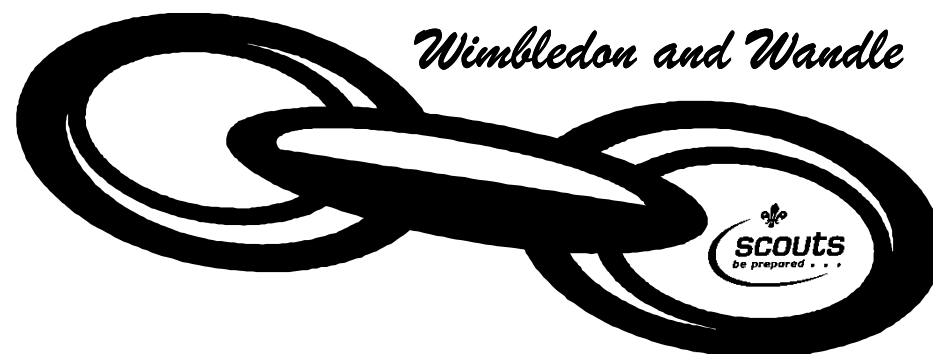


“Everything happens for a reason.
 That reason is change.
 Sometimes it hurts.
 Sometimes it’s hard.
 But in the end it tends to be all for the best”

Copy date for May Links:
Thursday 27th April 2017

Links Editor
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Wimbledon and Wandle

Links

April 2017 – Issue no. 131

Apr 1-3	Award qualifying expeditions	Various
6	No Store – Easter holidays	
17	Wimbledon Windmill exhibition	Wimbledon Common
20	Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
23	St George’s Day Parade and Service	Wimbledon
28-30	Scout skills weekend	Thriftwood
28 - 1	Explorers Mountain weekend	Wales
May 3	Cub Scout Leaders meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
6	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
7	Cubs Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
10	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	District Team Meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Troop Scouters’ meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	Beaver Leaders’ meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	District Sports	Wimbledon Park
20	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
22	Key Managers’ meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
June 1	No Store – half term	
7	Explorer Leaders’ meeting	
10	Beaver/Cub Fun Day	Gilwell Park
14	District AGM	1 st Lower Morden 8pm

District Commissioner

The past month has been a shining example of how much we can achieve when we work together with so many varied activities and events offered across the sections.

Well done to the Scouts of the 13th Wimbledon for their impressive result in the County Night hike coming in in 1st and 4th places and to St Saviours who were runners up in the County Red Flare exercise and who also won the Ladies' trophy. Congratulations also go to the Scouts of 1st Lower Morden for winning the 5 aside football and to the 22nd Wimbledon Cubs for coming 1st in the District Chess Competition. The Beavers were very busy this month too. I had the pleasure of seeing several excited faces queuing up to go to Scotland on the International Badge Day and a few weeks later they had the chance to enjoy an afternoon on their scooters.

In addition to all that, I know that plans are progressing to take the Beavers to Gilwell, for some of the Cubs to enjoy an Adventure Day, for the scouts to enjoy a Weekend Training Camp and for the Explorers to enjoy a walking weekend in the Brecon Beacons.

I also had the pleasure of meeting many of the members of the SAS at their AGM, they are often there quietly in the background providing support across the District where it's needed and having listened to some of their evening events it's quite clear that the children don't have all the fun!

We are incredibly lucky to have people in the District, be they ADCs, SAS or parent helpers who are willing to provide such great activities for our members. The activities we offer them and the skills we teach them when they are in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, providing them the chance to gain confidence and learn independence, begin to come to fruition when they get to Explorers and beyond. I am delighted to see several groups of explorers now undertaking their Platinum and Silver Award Hikes and another group training to complete their QSA hike by canoeing across Scotland.

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

Thank you to all members who attended our Annual Meeting on 22nd March. Congratulations to Muriel Treagust and John Smith who were presented with awards by the D.C. We were pleased that Deborah was able to come to our meeting and introduce herself to us.



Just a couple of reminders for the future:

St George's Day, Sunday 23rd April, again at Edge Hill. Help required on the day please: uniform to be worn.

