation Field, Tudor Drive spurring on the walkers who were on the Royal Marsden March on Sunday 22nd March

The Band needs more members! Why not invite us down to your Section meeting and we will entertain your members for the evening. The Band meet at the 8th Morden Headquarters on Monday evenings. Contact wwdsb1@gmail.com for more information.

Section Reports

Beavers – John Tweedley

Nothing much to report this month.

We had a tasty New Year meal at the Hogs Mill, thank you to Jane Ginty for organizing this.

We had the Beaver Bike and Scooter ride at the D.H.Q. on Sunday 22nd March. We had 53 Beavers do the bike and scooter ride and they all gained the cyclist badge. We raised £118.00 on the ride and £30.00 on tea's and coffee's, my thanks to the S.A.S. who came down and helped with the refreshments / booking in of the riders. After expenses we will donate the money we made to the National Trust. I was hoping to have the police down to do a talk on bike / road safety and have the Beavers' bikes marked and recorded but it seems that the police do not work on a Sunday! If, however, you wish them to come down on a Beaver colony night I have the contact e-mail address.

Our next Beaver outing will be the Gilwell Cub / Beaver fun day 20th June at the moment we only have about 109 Beavers / Leaders going, I hope that increases as



Training Dates

May 16	17/23	Running safe activities	10.00-13.00	SDHQ
Jun 13	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	SDHQ
Jun 13	13/21	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	SDHQ
Sep 26	16	Intro. To residential experiences	10.00-13.00	1LM
Sep 26	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	1LM
Oct 4	12a/22	Delivering a quality programme	10.00-12.30	1LM
Oct 4	12b	Programme planning	13.30 -17.00	1LM
Oct 10/11	38b	Skills for residential experiences	Weekend	B W
Nov 8	19	International	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 8	17/23	Running safe activities	13.30-16.30	1LM
Nov 29	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 29	13/21	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	1LM

SDHQ Sutton District Headquarters, Woodcote Road, Wallington SM6 0LY

1LM 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane SM4 4SJ

B W Bears Wood campsite, Oswald, Croydon CR09HJ

Cost per module is £4 except Modules 38a and b which is £40

Download applications forms from the County website

www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform

or contact Mrs J Condon joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com

Safeguarding dates can be obtained from Alison Edwards (District Training Manager)

First Aid

10th May 5th Sutton HQ

19th July 22nd Wimbledon

Application forms can be downloaded from the County web site

www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/support or contact Mrs Janet Drinkall jdrinkall@sky.com

Cost for module 10 £18.00

For information about other modules, which are District-run, contact Alison Edwards on alison.edwards@local.gov.uk

St George's Day Parade

Our St George's Day Parade & Service will be on Sunday 26 April and follow the same outline format as last year. Details will shortly be posted on the web site (and copied to GSLs / ESLs) once finalised.

Assembly will be at The Causeway / Wimbledon Common at 13h30. The Parade will move off at 13h50 for the service in Sacred Heart Church on Edge Hill followed by dismissal at the adjacent Wimbledon College playing fields at 15h15.

In response to feedback, some alterations have been made to the service which I hope will have something for everyone. The Duty Group is the 8th Morden who are already preparing for their parts of the service. I will be in touch soon with the key volunteers who support the Parade and service.

I have had confirmation of support from the Metropolitan Police and LB Merton is arranging the Traffic Management Order (free of charge). Events like these are increasingly difficult to organise and the importance of having a substantial turnout is important, not just to demonstrate the strength of scouting in Merton but to get support for the event in the years to come.

The collection taken at the service will go this year to the Shooting Star Chase Hospice, one of the Mayor of Merton's designated charities. Could I ask you to make your sections aware in the coming weeks and give the children sufficient notice to make a contribution?

If any group would be willing to offer a minibus and driver to assist please contact me via richardmarus@blueyonder.co.uk

District Store

The books for the new system are now available and one copy of the Badge book and one poster per section will be distributed by ADCs.

If you are camping in Hampshire this summer, Brian has leaflets about the Portsmouth Navy Dockyard, the Submarine Base and Beaulieu.

Badges – Lesley Bixby

Please continue to order your badges in advance – my stocks of the old ones are dwindling but I am still only getting the new ones in when they are requested. Email thebixbys@talktalk.net