

Our New Year Meal has been booked on Saturday, 11th January, 2014 at Park Place, Mitcham for 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. If you wish to attend please let Dave Gould have a £5.00 deposit asap.

19th February 2014 is the date for the next Rummikub evening. Names to Jean Gould please.

A Happy Christmas and New Year to all SASU members and Scouters.



*"The earth has grown old with its burden of care  
But at Christmas it always is young,  
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair  
And its soul full of music breaks the air,  
When the song of angels is sung."*

*~ Phillips Brooks (1835-93), American Episcopal bishop,  
wrote 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'.*

Copy date for the next Links is Thursday 30 January 2014.

And finally - a very big thank you to Pam McLauchlan who prints the paper copies for us most months and to Rutlish school for letting her do it!

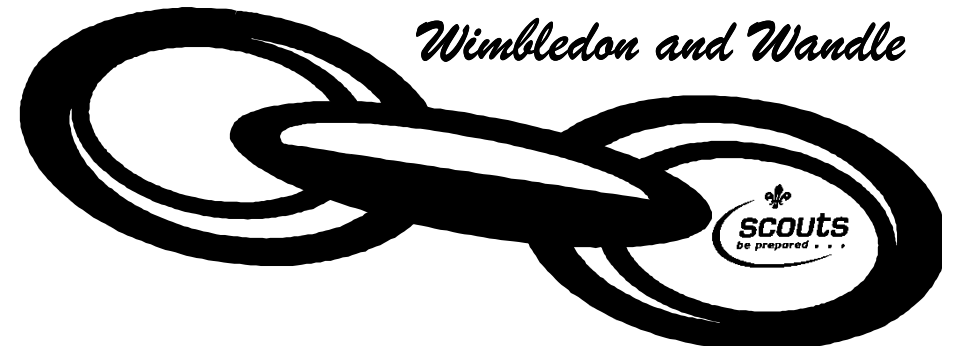
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**Links Editor**

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## Links

December 2013-January 2014 - Issue 99

Dec 7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
12	Last Store before Christmas	
Jan 2	Troop Scouters' New Year meal	Park Place 7.30pm
11	SAS New Year Meal	Park Place 7.30pm
15	BSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	CSLs' meeting	6/12 <sup>th</sup> Mitcham 8pm
26	Cub Scientist Badge Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ
Feb 4	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
11	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	Scouts' Indoor Sky Diving	Airkix, Basingstoke
19	SAS Rummikub evening	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
Mar 2	Cub Chess competition	5 <sup>th</sup> Morden (tbc)
8-9	Operation Red Flare	

## 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 2013 was such a success.

Remembrance Sunday saw over 400 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 award 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

**District Incident Hike:** Another very successful event organised by Tim Kerridge. There were 15 teams negotiating a slightly revised route in the Oxshot Heath/Esher Common area. My sincere thanks go to Tim and all the other Leaders, helpers and Instructors who gave up their time to spend a slightly chilly, damp day making this event happen once again. Congratulations go to the 13th Wimbledon for achieving 1st place, with the 22nd Wimbledon 2nd and 5th Morden 3rd.

**New Year's Meal:** Don't forget our Scout Section meal on Thursday 2nd January 2014 in the Park Place Toby, The Cannons, Mitcham 7.00 for a 7.30pm sit down.

This meal is open to any over 18 working with or supporting a Troop. Please let me know, if you haven't already, if you intend coming so that I can confirm our numbers with the restaurant.

**Indoor Skydiving:** Places are going fast so if you have Scouts wishing to try this exciting activity, there is no time to waste.

I may be able to book additional places if I know soon enough.

If you only have a couple who want to take part but transport is an issue, just let me know because I can arrange something. Don't let it be a barrier.

Come and have a go yourself. If I can do it, anyone can!

**Camp Japan 2015:** Greater London South West is planning a week long camp for Scouts and Explorers to tie in with the Jamboree in Japan. The camp will take place at Phasels Wood Scout Campsite, Herts. 26 July to 1st August 2015. They have room for 3000+ campers and will be putting on a full and exciting programme.

