

Scout Active Support continued

We are hoping to arrange an Away Day on Sunday 5th June to Arundel Castle. Further details later. If you think you might be interested in coming please contact Robert. Many thanks.

Best wishes go to Carol Wolsey, recovering at home after an operation.

"As you grow up, always tell the truth, do no harm to others, and don't think you are the most important being on earth. Rich or poor, you then can look anyone in the eye and say, 'I'm probably no better than you, but I'm certainly your equal'."

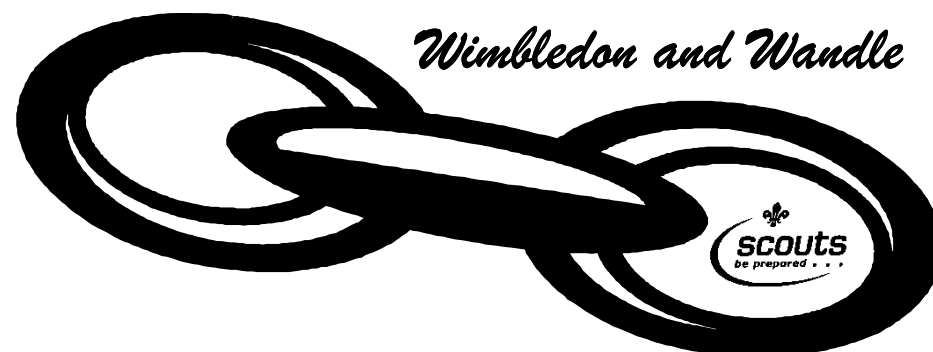
Harper Lee

Copy date for May Links: Tuesday 26 April 2016
**Please note this is
two days earlier than usual**

**Links Editor
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Links

April 2016 – Issue no. 121

Apr 8-10	Explorers' Award practice expeditions	North and South Downs
12	Appointments Committee	Morden Hall DHQ
13	District Executive Committee	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	District Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
16	Skills Day	4 th Worcester Park HQ 10am
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
24	St George's Day Parade and Service	
30-May 2	Explorers' Award practice expeditions	North Downs etc
4	District Annual General Meeting	19 th Wimbledon 8pm
7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
11	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	District Sports	Wimbledon Park
14	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
17	Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	Beaver Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
22	Cub Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
24	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
25	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Council

All Leaders, Executive Members, Supporters and Friends
are invited to the

Annual General Meeting

4th May 2016
19th Wimbledon Headquarters
Cottenham Park Road, West Wimbledon SW20 0SZ
8pm

This will be our opportunity to wish Joe Rogerson
well in his new role as County Commissioner for Surrey
and, hopefully, to welcome our new
District Commissioner.

Uniform as appropriate

Our next **Scout Section meeting** is on Tuesday 17th May at 8.00pm in the Morden Hall DHQ. Please try to have your Troop represented and bring along any items you may have for the bran tub.

Explorer Scouts – Neil McLauchlan

The first Explorer District Dodgeball Competition was held recently. Several units attended with 1st place going to West Barnes ESU, 2nd place went to Flying Penguins ESU and 3rd place to Merton Park ESU. Raynes Park ESU did not do as well but they definitely won the best team kit as they looked very professional in matching T-Shirts. They all did much better than the leaders' team who need to do a lot more training before the next event!



Many congratulations to the St Saviour's ESU who won the Red Flare County Explorer/Network Scout Night Hike. This is a tough event with not only night navigational skills required but good team work needed to gain points at the various checkpoints. I believe they are only the 2nd team from our District ever to win the event!

It is award hike time again. Several units are preparing their routes, campsites etc. ready for both the practice and the qualifying weekends.

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

It was good to see members at our recent Annual Meeting, thanks also to the D.C. for attending. He will be sorely missed in the District.



A big thank you to SASU members who assisted at two recent Beaver events, the Activity Afternoon and the Bike and Scooter ride. Your help was much appreciated.

