

"And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he  
sleep!

The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Copy date: the next edition of Links will again cover 2 months – February and  
March – and copy should be with the editor by **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**.

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## Links

December January Issue 109

Dec 6	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
11	Last night of Store before Christmas	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
13	Merton Choral Society Carol Service	St John the Divine
Jan 8	Troop Scouters' meal	Park Place 7pm for 7.30pm
10	Cub Scout Leaders' meal	tbc
14	Cub Scout leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Beaver Leaders' meal	
15	District Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
24	Scout/Explorer Paintballing	Cobham
24	DofE Introduction Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Hampton Hill
Feb 1	Cubs' Communicator Badge day	1 <sup>st</sup> Lower Morden
4	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
6-8	GLSW Mountain Leader training	Bethesda
7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am

### Explorers - Neil McLauchlan

Many congratulations to the Empire Unit, now officially launched and meeting at the 8<sup>th</sup> Morden HQ.

The All Saints ESU (at 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon) are working with me to finalise their plans for an imminent launch.

District Calendar for 2015 now emailed and on the Website for the activities planned for the year.

Very successful mountaineering weekend held at the end of October at Bethesda, run by Jo Lynch. The base was full with extra beds required locally!



### Scout Active Support Unit – Linda Vaudrey

A big thank you to Maggie Pooley, Jean and Rob for arranging the Quiz Night on 17<sup>th</sup> November. It was good to see so many people there too. It turned out to be a real brain teaser for some of us but the eventual winners were 'The Young Ones', Andrew Hayward's team. Well done to them!



Please keep Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January free for our New Year Meal. It will be held at The Horseshoe, Farleigh Road, Warlingham CR6 9EG and if you are interested in coming please let Jean and David know by 10<sup>th</sup> January. (Telephone No. 020 3715 4441).

We are planning a Games Evening at the Morden Hall H.Q. on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – further details from Jean and David.

Many of you came to the Townswomen's Guild Quiz Night, held last year. I am pleased to say another one has been arranged for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015. If you are interested in going please contact Jean Brumwell.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and wish you a Happy, Healthy New Year.



### 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 2014 was such a success.

Remembrance Sunday saw over 500 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 (this was a 25% increase on 2013) 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.

The challenges of Compass are being discussed far and wide and I would urge everyone who considers that they need it, to look at the training on offer in Sutton District. There is no doubt that we have a task and a half to upload all our youth data over the next six to eight weeks, but once this is done, the data should be relatively easy to maintain.

Finally, I should like to thank all those who marked the sad death of Cub Maddie Thompson of the 16<sup>th</sup> Morden by sending their condolences and/or by ensuring that she was remembered through prayers or by other suitable memorials in section meetings or at camp. It may be a cliché, but a tragedy like this does put things in perspective...

Joe

## Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

In the last edition, I mentioned the need for a new Treasurer and someone who could look at the chimney stack at KBH. Whilst I have received no response on either point, I do hope that the messages have been passed on to your parents and supporters?

If we end up having to pay for accounting services, this will take funding from the District Development Plan and restrict our ambitions (mentioned below) to support training and outdoor activities.

I am collating submission on behalf of the District and still await any contact at all in regard to 2013/14 Accounts and Annual Reports from the following Groups: 1st Merton Park, 1st Morden, 1st Wimbledon, 2nd Morden, 8th Morden, 23rd Mitcham and 23rd Wimbledon. I would be grateful if Key Managers could please attend to this issue immediately and contact me directly.

I hope everyone has plans in hand for keying onto the Compass database in readiness for 2015 Census? Compass is now here and Headquarters is stressing that Groups must keep a complete list of their young members and how important it is to get the information right. All required information must be keyed by 31st January 2015.

Headquarters and County Capitation Fees payable in 2015 remain the same as this year. Whilst there are currently no firm proposals as to the figures that will transpire for Capitation payable in 2016, I would suggest budgeting for a nominal 25% increase. As you should be aware; from January 2016, Capitation will be payable per youth member (6-18) and will not include Adult or Network members. By way of example: the average for a Group in W&W is currently 60 youth members and 12 adults, making a total of 72 @ £26.50 = £1908. If it transpired that this became 60 @ £33.10 = £1986. A final decision on figures, so as to help with budgeting is promised in the Spring.

