

## Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey



Thank you to all who attended our Quiz Night on the 14<sup>th</sup> November. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. A very big thank you to Maggie for devising the quiz, as usual we really had to dust the brains off! Thanks also to Jean and Rob for making the evening go smoothly, to Jean Gould for the refreshments and to 1<sup>st</sup> Lo Mo for providing the venue.

Don't forget our festive Reindeer Drive, 7.30 p.m., Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at Morden Hall HQ. Names to Jean Gould a.s.a.p. please.

If you can help Brian at the Carol Concert on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, please let him know.

Our New Year Meal will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at the Boulevard Restaurant, Selsdon Road, South Croydon. Please let Jean or David Gould know, by 1<sup>st</sup> December, if you would like to attend.

Reminders for February – Games Evening (Mexican Train) on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February and we hope to pay a visit to the Gang Show on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Further details to come.

We hope you all have a very Merry, Healthy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are sorry to report that both Cliff Condon and Bill Cronk are poorly and send them our very best wishes.

There's no Links in January.  
Copy for the next issue is due on 28 January.  
Happy Christmas everyone.

**Links Editor**  
**Lesley Bixby**  
[thebixbys@talktalk.net](mailto:thebixbys@talktalk.net)



## Links

December 2015/January 2016 – Issue no. 118

Dec 5	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
12	SAS Carol Concert	St John the Divine
17	No store – closed for Christmas	
Jan 7	Scout Leaders' Christmas meal	Park Place
13	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
15	Cub Scouters' Christmas meal	Ganleys
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
23	Scout/Explorer Paintball	Cobham
23	SAS New Year meal	Boulevard Restaurant
31	Cubs' Astronomer Badge Day	
Feb 3	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
6	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	SAS Games evening	Morden Hall DHQ
18	No store – half term	
19	SAS visit to Gang Show	Tbc
28	Cub chess competition	
28	Scout 5-a-side football	Powerleague

## District Commissioner

You will read below about the Incident Hike and the Cubs' Scootathon, 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.

Remembrance Sunday saw some 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 equally grateful for the quite outstanding contribution that our Band made on the day.

The challenges of Compass are coming to the fore again, with the expectation that it will be partially up and running again early in 2016. The version we will have will be one in which adult data may be managed (including Network). There will be 4 phases to the "roll out" and you will see a matrix describing these phases elsewhere in Links. The next important issue on the agenda will be the Census, which will be a paper based exercise as before and Muriel will circulate information as soon as she receives it.

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

two of our Queen's Scouts representing our District at the Cenotaph in London. Robbie McLauchlan and Ted Riley were immaculately turned out to be part of the guard of honour for the Royal Family and senior politicians. Very well done to them both.

That afternoon and evening we had members having a go at Air-Hop and then watching the Guildford Flames Ice Hockey match.

**Awards:** We have had a fantastic number of Network Scouts obtain the Queen's Scout Award. They are from the Raynes Park and Wimbledon (Edge Hill) Units. Many congratulations to (in alphabetical order):

Hannah Brennan  
Nicholas Coats  
Joshua Kane  
Ruth Mileham  
Samuel John Morgan  
William Myles Thomas  
Lucy Stone  
George Vaughan-Barratt

James Cameron  
Ashley Gyngell  
Robbie McLauchlan  
Daniel Mitchell  
William Mortimer  
Louis O'Rourke  
George Symeonides  
Zoe Meza Williams

**Unit Relaunch:** We are very pleased to announce the re-launch of the Empire Explorer Scout Unit, based at the 8th Morden. After much work Lee Churchill will take over as ESL. He is arranging a 5 year plan at the moment.

**Future Events:** We have now planned our programme for 2016. It has the usual mix of activities and trips. Highlights as below:

- \* Paintball with the Scouts
- \* Gang Show (just watching for most members!)
- \* Dodgeball
- \* Award Practice and Qualifying Hiking Expeditions
- \* Monopoly Run
- \* Night Hike & Water Sports Day
- \* Mountain Weekend

I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & peaceful New Year.

hiccup with a couple of map references. My thanks to all the Leaders who manned the checkpoints during the day, especially Tim Kerridge and Richard Frewin who ran central control keeping tabs on the event in general. Congratulations to the teams from 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon who took the first 3 places.