A couple of early reminders for May:

Monday the 8th – Mexican Train games evening at Morden Hall H.Q.
Saturday 20th May - our Away Day to the Weald and Downland Museum. If you are interested in attending these events, please let Robert know. Many thanks.

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Awards

We are still on the look-out for those people who do not make the headlines but deserve recognition for what they do in Scouting – Group Chairmen, Treasurers and Secretaries for example. If there is someone who holds an office in your Group or has served on your Executive for many years and does over and above what is required by their Role, please let me know as they may qualify for an award: Lesley at thebixbys@talktalk.net

Summer: As the rain becomes warmer and thoughts turn more to outdoor activities, week-end and summer camps don't forget that there are some items of equipment that you can borrow to enhance your Scouts' experiences.

We have 7 *paddleboards* that can be used on C class waters without a permit, *GPS trackers* that can be used to follow Scouts or Explorers in real time on a smart phone or tablet and a large selection of *pioneering gear* to suit all size of projects.

If you would like to borrow any of these on your own or with support just let me know.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Tuesday 16th May at Morden Hall DHQ at 8.00pm. Anyone with a positive attitude to Scouting in Wimbledon and Wandle is very welcome.

Explorers – Neil McLauchlan

EXPLORERS

Operation Red Flare (County Night Hike):

We entered 6 teams with the following results:

2nd: St Saviours (Winners 2nd place overall)

4th: St Saviours (Winners Ladies Team Trophy)

5th: Raynes Park (Winners Explorer Trophy)

12th: Fleet 612

26th: Raynes Park

27th: Empire

Many congratulations to all who took part.

- **Award Hikes:** Have now been completed with 3 units taking part.
- **Spring Expedition:** This will be taking place from Fri 28th April – Mon 1st May this year. We will be based in the middle of the Brecon Beacons.
- **Gilwell 24:** This is Fri 7th – Sun 9th July this year. Bookings are now open: <https://www.gilwell24.info/> We hope to be able to arrange a coach as we did last year for a small fee per head.

Recently several of our GSLs joined me at a District RAG planning event this week to help me identify our strengths and weaknesses. The results when summarised will help us to identify where we need to take action and what to tackle first in order to best help those of you at the front line in delivering scouting. The report will be shared for discussion at our future meetings.

If anyone would like to be involved with the Executive Committee and help us ensure support is directed where it's needed, now is the time to let me know

Congratulations to everyone who has received awards this year and particular congratulations to **Peter Treagust, Dave Christmas and Brian Whalebone** who were each awarded the 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 Georges Day Parade on 23 April.

Deborah

Chairman's Chatter

No Chatter from Andy Edmonds this month as there has not been a meeting since the last edition of Links.

Badges – Lesley Bixby

I am pleased to report that, while Scout Shops have put the cost of badges up, they are currently offering them at a discounted price.

While this lasts, I propose to keep the badges at their current price so you will continue to pay 60p for an activity badge and 71p for challenge badges.

If they cancel the discount I shall have to increase my prices but I will keep them down for as long as I can.

I have a few of the new Beaver and Cub leadership stripes in stock.

St George's Day Parade - Sunday 23 April – Richard Marus

We are parading on the actual feast day this year so hoping for an excellent turnout!

11th Mitcham have kindly taken on the responsibilities of Duty Group.

A briefing note will be circulated to all GSLs / ESLs in next two weeks but in summary:

- No change to the timings with Assembly at The Causeway on Wimbledon Common at 13:30 for the Parade at 13:50;
- Again supported by the Metropolitan Police with our arrival at Sacred Heart Church Edge Hill scheduled for 14:20 with the Mayor and County Commissioner taking the salute;
- This **years' service** will include prize-giving for the winners of fantastic prizes on offer for our first District Photographic Competition
- Dismissal at about 15:30 on the playing field of Wimbledon College.
- Please think now about making a contribution to the collection for the Mayor's chosen charities (Age UK Merton and The Avanti Club (a mental health charity))
- And remember this is the opportunity for your annual renewal of promises.

