



Another year has gone and this one has been a very special year for us all, whatever our role in Scouting. Anyone who has been at any of the Centenary events will remember them forever - from the youngest Beaver who attended the Centenary camp, to the oldest supporter at the Sunrise ceremony plus, of

course, all those who had any part in the Jamboree either as a participant, IST member or visitor.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, a peaceful, prosperous and exhilarating New Year with good Scouting.



There will not be an issue of Links at the beginning of January. The next edition will come out on 31st January and copy date will be **24th January**.

Links Editor

Lesley Bixby

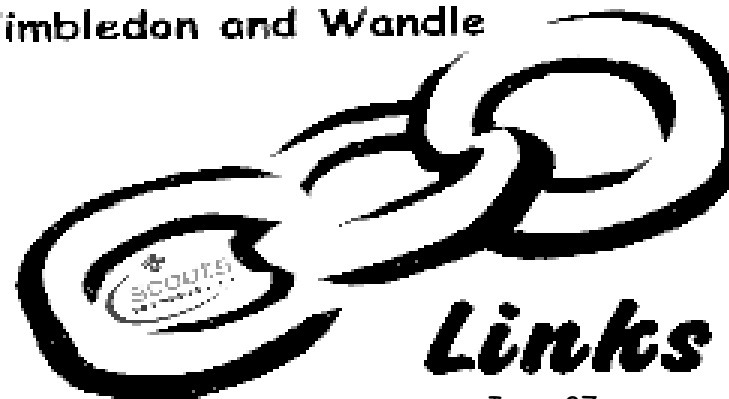
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Wimbledon and Wandle



Links

Issue 37

December 07 - January 08

Dec	3	All Leaders' Quiz	Atlasta Hall 8pm
	6	Last night of Store	
	8	Carol Concert	St John's Church
Jan	9	Pack Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
	10	District Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
	14	District Team	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
	16	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
	21	GSLs' Census meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
	27	Cubs' Scientist Badge Day	1 st Lower Morden HQ
	30	All Leaders' Meeting	Kenneth Black 8pm
Feb	3	Scout handball competition	Garden Primary School
Tbc	3	GLSW Scouts cooking competition	
	5	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
	6	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
	17	Cubs 'Now Get Out of That'	22 nd Wimbledon HQ



District Commissioner

Our centenary year draws to a close and what a year it has been. I am certain that all the events provided in the District's Centenary programme were first class. This was my main target so that everyone who came would have some memories of really good well supported events. The jewel in the crown was of course our Centenary camp and the memories will live long as also the galvanising effect on Wimbledon and Wandle District. I am certain our young people will have memories to take with them and share with their grandchildren in many years to come.

I was a guest of the Mayor at the firework spectacular at Morden Park, which was dedicated to the Centenary of Scouting. It was a tremendous advert for Scouting in front of thousands of people and probably provided the best bit of advertising we have achieved all year.

My thanks to young people from 2nd and 5th Morden and to Dave Bixby for helping contribute to the content of the show.

We fast approach census time and my guess is that we will grow significantly again. During January we will be re-starting not one but two Scout Troops, the 2nd Morden and the 5th Morden. This is fantastic news and we wish them and their new Leaders every success in the coming months ahead.

Alison Edwards has been appointed by the County as our new Local Training Manager and we wish Alison every success in the role. She will need the support of everyone as she begins to grapple with the problems.

Following the changes to the Network structure we will be starting our very own Network Unit. There is much work to be done and I will be making some changes in the District Team to reflect this. I hope to be able to announce this at the All Leaders Meeting Wednesday 30th January.

Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey

We spent a very enjoyable evening, once again, at our recent Beetle Drive. Thanks to Jean for organising.



Our next event will be our New Year Meal on Saturday, 12th January 2008. Details re venue and times are to follow.

Looking forward, please note that our A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 18th March 2008, at the Wandle D.H.Q.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the All Leaders Quiz on Monday 3rd December at Atlasta Hall and at the General Leaders Meeting on 30th January 2008 at the Wimbledon D.H.Q.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Tents

The tents used by the GLSW Jamboree contingent have been donated to the Districts and Wimbledon and Wandle now has four of these domes, which are probably most suitable for use by older Scouts and Explorers. If your Troop or Unit would like to borrow them, please contact Brian Whalebone on 020 8330 2088, 07775 654164 or email: b.whalebone@btopenworld.com.

Badges - Lesley Bixby

Further to my request for help in last month's Links, several people offered but one of the first was Mia Patterson, who will cover the two weeks I am away in at the beginning of February. Thank you, Mia.

If you have ordered badges recently but not collected them, please come and get them as soon as possible, as I can't keep them specially for you beyond stock take and they will go back into stock.

May I be the 1st to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Explorer Scouts Young Leaders - Liz Laverick

I have had a couple of offers of help to support the Young Leaders with their training and to observe them with the young people at their section meetings, which is fantastic.



At the County Meeting on the 18th November I met the other Explorer Leaders for Young Leaders for GLSW. What is happening is very exciting and we can tap into and join the training sessions in the other districts. Something is being planned for early in the New Year so I need names, please!