We need to tell them if we are interested in being part of this by Christmas 2013 with possible numbers by Easter 2014 (not easy I know). We also need to find a volunteer to represent us on the County committee for this. Anyone interested? Please let me know, thanks.

Finally, have a great Christmas!

## Scout Active Support Report - Rob and Jean Brumwell

Thanks to Jean and Dave Gould for arranging the Beetle Drive and Fish and Chip supper. An enjoyable evening was had by all!



## Cub Report - Michèle McNamara



**Handicraft Competition** - This was held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> at 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon H.Q. Thank you to them for once again hosting this event. 10 teams took part this year, which is a record. Cubs were kept very busy in the morning making a wooden pencil box which involved concentration and apart from the hammering they were very quiet. The other 2 disciplines were a little more noisy. Well done to the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Oakwood pack for winning the event, the 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon & the 11<sup>th</sup> Mitcham came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. I have a long list of people apart from the cub leaders, who attended on the day, thanks to them goes without saying I hope. However without the help of Alan Green, Peter Treagust, Dave Christmas & Will Smith a lot of the elements of the day wouldn't have come together. I would also like to thank Muriel Treagust & Joan Burgess for acting as judges for the event.

**CSL Meeting** - Sorry to keep mucking you about but this will now take place as originally planned on January 15<sup>th</sup> but will once again be held at the 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham H.Q. this gives us a little more time to plan the next event.

**Badge Day** - This is due to take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden H.Q. the badge this year is the scientist badge. If your pack intends to come along can you please let us know what base your pack is willing to run? Some suggestions already received were in the last issue of the minutes. At the next CSL meeting it would be helpful to know approximately how many cubs you may have attending from your pack and which session i.e. a.m. or p.m. they would prefer to attend.

**Christmas Meal** - I have sent out an e-mail concerning this I need to know numbers by December 11<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

Finally may I take this opportunity of wishing all of you and your families a very Happy Christmas and thank you for all you have done this year for Scouting.

## Scout Report - Dave Bixby

**Red Books:** Most Red Books have been collected but I still have a few left.



These will be available at the District Store on Thursday evenings.

## Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

Our Executive started last evening in marking the passing and contributions of Bryan Wagner, Tom Dimmock and Jeff Young; all of whom I worked with closely as a Scouter in Mitcham. To use the words from BP's Farewell Message they were great examples of "The most worthwhile thing (we can do) is to try and put a bit of happiness into the lives of others".

The District Executive was pleased to learn of the continued success of newly District organised activities for the Explorer Section. These are partially funded through the District Development Plan and it is great to see young people trying new activities and enjoying what Scouting can offer well into their teens. Continued support to the Explorer Section remains a key priority in future planning.

The DC presented the final review of the initial 3 year District Development Plan and the financial requirements were fully endorsed. The DC and I are both aware that some elements of this first DDP have not worked as we had hoped. The next DDP from 2015 onwards will take on board these lessons and the then realities of the District's financial position.

An outline Budget for 2014 was agreed and will be finalised when we have figures for 2013 out-turn. Some elements of the DDP have been carried forward and Alan Green's plans for Morden Hall DHQ re-fit have been delayed due to availability of help with the planned works. Overall, everything seems to have worked as expected and thanks go to Jackie Lyon, with great support from Keith Angliss, who in her first year as Treasurer has provided a seamless transition.

Muriel Treagust has had initial meetings with Joan Burgess and Peter Newman and we hope that another smooth transition will ensue when Muriel takes over from Joan later in 2014.

One garage at KBH is now ready for occupancy and the other seems to have developed sudden door problems! Whilst their HQ is demolished and rebuilt, the Executive has agreed to a temporary loan of the garages to the 19th Wimbledon. The garages can then make their expected financial contribution from 2015.

As the Christmas and New Year periods approach can I please ask everyone to take note of deadlines for Census and Financial Reporting. The District Census and Annual Accounts are mammoth undertakings and we need to do our best please, to make sure that Muriel, Jackie and Keith's tasks are made as easy as possible!

