

"Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

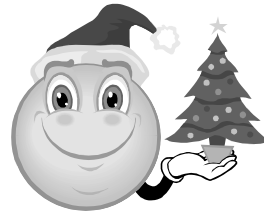
To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect."

Oren Arnold



May you all have a very happy Christmas
and I wish everyone a fantastic New Year.

Copy Date for the next edition of Links will be on Thursday 28th January.

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Wimbledon and Wandle



December 2009/January 2010
Issue 58

Dec 6	County Orienteering	Happy Valley, Coulsdon
10	Last night of Store before Christmas	
12	Morden Park Choral Soc. Carol Concert	St John the Devine
14	Troop Scouters' Christmas meal	Park Place
Jan 6	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
8	Cub Scout Leaders' Christmas meal	The Mill House
9	Fellowship New Year meal	Prince of Wales
14	Store re-opens	
16	Scout store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	Census meeting for GSL/ESLs	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
23/24	Jamboree selections (details tbc)	Bow Lane
27	All Leaders' Meeting	Kenneth Black DHQ
31	Scouts' Handball Competition	Garden Primary School 10am
31	Cubs' Badge Day	Bow Lane
Feb 6	Scout store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
7	GLSW Scouts' Cooking Competition	1 st Hook HQ
9	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

District Commissioner

If evidence were needed of the vibrancy of Scouting in our District, then the activities of the last month would easily provide it. The Gang Show, the Scouts' Incident Hike, the Cubs' Handicraft Day [not to mention the Beavers' wholesale invasion of RAF Hendon!], together with any number of weekend camps/sleepovers/hikes/bonfires and fund-raising events organized by a host of dedicated Leaders, enabled our scouts to live the adventure as the winter nights began to draw in.

Below you will see our Aims for the next five years and our short term Objectives that have been discussed by the Leadership Team and the GSLs during the past month. These give us straightforward parameters within which to develop our sections and to focus that development in order that we not only grow the Movement, but also continue to improve our delivery of Scouting throughout our District.

Within the key area of 14+ provision, the seedbed of our future leaders, an opportunity is now available for the setting up of Explorer Units wherever there is a need. Included in this issue of Links you will find a set of criteria, which can be used as an action plan to go about starting a Unit. If this is something that appeals to you, do not hesitate to start the ball rolling by having a chat with Paul Henderson [contact details in the Directory].

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and I look forward to meeting you at the Census Evening on 20th January or the All Leaders' Meeting on 27th January (or both!).

Joe

- These will need to be presented at the Morden DHQ on Wednesday 20th January from 7:45pm. Joe also assures me there may be some drinks and nibbles to entice you in to the DHQ on a cold winter's night in January. Please ensure you do not miss this deadline. I will also circulate round to all ESLs the format which the accounts will also need to be presented. Please let me know if this causes any problems for anyone.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Scout Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey

Thank you to Jean Gould for organising our Beetle Drive on Wednesday 25th November - we had a very enjoyable, if noisy, time - two young ladies will certainly be banned from sitting together again and we are planning to buy John Smith an abacus!



Help is required for the annual Carol Concert at St John the Divine, High Path, Merton, on Saturday 12th December. If you can help either at the afternoon or evening concert please let Brian Whalebone know a.s.a.p. (Tel. No. 8330 2088)

Next year starts with our New Year Meal on Saturday 9th January 2010. We shall be going to the Prince of Wales in Cheam - 7 for 7.30 p.m. Please let David Gould know, as soon as possible, whether you would like to go as places are limited (Tel. No. 8395 1885)

We hope everyone has a very happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing all members at Fellowship events in 2010.

Scout Report - Dave Bixby



Incident Hike - the event was blessed with near perfect weather and, with 14 teams taking part, everyone seemed to have a great day. My thanks go to everyone who helped on the day but particularly to Paul Atkins and Andy Edmonds for all their efforts in planning the event. Congratulations to the 1st Lower Morden for coming first and to the 22nd A and C teams who came second and third.

Handball 2010 - don't forget, with all that's going on at Christmas, that the Handball competition is on 31 January (it's closer than you think!). Entries to me by 24 January please.

Patrol Leaders' Training Course - this will take place at Bow Lane 5-7 March 2010. Details are in the Red Book. Applications for places to me by 5 February please.

Scout Scouters' Christmas Meal, 14 December at Park Place - don't forget, if you would like to join us there are just a few days left to grab a place. Please email thebixbys@talktalk.net or call me 07889 598960.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone who works with or supports the Scout Section a very happy and peaceful Christmas with my best wishes for an exciting and fulfilling New Year.