Executive Committee Training will be cascaded to Districts next year by County, to ensure a unified approach. The training has been tailored to support Executive Committee Members and includes a suite of 5 modules. Additionally, there will be more on-line support and the role of "Executive Committee Adviser" is being appointed by Headquarters. In the meantime, more information from [adult.support@scouts.org.uk](mailto:adult.support@scouts.org.uk)

I have read some fantastic Annual Reports from a number of Groups and their Executives and Leadership Teams are to be congratulated upon providing a

## Scouts – Dave Bixby



### Remembrance Day Parade

I was impressed with the standard of uniforms and behaviour of the scouts who turned out for the Mitcham parade. I was towards the back of the parade and, although I know as scouts we don't really do marching, it was an impressive sight with all taking the occasion to heart. Please pass on my congratulations to all concerned.

### Incident Hike

It was a bit of a grey day but we had 10 teams and the Scouts all seemed to enjoy themselves. Congratulations to the winners from 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden and thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success, especially Tim Kerridge and Paul Atkins.

### Scout Section New Year's meal

Our New Year's meal is at Park Place, Mitcham. Meet at 7.00 for a 7.30 meal.

Anyone with a connection to the scout section is very welcome just please let me know if you intend to attend by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January so that I can confirm the table.

### Scout 5-a side football Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

We are planning on this taking place at Croydon Power League but at the time of writing this still has to be confirmed. Entries to **me** (not Gary) by 15<sup>th</sup> February at the very latest.

### Wimbledon Food Bank 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Wimbledon Food Bank need help to sort non-perishable food in to batches for distribution on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> January at Elim Church, South Wimbledon. They are looking for ideally about 100 scouts/explorers so if your Troop/Unit are interested please contact Alison Palmer at [Alison@musicalexpress.co.uk](mailto:Alison@musicalexpress.co.uk).

### Changes to the training scheme

I was interested to see that the new training scheme appears to take us back to days of concentrating on outdoor activities and basic skills which dovetails nicely with the way our Section events have been running in recent years. The changes are due to be launched in January along with some minor changes to the Nights Away Permit scheme.

Our next meeting is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at Morden Hall DHQ at 8.00 pm. Please try to have your Troop represented.

And finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

## Section Reports

### Beavers – John Tweedley



As this is my final report for this year I would like to thank you all for your time and energy you have put into Scouting over this last year. At this moment in time I do not know if we are having a meal on the January meeting date or if we are having a meeting at D.H.Q. I hope to see you all at either event. I shall e-mail you at the end of December about the arrangements.

You will have seen in the minutes that I will need some idea at the end of January your intended numbers of Beavers / Adults going to Gilwell so that I can give some idea of cost to your beaver parents.

For your new year's resolutions some of you could try to attend our Beaver Leaders' meetings more often. I have managed to visit most colonies this year, so if I did not get around to your colony I will come and see you in the spring. I shall be 11,000 miles away over Christmas so I will not be able to answer any queries over the festive period so please wait till the New Year if you need me for anything.

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

P.S. Hope compass goes well for you.....

### Cubs – Michèle McNamara



**Handicraft Competition:** - there was a very low turnout for this competition this year, so perhaps we need to rethink it for 2015 especially in light of the badge changes happening next year as well. Well done to the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Burlington Pack who won the trophy for this year.

**Leaders Christmas Meal:**- we didn't come up with a final venue for this at the last CSL meeting but as soon as one has been decided upon I will let you know, a prompt reply concerning this would be appreciated.

**Badge Day 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015** (Communicator) – This will be held at 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden, some bases have already been claimed, if you are able to offer to run a base please let me know a.s.a.p. At the next CSL meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, we will need to know approximate numbers attending from each pack and whether they prefer a morning or afternoon session.

Finally I would like to wish all leaders and their packs a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year.

balanced and active programme; which I'm sure results in some very happy young people!