For those of you who were unable to sign up at the Annual Meeting to help at St George's Day on Sunday 24th April, and for the Sports Day on 14th May, please contact Robert to let him know, a.s.a.p., that you will be there.

We have been asked to provide refreshments at the District AGM on 4th May. Again let Robert know if you can help on the evening. Uniform to be worn, please.

Programmes – For those of you who haven't sent me programmes up until the end of the next term can you please do so a.s.a.p. Thanks.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

County Night Exercise

We had fewer Troops entered for this event this year due in part to a dates clash with the Marsden March. This is a cause very close to several Groups' hearts and they were doing sterling service raising money for this worthy cause.

Congratulations to the 13th Wimbledon for taking 1st place in a field of over 40.

Patrol in Camp Week-end 25th-26th June

Don't forget our Patrol in Camp week-end which this year is concentrating on aspects in cooking and camp hygiene.

The event takes place at Park Farm, Banstead. A basic equipment list is in the Red Book but we may need to amend it slightly once the exact menu is confirmed.

There are a limited number of places due to space at the site so engage your Scouts early. The steering committee has had an initial meeting and we will be approaching people to help on the week-end shortly.

This would be a good event for new Leaders and Young Leaders working with the Scout Section to attend to further their training.

Paddle Boards

As you should have heard, if you read Links or the Scout Section minutes, we have purchased 7 paddle boards complete with paddles, helmets, tethers and buoyancy aids.

We also have arranged permission to use the Wandle in Ravensbury Park (where we hold the raft event) so that Groups can try their hand.

The Wandle is class C water so no specific qualifications are needed. The boards can be borrowed for summer camps, activities etc. but normal Scout canoeing rules would apply.

There are a couple of local places that run introduction courses from April for approx. £50 and funds are available from the programme development budget for this.

Get in touch with me for details.



District Commissioner

Following on from the great achievements of the **23rd Mitcham** in the County Scout Cooking Competition in February, March has seen the **13th Wimbledon** win the County Scout Night Hike and the **St Saviour's Explorer Unit** win, by a country mile, the County's Operation Red Flare night hike/exercise. In the case of the latter, I am convinced that they just wanted to get to the splendid bacon butties provided by our SAS before anyone else did! Together with these successes, a dedicated team of leaders led by the inimitable Alison Edwards delivered an extremely successful weekend of training to 30 Young Leaders from across the District (and considering that we only have 37, that is not a bad percentage). These illustrate, if illustration were needed, the vibrant state of Scouting in our District, which the Census also highlighted as reported on last month. In short, not only have we Quantity, but we have demonstrable Quality, the two key ingredients of successful Scouting.

If we add to the above the significant financial resources that we have as a District solely for the betterment of Scouting, which the Executive has worked so hard to secure, it is self-evident that we are progressing well. As mentioned before in Links, these financial resources are there to enhance the programme and to enable leaders to gain new skills if they have a wish so to do. In every case mentioned above District finance played some part, whether large or small, which tells its own story.

As ever, the successes celebrated above were founded on the quality programmes provided by quality leaders; then the scouts themselves showed that determination, which is the mark of the good Scout, to "deliver the goods".

Whilst on the subject of quality leaders, hearty congratulations to **Dave Bixby**, to whom the Chief Scout has awarded the Silver Wolf, Scouting's highest honour, for his many (many!) years of the most exceptional service to the Movement.

Finally, may I wish everyone a Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you at the St George's Day Parade on 24th April!

Joe

Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

It is fair to say that I have not been inundated with inquires or nominations to succeed Joe as DC! When you read this, time will be very short, as nominations must be received by 8th April! The Selection Panel meets on 14th April, with invitations to interview on 19th or 27th April, going out on 15th April.

Works on KBH flat have now been completed and to a very high standard. A great deal of thanks are owed to Rob Brumwell, who has managed the process throughout and got us to where we are now. The flat is being advertised online and we hope to have new tenants in place before the time of the AGM.

