

“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.”

Theodor Seuss Geisel

Have a happy Christmas

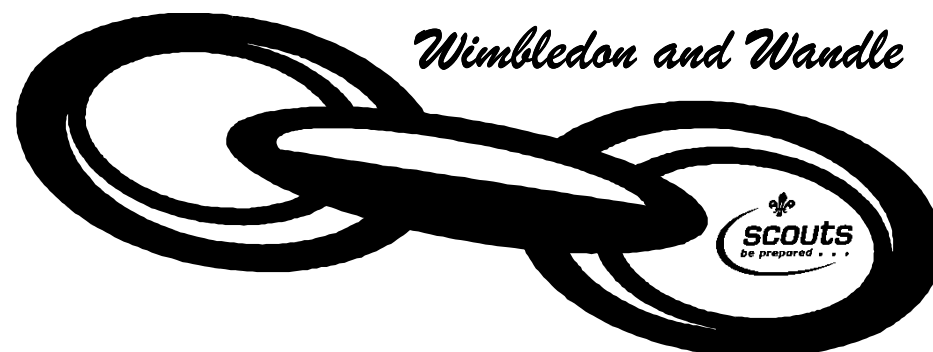
**Copy date for February Links:
Thursday 26th January 2017**

Contributors are asked to note this date,
which is also recorded on the District Website.

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Links

December 2016/January 2017 – Issue no. 128

Dec 3	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	Last night of Store before Christmas	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
11	First Aid Training	19 th Wimbledon HQ 9am
13	Appointments Committee	Morden Hall DHQ
16	Cub Scout Leaders' meal	Frankie and Benny's
Jan 5	Scout Leaders' meal	Park Place
10	SAS meal	Prince of Wales, Cheam
11	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
12	Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
18	Beaver Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	Scout/Explorers' Paintball	Campaign Paintball, Cobham
21	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
29	Cubs' badge day	19 th Wimbledon HQ
Feb 4	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
5	County Scouts' Cooking Competition	
6	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Store closed – half term	
21	SAS Rumikub evening	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm

Photographic competition



“The Spirit of Scouting”

Take a new photo or select one from a recent activity and email it to photos@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org

Tell us your name, group and section as at the closing date.

Photos should be in .jpeg format of less than 2Mb.

A maximum of 3 entries per person is permitted.

5 age groups – 5 prizes

Beavers	Waterproof digital camera
Cubs	Waterproof digital camera
Scouts	Go-Pro
Explorers	Go-Pro
Adults 18+	Go-Pro

Closing date: 26th February 2017

Winners to be announced at St George’s Day Parade

For further information, please visit the District website

www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org

It is the intention that shortlisted photographs will be displayed at St Georges Day and other Scouting events and publications; by entering the competition each entrant or their guardian has consented to such use. Where appropriate, confirmation that the required permissions are in place will be requested.

Our next meeting is on Monday 6th February 2017 at 8.00pm at Morden Hall DHQ.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year as we face the challenge of scouting's 110th year.

Explorer Scouts

We had an excellent turnout at both Remembrance Day Parades. Very well done to everyone who attended out and represented the movement.



Paintball – Saturday 21st January 2017. Don't forget that the deadline for deposits is Friday 2nd December and the balance will be due on Saturday 14th January (These dates are not negotiable)!

Calendar 2017 – This will be released by email and put on the District Website very soon

A huge thanks to all the adult leaders and supporters who have given their time throughout the year to give the members another Explorer Scout year to remember. May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's do it all again in 2017!

Scout Active Support

As I write this we are looking forward to Maggie's Quiz on the 29th November for which we will certainly need to dust our brains!



We have a couple of reminders – the New Year Meal date has been changed to Tuesday 10th January 2017, at the Prince of Wales, 28 Malden Road, Cheam Village. You should have all heard from Robert by now so please reply by 16th December 2016 at the latest.

We have a 'Rumikub' evening on Tuesday 21st February 2017, so please keep this date free. Further details later.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and wish all members a very Happy New Year.

District Commissioner

Remembrance Sunday saw well over a dozen Groups and Units taking part at both major borough events. Our involvement in these activities is to be applauded. It is encouraging that so many of our younger members choose to give up their time to recognise the sacrifice made by others and I am grateful to all the Scouters who enabled their Scouts to contribute to and benefit from this experience.

Congratulations to all the winners of the Jack Petchey award who received medals at the presentation event in Chessington recently. Everyone had a great night and all our Scouts were a credit to themselves, their Groups and to their Leaders. It is also quite clear that Wimbledon and Wandle have the very best catwalk dancers in the County and maybe our next District wide competition might be based on Strictly!

