

NSPCC Child Protection Awareness programme

There are two programmes, which could be of interest to Leaders:

1. NSPCC Child Protection Awareness - a programme of 4 short modules each with its own questionnaire. £22.50 + VAT
2. NSPCC Keeping Children Safe - a programme of 3 short modules each with its own questionnaire. £21.50 + VAT

Upon successful completion, participants will receive feedback regarding their answers, along with a personalised NSPCC certificate.

Further details on the NSPCC EduCare website or phone 01926 436211



Best wishes to you all, and to all your members and supporters, for a very Merry Christmas and an exciting and Happy New Year as we celebrate our Centenary in 2007.

Copy Date:

There will not be an issue of Links in January but copy date for the February issue is **Thursday 25th January**.

Newsletter Editor

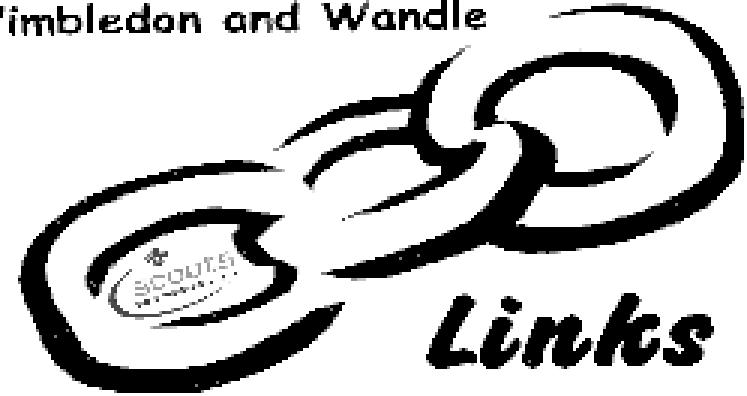
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Wimbledon and Wandle



December 06 - January 07

Issue 29

Dec 9	Carol Concert	St John's Church, High Path
Jan 5	Cub Scouters' Dinner	Park Place
5-7	National Winter Camp for 14-18s	Gilwell Park
10	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
11	District Store re-opens (no badges)	Morden Hall DHQ at 7.45pm
15	District Team Meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
17	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ
20	Fellowship dinner	Walton on the Hill
22	GSLs' meeting (Census)	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
28	Cub Badge Day	Bow Lane
28	Scout Trek Cart Race	
31	All Leaders' meeting	Kenneth Black DHQ at 8pm
Feb 6	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 7.30pm
11	Scout Handball competition	
24	District Centenary Dinner	Wayfairer Hotel, Wimbledon
25	Gang Show auditions	

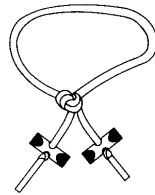
District Commissioner

I am delighted to report that **Mary White** has been awarded the Silver Wolf in recognition of her huge commitment to Scouting for approaching 50 years. Mary is unfortunately most unwell and is with her son David in Austria and will not return. I shall be visiting her on the 9th December and have the great privilege of presenting the award to her there. The awards board have allowed this award to be made outside of the St George's day list.

Congratulations are also due to the following

Woodbadge

Tracey Drinkwater	23 rd Mitcham
Jean-Claire Flanagan	8 th Wimbledon
Amanda Smith	1 st Lower Morden
David Williams	1 st Lower Morden
Elizabeth Maloney	22 nd Wimbledon
Kim Stanley	22 nd Wimbledon
Keith Elston	22 nd Wimbledon
Andy Dimon	1 st Wimbledon



Bar to the Long Service Decoration (25 years)

Andy Edmonds	20 th Mitcham
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Long Service Decoration (15 years)

Bob Voller	1 st Merton Park
Simon Hill	1 st Merton Park
Paul Wilkins	19 th Wimbledon
Jane Ginty	16 th Morden
John Bennett	5 th Morden

These awards and other service certificates and warrants will be presented at the All Leaders meeting on **Wednesday 31st January 07.45** for 8.00 at Kenneth Black DHQ

Martin Milner our Field Development Officer will be leading a session with us.

I report with regret the passing of John Prior. We offer our deepest sympathy to Jean at this sad time. Members of the District attended his funeral at St Cecilia's Church.