If, for any reason, your Group / Unit will not be represented, please let me know at richardmarus@blueyonder.co.uk

District Store – Brian Whalebone

Just a reminder that the prices of some items of uniform will be going up on 1 May – this allows those who need a uniform for St George's Day to get it at the old price. We will be publishing a full price list with May Links.

The Store will be closed on 6 April and 13 April for the Easter holidays, then re-opens on 20 April for those last minute uniform items required for St George's Day.

Programmes - We will be entering a new term after Easter and I would appreciate it if packs could *send me their programmes promptly*, 5 packs failed to send any programme for last term! If I or a DCSL are planning to visit your pack it is useful to know whether or not you will be at your meeting place on that night!

Scouts – Dave Bixby



Thriftwood Training Camp 28-30th April: Booking forms for all those attending along with camp fees for the Scouts taking part should now be with me.

Final details and medical forms are being sent to participants' parents and must be returned directly to me must be returned by 23 April at the very latest.

No form – No camp.

I will be submitting a NAN form on behalf of all taking part so Troops don't have to do their own.

County Night Exercise: I understand that a substantial number of teams managed to get lost.

I think this shows that anyone leading an activity or check point as part of an event should ensure that those helping have the experience / knowledge to carry out their given tasks or are given the training and support on the day. We each have a responsibility to those we are working with as well as the Scouts in our care.

One Troop, having no Leaders with a Nights Away Permit camped under the authority of the ACC Scouts Robin Burr but they failed to submit a Nights Away Notification Form.

Whilst it's fine to attend a County or similar event such as the night exercise it is essential that the person actually taking the Troop, in this case an ASL, submits a NAN form via our District website.

If in doubt always submit a NAN form – better safe than sorry.

Congratulations go to the **13th Wimbledon** for once again being triumphant with taking 1st and 4th places out of only 4 teams to complete the course. Everyone else was placed 5th.

County Training Courses

Date	No	Module name	Time	Venue
20 May	12	Delivering and Planning a Programme	09.45-16.30	Richmond
30 Sept	12	Delivering and Planning a Programme	09.45-16.30	1 st Hook
8 Oct	16	Introduction to Residential Experiences	09.45-13.00	LoMo
8 Oct	38a	Skills for Residential Experiences	13.45-16.30	LoMo
21-22 Oct	38b	Skills for Residential Experiences	weekend	Croydon
4 Nov	19	International	10.00-12.30	LoMo
4 Nov	17	Running Safe Activities	13.00-16.30	LoMo
19 Nov	12	Delivering and Planning a Programme	09.45-16.30	Coulsdon
3 Dec	15	Promoting Positive Behaviour	10.00-13.00	5 Sutton
3 Dec	13	Growing the Section	13.45-16.30	5 Sutton

For more information regarding venues and to book, please visit the GLSW website

http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/spage-adult_training-training_diary

District Training – Alison Edwards

There will be 2 **first aid courses** running next term. Places are available on both. The dates and locations are as follows

13 May 3rd Mitcham HQ, 51 Woodland Way, Mitcham, CR4 2DZ

17 June 19th Wimbledon HQ, 106 Cottenham Park Road, West Wimbledon, SW20 0SZ

Both courses start at 9am and finish 4.45pm approx. and are free to attend.

Places can be booked through me on alison.edwards@local.gov.uk

Ongoing Safety training

2 May 8pm at Morden Hall DHQ, Morden Road, CR4 4DD

This training lasts approximately 90 minutes.

This training is for all 'established' leaders/section assistants etc and for leaders in training. This is something you now need to do as part of your mandatory ongoing learning.

Again free to attend (!) and simply email me to book a place.

There is no safeguarding training currently arranged for next term. However... watch this space.

George Cates VC, 1892-1917

George Cates was a Wimbledon man who attended Rutlish School and was an Assistant Scout Master at the 2nd Wimbledon Scout Group which met in the YMCA building in Worple Road. He served in the Rifles Battalion during the First World War. George and his comrades were in a working party responsible for deepening a captured German trench at Bouchavesnes. A buried bomb was unearthed which started smoking. Realising they would all be killed, George put his foot on it and it immediately exploded. He was fatally injured and died that night but his action saved the lives of his comrades. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery.

