

The contingent for the next World Jamboree in Sweden 2011 are having a Christmas Fair
11 December at Sutton DHQ,
Woodcote Road, Wallington
10am to 4pm

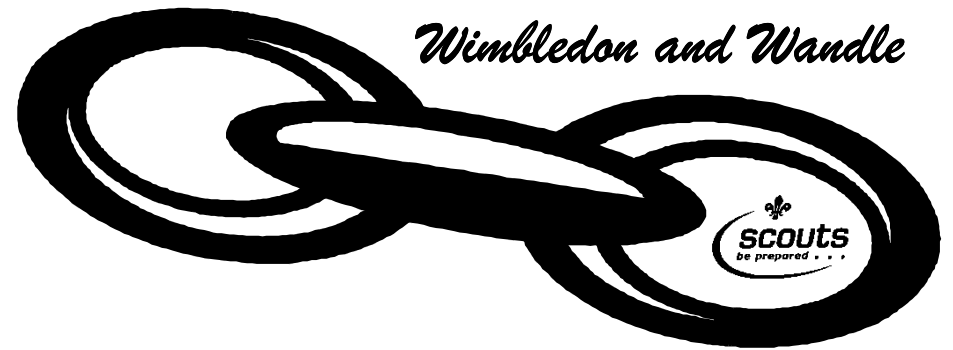
Please support them.



Copy date; there is no newsletter in January so your reports should be with the editor by Thursday 27th January, please.

Happy Christmas, everyone

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Wimbledon and Wandle

Links

December 2010/January 2011 – Issue no. 69

Dec	Last night of District Store	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
9		
11	Carol Concert	St John the Divine 1.45pm and 7.15pm
13	Troop Scouters' Christmas Meal	Park Place 7pm for 7.30pm
15	11 th Mitcham's Carol Concert	SS Peter & Paul Church
Jan	9 Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
12	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
19	Census figures in	Morden Hall DHQ from 7.45pm
19	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Venue tbc 8pm
30	Cub Scientist badge day	1 st Lower Morden HQ
30	Scout Handball	Garden School
Feb	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
2		
5	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
6	County Scout Cooking Competition	1 st Hook
13	Cub Chess competition	tbc
19	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am

District Commissioner

The District Development Plan is now in embryonic form and is on target to be sent out to everyone for consultation early in the New Year as planned. As you would expect, it is straightforward, it revolves around the three key elements of quality Scouting, ie People, Programmes and Places, and its most important element is the facility it will provide to target support to Groups and Units when and where the people "at the sharp end" need it.

You will read in the Section reports below about the Incident Hike, the Handicraft Competition and the Beavers' Activity Day, thanks again to Dave, Michèle, Kevin and the legion of Scouters who made these quality events so worthwhile for so many Scouts. Similarly, although it already seems a long time ago, a big thank-you to the many adults from our District who put so much time and effort into ensuring that Souwest 2010 was such a success.

Remembrance Sunday saw a large number of Scouts and Scouters taking part in both major borough events (in Wimbledon and Mitcham) as well as at other services in their own communities. Our involvement in these activities has increased markedly in recent years and this is to be applauded. I am extremely grateful to the many Scouters who enabled their Scouts to contribute to and to benefit from this important experience, as I am for the quite outstanding contribution that our Band made on the day.

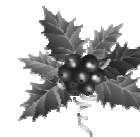
On a more sombre note, one of our Scouts was scalded in an accident at Summer Camp and, as a consequence, you will see below a H&S Alert, which is aimed at focusing our attention on the risk management of activities where such accidents may occur. It is important to stress, however, that we will never prevent every possible accident; we can only manage the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. In the case of this specific accident, it must be added that those on the scene dealt with the incident superbly well.

Finally, congratulations to all the winners of the Jack Petchey award who received medals or certificates at the presentation event in Croydon recently. Everyone present had a great night and all our Scouts were a credit to themselves, to their Groups and to their Leaders.

May I take this opportunity, early as it is, to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Joe

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and we hope to see you all at our events in the New Year.



Carol Concert:

11th Mitcham Scout and Guide Group invite you to their Carol Concert at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Cranmer Road, Mitcham on 15 December at 7pm.

There will be a collection to go toward the 'heating fund' for the Group HQ and refreshments after the concert in the Parish Room.

Everyone is welcome.