Bob Prescott

Reminder: Carol Concert, Saturday 9th December 2006, help required for the evening performance. Please contact Brian on 8330 2088, if you can assist.

Centenary Dinner and Dance - 24th February 2007 at the Wayfairer Hotel. Please contact Bob Prescott for tickets.

May we take this opportunity to wish you well for Christmas and the New Year.

Our thoughts and prayers go especially to Mary White and Jean Prior.



We were all very sorry to hear of the death of John Prior at the beginning of November. John supported Jean as Treasurer for many years and was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1983 in recognition of his contribution to Scouting. Jean has asked me to include the following in this newsletter.

"I would like to thank all my Scouting friends for their kind prayers, cards and condolences upon the sudden death of John. I was pleased to see the DC and many representatives of the District at John's funeral mass, their support was much appreciated.

John first joined the Scout Movement as a lad when he was enrolled in the 1st Wallington Group. Later he became an active member of the 2nd Morden as an Instructor and, in time, he stood in as GSL. John supported me in all my Scouting activities. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

December 15 - **Network Christmas Meal** hosted by Saturn (Sutton) Local Scout Network at TGI Fridays in Croydon. If you wish to attend please contact Chris Dean as soon as possible, or be disappointed.

December 18 - **Reunion for all those who participated in the County Explorer Belt Expeditions** to Lithuania and The Seychelles last summer. The Reunion will take place in the Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton at 8pm. Uniform please.

December 22 - Spend a day **helping in a hostel for the homeless** in London. For further information please contact Christine (Kit) Budhan. E-mail chris_budhan@hotmail.com

The first event in 2007 is a **Volleyball Competition** on January 12 at Overton Grange School, Stanley Road, Sutton at 7.30pm. Network members and Scouters from all sections are invited to make up squads of 6-10 players. Cost is £5 per team payable on the night. Contact me if you wish to enter a team.

All Scout Network members will shortly receive a mailing, which will include the subscription renewal request for 2007. Please complete the form immediately and return it with a cheque for £30 (Network-only members) or £10 (if you are a Leader and your Group pays for you at the Census) in favour of GLSW Scout Network. Subs are payable by all Network members including those at university.

Also in the mailing is a calendar of Scout Network events for 2007, which will be memorable year for all involved in GLSW Network Scouting.

A Happy Christmas to everyone.

Scout Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey

We are sorry but due to lack of response, the Christmas Party, due to be held on 2nd December, was cancelled. We are hoping for a better number at the New Year Meal. This year this will be held on Saturday, 20th January, at the Blue Ball, Walton on the Hill. If you would like to go please let Dave Gould know (020 8395 1885) by Friday 12th January 2007.



County Appointments

Pat Askey has been appointed as the new ACC Beavers with immediate effect. Until a replacement County Training Manager is found, Roger Hurrion and Nigel Steward will handle any queries.

Alex Minajew has commenced his appointment as ACC General Duties.

District Camp

Plans are well advanced for the District Camp and further information will be distributed separately. If your Group has not told Neil McLauchlan whether you will be attending, please let him know your intentions and approx numbers as soon as possible.

District Centenary Dinner

51 tickets have been sold so far and the maximum is only 140 so please don't leave this to the last minute and get your applications in to Bob Prescott soon.

The dinner is on 24th February at the Wayfarer Hotel in Wimbledon; cost £28 per person



Ex-member of 2nd Morden

Ted Gulliver was a member of the 2nd Morden from 1940 - 1947. He is living in Australia but has been in contact with the District to ask if there is anyone who remembers him and would like to get in touch. He would like to reminisce about the activities in Arras Avenue and camping at Burgh Heath.

Ted can be contacted at egulliver@smartchat.net.au

Band

It is not so long since we heard that our Scout Band was really struggling but a Leader from the Mitcham end of the District reports that their performance at the Remembrance Day service was excellent. Congratulations to everyone concerned.

Badges

As Bob says in his report, Mary White's health has forced her to give up as Badge Secretary. The job is currently being covered by Lesley Bixby and she can be contacted on 020 8542 2017 or by email lesleyanddave.bixby@btopenworld.com

The new Beaver badges have been on order since the middle of October, when they were due to become available, but unfortunately they have not yet been delivered. The other badges listed in last month's newsletter are now in stock.