Have a Happy Christmas and let's bring challenges and smiles to more faces in 2014.

Note: please note that there was an error in the paper version of Links last month: in the Chairman's Chatter it was reported that an Atlasta Loan had been made to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon, it should have read 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon. This was corrected before the web issue came out.

### District Accounts

The District year end is 31st December and it would be a great help if all those of you who have accounts that need including in the district figures could ensure that they are with Keith Angliss by the end of January 2014.

Keith's contact telephone number is 0208 540 3137 and the address is 122 Parkway, SW20 9HG.

### Training

7 Dec	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
7 Dec	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30

All Modules are at the 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SJ  
Each training module costs £4.

Contact Mrs Joan Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden, SM4 4DX  
tel: 020 8540 5115 - e mail: [joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com)

For details of First Aid courses contact Janet Drinkall [jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)

The awards will remain at £200 per young person (Scout or Explorer). No-one can receive more than one award so Explorer Scout Leaders are asked to check whether their nominee had one as a Scout before submitting their name.

Jack Petchey stresses that these awards are special and a representative of the District Team must present them so when your ADC, DSL or DESC arrives with the certificates, please make a big thing of it!

John Young has administered the Jack Petchey Awards for many years but has now decided to hand on the reins and Lesley Bixby will be holding the fort in the short term while a willing volunteer is found. Many thanks to John for all his hard work. It is appreciated by each and every one of the award winners and the Troops/Units who have benefitted.

### Section Reports

#### Beaver Report - John Tweedley



As you know on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November we took 190 Beavers and 63 adults/young leaders to the RAF museum at Hendon. That was 5 full coaches full although I thought I might have to take my car as it looked like I was 2 seats short, luckily for me after ordering 53 seat coaches they turned up with two 55 seat coaches and one 57 seat coach.

What I saw while walking around the museum was that the Beavers were enjoying themselves and I must say were very well behaved and were a credit to the Scout Association, and to our District.

Many thanks to you beaver leaders who turned up at our district beavers leaders' meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we had 12 Colonies out of 18 represented and one apology from a leader who normally attends. Finally just a reminder that the January 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 meeting has been cancelled, I will be at the end of a telephone, or e-mail if you need anything or if you need to know of anything by the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Keep up with the good work you do within Scouting.

### **Mountaineering Weekend - Jo Lynch**

Wimbledon & Wandle District Explorer Scouts' Mountaineering Weekend took place on 1 - 3 November and, with members from 4 Explorer Units, we filled the County base in Bethesda, Snowdonia National Park to its maximum capacity.

Saturday was a very wet, very windy day with 70mph gusts. This meant that no one could get to the top of Tryfan or the Glyders' but a full, fun day was had on the hills anyway. 4 Explorers were enrolled on the hills, exposed to the elements. There was some debate of just letting the scarves go and if the Explorer could catch it then they were 'in' but this seemed a bit unfair given the atmospheric conditions!

The Halloween party on Saturday night included sweets, water, mess, team work, physical endurance and a sense of humour. A great night was had by all.

Sunday morning saw the Explorers enjoying climbing at the Indy wall - a Military compound that opens its doors to the Scout movement. Awards were presented, thanks received and cake eaten before loading up the mini buses and heading back to London with the sun shining - next year we might walk on the Sunday - it seems the sun always shines when it's time to go home!

### **Jack Petchey**

The next round of Jack Petchey Awards is about to start. The system is changing and there will now be two rounds of nine awards each, with the submission deadlines in March and May with the main Awards Ceremony in November.

### **Project Compass**

This initiative is to replace the current online membership database, MMS, with platform that will provide many new facilities and reports. MMS has long been recognised as having deficiencies so the Scout Association is spending a considerable amount of money on something fit for purpose & future-proof provided by an external supplier experienced in delivering membership systems.

One major difference between the old & new is that it will be compulsory to record young members on there as well as adults. If you already use Online Scout Manager you will have a view of the sort of system that is planned.

As mentioned previously, there is work going on to clean up the data in MMS before it is transferred across. GLSW is scheduled to be live on the system from May 2014 which sounds like a long way off but there is a lot to be done in that time.