In particular, I was delighted to represent the District with the DC, at the formal opening of "Phoenix 2"; the new HQ for 19th Wimbledon. Everyone at the Group has done a fantastic job over the last 5 years! 2015 District AGM is an opportunity for us all to witness what has been done, as our AGM will be held at 19th Wimbledon on 6th May.

As we go forward into what will be a challenging year of change, the District Executive has agreed a draft of the new District Development Plan, with the central points being to financially support youth and adult training in Scouting Skills and in order to increase Outdoor Activities. We will also be supporting every Section, by buying one set of materials for the new training programme and these will be available via your Sectional Leadership Team Meetings.

As we look forward to (or maybe slightly dread), the challenges ahead, I thought I'd quote from BP's Camp Fire Yarn No 17 on "How to Grow Strong": "A Scout saying is "Never say die till you are dead" - and if he acts up to this, it will pull him out of many a bad place, when everything seems to be going wrong for him. It means a mixture of pluck, patience, and strength, which we call "endurance"!

I thank everyone for your commitment and hard work in 2014 and wish everyone a Happy Christmas; hoping that your Powers of Endurance are not called upon (too often) in 2015!

Andy

### Appointments Secretary – Muriel Treagust

Now that Compass is going to be rolled out across the District I would be grateful if the following could be noted and used:

When new members are added or changes made to existing roles of members I would like an email sent to me informing me of Member's name and Scout Membership No. to the following **email address [WWAppointsSec@aol.com](mailto:WWAppointsSec@aol.com)**.

This will ensure I can keep track of changes within our Leadership.

## Compass – Paul Atkins

Invitations to register for Compass have gone out so hopefully we are well on our way to getting our District live on the system.

If, after receiving the invitation, you had problems in registering, please email me at [compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org)

The invitations will have been sent to the email address that was in the old membership database so, if you haven't receive an email, contact me on the address above and I can check where your invitation would have gone to.

Once you are registered on Compass, the next task will be for somebody in each section to load the details of their youth members into Compass so that Census numbers can be calculated.

As previously advised, for those not using Online Scout Manager, there is an Excel spreadsheet for doing this (the Youth Data Template) that needs to be filled in and then that spreadsheet has to be uploaded to Compass once the upload process is made available. The target date for completion of this is the end of January but you can start populating the spreadsheet as early as you wish.

The spreadsheet can be downloaded from this page <http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?p=4513>

Links for help with Compass are on our home page [www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/](http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/) and details of the registration & upload training sessions being run in Carshalton have been circulated.

There remain some problems with Compass, not least with DBS, that will take a while to sort out but at the moment, for most people, there are just one or two things that need doing and those processes work fine so please:-

1. Everybody who has received the invitation, register for Compass if you haven't already done so.
2. Section Leaders upload their youth data into Compass by the end of January.
3. GSLs check that all of their adult leaders & helpers are shown as members of the group in Compass.

## Badges – Lesley Bixby

After years of having to order badges in units of 25, Scout Shops are now selling just the number we need to help badge secretaries reduce the stocks of those badges which will be discontinued next year.

I expect you have all seen the details of the changes; please make sure you let me know what you need in advance as all the challenge badges and a reasonable number of activity badges are being withdrawn, so I am keeping stocks of these to a minimum.

## Store

The last night of the Store before Christmas will be Thursday 11 December and it will re-open on 15 January 2015.

## Fundraising

Headquarters have updated their policies on fundraising and are offering a considerable amount of help to Groups/Districts that want to apply to Trusts and Foundations for Grants.

While they won't fill in your application forms for you, they can help by providing standard answers to some of the difficult questions commonly asked on forms – eg our Mission and Values, Who We Are etc.

It is important that you stand out from the crowd and you should consider such items as “What difference does your work make?”, “What would happen if you weren't there?”, “What will happen if you don't get the funds?”

If you are applying for a grant, contact [fundraising@scout.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@scout.org.uk) or call 020 8433 7100 for a chat. It could make a big difference.

### Morden Hall DHQ

Don't forget your DHQ is available for use at weekends throughout the winter months – fire lighting, cooking, pioneering, tracking – outdoor activities don't have to stop when it gets cold.

Contact Betty Cronk to book 020 8393 6233