Sets of the new Centenary badges can now be purchased at the Store £4.

Please note that the badges will not be available at the Store on 11 January or 8 February. If you need anything urgently on either of those weeks, please contact Kath McLauchlan.

Store

The store will be closed on 21 December, 28 December and 4 January

New: ink-jet compatible certificates for Chief Scout's Silver Award and Moving On - £3 for a pack of 10.

Special offer: Knots and their Uses - Pack Of 50 Cards rrp 7.99 cost £5.99

Don't forget all your Centenary souvenirs can be ordered through the Store.

Appointments Committee (September - November 06)

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have had their warrants approved:

Lisa Eales	SL	4 th Morden;
Andrew Edmonds	ASL	20 th Mitcham;
Rebecca Gregg	ABSL	19 th Wimbledon;
Laurence Harvey	ASL	8 th Morden;
Anna Hurst	GSL	11 th Mitcham;
Mark Steed	ACSL	19 th Wimbledon;
Evelyn Steele	AGSL	1 st Lower Morden;

Cancelled Warrants:

Colin Stubbs - SL - 8th Morden

Section Reports

Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara ADC (CS)



11 packs attended the **Handicraft** day on November 19th, which was won by the 20th Mitcham, well done to them. Thank you to all the Leaders who helped on the day and a special thank you to Will Smith, Mark Gales & Colin Pullen for all the time they put into preparing the materials needed for the day. Also, thank you to our 2 judges Muriel Treagust and John Young for undertaking such a daunting task.

Next event for the Cubs is the **badge day** on January 28th at Bow Lane, if you haven't indicated yet that your Pack would like to attend, can you please let me know a.s.a.p. and advise whether they wish to attend in the morning or afternoon.

Cub Leaders' Christmas meal is planned for 5th January at Park Place, all are welcome. If you wish to attend, please contact Brian Beckley before Christmas to book your place.

County Chief Scout Silver Award Celebration - to be held in February: please let Graham Fairclough have the names of any eligible Cubs within the next 2 weeks.

I hope you are all thinking up activity ideas for next year's District camp, I need these to be sent to me by next week at the very latest.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you all for the work you have done with your Packs and within the District this year and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Scout Network - Chris Dean (CSNC)

NETWORK

Scout Network activities for the remainder of the year are as follows - and I hope they will be well supported:

December 13 - **Meeting at the County Training Centre**, Bow Lane Morden (8pm) to plan the County Scout Network Expedition to Nepal in 2008 or 2009. All are welcome including Explorer Scouts over the age of 16.

Census

The census will be distributed to GSLs as soon as it becomes available. Section Leaders are asked to co-operate and get their figures and other details in to their GSLs as quickly as possible. The returns must be handed in at the GSLs' meeting on 22nd January.

The membership fee remains unchanged this year: £24 per person if paid before or on 22nd January; £24.50 after that date.

The new centenary scarves will be distributed that night, based on the census figures.

GLSW & Surrey Scout Paragliding Club

We have the following course dates for next year

Over 14's course dates:

17th 31st March, 28th 29th April, 12th 19th 20th May, 2nd 16th 17th June, 14th 15th July, 8th 9th 22nd 23rd September

Under 14's days

18th March, 1st April, 13th May, 3rd June

If you require a booking form you can get it by emailing Simon Sykes on sykeso.paff@virgin.net or by ringing our booking secretary Dot Short on 0208 684 4421.

NEW MEMBERS

We are also looking to recruit up to 10 new members who are Over 14 (no upper age limit) as of April 2007; they will receive free training during the year and help with courses. We will be running 2 weekends next year dedicated to training these new members and existing members: this, hopefully, will mean that, by the end of the year, they will be able to represent the club at the Scout National Accuracy Championships in September, where we have a very good record of winning the National Trophies. (Currently we hold 6 of the 7 Trophies).

For more details about joining this group of 10, please email Simon Sykes on sykeso.paff@virgin.net with membership in the subject line. All new members will have to become members of the BHPA, our governing body, at their own cost; other than that, all training for the year and flights will be free. This will be first come first served basis so first 10 members to sign up with the BHPA will receive the free training.