Focus during the first part of any year has been Census, followed by collecting Membership Fees from Groups and Units, paying to County, and finally preparing the Annual Accounts and Report. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to bring these mammoth tasks together and for making the job of the hard working volunteers, who pull everything together, as easy as possible.

As always at this time of year I make it known that elections for the District Executive will be held at the AGM (details below). So if you wish to nominate yourself, or anyone else who is willing to stand, then please let me know by the end of April.

I hope that all Groups that have held AGMs so far this year have remembered to follow the new mandatory requirements? All Executive Members must be registered with Headquarters as Associate or Full Members and are required to complete an Executive / Trustee focused Module One (available online) and within 5 months of your AGM. This training will then need to be collectively validated and signed off via Alison Edwards. Details are available online on the Scout Association web site and Key Managers are made responsible. Please ask if you are not sure of what you should be doing.

You will be able to read more about all these issues, our progress over the last 12 months and looking forward to the future with our new DC at the **District AGM, starting 8pm on Wednesday 4th May at 19th Wimbledon HQ.** Food and drink will be provided and we hope to see as many friends and colleagues there to wish our departing DC well and to express our thanks for his contribution and leadership over the last 7 years. You never know, if the plans for selecting a new DC work out, we will all be able to meet him or her as well!

Section Reports

Beaver Scouts – John Tweedley

Hi All Beaver Leaders and A.B.S.Ls

Not a lot to report this month. We had the Beaver Bike & Scooter ride on Sunday 20th March. We held it at a new venue in Ravensbury Park across the road from D.H.Q. We had some 47 beavers and leaders and parents ride around a course set within the park. While half were riding the other half were doing the cyclist badge, thanks to Dave Christmas for running this badge.

When they finished the badge two Leaders ran some games for the Beavers in the grounds of D.H.Q. My thanks go to Tracy of the 5th Morden and Julia of the 3rd Mitcham who organised this.

Also many thanks to Linda Vaudrey and her team from the S.A.S. whose help was most welcome as they helped marshal the event and made refreshments in the hall. Also thanks to all the Leaders who also helped marshal the event. I am awaiting feedback on this event and new venue but from some comments I have heard everybody seemed to enjoy this new venue. What did stand out was how quiet it was in the park with little or no people walking about. We raised £117.00 on the day and this is going to the Mayor of Merton's chosen charity.

One last reminder please let me have your numbers by the 6th May for Legoland which is the cut-off date, after that no late comers as I will have ordered the tickets by the 9th May.

Cub Scouts – Michèle McNamara

Adventure Day – You should have received details of this event to be held at Frylands Wood on May 22nd by e-mail via Graham Fairclough (sorry my e-mail wasn't working) please make sure that you read all the requirements carefully and get the forms and money to me on time.

District Camp Letters for leaders and parents were sent out to all those who had expressed an interest in attending. Last date for sending names and deposits (£10) is April 15th, I need to make final arrangements for transporting the cubs to Walton Firs so it is important that I have total of those attending by that date.

CSL Meeting – the next meeting is 11th May please try and make sure your pack is represented.



Training

14 May	15	Promoting positive behaviour	09.45-12.30	1LM
14 May	13	Growing the section	13.30-16.30	1LM
24 Sept	16	Introduction to residential experiences	09.45-13.00	1LM
24 Sept	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	1LM
8/9 Oct	38b	Weekend camp skills - residential		WF
23 Oct	12a/b	Planning quality programmes	09.45-17.00	4WP
27 Nov	17	International	09.45-12.30	Le
27 Nov	19	Running safe activities	13.30-17.00	Le
4 Dec	15	Promoting positive behaviour	09.45-12.30	1LM
4 Dec	12	Growing the section	13.30-16.30	1LM

Le Leander Sea Scout HQ, Kingston
1LM 1st Lower Morden, Bow Lane, Morden
WF Walton Firs, Cobham
4WP 4th Worcester Park

Application forms from

Mrs J Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue Email joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com or download from the County web site www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform

First Aid: details from Janet Drinkall (jdrinkall@sky.com).

