

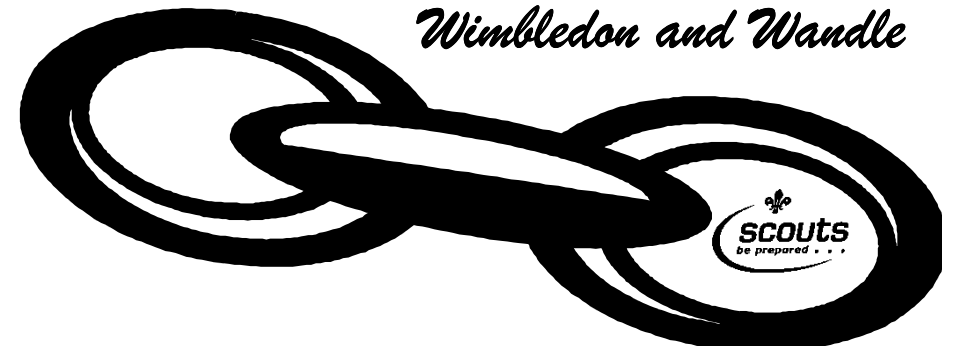
"The light of the Christmas star to you.
 The warmth of home and hearth to you.
 The cheer and goodwill of friends to you.
 The hope of a child-like heart to you.
 The joy of a thousand angels to you.
 The love of the Son and God's peace to you."

— Sherryl Woods, *An O'Brien Family Christmas*



Copy date for the next issue of Links is **Thursday 31 January 2013.**

Link Editor
 Lesley Bixby
 1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park SW20 9JR
 07713 154 317
 thebixbys@talktalk.net



Wimbledon and Wandle

Link

December 2012 and January 2013 – Issue 89

Dec 8	Carol service	St John the Divine
9	Beavers' Toy and Carol Service	St Martin's Church 4pm
Jan 4	Troop Scouters' New Year Meal	Park Place 7.30pm
9	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	22 nd Wimbledon HQ 8pm
16	Beaver Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
19	District store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
19	SASU's New Year meal	King's Arms, Epsom
23	Census Night	Morden Hall DHQ
25	Cub Scout Leaders' New Year meal	Ravensbury Arms
27	Cub Badge Day - Astronomers	1 st Lower Morden HQ
Feb 2	District store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
3	County Scouts' cooking competition	1 st Hook
6	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
12	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	District store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	SASU Rummikub evening	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
21	No store - half term week	
26	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

District Commissioner

You will read below about the Incident Hike and the Handicraft Competition, and my thanks go again to Dave and Michèle and the legion of Scouters who make 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 2012 was such a success.

Remembrance Sunday saw Scouts and Scouters taking part in both major borough events 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.

Finally, congratulations to all the winners of the Jack Petchey awards who received medals or certificates at the presentation event in Chessington 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

Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

The District Executive at the end of November served to follow up the great number of issues touched upon in my last Report.

Needless to say that we remain focussed on what needs to be done, albeit that timescales are prone to stretch due to personal issues. However, at

Morden Hall DHQ, Morden Road, Mitcham CR4 4DD

Once Christmas is over, most section scouters will be getting together to plan the 2013 programme.

Have you considered the **District Headquarters** as a venue for some of your activities?

The site has been cleared of rubbish and is now quite safe for all age groups.

There are 4 altar fires plus a camp fire area;
a store of wood plus the opportunity to collect wood from the surrounding area;
there is space for tents;
the district pioneering store is in the grounds;
an orienteering course is available in Morden Hall Park (ask at the shop) and there is plenty of room for games in the park.

If you would like to come and have a good look round, contact Alan Green either at the District Store or by email green.alan@gmail.com

All bookings for the use of Morden Hall DHQ are made by Betty Cronk 020 8393 6233 or bettycronk@tiscali.co.uk

The headquarters building is undergoing some renovation at present and already looks brighter and more cheerful.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12 February, Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm. If anyone has an item for the Bran Tub, could they please let me know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so hard to run and support the Scout Section, be it in Troops or at events in the past year. I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas as we look forward to another exciting, safe and fulfilling New Year.

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey



Thank you to Jean for organising the Beetle Drive - it was good to see everyone there.

The annual **carol concert** is taking place at St John the Divine, High Path, on Saturday 8th December. Help is wanted for the afternoon (1.45 p.m) and evening session. Please contact Brian Whalebone on 8330 2088 if you can help.