Hall required

Cliff Condon has details of a local Religious Group who are looking for a hall for a regular booking on Wednesday and Sundays. If you think this could be a useful find raiser, contact Cliff on 020 8540 5115 to discuss.

A decorative poster for a Christmas Fair. It features a central wreath with a white star in the middle, surrounded by dark leaves and berries. The wreath is flanked by two large, dark bows. The entire scene is framed by a thin black border. In the bottom corners, there are small illustrations of holly leaves and berries. The text is centered and reads:

20th Mitcham Scout Group
Christmas Fair
Saturday 16th December

The Community Centre
South Lodge Avenue, Mitcham

1.30pm

Admission 25p

Training

26 th November	Module 13 Module 8 Module 9	Growing the Movement Skills of Leadership Working with Adults
10 th December	Module 7 Module 17	Valuing Diversity Activities Outdoors
2007		
21 st January	Module 12 Module 18	Providing a Balanced Programme Practical Skills
4 th February	Module 14 Module 15	Young People Today Challenging Behaviour
11 th February	Module 25	GSLs/Commissioners (all day)
4 th March	Module 8 Module 9 Module 13	Skills of Leadership Working with Adults Growing the Movement

The following Modules are proposed and await confirmation. Contact Joan Condon for details.

4 th and 5 th November	Modules 20-26	Managers' Modules
23 rd -25 th March	Module 16	Nights Away

All at **Bow Lane Centre**, Bow Lane, Morden.

First module on date is morning; last module on date is afternoon. Please check middle modules with your Local Training Manager.

First Aid Training: Ring Janet Drinkall 020 8669 4774 for information
28th January at Sutton DHQ
11th March at Hounslow: both cost £15.

Janet may be able to come to your Group HQ if you have 16+ needing a first aid course.
Gilwell Park are running various training sessions - full information on website.

Applications can be made as follows:

- If you are re-visiting a module as ongoing learning, via GSL to Joan Condon
- If you have a training advisor please go via them to Brian Beckley.

Please contact either Joan Condon or Brian Beckley if you have any queries.

South West London Gang Show

Our Producer, Andrew Hayward, each year tells the cast that we always promise them, especially the young ones, that we would give them the best week of their lives... and we didn't disappoint them again at this year's show.

We, again, put on a very varied show, full of fun and laughter, song and dance... and did it very professionally.

I can do little more than include the review that appeared in 'The Guide' (Croydon Advertiser Group of Newspapers) written by Peter Steptoe who gave us a 4 Star rating.

"Gang show: Souwest '06 'The Guide' Nov 3 2006 Secombe Theatre, Sutton

I suppose I had thought that gang shows were things of the past, but here I discovered they still are brimming over with verve and vitality.

Under producer Andrew Hayward, this one ran to time, no item was too long and the costumes were superb.

I loved the Can-Can, and if I hadn't been banned by age I would have felt like joining in.

The chorus-singing was excellent and the result of many rehearsal hours, so plaudits for music director Jason Edge.

The singing and costumes in the item Black and White moved me greatly and I was amused by the Rules of the Pool and the lovely lady in the itsy-bitsy bikini.

A Tale of Two Cities was cleverly done and the scenery effectively indicated London and Paris.

To nit-pick I would say that the dialogue should have been sharper with better groupings for the cast. Some sound amplification would also help for young voices which could not always be heard.

But on the whole, it was a great evening.

Peter Steptoe"

2007 we will not only be celebrating 100 years of Scouting but 75 years of Gang Show and 25 years of the South West London Gang Show. We promise you a great show. Work has already started on it and if you wish to be part of it then send me, Terry Mitchell, 18 Wren Court, 85 Coombe Road, Croydon, CRO 5SP, your details. Your name, address, telephone number, date of birth (you must be 9 years old by 1st October 2007), your Scout Group or Guide Unit and an A5 stamped addressed envelope and details of the auditions will be sent to you. Audition dates are Sundays 25th February, 4th & 11th March 2007 (you will only have to attend one) and will be held at St John's Church Hall, Northdown Road, Belmont.

Terry Mitchell Chairman, South West London Gang Show