Explorer Scouts - Paul Henderson



Hopefully by the time you have read this email several teams of Explorer Scouts from Wimbledon and Wandle would have competed in and completed the County Explorer Scout night hike. Similarly the County orienteering competition might have just taken place, with I hope, a good turn out from the Explorer section. In the next Links I will bring you these tales of triumph and toil. If you are not getting information on these County run activities then do let me know.

Also, an early reminder that all units need to prepare various items for the Census meeting in the New Year. These are as follows:

- Full accounts for 1st Jan - 31st Dec 2008
- Current list of Members & Leaders
- Membership payment cheque for all members & leaders

Development Aims 2010-2015

People: An ever increasing number of skilled, qualified adults

Programme: All scouts benefiting from high quality, well resourced, balanced programmes

Places: Scouting taking place in safe, welcoming, fit-for-purpose halls/HQs in Groups that have a secure income

Development Objectives 2010 [Groups]

Every Group has a Group Development Plan in Place to be Published at the Group Agm 2010

- People:**
1. Targeted recruitment strategy in GDP by Group AGM 2010
 2. All Leaders' basic training up-to-date by Group AGM 2010
 3. All CRBs current by Group AGM 2010.

Programme:

1. Programme improvement strategy in GDP by Group AGM 2010
2. All Sections have a current outline programme in place by Group AGM 2010

- Places:**
1. Premises improvement strategy in GDP by Group AGM 2010
 2. System for claiming Gift Aid in place by Group AGM 2010
 3. All Group/Section accounts signed off by auditor/examiner by Group AGM 2010

Criteria for the Opening Of New Explorer Units

1. A suitable leader who undertakes to obtain an ESL warrant
2. 10 Scouts of Explorer age OR any number of Scouts, with evidence that there is a realistic possibility of achieving a minimum of 10 explorers within 18 months
3. Evidence that it would be reasonable to judge that numbers are sustainable over time
4. An outline programme for the first year of operation
5. An outline Development Plan for the first 3 years of operation, including recruitment of an AESL
6. *Agreement from the DESC that 1-5 above are in place*
7. A Partnership Agreement that is ready for signing by the ESL and the host GSL
8. Paperwork in place to open a unit bank account with a minimum of three signatories (to include the District Treasurer)
9. An undertaking by the designated leader that (s)he will submit accounts using the District template
10. *Agreement from the DDC that 7-9 above are in place*
11. Recommendation from DDC to DC for approval
12. DC approval
13. Unit starts operating

If you want to be involved in starting up a new Unit please contact Paul Henderson at paul.w.r.henderson@btopenworld.com to discuss the possibilities.

Activity Day - 3rd October 2010 - Bow Lane.

As this is the last Links of this year, I would like to especially thank my DBSLs - Clare Tweedley and Julia Doolan for all the help and support they have given me and to Linda Vaudrey who takes the meeting minutes and acts as a coordinator. My thanks also go to all the other people who have also supported me so far.

Finally, on behalf of all the District's Beavers, I would like to thank **ALL** of the Beaver Leaders and helpers, and the parents who have assisted and supported the various Colonies throughout the year - helping make Beavers (and Scouting) **FUN**.

And, with Christmas now very near I'd like to wish you and your families all a happy and joyous time, and please pass on my best wishes to your Beavers. My thanks for the time you've given to the young people in your care, and here's to a successful and fun filled 2010!

Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara

Handicraft Competition - Thanks to all the leaders and adults who helped with this competition in whatever capacity. A very noisy and hopefully enjoyable day was had by all and the cubs went home with some interesting crafts. The winners of the competition were the 19th Wimbledon (Oakwood), 2nd - 8th Morden, 3rd - 6/12th Mitcham. Full results are available on the Wimbledon & Wandle website.



Badge Day - Thanks to the 22nd Wimbledon offering alternative accommodation to the county for their first aid course, the badge day is now back on course at Bow Lane on January 31st. I will be sending out details and asking for volunteers for bases in the near future so that we can finalise arrangements at the next CSL meeting in January.

Christmas Meal - this will be held at the Mill House, Windmill Road, Mitcham - I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally may I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and New Year and thank you all for the effort you put into Scouting, week in week out.

Section reports

Beaver Scouts - Kevin Quigley

Hello everybody. The key news this month is the wonderful visit we had to the RAF Museum during November. 126 Beavers and 40 Leaders and helpers boarded the 3 coaches during a monsoon on the morning of the 14th to wend our way to Hendon. Arrival at the Museum was a little hectic, but the various Colonies with their leaders in tow were soon spread throughout the Museum, all working on their Air Activities Badge, which were presented by a 'Staff Sergeant' at the end of the day in front of the large Bomber.



