

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey



I understand that the New Year meal was, once more, a successful evening. Thanks to David and Jean for organising.

Our next event will be a Diminishing Whist evening. We hope to see as many of you at the Morden Hall DHQ on Wednesday, 16th February, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. start. 'Nibbles' will be provided but please bring your own liquid refreshment. Please let Jean or Rob know if you will be there. (Tel No 8330 7466).

Dave Gould can obtain tickets for 'Beating the Retreat' to be held on Thursday 9th June. If you would like to attend please get in touch with David asap (Tel No 8395 1885).

Reminder - our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th March - 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

Copy date: Thursday 24 February 2011

"Great minds have purposes, others have wishes"

Links Editor

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Wimbledon and Wandle



Links

February 2011 - Issue no. 70

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|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Feb 5 | District store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 6 | GLSW Scout Cooking competition | 1 st Hook 10.30am |
| 9 | District Executive | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 13 | Cub Chess competition | 19 th Wimbledon HQ |
| 16 | SAS Diminishing Whist | Morden Hall DHQ |
| 19 | District store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 24 | No store - closed for half term | |
| 26/27 | County Workshop | Hilton Hotel, Purley Way |
| Mar 1 | ESLs' meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 5 | District store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 8 | SAS Annual meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 9 | Cub Scout Leaders' meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 14 | Troop Scouters' meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 16 | Beaver Leaders' meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 19 | District store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 20 | Scouts' 5-a-side football | The Hub, Bishopsford Road |
| 27 | Cub Adventure Day | Frylands Wood |

District Commissioner

Belated Happy New Year to one and all!

As you can see from the Diary, there are many exciting opportunities for all our Scouts over the coming months and given the number of Nights Away Notifications that have come in lately, 2011 looks like it's already shaping up to be a busy year!

The District Development Plan outline has been approved by the Executive and will be sent out to all Key Managers and District Team members this month. In order that the Plan can be as effective as possible, all members' views will be sought via the normal meetings' structure. There will be a quick turnaround time for these views to be submitted so that we can all get things moving...

As you may be aware, Kevin Quigley has decided to step down from his post as ADC Beavers due to work commitments; my grateful thanks go to him for all his efforts. I am pleased to report that Andrew Hayward of the 1st Lower Morden has agreed to take up the baton and I wish him every success in his new role.

Finally, even at this late hour, there are still places available at the County Workshop on adult recruitment being held in Croydon on 26th/27th February. This ties in with the advertising campaign currently running on Radio Jackie. If you are able to attend, please contact Martin Whiting. We can never have enough adult help!

Joe

To further aid you in your programme planning you might find the following useful:

DofE Introductory Course - This is due to take place on Saturday 19th March and is to take place at 7th/12th Croydon Scout Headquarters to the rear of 35 Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon. Hopefully DofE/Award expeditions are being planned by your members and feature as part of the programme. This course could certainly prove useful in helping you help your members prepare for that and other requirements of the Scout Award/DofE sections. If you are offering DofE then it is mandatory that you complete the DofE training courses as well as perhaps learning something as well. Please contact Liz Laverick (liz.laverick03@hotmail.com) for more details.

Operation Red Flare - celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2011, this will take place on Saturday 5th March. Operation Red Flare is a competition for teams of 4-7 Explorers, Networkers, Ranger Guides or any combination of the above. It costs £7 per team member and will take place in the Surrey Hills. The event has begun to receive applications already so it is important you book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Further details can be found at the following website <http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/2011/operation-red-flare>.

Southern 50 - This is for teams of 4 and takes place on the weekend 19th/20th February in the Chiltern Hills. There are THREE routes, 50 miles and 50km open to all and a 30km route for Explorer Scouts only. The event is a test of good orienteering skills as well as physical ability and teamwork. There is still time to book your places, please go to their website www.scouts-gln-southern50.org.uk.

In addition to the above may I remind you of our **ESLs' meeting** which is to take place at Morden DHQ at 8pm on Tuesday 1st March. We will be joined by Paul Seward the new County Commissioner for Explorer Scouts. Please bring along any views or ideas you may have for him. He will also be visiting a couple of Units during the course of the term as well, so I am sure you make him feel welcome at both the Leader's meeting and perhaps if you're lucky, your Section meetings.

Finally I still haven't had programmes from all the Packs, if you haven't let me have your programme details for this term, please do so a.s.a.p. This is very important since I would then be aware when you would be away from your normal meeting place when planning to visit your Pack.