South London Concert Band Parish Concert

Tuesday 7 December 2010
St John Fisher Parish hall
Tickets £5

The band has a wide repertoire and plays everything from Queen to The Marriage of Figaro.

Phone 020 8395 4150 for tickets

from last year, so that you can use these going forward. I will also circulate round to all ESLs the format which the accounts will also need to be presented in. Please let me know if this causes any problems for anyone.

Current list of members and leaders including all contact details.

You will also need to have a lot more details on the ethnicity and disability/special needs of your members. More information can be found here (including sample letters for parents/explorers): www.scouts.org.uk/census

Membership payment cheque for all members and leaders. The agreed charge is £26 per explorer and per leader, however, late payment will incur a penalty of 50p per explorer/leader

These will need to be presented at the Morden DHQ on Wednesday 19th January from 7:45pm. (The DC 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.

Also, a future date for your diary is Operation Red Flare, which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2011 and will take place on Saturday 5th March. Operation Red Flare is a competition for teams of 4-7 Explorers, Networkers, Ranger Guides or any combination of the above. It costs £7 per team member and will take place in the Surrey Hills. The event is extremely popular so you will need to book early to avoid disappointment. A team from Wimbledon & Wandle won the overall event this year. Can we do the same again in 2011?

Lastly I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

We recently had our Beetle Drive and Supper which is always a successful evening. Thanks to Jean for organising.



Please do not forget the New Year Meal, at the Prince of Wales, Cheam, on Saturday, 8th January. Get in touch with David Gould, asap, at baldygouldy@hotmail.co.uk or 0208 395 1885 who will let you have further details + menu. We should be pleased to see new members too.

Thank you to the members who helped at the Beaver Activity afternoon on Sunday 21st November.

Our best wishes go to Bill Walden recovering at home after an operation - but we know he has a good nurse!

If anyone can spare a couple of hours to help at the Carol Concert on Saturday 11th December, either during the afternoon or evening performance, please contact Brian Whalebone on 020 8330 2088.

Chairman's Chatter

As we approach the end of the year, I find myself looking back at what has been a very busy first six months as your Chairman. I need to say a very big "thank you" to everyone on the Executive Committee who works very hard behind the scenes and frankly if they didn't, then Scouting at the "sharp end" would be the loser.

As Chairman of Trustees, I continue to focus my attention on dealing with some long standing issues on behalf of the District, but it is good to note that the length of my Reports to the Executive and Agendas are reducing at last! If 2010 was a year for familiarisation and "fire fighting", then 2011 will be a year to look outwards. With this in mind we are putting together a 4 year Financial Plan to maximise the District's resources, set priorities and focus them upon the District Plan that the DC is overseeing. I have to be honest, in that I have little knowledge of issues that Groups may be facing with administration and planning. Therefore; to improve my understanding, I plan to try and attend your AGMs in 2011 (if you want to invite me!). You could come to ours on 11th May too (everyone is invited!)

We all know that "to fail to plan, is to plan to fail" and the District (together with County) will be putting great emphasis on Group Development Plans and will provide support and training as necessary. By working together, we can get more people on skills training courses to provide more activities, ensure that Group's are financially viable and buildings are up to scratch, provide training so that Group Trustees are not putting themselves at risk by ignorance and attract wider adult support. All of these priorities will be addressed in the 3 year District Plan.

I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to working with you all to make 2011 a year that Scouting in Wimbledon and Wandle will look back on with pride.

Andy

Health and Safety Alert

Following an accident during the summer, the following is now **MANDATORY** at all events at which Scouts under 18 years of age are to handle containers of hot liquids being heated on a stove/fire.

A task specific **Risk Assessment** must be undertaken, which considers the following as a minimum:

- Ensuring that the Scout has been trained to deal with containers of hot liquids.
- Ensuring that containers used for heating liquids are not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Ensuring that vessels do not have open tops or are fitted with lids to prevent spillage.
- Ensuring that the weight of a container to be lifted is recognised before allowing Scouts to commit to lifting it fully.
- Ensuring that the level of the container's handles are at a manageable height for the Scout.
- Confirming that the temperature of the handles is not excessive and that suitable gloves or cloths are used for lifting.
- Confirming that burners are completely stable when sited on tables and that tables are on level ground. Where altar fires are used, ensuring that the fire is completely stable.
- Confirming that there is no physical obstacle to lifting the container off the burner/fire.
- Ensuring that the approach to & exit from the area avoids uneven ground and other trip hazards.
- Ensuring that a suitable distance is maintained between the management of hot liquids and areas where children and adults are congregating.