Everybody had a good time, and apart from a few 'wobbly tummies' all were well. My thanks go to all of the Leaders and helpers who made the day possible, and especially to those who helped me with the organisation and running of the day. And thanks also to our DC Joe who turned up Saturday morning to see us safely off.

As to other news, whilst I missed the Regional Development Day at Gilwell due to the dreaded 'swine flue' (caught on a coach load of Beavers???) I have been given the presentations to look at. One thing we need to consider in the New Year is the link between our Colonies and the Cub Packs. In advance, please think about how your Colony passes your Beavers up to Cubs.

Dates for the next year's meetings are in the recent meeting minutes (copied below) that Linda Vaudrey has circulated - if you haven't got a copy, please let me or Linda know (Kevin.quigley@naismiths.co.uk or William.Vaudrey@btinternet.com) and our first meeting is to be a meal on Wednesday, 20th January 2010 - at Frankie and Benny's - please let Peter Wraight know, a.s.a.p. whether you will be attending. (E-mail address for Peter is six12beavers@hotmail.co.uk)

Meeting dates (all Wednesdays) for 2010 are: - 17th March; 19th May; 21st July; 15th September and 17th November.

Other dates for the diary are: -

Bike/Scooter Ride - Sunday 28th March 2010 - Morden Hall DHQ /National Trust.

Appointments Committee (October - November 2009) - Joan Burgess

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

David Anthony	ASL	23 Mitcham;
Laurence McCron	ASL	14 Wimbledon;
James Hickson	AESL	Raynes Park Unit;
Ashleigh Cadman	ABSL	1 Lower Morden;
Gemma Bruton	ASL	23 Mitcham.

We have also issued 3 Group Supporter Certificates.

Following the recent letter from Ian Newbery to all Groups - thank you to all those who have responded. It is essential that everyone in the District has current CRB Clearance. If you know you have not completed a form contact your GSL immediately.

CRBs at the moment are valid for 5 years but don't forget renewals need to be put in before the current one expires. Leaders changing roles within the District do not need a new CRB providing they hold a current one.

GSLs: We put together a pack of forms with covering Summary Sheet for the recent District Conference. If you were not at the Conference but would like to receive a pack please let me know.

New Year's Parade

Merton Council always enter a float in the New Year Parade through central London. For this year's event they are looking to borrow 14 slings/buckets to hold flags - can anyone help, please? Dave Gould is liaising between the Float builders and the District so please contact him on baldygouldy@hotmail.co.uk or 020 8395 1885 if you could lend them a flag bucket for the day.

Goldman Sachs Community Teamworks Programme

Could you make use of 20 volunteers for a day next summer? Does your Headquarters need an overhaul? Perhaps the grounds need clearing and everything needs a coat of paint . . . if so, Goldman Sachs may be the people you need. Contact Lynn Hays at lynn.hays@scout.org.uk with your project ideas by 18 December 2009 and you may be one of the lucky ones.

District Directory

A new District Directory is available to download in PDF format - a copy can be requested through the District website.

Census meeting - 20th January 2010

Group Scout Leaders and Explorer Scout Leaders are reminded that their census must be in by the meeting on 20th January in Morden Hall DHQ, together with the cheque for their membership fees. Don't forget it will cost you 50p per head extra if you miss the payment date.

Daisy Pulls It Off

Details have already been circulated to GSLs about this great play with an anti-bullying message which will take place at The Arts Theatre in Great Newport Street London WC2H 7JB, from 19th January to 6th February 2010. Reduced price tickets for Youth Groups can be purchased from the Box Office 0845 017 5584 or www.seetickets.com.

District Store

The Store will open on the following Saturdays in 2010 between 10am and 12 noon:

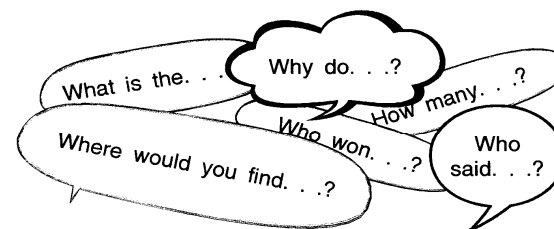
16 th January	6 th February
6 th and 20 th March	1 st and 15 th May
19 th June	3 rd and 17 th July
18 th September	2 nd and 16 th October
6 th and 20 th November	4 th December

Special items currently in stock:

Man's fleece new style	£25	XXL
iScout Hoodie	£20	M
Scout Handbook	£8	

Scout Membership Pack consisting of Record Book, Badge Book and Skills cards - £5. These items can be bought separately but cost more.