Safeguarding: details from Alison Edwards

Tree Planting

An online platform that allows any organisation to launch their own tree planting campaign has been developed by Ryan Stevenson ryan.stevenson@teratrees.com.

This has been used by some organisations in Merton, including Raynes Park High School, who planted 35 trees and made a profit (money received was more than the cost of trees). It is also a way to connect the community to your scouting groups, with each community member given their own 'virtual garden' showing their tree when they support your campaign.

<https://www.teratrees.com/blog/2016/02/launch-your-own-tree-planting-campaign/>

If your scouts are planning any tree planting or gardening in general, this may be of interest?

On the subject of the new DC, as I do not know who that might be and because my position is in the annual gift of the DC, I have no idea if I will be in position to write next month's Report! It has been a privilege to serve over the last 6 years and I hope that by ticking off the items that were on the mammoth list Joe and I produced in May 2010 the District now finds itself in a better place.

St George's Day Parade and Service - Richard Marus

Our St George's Day Parade & Service will be on **Sunday 24 April** and follows 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 15h45.

The Mayor of Merton and County Commissioner for Greater London South West will be joining us for the event.

The Duty Group is the 9th Wimbledon 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 Merton 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 Mayor's two designated charities (Merton Centre for Independent Living and Friends in St Helier). Could I ask you to make your sections aware in the coming weeks and give the children sufficient notice to make a contribution?

Compass and Training Records – Alison Edwards

Now that Compass is back up and running I have become aware of some gaps in people's training records, in particular around safeguarding and first aid. Could I please emphasise how important it is that you check your record on Compass and ensure that the information is correct.

In particular if you have a first aid qualification which wasn't got through county I probably don't know and so if you provide me with details I will update records.

Likewise a number of you need to update your safeguarding and, if needed, I will put one on this spring/summer. If you did it in 2010 or 2011 it needs renewing.

If your information is incorrect please do say and I can sort it. It tends to be more of a problem for those with long service in scouting where historical records are missing but there are glitches that I need your help to fix.

Situation Vacant

As Joe is about to stand down as our DC we have also lost half of the safety training team!!! So we are looking for someone who can help deliver this to our district. The commitment is only about 3 hours a year and the content is already written.
Please contact Alison Edwards if you can help.

Appointments – Muriel Treagust

The next appointments evening is to be held on 12th April at Morden Hall DHQ, Morden Road.

I have been getting notification from HQ of outstanding DBS renewals required. It is essential that these are completed as soon as possible. HQ are beginning to close roles due to long overdue DBS not being actioned. If you are uncertain how to renew, contact me or Alison Edwards.

County Birthday Badges

The County's birthday badges were distributed to GSLs in February and hopefully most of our members are now wearing them. We are aware that some Groups did not get enough for everyone to have one so please ensure that you let Lesley Bixby thebixbys@talktalk.net know if you need extras. There is a chance that the County will be ordering some more.

Paches

Our District Site in Ashtead Wood is free for anyone in Wimbledon and Wandle to use.

However, it is vital that you notify Gary Baker gb.skip23@gmail.com if you are planning on visiting – he will notify the authorities to prevent the fire brigade arriving if you are fire lighting and will highlight any hazards that you need to know about: there have been several trees come down during the winter and someone has dug a deep pit which must be avoided during wide games.

District Sports

Don't forget that the sports are being held in May this year. Peter Hutton will be circulating the details very soon and will be looking for volunteers to help.

Jumble Sales

How do you publicise your Jumble Sale – would you like to reach more people with your advertising?

<http://jumblelist.co.uk/> is a new site which is free to use and will advertise your sale.

Got any questions? Contact Steve on info@jumblelist.co.uk.

London Wetlands Centre Barnes SW13 9WT

If you are interested in taking your members to visit the Wetlands Centre, please contact Melissa.Chatton@wwt.org.uk who will be able to discuss discounts and give advice to help you get the most out of your visit.