We trialled some tracking devices that we borrowed from the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon. They were issued to a few selected teams and the signal projected on to a large screen via a laptop. This enabled us to see exactly where the teams were in real time and therefore take steps to prevent them getting too lost.

This is very handy especially at this time of year as it gets dark fairly early. We will look to buying some on a District basis for Troops and Units to borrow.

**New Year Meal** - The Scout Section Meal is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 7.00 for 7.30 at Park Place, Mitcham and anyone is welcome.

Please let me know if you are coming **by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015** (as per Red Book rather than the minutes of the last meeting) so that I can confirm the size of table with the restaurant.

**Scout/Explorer Paintball Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016** - Don't forget that I need the balance of any monies by 16<sup>th</sup> January for those taking part. Cheques to be made payable to "Wimbledon and Wandle Dist. Scouts" Deposits and registration forms should have been to me by 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**District Scout 5-a-side Football 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016** - Entry forms and fees (£15 per team) to be with me by 14<sup>th</sup> January at the very latest.

**Red Books 2016** - These were distributed at our last meeting. If your Troop were unable to make it and sent apologies I will deliver yours. If you didn't, they can be collected from the District Scout Store on Thursday evenings.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016** at Morden Hall DHQ at 8.00 pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

**Explorers – Neil McLauchlan**

**Past Events:** We had an excellent turnout for both of our local Remembrance Day parades. We were also very fortunate to have



EXPLORERS

## **Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds**

No meetings to report on this month, with the next Executive being held in early December (next week as I write).

I can report that the KBH flat will be vacated on 5th December. Whilst I can't go into details publicly as to the journey we have been on over the last 6 years and the considerable financial risks avoided, I can say this outcome has demonstrated how well the individual skills we all have, can combine by Committee, in order to facilitate beneficial outcomes for all concerned!

As to the future, we have 10 years remaining on the Bridge Club Lease (RPI increase in 2016 and 2021) and towards the end of that time, as a District we will need to decide whether to keep the property or sell. In the meantime, we plan to take professional advice as to what repairs and modernisation we should make to the flat and what financial returns we could then secure. It is my expectation that ultimately, we should see a 75% increase in gross income from the flat which, allowing for outgoings next year, will from 2017 all be "profit". We will consider whether we individually have the expertise to attend to our legal obligations as Landlords collectively, or whether we need to spend probably £2500 per annum for professional management?

Whatever happens, by the start of 2017 we should see our rental incomes increase by between £8500 and £11000 per annum above 2015 levels. These funds will be available to further support the District Development Plan (DDP).

The Executive will be reviewing outcomes achieved by Budget Holders from this year's DDP funding allocations at our next meeting. We will also then agree plans for 2016, to ensure that these resources are focused where best to achieve Growth. Where issues are identified, the money is there to deal with them!

All our young people, wherever they live in Merton, should have access to the best Scouting we are able to provide and all our adults the opportunity to share in collective development.

Focus in 2016 will include ensuring that our Group Executive Members (Trustees) receive the training they need and are fully aware of the collective expertise, experience and financial support that is available to them and to your Groups.

We have a Great Product and if you have the ideas, the drive and the ambition..... The Support You Need is there!

Happy Christmas to all, thank you for everything you do and everything you bring to Scouting, and to your families for supporting you! We have more exciting opportunities ahead in 2016, and I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

## Compass – Paul Atkins

Just when you thought it had gone away, HQ has announced that Compass will be relaunched in January 2016 for adult data only.

There is no indication of when young member record-keeping will be reintroduced.

In preparation for the relaunch the focus will be on District Administrators updating the adult details on Training & Permits that have changed since the old MMS system was frozen. Once general access is available again each adult will be able to confirm that their own record is correct.