Our next social event is our **New Year Meal** to be held at the King's Arms, Epsom, on Saturday 19th January 2013, 7.30 p.m. Please let Jean or David Gould know if you would like to attend. A £5.00 deposit is required. (8395 1885).

Please note that our 20th February meeting, Diminishing Whist, will be replaced by a **Rummikub** evening. If you haven't played before, don't worry - Jean G is a good teacher!

We send best wishes to Stan Nelson, recovering after his recent operation and to Bill Walden who has been a bit under the weather lately.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year to all.



Please note that Alan Green (DSL) cannot be contacted by phone at present.
His email is green.alan@mail.com

the fore front remains the knowledge that the "District" is totally focussed on supporting everyone at the "sharp end". It's just there ain't that many of us and, as with everyone else, we have to balance the needs of work and family!

Plans are afoot to formally replace John Young as District Treasurer. Whilst nothing can be finalised until the AGM in May, I do expect that by the end of December, Jackie Lyon will be beginning the re-organisation of the District's finances. Formal confirmation will be issued to Key Managers in due course. John has done a fantastic job holding things together over the last six months and we are all eternally grateful.

Keith Angliss will be supported by Jackie in collating the 2012 Accounts and it would certainly help in our re-assessment of what bank accounts are necessary in the future, if we can have all Books, Receipts and Bank Statements to Keith by **NO LATER than 31st January 2013.**

Jackie will be bringing a new and independent view to how we do things and I would ask that those who want things to continue as they are, would do well to ensure the essential work that revolves around preparing the District Accounts is no more onerous than it needs to be!

We have received approaches / enquiries about support from Atlasta Fund from 16th Morden and 11th Mitcham.

Work at 6/12th Mitcham continues apace and the local Community in Glebe Court are already starting to make enquires about future use of this renewed facility. The Executive has agreed an additional Loan to 6/12th of £2000 and the Group now expects to be able to bring forward its' repayment schedule. I look forward to attending the formal opening of the renewed Hall on 26th January and seeing the results of all the tremendous focus and hard work.

As we end 2012 with memories of the Olympics and the volunteers that served as "Games Makers", I reflect upon and salute the efforts of all our volunteers in uniform or otherwise, who together are working towards supporting young people in Merton.....**The "Change Makers"!**

Andy

Remembrance Day Parades - Neil McLauchlan

I wish to pass on my thanks to everyone who attended the Remembrance Day Parades on Sunday 11th November. You were all a credit to yourselves individually and the Scout Movement as a whole. Raising the profile of Scouting in the Borough is always a tough task but with the numbers on parade in smart uniforms we achieved that. We had 105 Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Network Scouts plus 15 Leaders at the Wimbledon Parade and 227 Members from all sections plus 69 Leaders at the Mitcham Parade.

This is one of the most important annual parades for our older members, so very well done to all.

Appointments Committee - Joan Burgess

The following warrants have been agreed and issued during the period September to November 2012. Congratulations to all the Leaders who have taken up these new appointments:

Ray Donovan-Hill (BSL)	1 st Merton Park
Stephanie Fisher (ACSL)	1 st Merton Park
Jason Fowler (ESL)	Viking Unit
Christopher Gagen (ACSL)	22 nd Wimbledon
James Hannam (SL)	22 nd Wimbledon
Lee Jenkins (ACSL)	1 st Wimbledon
Paul Jones (ASL)	6/12 th Mitcham
Rory Jones (AESL)	Edge Hill Unit
Alison La'Val (ABSL)	1 st Wimbledon
Louise Preedy (ACSL)	3 rd Mitcham
Harry Stonehill (AESL)	Edge Hill Unit
Alex Watson (ACSL)	8 th Morden

REMINDER: All Application Forms are to be sent to the relevant ADC. Only 'Getting Involved' Forms to be sent direct to Joan Burgess.

Leaders Christmas Meal - This has been booked at the Ravensbury Arms for 8.00 on Friday January 25th, if you intend going could you please get your names to Mia Patterson a.s.a.p.

I shall be away from January 4th - 19th so if you have any queries during that time, please contact any of the DCSLs. In fact it would be helpful if you would copy them in on anything you send me re the above, just so that we are all aware of it. Thank you

I wish all of you and your families a Happy Christmas.

Scouts - Dave Bixby



Incident Hike - we were blessed with another fine autumn day and a good number of teams entered. There were approx. half the Troops in the District represented, included the 23rd Wimbledon who have only been running effectively for 4 weeks.