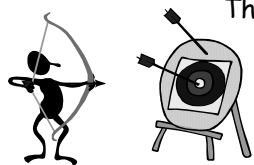
THE SCOUT QUIZ NIGHT



We arrived at the quiz night venue a whole hour early. This was not the result of enthusiasm; Skip had given us the wrong time! Anyway, when we came back a hour later to the 22nd Wimbledon scout hall, the other teams were there. Our team consisted of Lauren, Jenny, Daniel, Greg, Madeleine, and myself. We weren't too confident to begin with, but we soon found that this lack of confidence was unjustified. We whizzed through a variety of different rounds, featuring children's TV shows, National flags, Lateral thinking and news of the week. When the results came, we thought we had come about 3rd or 4th. When we heard there had been a tie for 3rd place, and that we weren't in this tie, we thought we were out of the running. But, despite the bonus round, to try and prevent a tie, we were exultant to find we had drawn 1st place alongside the 22nd Wimbledon! We were closer to the judges' table, so managed to get the trophy. We came home with a sense of pride and success. Despite our doubts, we had done well, and even won the competition!

Matthew Ryan Tucker, 13th Wimbledon

Archery event



The 1st Lower Morden would like to invite the Leaders in the District to a Leaders' Archery Night. It will take place on **Wednesday 3 March 2010** from 8-10pm at their Group HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane, Morden, SM4 4SJ.

The event is being organised so the Leaders in the District can see what is available and whether it would be suitable as an activity for their Pack, Troop or Unit. We can also cater for Scouts who wish to undertake their Master At Arms Badge but the evening is really planned so that the Leaders too 'can have a play'.

There is no charge for this event and all Leaders are welcome. For further information please contact Andrew Hayward (GSL) on andrew.hayward@blueyonder.co.uk or 0797 129 8686.

RSVP to Andrew please, so he has an idea of how many are likely to turn up.

London to Paris Cycle Ride

We have received the following message from **Bob Prescott's** daughter -

"Me and Alex are cycling from London to Paris next May in order to raise money for **"The Cure Parkinson's Trust"**. My Dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 5 years ago, and as a result his life has been greatly affected and he now struggles everyday with tasks that we take for granted. We need to raise £2800 by mid February in order to take part in the event, so any sponsorship no matter how little is very much appreciated!

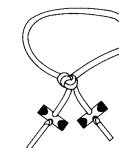
For more info about the charity you can go to <http://www.cureparkinsons.org.uk>

and to donate please visit <http://www.justgiving.co.uk/alisonandalex>

Thanks for your time, and we hope you can help us with this task!"

Training - Alison Edwards

Things have been busy as usual this month. I have processed 3 more wood badges, but unfortunately only one can be awarded at the present time! This is because we are finding that CRBs are expiring (or have not been done) and so the message is clear: no CRB = no wood badge. So well done this month to Dan Sanders of the 13th.



That aside, several people are coming close to finishing and the total for 2009 is now standing at 28, with 2 pending. I am reasonably confident the total will top 30 by Christmas but unfortunately too late for inclusion in Links in 2009. The Explorer section are doing particularly well and in addition to wood badges, 3 AESLs have recently been assessed for greenfield permits this month!

To all of you who have finished your training this year: well done, and congratulations. Hope you wear your wood beads with pride! To those of you awaiting receipt of your certificates and beads, the DC and I are on the case!

I look forward to working with many of you in 2010 either as trainees, leaders or managers. Have a good Christmas and a happy 2010.

Training Dates

Full details of 2010 training can be found on the GLSW website

First Aid

23 rd January	22 nd May	16 th October
13 th February	13 th June	14 th November
21 st March	19 th September	

Mountain Skills weekend

19th - 21st February
7th - 9th May

At Bethesda - contact Ian Tombleson for details - ian.tombleson@glswscouts.org.uk

Module 16 - weekend at Bears Wood

10th March (evening) and 27th-28th March
29th September (evening) and 16th - 17th October

Facebook etc

Conversation after a recent District meeting highlighted how careful we should all be regarding Facebook and other social networking sites. Scouts may approach their Leaders to be their "friends" but Leaders must consider the implications of this - one unfortunate photo could jeopardize their credibility as a suitable person to be in charge of a Colony, Pack, Troop or Unit.

There is an Information Sheet from HQ which can be downloaded from <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/explorer/news/fs330086.pdf> but the main advice to everyone is

- *raise your personal security settings and*
- *don't have young people as "friends".*

Also, if Leaders want to publish photographs of camps etc they must get written permission from all participants.