The official HQ update on Compass can be viewed at [http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?page\\_id=21128](http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?page_id=21128)

	Role	Actions to prioritise for each phase
Phase 1	District, County/Area/Region (Scotland) and Regional (England) Commissioners and Appointment Secretaries	<p>Ensure all adults have the correct current roles</p> <p>Continue to ensure all relevant roles have a current valid disclosure</p> <p>Ensure appointments are correctly attributed as pre-provisional, provisional or full</p> <p>Ensure line manager's contact details are correct</p>
Phase 2	Group Scout Leaders, District Explorer Scout and Network Commissioners and Scout Active Support Unit Managers	<p>Confirm that all Group, Section Leader and Network roles are correct and have correct contact and personal details.</p> <p>Ensure that all relevant roles have a current valid disclosure.</p> <p>Where required, add new adults, amend records and end roles where the adult is no longer active (including Occasional Helpers).</p>
Phase 3	County/Area Training Mangers and Local Training Managers, Assistant Regional Commissioners for Adult Training (Scotland) and Assistant District Commissioners for Adult Training (Scotland) and Training Administrators	<p>Check and update training records where required (concentrating on entering validation details) and maintain training records</p>
Phase 4	All other adult volunteers	<p>Check details on personal records, amending or requesting amends as appropriate.</p>

## Cubs – Michèle McNamara

**Scoot-a-thon** – This took place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at Carshalton, on a very cold afternoon, thankfully we were indoors, although for the spectators the temperature was still a little chilly, the cubs kept warm by flying around the hall at great speeds on their scooters. We had a total of 5 teams taking part, a little disappointing but as we hadn't run this event before we were all on a learning curve. All who took part had a good time and we would like to run it again next year. Having run the event at this venue we now have a better idea of how many teams can be accommodated. The winners were the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon, with the other team from the 22<sup>nd</sup> coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon reaching 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Thanks especially to Graham Fairclough, Louise Preedy & Mark Roberts for running and organising the event.

**Christmas/New Year Meal** – This has been booked for January 15<sup>th</sup> at Ganleys in Morden, as requested at the last CSL Meeting. It would be helpful if you could let me know by the 7<sup>th</sup> January if you are intending to come along.

**Badge Day (Astronomers)** – January 31<sup>st</sup> 2016, usual times, 2 sessions, am and pm. If you weren't at the CSLs' meeting to offer your help on a base or indicate which session you would prefer, can you please let me know a.s.a.p. Thanks.

**County Quiz Day** – Leaders present at the last CSL meeting indicated overwhelmingly that they were not interested in a district quiz, we will therefore have no teams to send to the county quiz on March 13<sup>th</sup>. I have informed county and they were none too pleased! If there are any packs who would be interested in sending a team to this event please let me know a.s.a.p. we can have up to 3 teams enter, each with 6 cubs. The 1<sup>st</sup> Wimbledon have been our representative for the past 2 years and won on both occasions!

Finally can I take this opportunity of wishing you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas? Thanks for all your hard work with your packs throughout the year.

## Scouts – Dave Bixby

**District Incident Hike** - We were, once again, blessed with good weather for our incident hike in the Box Hill area. Everyone seemed to have had a good day despite a slight



## Section Reports

### Beavers – John Tweedley

It was a bit disappointing that not many leaders or representatives turned up at the last meeting at D.H.Q. We did get through some activities for the beavers to attend next year.



Linda has probably sent you the minutes out by the time you read this but here are some important points to think about over the Christmas break.

- We are going to have a new year's meal instead of our normal meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016, please contact Jane Ginty if you are going to attend as she needs numbers, let's say by the 15<sup>th</sup> December.
- As there will not be a meeting before the planned activity day I will be e-mailing all leaders in the New Year all information regarding the activity day. The date is the 28<sup>th</sup> February and we will be doing the International Badge, venue to be confirmed.
- Please read about the Bike & Scooter ride and give me your views on having a new venue for a change.
- At the District sports day I hope to run it as it was two years ago, {bad turnout this year} but we do need input from colonies.

It was agreed at the last Beaver Leaders Meeting that for next year's Beaver Outing we would take the Beavers to Legoland on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 as it is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beavers starting up. The normal cost for a child to enter Legoland is £45.00 on the gate or booked in advance £33.75 as a Uniformed Organization the Beavers go in for £16.00. When you return to your colonies after the Christmas break I will need to know your estimated numbers so that I can come to a cost per child / leader.

H.Q. have confirmed there is no plans for a badge or event to celebrate the Beavers 30<sup>th</sup>

The county are looking at a Birthday event {November 2016} to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of G.L.S.W but at present no dates or venue have been confirmed. There may be a fireworks display at the venue they choose and it will be free of charge to G.L.S.W. members.