The problem is obtaining a database of all Explorers working as Young Leaders. No one has sent me an email, phoned me or posted me any information whatsoever! It is going to be extremely difficult for me to get to any Beaver Section meetings because of the hours that I work; Cubs will also be quite difficult so I need **all** of you to help me.

I have therefore attached the original application form, which Neil distributed. I have altered the contact details so that the information can be emailed, posted or phoned to me. I will accept direct applications from the Young Leaders themselves, the Section Leaders of the Groups they work with or if they are registered with an Explorer Unit their Explorer Leader. It does not matter if I end up with several applications for one Young Leader.

*It is very important at this time as the census is due that we have the names and details of all our Young Leaders especially the ones who do not pay membership to another Explorer Unit. If they have **no membership they have no insurance** and if an accident should happen there is no cover. **They will not be supported by the Scout Association.** They themselves cannot claim on the Group's insurance and if the accident occurs to a third party that young person (their family) or yourselves will be personally liable. These rules are not new they have never been covered. Please be safe not sorry and send me their details.*

Joe Saxton will be talking to us at the All Leaders' Meeting about how young people think and feel today and I promise you that it really should not be missed.

GSLs' please get your application for the County Conference in very soon. The closing date is 13th December. The cost will be carried by the District.

And finally my thanks to everyone for making this Centenary Year very special. I would like to wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Bob

Appointments Committee - Joan Burgess

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

Stephen Grogan (AESL) Edge Hill Unit;
Mike Edwards (GSL) 1st Morden;
Paul Cunningham (ACSL) 14th Wimbledon;
Frank Collinge (CSL) 14th Wimbledon;
Lisa Poulton (ABSL) 16th Morden;
Brian Percival (ACSL) 16th Morden.;
Elizabeth Strutt (ACSL) 19th Wimbledon;
Amy Honor (ASL) 22nd Wimbledon,

2 Provisional Certificates have been issued, 4 Worker Certificates and 6 cancellations.

Our thanks and appreciation are sent to all Groups who are helping us keep the records up to date, and we wish you all a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas break.

Membership fees and Census return

The census will be distributed as soon as it is available and must be returned at the GSLs' meeting on **21st January**, along with the membership fee of **£24.50** per head.

If your census is late, or not accompanied by a cheque, the fees will increase by 50p to £25 per person.

Accounts

In the July copy of Links, you were reminded that a copy of your Group accounts must be forwarded to John Young, District Treasurer, 14 Wandle Bank, SW19 1DW within two weeks of your AGM. Half the Groups in the District have not complied with this.

This is not optional: POR 3.48.h is quite clear on this and rule 3.48.i states that the County or HQ can also request a copy.

Please ensure that your accounts are with John by Christmas to provide him with some light reading over the festive season!

Group Asset Register

Every Group is required to produce an Asset Register in accordance with current POR and Charity Commission requirements. A pro-forma can be downloaded from the District or County websites.

Jack Petchey Awards

Congratulations to the following:

Sept 2007:	Lara-Jane Sharpe	Merton Park ESU
	Cameron Archer	3rd Mitcham
Oct 2007:	Andrew Dobson	5th Morden
	Matthias Edwards	1st Morden
Nov 2007:	Cameron Barnes	6/12th Mitcham
	Paula Brotherton	Raynes Park ESU

Scouts - Dave Bixby

My thanks go to the **6/12th** for their hospitality at our last Leaders' meeting.

With the business over in 40 minutes, we could settle to the important part of the meeting. The curry they supplied was excellent and gave a nice, social end to a hectic year. It was a pity that England could not rise to the occasion against Croatia, to really round off the evening.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to **Alan Haskell**, an experienced SL from Salisbury, who is going to head up the re-opening of the 2nd Morden Troop in January and to **Deborah Carter**, who is taking on the new Troop at the 5th Morden. Please give them all your support.

Any Troop intending to take part in the **Handball competition** on 3rd February **needs to contact Gary Baker, SL, 23rd Mitcham by 5th January** - 020 8764 2882 or garybaker75@hotmail.com. Cost of entry will depend on the number of teams entering but will not be more than £10 per team. Details of rules and previous competitions are on the District website but, as always, if you need a hard copy just let me know and I will get one to you.

As we look forward to 2008, we face a big challenge to make the most of the publicity generated this year and deliver the expectations of the Scouts in our care. If you need help or support, please don't hesitate to contact us - Tim, Dave H or myself.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and an exciting and fulfilling New Year.

Explorer Scouts - Neil McLauchlan

Our next Leaders' Meeting is on December 5th at Merton Park HQ (probably in the Church Hall) 8.00pm start.

A reminder that Keith & John will need all Unit's accounts forms Jan - Dec 2007 asap in January. These need to be supported by bank statements, cash books, receipts etc. Also in January we will need lists of members together with the Membership subscription by late January, exact date to follow.