My thanks to Tim Kerridge for another fine job sorting out this event and to Alan Green, along with all the Leaders who ran bases during the day. Congratulations to the 1st Lower Modern for taking first place, 13th Wimbledon 2nd place with the 5th Morden and 23rd Wimbledon joint 3rd.

New Year Meal, Friday 4 January, Park Place, Mitcham - the table is booked for 7.30pm. Please let me know if you are coming by Sunday 30 December latest by phone, email, text, pigeon or whatever suits you so that I can confirm numbers.

The restaurant will be back to its normal carvery menu by 4 January.

Red Book - most Troops have now received their Red Books and there is a copy on the District website under Info/Scouts.

At the time of writing the venue for the 5-a-side is still awaiting confirmation but the date is fixed, so please work on 10 February.

The contact for the 22nd Wimbledon Troop should be James Hannam and not Tim Kerridge.

County Dates - Cooking competition	3 February
Night Exercise	11 March

Details of these should be available shortly.

Section reports

Beavers - Andrew Hayward



Beaver Carol Concert - Sunday 9 December @ St Martin's Church, Morden. If you haven't already done so please can you email me or call me with your expected numbers.

Core Skills - Thanks for your feedback. This will shortly be passed on to my fellow ADCs for discussion.

Sports Day 2013 - I will shortly make Joe and the organisers aware of our thoughts and then we await their feedback.

District Outings - Information regarding the Gilwell Fun Day is now on the National Website and details are also being sent with Scouting Magazine. It's 21-23 June. Have a look and let me know your thoughts and if enough colonies are interested we can submit provisional numbers early in the New Year. RAF Hendon - We'll be visiting the museum in the Autumn next year. Are there dates that you prefer or wish me to avoid? Please let me know asap.

Attendance - GSLs & Colony Leaders: Please can you encourage your leaders to attend. There are still a few groups who have yet to attend any meetings since I've taken on the job of ADC. I want you/your colonies involved. PLEASE come along!

All that remains now is to thank you all for your support in 2012 and I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cubs - Michèle McNamara



Badge Day - The badge day on January 27th will be based on the astronomer's badge. It would be use

7

2

L

Q

D

8

Y

4

3

P

0

PeerP4Y772FDi8MQ4YL3Dn8b4YOLQLD18Y43PQQ7QD 8MP04LP22D+8b43H373Dn8M24H30QQ3Hronpsate

Jack Petchey Nominations – John Young

The time has come around to start the next year's Award Nominations (year runs from September 2012 till the next June). To help you plan and arrange your nominations for the coming year here are a few guidelines.

The awards are for young people aged 11-25yrs (Leader Awards will be notified when JP give us information for next year), If you are a Group then the young person must come from your Scout Section and Explorer Scout units can only nominate someone from the unit (not a Network member since Network will have their own chance to nominate).

When you come to decide who to nominate, the young members of the troop or unit should also be involved in the selection and reason for deciding on their achievement. When you have agreed on the nomination the young person must be involved in deciding how the money is to be spent. JPF would like a breakdown of the proposed expenditure - not just 'camping gear'/'trip to zoo' - please give more info like 'hike tents to replace old ones/ Dixies/fry pans or trip to zoo in order to gain info for an activity badge for troop on animal welfare'.

The money can be spent any way providing that the majority of young people benefitting come from the section concerned and the young person being nominated must not have received a previous award from JP (this applies more to ESU's and Network since they may not be aware of any previous awards that may have been awarded in a junior section).

If you need any information or help with the scheme please contact me and I will do my best to assist. (Do not contact JP direct since all dealings must be done via myself or the GLSW co-ordinator, as JP have no details of GLSW Scouts).

J Young: phone 020 8540 1790 / 07952 577 862 or email

wimwantreas14@btinternet.com

Census Night

Wednesday 23rd January 2013
Morden Hall DHQ

The Fundamentals

Most of you will have received your copy of Scouting Magazine by now but have you read it?

One of the more important articles was hidden away at page 36 and considers the Values that are the foundation of our Movement.

"The Purpose

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values

As Scouts we are guided by these Values

Integrity: We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Respect: We have self-respect and respect for others.

Care: We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Belief: We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

Co-operation: We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the Values of Scouting and...

- Enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- Take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- Learn by doing
- Share in spiritual reflection
- Take responsibility and make choices
- Undertake new and challenging activities
- Make and live by their Promise."

The Fundamentals Group would like to know what you think about these changes; do they make you feel differently about Scouting? Go online to access their questionnaire at www.scouts.org.uk/fundamentals to leave your feedback