Hope to see you all at our New Year's meal.

## Nights Away

There has been a recent increase in the number of NAN Forms submitted that do not comply with the guidelines for the ratio of adults to children for Nights Away events.

Young Leaders do not count as adults.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the guidelines and are compliant with them when arranging your event.

Adherence to the Nights Away process is considered as part of the Reassessment review.

- \* At least two adults must be in attendance overnight.
- \* Guideline minimum ratios for children to adults are
  - o Beavers - 6:1 plus the leader in charge
  - o Cubs - 8:1 plus the leader in charge
  - o Scouts - 12:1 plus the leader in charge
  - o Explorers - no ratio

If you have any questions about the Nights Away process, please email Paul Atkins at [nan@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:nan@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org)



It is with great regret we report the death of Jean Prior at the beginning of November. Jean was a Cub Scouter at the Pack which met in St Peter's Church, Bishopsford Road, and became District Treasurer for Morden and St Helier in the late 1960s, a role she held for 30 years. Staunchly supported by her husband, John, who died a few years ago, Jean was a dedicated Scouter as well as an excellent book keeper.

## Email issues

**Blueyonder:** If you have an email address with Blueyonder, emails from Wimbledon & Wandle addresses are being blocked before they reach you as our service provider (JustHost) has been added to Blueyonder's Blacklist. This happens when other users of the same provider abuse the service and lots of people report receiving email spam.

This is through none of our doing and is not a suggestion that W&W are on the naughty step, but does mean that you won't have received emails sent out such as those advising of recent editions of Links being published or membership enquiries for your group from Di Mundy.

The blacklisting should clear eventually and normal service resumed but if you are of a technical inclination and have even the slightest clue of what this Links article is talking about you could add the IP address 69.89.20.226 to your email account Whitelist to resolve the issue.

In the meantime Di will use her personal email address to contact Blueyonder addresses with any membership enquiries.

Email addresses other than those ending with @blueyonder.co.uk are not affected.

**Talktalk/Hotmail:** Dave and Lesley Bixby are reporting issues with their Talktalk account. It is not always sending to hotmail email addresses and they are not receiving all their emails, regardless of who they are from. If you try to contact them and do not get a reply, please phone or text.

## Circus Skills

The Shooting Stars Circus Skills group offer exciting activities for all ages. They charge £150 for 1-2 hours with a group of 30 so if you would like your members to learn something different, contact Stewart Grainger on 07970 107845 or [info@shootingstarscircus.co.uk](mailto:info@shootingstarscircus.co.uk).

They will be in our area for several dates in January and February and will provide all equipment (age specific) such as juggling balls, rings and scarves, spinning plates, diabolos, flower sticks, and larger equipment such as stilts, fun wheels, pedal racers, unicycles & mini-bikes.

## Appointments

As from the beginning of 2016 the Appointments Advisory Committee will be meeting every 2 months. Our next meeting will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> and the future dates are April 12th, June 14th, August 9th, October 11th, December 13th all of which will be held in Morden Hall DHQ, Morden Road.

It is hoped that this will enable new applications for roles within our District to be logged, DBS checks requested and cleared within this timescale, references, where appropriate, requested and returned and time allowed for an invitation be sent to attend the appointment interview.

This Committee has also been able to enlist several leaders from within the District to help the AAC at these interviews, and Mrs. Rhona Edmonds has also volunteered to help. We wish to thank them and we promise not to "overuse" them.

### Appointments agreed in November

Mark Townsend	ASL	11th Mitcham
Kelvin Shewry	ASL	13th Wimbledon
Oliver Foster	ASL	22nd Wimbledon
Charles Carrington	AESL	Empire Unit
Lee Churchill	ESL	Empire Unit

Our thanks are extended to them for supporting our District.

## County Youth Forum

If you are aged between 18 and 25 and have not been approached about the Youth Forum to be held at Southwood on 9 January, please contact Neil McLauchlan as soon as possible. It should be a good day (there's going to be a pop-up pub I hear) and is an opportunity to have your voice heard about the future of Scouting.

## Bowling at David Lloyd

The David Lloyd Centre is offering bowling for £5 a session to Cubs and Scouts. If you are interested, please call Emma on 020 8544 9965.