My thanks go again to Dave and Michèle and their many helpers who made the recent Scout Incident Hike and the Cubs Scootathon happen. For busy leaders, these district led events are a boon providing very worthwhile, high quality and fun experiences for so many Scouts. Let us hope that in 2017 we will see more groups making the most of these opportunities to enhance their programmes.

On December 19th Dave and I will be going to Bentley Copse to collect the Peace Light from Surrey County Scouts (<http://www.peacelight.org.uk>). This is a project where a light which has been kindled from the eternal flame at the Nativity grotto at Bethlehem is passed from group to group around Europe and beyond with a message of peace. Scouts are able to take the light not only to their HQ or churches but to old peoples' homes or schools wherever the light will be appreciated. If you are interested in passing on the light within our local community please contact either Dave or myself.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Louise Preedy will be launching our Young Leader Explorer Unit in the New Year and that Dan Fellowes and Josh Carter have agreed to be our District Youth Commissioner and our District Network Commissioner respectively....

...They are all already committed Scouters who I know will bring enthusiasm and commitment to these roles. I look forward to working with them to further enhance Scouting within the District.

May I take this chance to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Deborah

No Chairman's Chatter this month – we hope Andy will be back in the new Year.

District Skills Day – Alison Edwards

Date for the diary: 7 October 2017.

There will be another District skills day taking place at the HQ of 4th Worcester Park, Braemar Rd, Worcester Park.

The day is a 'drop in, come for as long or short a time as you like' and is an opportunity to pick up some new skills, develop a few you already have and chat to other leaders.

This event is run in partnership with Sutton and Kingston Districts, free to attend... and we give you a cooked lunch and pudding! A bargain. It is open to leaders in training, leaders who would like a bit of a refresher, young leaders, supporters, managers... more information in the New Year.

District Store

The last night of the Store before Christmas is 8th December. We will then be closed for stock taking and holidays and re-open on 12th January.

Cub Leaders Christmas Meal – December 16th at Frankie & Benny's in Colliers Wood, remember if you want to attend I need to provide numbers to the venue by December 5th.

Badge Day – January 29th 2017, 19th Wimbledon HQ, Scientist badge - at the last CSL meeting bases were discussed for this event, if you weren't there and intend coming can you please let us know by the next CSL meeting at the latest what base you can run. We also need to try and even out the attendance between the morning and afternoon sessions, so please let us have estimated attendance figures at the meeting and your preferred session.

Finally I would like to wish all of you and your packs Happy 100 years of cub scouting on December 16th! And a very Happy Christmas.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

Incident Hike: The weather was kind to us for this year's hike which was quite a relief after the previous day.

The extended route at Park Farm proved a challenge for some teams but made a big difference. This new route meant teams had to cross busy Holly Lane in two places but this was made safe by 5 volunteers from Surrey 4x4 Response.

My grateful thanks go to Tim Kerridge and Olly Foster for co-ordinating the day from central control plus all the Leaders who spent a draughty day manning check points.

This year the 1st Merton Park took first place, ending the 13th Wimbledon's winning streak, though they still came a very commendable 2nd, with the 22nd Wimbledon coming 3rd.

Congratulations to all the teams who entered and took on the challenging conditions on the day.

The Red Book

Copies of the Red Book were issued to those at our recent meeting. The remainder will be available for collection at the Scout Store on a Thursday evening.

The Red Book can also be downloaded from the District website under info/scouts.

You will need to log in to read it. If you don't know the details just get in touch.



Section reports

Beavers – John Tweedley



It was very disappointing last week {16th November} at the Beaver Leaders' meeting as only 5 leaders turned up for the meeting. It is very hard to try to plan ahead any activities that we would like to put on for the District Beavers.

As you will see from the minutes that we will be holding another, Beaver International Badge Day on Sunday the 26th February 2017. All colonies will receive an invitation for Beavers over 7 years to attend the day. As we will not be meeting before the 26th I will need to know your Beaver numbers at least a week before the event.

Bike and Scooter ride will be held on the 19th March and will run the same as this year.

Gilwell Cub and Beaver Fun Day June, Gilwell have not released the dates yet, I will inform you of the date when I have heard from Gilwell.

As we often do not have a meeting in January and Jane Ginty organizes a Beaver Leaders meal instead, we will run on the same plan. I will e-mail all leaders in early December to see if you wish to have a meal, or a leaders meeting. Please get back to me as soon as possible if you are attending, venue not decided yet.