Fortunately accidents are extremely rare within the District, but we must ensure that we take the opportunity to learn from any incident and raise awareness of potential risks to the Scouts in our care.

Joe Rogerson
District Commissioner
23 November 2010

Scouts

Incident hike: Once again we were blessed with a fine but chilly day – perfect for trudging around the Surrey countryside. Most teams seemed to cope pretty well with the navigation although a couple did struggle a bit – more through lack of confidence than lack of knowledge. The 8th Wimbledon triumphed with the 22nd Wimbledon coming second. My thanks to all concerned with helping to make the day another success.

Activities 2011: The Red Book was issued at our last meeting and those unable to attend can collect their copy from the Store.

As will all the best laid plans of mice and men, something had to go wrong! I have been trying to confirm the booking of Park Farm since September and have been put off by the booking secretary saying he was not doing 2011 bookings yet. Now he tells me that our preferred date for the camping assessment weekend is already booked!

Therefore, the **Camping Assessment weekend** will take place on **11-12 June at Park Farm**. A complete new set of pages for this event will be issued so please discard the relevant ones in your Red Book.

Whilst on the subject of activities, everyone should be in a position by now to plan their overall programme for the year, so please let me have a copy, along with your detailed programme up to February half term, by 9 January. Thank you. I have some already but most are still outstanding.

Christmas meal: We will be meeting in the bar at Park Place at 7pm on 13 December, ready for the meal which is booked for 7.30pm.

Winter Camps: As the temperature begins to drop and we approach the shortest day, thoughts turn to frost camps, pedal car Olympics and other cold outdoor activities. I hope all your Scouts have a wonderful time and thank you for giving up your warm bed so they can experience camping in winter.

Handball competition: Don't forget the Handball competition on 30 January – entries to me by 23 January. If you would like to borrow a set of handball goals so you can have a practise, just give me a call.

Our next Leaders' meeting is on Monday 14 March at Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm.

I would just like to wish everyone connected with Troops across the District, and their families, a happy Christmas and an adventurous and exciting New Year.

Explorer Scouts – Paul Henderson

I would like to remind all units that they are required to prepare various items for the Census meeting in the New Year. These are as follows:

Full accounts for 1st Jan - 31st Dec 2010, including your cheque books and paying in books utilised throughout the year. You should now have the ones turned in



Jack Petchey Awards – Information and Update



Things have changed in the JP Award scheme – We now receive 27 Young People awards and 3 Leader awards per year. Please ensure that all nominations are received promptly when requested, since the scheme depends on submissions being on time and we might be removed from the scheme if we do not keep to the timetable.

Remember that a young person can only receive one award as a 'Scout' in GLSW – a scout cannot be nominated as an 'Explorer' or 'Networker' as well. If you are a Group you can only nominate a Scout and if an ESU then only Explorers can be nominated.

The winner should be directly involved in how the money should be spent.

Some ideas for spending money include: Buying equipment for a specific activity, e.g. new football goals, a table football game, a microwave etc. - Hiring in a specialist worker, e.g. theatre artist, fitness coach, guest speaker etc. – Arranging a special trip/activity for the young people, e.g. meal, bowling, cinema, rock climbing etc. – Holding your own celebration event or party. – Holding an event for local community group run by the young people e.g. Concert at Hospice, play or entertainment for a retirement home, a fundraising event for a registered charity.

You must not spend the money on: Everyday costs, e.g. regular staffing, paying expenses, hall hire, electricity etc.- Something that does not benefit your sections' young people – Something that benefits one or only a few individuals – Alcohol, tobacco or anything not in line with Scouting ideals.

Remember: You cannot 'bank' awards for future use – The winner should decide how the award money is to be spent immediately after being chosen for the award. The money should be spent as soon as possible after this. (The grant is expected to be spent in within the year it was made – sometimes this is not possible due to the nature of the purchase/spending e.g. trip at next year's camp.) - These grants are 'restricted funds' and must be shown in your accounts as such – you must spend the money on whatever you decided on your application and any money not spent on that should be returned – you must retain any invoices/receipts just in case JPF request them.