If you receive an email from me on the subject in the near future asking for validation of specific entries for your group or unit in MMS please respond so that we can get Wimbledon & Wandle records correct.

If you have received an email from me in the last fortnight and not yet responded - you know who you are! - please do so. Thanks.

Paul Atkins

### **Motion Picture Licensing - Joe Rogerson**

If you show commercially produced motion pictures (DVDs etc) at your HQ or at camps, please let me know. If this is something that you never do, please also let me know.

I should be grateful for an answer by **11<sup>th</sup> December** one way or the other please, so that we can progress this.

### **District Store**

The Store will be closed on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Appointments Committee - Joan Burgess**

The Scout Database at Gilwall now seems to have settled down and Certificates and CRB's are coming through promptly.

The following are new Leaders who have recently joined the District. Congratulations to them all and Best Wishes for a happy time in Scouting.

Daniel Hawksworth	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup>	Merton Park
Julie Davies	ASL	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wimbledon
Damian McCarthy	ABSL	5 <sup>th</sup>	Morden
Kathleen Curran	GSA	8 <sup>th</sup>	Wimbledon
Tom Collingwood	ASL	9 <sup>th</sup>	Wimbledon
Ashley Gyngell	ASL	9 <sup>th</sup>	Wimbledon
Lucy Stroud	ACSL	19 <sup>th</sup>	Wimbledon
Jennifer Davies	ABSL	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mitcham.

Thank you to the groups who have completed their Reviews due this year. Awards will be held up if a Review is outstanding.

### **Help with Bag Packing**

We have received an email from Emily who is the Young Ambassador for The Liam Charity.

"We are a local charity, based around Sutton, who raise money for ChildLine and the NSPCC. You can read our full story here (<http://www.theliamcharity.org.uk/>). We have now raised over £28,000 in total and want to keep raising.

Our next event is a bag-packing taking place at the Asda on Sutton High Street. It is on Sunday the 15th of December and is starting at 10am.

We are looking for some willing volunteers to help cover as many of the tills as possible. If it is possible we would be looking for some children to take two hour shifts bag packing either from 10-12, 12-2, or 2-4.

Any help will be greatly appreciated and will help them on our journey."

If you have anyone who would like to help please contact Emily on [e.bennett@theliamcharity.org.uk](mailto:e.bennett@theliamcharity.org.uk)

### **Canoe Club**

The District Canoe Club continues to run indoor training sessions at Wimbledon College throughout the Spring Term. The next planned afternoons are on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> February & 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

These are open to anybody above Cub age who wants to either improve their paddling skills or just come along for a bit of fun in a warm and safe environment.

We have also found this an excellent way of re-introducing parents to scouting, with a number going onto become BCU coaches and even section Leaders.

You can book as individuals or small groups although we do ask for payment in advance please (£6.50 per head). Spaces are limited by the size of the Pool so please book early to avoid disappointment.

There is a viewing platform for parents and sometimes we even organise refreshments afterwards for a nominal charge.

Please see our flyer on the District Website Home page or you can contact [keithaxbey@gmail.com](mailto:keithaxbey@gmail.com) for more details.

### **GLSW Rugby**

We are raising a team (over 18's) to play a fixture against Northampton Old Scouts RFC sometime in the New Year, and would like to hear from any adult in GLSW who plays club rugby or has done so in the recent past. Northampton Old Scouts were formed by some Rover Scouts in 1926, and play their league rugby in Midlands 2 SE division. We would also like to play an under 17 fixture against one of their junior sides if possible, so if there are any Explorer Scouts out there who play rugby at school or for a local club please contact me. Chris Dean - email [tinkerscorner@aol.com](mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com)

### **Operation Red Flare**

Explorer Units and Networks should have already received details of the annual County night incident hike to be held on March 8th/9th somewhere on the Sussex/Kent border! This is an extremely popular event so we recommend apply early to avoid disappointment. Further information from Chris Dean - email [tinkerscorner@aol.com](mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com)