I hope you all have a well deserved rest from Scouting , and a happy Christmas and New Year.

Cubs – Michèle McNamara

Scooterthon – Thanks to Graham, Louise & Mark for organising and running this event, it's just a pity that so few packs took part. However those who did attend had a great time and congratulations go to the 1st Lower Morden Team for winning the event and the 22nd Wimbledon for coming 2nd & 3rd. Perhaps packs can come to the next CSL meeting and advise us why this event was so poorly attended, so that we can review running it next year.



First aid dates 2017 – Alison Edwards

Do you need to do first aid training for your wood badge? Has your current first aid expired? I am now taking bookings for the first 3 courses next year.

They will be

22 Jan 2017	9am-5pm	3 rd Mitcham HQ, Woodland Way, Mitcham CR4 2DZ
18 Feb 2017	9am-5pm	19 th Wimbledon HQ, 106 Cottenham Park Road, West Wimbledon, SW20 0SZ
5 March 2017	9am-5pm	3 rd Mitcham HQ

The courses are free to undertake. However, bookings need to be made through me and it is a first come first served basis. Places are available on all 3 courses but they will book up quickly, so I operate waiting lists.

District Scout Band

We need your support !!

Looking for something different in your programme?

Want something new and musically interesting?

Need help with staged music badges, entertainer badges?

Why not contact your district scout band?

Of recent months, we are low on numbers and are looking for new beavers, cubs, scouts, explorers, networkers and leaders of all ages and experience levels from beginner to grade musicians ... to learn play and support your band.

This is an exciting addition to your everyday scouting experience.

We meet in a Monday evening 7 pm till 9 pm based in 8th Morden HQ.

If you would like to come and join us for an evening as a group or on your own, or would like the band to come to you, please contact

Dave Suckling Band leader on 07903349165 or email djsuckling@gmail.com

Jane Clark (Band master) of 1st Merton Park

Peter & Sharron Wraight (band leaders) of 6/12th Mitcham

We look forward in hearing from you

CENSUS 2017 – Muriel Treagust

All GSLs have received an email from HQ updating them on the format for the forthcoming Census. I have added a request of my own at the end.

I will be able to supply the amount payable for each under 18 year old after the District Executive meeting being held next Wednesday and this I will email to each GSL/Explorer Leader.

The format: HQ will be using the same system as was used for the 2016 census, however there will be a number of minor changes in order to enable a better understanding of those Groups with multiple Sections. They will be asking that details are submitted separately for each section (Colony, Pack, Troop or Unit) in the Group or District, rather than just a summary.

What this means for Group returns

If your Scout Group has two Colonies, Packs or Troops we would like to collect:

- The name of each Section, (e.g. for Cub Sections - 'A' Pack, 'B' Pack, "Tuesday Pack", Thursday Pack")
- The day each Section meet
- The number of members in the Section by age and sex (as previous years)
- The ethnicity of the members in the Section (as previous years)

The census form itself will automatically calculate the total numbers for each section and the ethnicity information that has been added.

What this means for District returns - Explorer Units and Scout Network.

For each Explorer Scout Unit and District Scout Network we would like to collect:

- The name of each Unit
- The day each Unit meets
- The number of members in the Unit by age and sex (as previous years)
- The ethnicity of the members in the Unit (as previous years)

The census form itself will automatically calculate the total numbers for each Unit and the ethnicity information that has been added.

Whilst the members of Explorer Scout Units will be recorded on the District return, there is a question on the Group return which asks if there is a Unit attached to the Group, and its name.

This year I really would like you to supply me with an up-to-date list of all members in your Group/Unit, including your Group Executive members.

Re All Group Executive Members – Muriel Treagust

I have become aware that many Group Executive Members have not been recorded on Compass and therefore, they have no valid DBS clearance. Also the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary may have changed and no record of this passed on to me.

I would therefore, request that all GSLs email me a list of their current Group Executive Members and where necessary, I will send out the forms required for them to complete and return to me.

In January, after the Census return has been completed I would appreciate an up-to-date list of all Leaders etc.

All matters concerning Appointments should be sent to me at wwappointssec@aol.com

Appointments agreed in October

Mark Renton	ASL	1st Merton Park.
Isla Turner	AESL	Merton Park Unit.
Michaela Lewington	ABSL	11th Mitcham
Guy Rostron	ACSL	13th Wimbledon

We wish them well and thank them for supporting our District. Our next Appointment Interviews will take place on 13th December at the DHQ.