The next 3 months awards are applicable to 16th Morden Scouts, 19th Wimbledon Scouts, 22nd Wimbledon Scouts, 23rd Mitcham Scouts, Mitcham ESU, 1st Lower Morden Scouts, 1st Merton Park Scouts and Morden ESU. Please return your nomination forms to John Young as soon as possible (don't wait – get them in ASAP). If you require application forms please contact John Young for some.

County Conference – Helping others to help us Hilton Hotel in Croydon

Who's going from your Section?

Every Section leader and GSL should have received the details at the end of October and if your Section is not registered yet it is not too late – the closing date is 17th December. It doesn't have to be the Section Leader – an assistant or helper can go but there is only room for one person per Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit plus the Chairman or GSL.

The conference is aimed at encouraging different ways of looking at (and for) adult help.

It will cost £25 if you are staying overnight or £15 if you feel you must go home to sleep.

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW

Appointment Committee December 2010 – Joan Burgess

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have now received full Leader Warrants:

Richard Marus	ASL	5 th Morden
Emma Baker	ACSL	6/12 th Mitcham
Lee Churchill	GSL	8 th Morden
Ryan Watson	ASL	8 th Morden
Paul Rinne	ASL	9 th Wimbledon
Daniel Fellowes	ASL	22 nd Wimbledon

Reminder to all GSLs – Combined Application/CRB Forms now available on line – I also have a good supply. ALL OLD FORMS MUST BE DESTROYED.

Thank you to Groups who have responded to Reviews – still some to come!!! Don't forget to keep checking to ensure that all members in your Group have a current CRB Disclosure.

District Quartermaster

Brian would like to remind everyone that he needs details of any District equipment you may be storing in your Group Headquarters, garden shed, garage or under your bed. He has been asked to compile an inventory of all this equipment and would like the information by 15 December so that he can spend his Christmas holidays doing it. Please email him with the information – b.whalebone@btinternet.com

District Camp 2012 – Neil McLauchlan

We are starting to put some plans together for the District Camp in 2012. Dave Bixby and I have been speaking to a few people to prepare some initial thoughts. I invite everyone to let me have initial suggestions from their Groups or sections emailbossman@btinternet.com.

Outline plans as below:
Fri 4th – Mon 7th May 2012
Blacklands Farm
Similar plans to last time

We will hold a meeting early next year for everyone. It would help to get some initial feedback, thoughts etc. so that we can make a start.

District Store

The last night of the store is 9 December and we will re-open after Christmas on 9 January at 7.45pm.

A number of parents have been to the Store recently saying they were told the wrong day/time – leaflets are available that you can give to the parents of your new members. Please contact Brian on b.whalebone@btinternet.com or call him on 020 8330 2088 and he will let you have a supply.

Section Reports

Cub Report – Michèle McNamara

County Quiz – District round – may have to be changed to the 16th instead of the 9th February; I will advise everyone as soon as a firm date is available.



Christmas Dinner – Scheduled for January 7th, venue to be confirmed. Once again as soon as details are available I will let you know.

Badge Day – Scientist badge to be held at 1st Lower Morden on 30th January. If you haven't let me know which session your pack wishes to attend (either morning or afternoon) can you please let me know a.s.a.p. and which base you would be willing to run? Bases to date: - 8th Morden (Gloop), 16th Morden (circuits), 5th Morden (Magnets), 6/12th Mitcham (volcanoes) & Ian Wilkins (Dr. Blood)

Finally may I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

A New Year's Resolution.....Help us to keep you informed!

Headquarters, County and District are increasingly relying on the HQ database for communication with the wider membership.

If you have had a CRB check done then you will be registered and can access your details via www.scouts.org.uk with your Scout Association membership number.

You will need to set up a "log on" and "password" and then can update your address, phone numbers, email address etc via "profile".

You can also set up which supplement you want for "Scouting Magazine".

So why not make an early New Year's Resolution over the holiday period and update/check your own details?

If you notice any other amendments that are required, then please contact Joan Burgess.

Can you help?

The Appointments Advisory Committee

is looking for new members.

Training and support material is available.

If you are interested in Scouting and the people who work within the Movement and could spare an occasional evening – this is not a regular weekly/monthly commitment – please contact Peter Newman pandhnewman@aol.com (Chair) or Joan Burgess scouts@joanburgess.me.uk (Secretary) to find out more.

A Minute Secretary

is required for the Key Manager/District Team meetings
(5 a year)

Please contact Joe Rogerson joergrsn@aol.com
if you are interested.