100 years later, on 8 March, this event was commemorated by the dedication of a carved stone to be laid at the War Memorial on Wimbledon Common.

The event was attended by the Mayor of Merton, the Deputy Lieutenant for Merton, Leader of Merton Council and a number of military representatives. Scouting was represented by **Peter Hutton, GSL 13th Wimbledon** who did a reading from the Book of Isaiah and by **Martin Whiting, Deputy County Commissioner** and ex-DC Wimbledon and Merton, who was part of the Guard of Honour.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mertoncouncil/albums/72157677688155014>

Jack Petchey – Lesley Bixby

Yet again I am asking for nominations for Jack Petchey awards. At the time of writing I have 5 of the 9 I am looking for. The next round is not until the autumn so if you would like £250 to subsidise an activity at summer camp or to take your Troop/Unit on an outing, now is the time to apply.

We are still looking for nominations for **Leader awards** as well – the details went out to GSLs on 26 February but no names have been put forward yet. The eligible Leaders are those working with Scouts or Explorers and there is a grant of £750 for those who are successful.

Questions and nomination forms to me at thebixbys@talktalk.net

Section Reports

Beavers – John Tweedley



We had a very successful Bike and Scooter ride in Ravensbury Park on the 19th March with some 60+ riders, and raised £187.50 for the Mayors charities, which this year are Age UK Merton and The Avanti Club [a support group for people with mental health problems].

The Beavers also passed the requirements for the cyclist badge and were presented with them on the day. My thanks go out to the leaders and parents who helped marshal this event, the leaders who kept the Beavers entertained while the groups were out on their bikes etc, and to Dave Christmas who organised and did the requirements for the badge.

Special thanks to the SAS who come down to help at our events, without them we would struggle sometimes.

All Colonies should have had the letter for the Beaver parents regarding the trip to Gilwell park. I know it is not the best time as the schools have broken up for Easter, but I do need your numbers A.S.A.P. and definitely by 24th April because after the 3rd May we cannot get tickets, and if we leave it very late in April we might not get the Saturday. If this is the case then we will have to postpone this event.

I hope you have a good well deserved Easter break.

Cubs – Michèle McNamara



Adventure Day – This is due to take place on May 7th at Frylands Wood, I have had a few offers of help for the day but only a very few, we need more leaders to volunteer to run bases and also offers of help as tutors on the day. Monies to be paid at next CSL meeting.

CSL Meeting – Next meeting is 3rd May 2017: provided adventure day is still happening this is your opportunity to get your money for the event to me, so that it can be banked prior to the event itself.

It would be much appreciated if packs could make an effort to have at least one leader per pack at these meetings so that any future events can be discussed and we are made aware of the general consensus of feeling about these events, before we make plans and pay deposits. Lately attendance has been very sparse. I am aware that I missed the last meeting myself but as I was hospitalised there was little I could do about that.

Appointments – Muriel Treagust

Appointments agreed in March

Lee Robinson GSL 1st Morden
Caroline Craig ESL Edge Hill Unit but will be working with Raynes Park Unit for the next 6 months.

The next Appointments' meeting is to be held on 4th April.

Disclosure Applications - New and Renewals.

A valid Disclosure is an essential part of your role in our District. Please don't ignore the reminders sent out from HQ. These are sent out at 90, 60 and 30 days prior to expiry of existing Disclosures.

New members have a 30 day window in which to complete a Disclosure application.

Wimbledon Windmill – 17 April

We have received a few offers of help with a display of Scouting and some activities at the Windmill's event to celebrate their 200 years.

If you can come and help and can bring an activity with you, please contact Dave Bixby thebixbys@talktalk.net / 07889 598960 as soon as possible.

Wimbledon & Putney Commons Festival – 10 September

Charity stalls are approx. £10 each for this annual event up near the Windmill. Usually between 5,000 and 6,000 visitors. There are various displays etc.

District Sports – 20 May

The sports will be held at Wimbledon Park on 20 May and Peter Hutton will be sending out the information in a few weeks but it is unlikely that there will be any significant changes to the arrangements.

Don't forget to factor this fun event into your programme for next term.