ALL LEADERS' MEETING

Kenneth Black Memorial Hall
Worples Road, Wimbledon

Wednesday 30th January 2008

The evening will include

Words of wisdom from our new
County Commissioner
Ian Newbery

Joe Saxton: "Typical Young People"

Jamboree report back
Andrew Hayward and Joe Rogerson

Kenya - Merton Park ESU

Training - Roger Hurrion

Presentations - Bob Presott

GLSW Explorer Mountain Weekend Snowdonia 26th-28th October 2007

We [15 Explorers and 4 Leaders from Mitcham and Raynes Park] got to our HQ on Friday and loaded our stuff in the two vans and off we went - 6 hours in the van. We sang along to music and then by the last 2 hours most of us were sleeping. When we finally got there it was dark and when we got into the hut we were staying at, the other van was already there. We pretty much went straight to bed (or that's what the Leaders thought) and the next thing we knew it was time to wake up (7 AM!), have breakfast and then get ready for the hike. We got into our groups and checked we had all the right stuff and off we went. This hike was more challenging than the Brecon Beacons, one reason being because the closer we got to the top, the windier it got. We went up and up until we were at the top [999m or 3,250 ft!!] and we had lunch under a tent-like thing (that's a Bothy bag - Ed) that you pull over you and sit on. And with no time wasted, we made our way back down and I think it's safe to say we all tripped over or got pushed by the wind at least twice. We then drove back to our hut and had nice warm showers. After dinner we had a slideshow about the Jamboree of the summer just gone, and then we had some games/challenges and got ready for bed. The next day, before making our way back, we went rock climbing, which provided many funny pictures. So we then got in our vans and went home and slept and slept and slept and slept and slept.

By Chiara Nunzet

The Band at the Lord Mayor's Show

Over 120 talented young musicians from Scout and Guide Bands in South West London joined together for the first time in 25 years to form a Massed Band in this year's Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London on Saturday 10 November.

County Band Adviser Dave Gould, who co-ordinated the project, said "I was so proud of the young people, the bandmasters and their assistants who worked so hard as a team to pull this off. I'm sure that every Scout and Guide who lined the streets of London, or watched us on the television, will agree that we did Scouting and Guiding proud with a smart and polished performance all the way".

Section reports

Beavers - Julia Doolan

The fun Activity Day in October went well and even the weather was kind to us, so that we could do activities outside. Thank you to everyone that helped out on the day.

There is a County Skills Day being held at Walton Firs and open to all Leaders on Saturday 15th March 2008.- Something to think about!!

Would anyone like to go out for a meal in January or February 2008 to socialise? Please contact Julia Doolan, Clare Tweedley or Hilary Mavin.

We would just like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara

Firstly: congratulations to the 2nd Morden for winning the handicraft competition.

Leaders' Christmas dinner - is planned for January 4th at Park Place for all Leaders and helpers, please call Mia Patterson by December 20th if you wish to attend.

Next CSL meeting - will be at 22nd Wimbledon HQ, on January 9th, please bring with you a game to share with the other Leaders.

Scientist Badge day - 27th January at County Base. If you weren't at the last CSL meeting I need to know by the 14th December, which Packs are intending to come, estimated nos. and what bases the Leaders are prepared to run. Cost £1.50 per Cub payable on the day. Details have been sent to all CSL's.

Please note: the times detailed in the letter sent to CSL's re scientist badge are incorrect, they should read:
morning session 9.30 - 12.30 and afternoon session 13.30 -16.30

Finally to all Leaders and Helpers may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy Christmas.



Mini-buses

Does your Group own a mini bus?

Are you happy to let other Groups use it?

It has been suggested that a list be compiled of Groups who own Mini-buses, along with details of who to contact, should you be in need of extra transport when organising a camp. A good place to advertise the details would be Links so if Groups who are prepared to loan out their minibus could give the details to Lesley, a list could be published in the new year.



District Store

Don't forget the Store will be closing for Christmas on 6th December and re-opening on 10th January.

Brian has a very good line in slightly used air-beds at £10 each in stock, plus a few Jamboree scarves that were ordered but not collected, so if you would like a new one as a souvenir, please contact him.

Training

The training dates for 2008 have not yet been confirmed and will be published as soon as they are available.

Merton Council's Fireworks Display

The early evening Firework display in Morden Park on 3rd November was on a Scouting theme. The event started with Campfire's Burning as a number of Cubs from the 2nd and 5th Morden Packs entered the arena with burning torches, under the very watchful eye of their Leaders. Once the bonfire had burned down the fireworks were let off accompanied by the music that has been heard round camp fires and at Gang Shows for the past hundred years. It was a fine, chilly evening and, as Bob says in his report, an excellent advert for Scouting. A big thank you to Cliff Iles of Merton Council, who promoted this to celebrate our centenary year.



Wimbledon and Wandle Young Leader



Application Form

Group	
Section	
Name	
Gender	
Date of birth	
Address	
Home phone	
Mobile	

Please complete and email back to
liz.laverick03@hotmail.com or post to
Liz Laverick
13 Stanley Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 6EW
Tel: 020 8605 1401 M: 07786 334 386