Trophies

Have you won a trophy recently? If so, please get it to Cliff Condon (34 Arundel Avenue, Morden) and he will arrange for it to be engraved.

Lost!

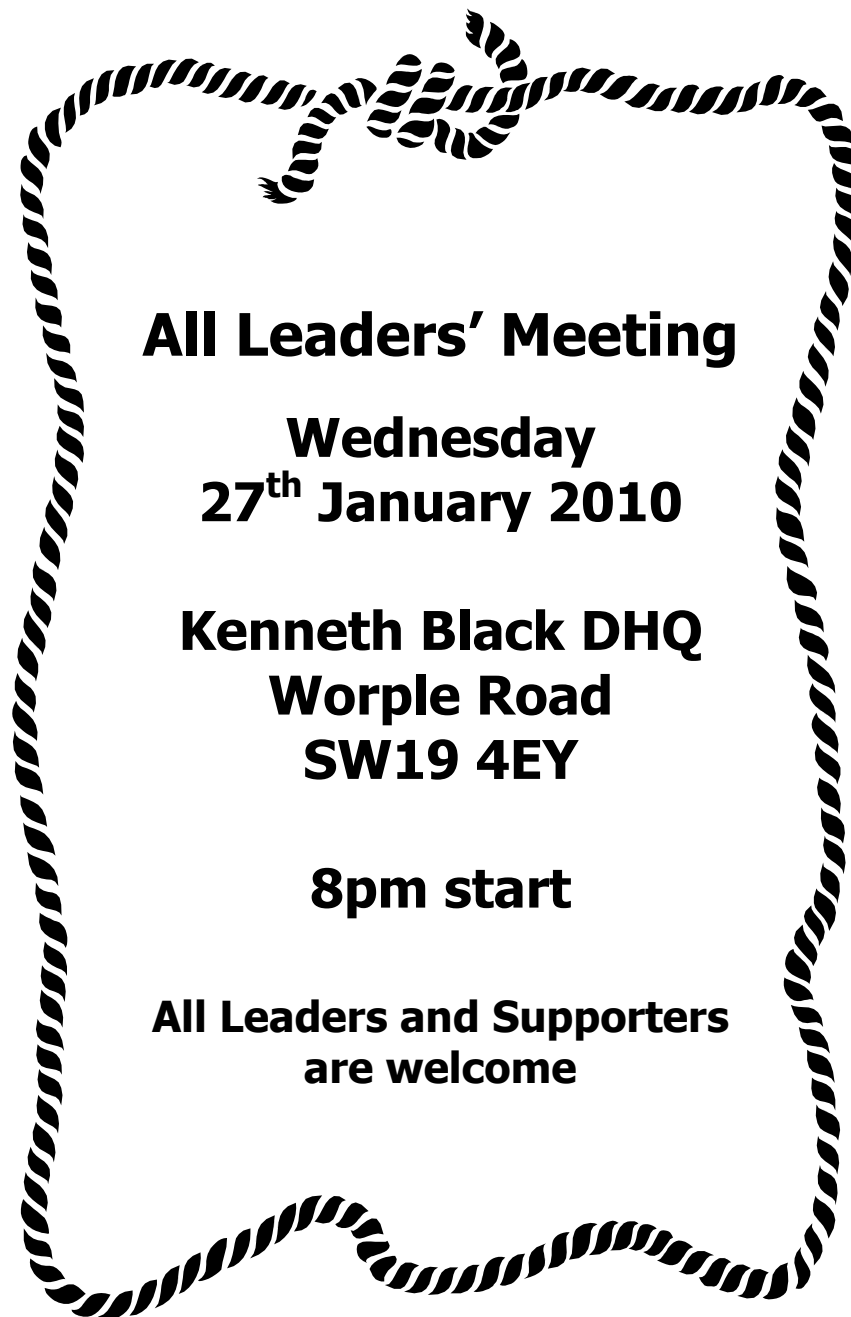
The District owns a pair of Bolt Cutters, which are used by the workparty at the Morden Hall DHQ, but they have gone missing.

Did you borrow them? They are about 2' long and have red handles with black grips.

If they are lurking in the boot of your car or the back of your shed, could you please bring them to DHQ on any Store night? Thank you.

Chaos 2010

Have you registered for next year's County Scout camp? You need to book places for your Troop NOW. Details were in last month's Links but if you would like to go you must let Nigel Waine know before Christmas nigel_j_waine@hotmail.com.



All Leaders' Meeting

**Wednesday
27th January 2010**

**Kenneth Black DHQ
Worple Road
SW19 4EY**

8pm start

**All Leaders and Supporters
are welcome**