Scouts - Dave Bixby

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and that you are ready to face the challenges of the New Year.



Scout handball: My thanks to Gary Baker and his team from the 23rd for once again organising our handball competition. The entry this year was slightly up on 2010 and the 6/12th Mitcham took the honours (just!) with the 16th Morden in second place and the 5th Morden 3rd.

Scout Football - 20 March - The Hub, Bishopsford Road

Entries to me by 14 March at the latest, please. Don't forget that the competition takes place in the afternoon this year with the first match kicking off at 1.30pm.

Cub Adventure Day - 27 March, Frylands Wood

Once again we have been asked to provide an aerial runway for the District Cub Adventure Day. If anyone is free to give a hand, wants to gain experience of building/operating a runway or just wants to come for the fun of it, please give me a call - 07889 598 960.

We will be building the runway on Saturday afternoon 26 March and then running it for the Cubs from 9.30am to 4.30pm on the Sunday.

District Scout Section Leaders' meeting: our next meeting is on Monday 14 March at the Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm. I hope most Troops can find someone to attend.

Explorer Scouts - Paul Henderson

Happy New Year to you all! Hopefully you are busy planning the year's programme and also deciding on where this year's summer expedition is and perhaps even planning some weekend activities.



Chairman's Chatter

After a quiet few weeks over Christmas the New Year has started off with a sprint.

The Executive held our postponed December meeting early in January and we will meet again in February, having not yet dealt with all the issues on the Agenda.

Financial Plans and the District Plan are approaching the point whereby they can be agreed. We will then have an idea of what we want to achieve and how it can be financed.

In light of the situation at 20th Mitcham, the District has taken responsibility for their HQ. We are arranging a temporary fix to alleviate the leaking roof and some essential health and safety issues following our Risk Assessment. Thanks to Dave Christmas for his help with this.

Once the future of the building is trialled, decisions will need to be made about the extensive tentage held by the Group.

Thanks also to Brian Whalebone who has arranged a clear out at Kenneth Black and is now working on producing a list of the District's equipment. At the same time, it has come to my attention that our contents insurance needs a full review before April. If Brian asks you for information, then it isn't to be difficult, it's because as Trustees we are obliged to have the right cover for everything. POR states that insurance is not optional but a mandatory requirement.

I have had meetings with Crest Nicholson who has now exchanged contracts with Merton Council on the old Rowan School site in Mitcham. Original proposals to rebuild the 36th Mitcham "ready for occupation" and approved by Planning Committee in 2007, have now been watered down to "shell and core", with the Scouts expected to fit out the building. Also a requirement to make it available for community use at charging levels to be approved by Council and no use after 10pm.

Other on-going issues include the Lease at Morden Hall, Planning Application for storage at Morden Hall, rent review at Kenneth Black, flat at Kenneth Black, storage at Kenneth Black and Morden Hall, future financing of overseas expeditions. Muriel is working hard on the Census and Annual Report and Keith, John and Rich on the District accounts.

Venue for the District AGM is now confirmed as 1st Lower Morden (Bow Lane), 8pm Wednesday 11th May.

Andy

Congratulations

Keith Porter has had links with the 3rd Mitcham for many years and we are pleased to congratulate him on the award of a knighthood for his pioneering procedures to benefit seriously injured service personnel.

District Store

New accessories for Beavers and Cubs:

Bedding Blanket Size 170cm x 130cm

A warm cosy 100% Polyester machine washable blanket £11.50.

Uniform prices will be going up on 1 March to the following:

Beaver Polo £9.50 Sweatshirt £11.00

Cub Polo £10 Sweatshirts £11.50

Scout Shirts and Explorer Shirts L/S £20

Leaders Shirts S £19.50 L/S £20 - all up 50p

Belts S-M M-L L-XL £11.25 - up 25p

New size for the more rotund amongst us XL-XXL £14.30

Don't forget, contact Brian if you need more leaflets to publicise the store.

Badges

The price of badges sold at DHQ on Thursday evenings is increasing with effect from 1 March. From that date activity awards will cost 49p; membership and challenge awards 57p and Patrol badges 60p.

Beaver birthday badges:

These badges cost £1 each and are available special order.



The old style Participation Awards (Joining In badges) will be phased out so if you are still using them and would like a stock, please order them by the end of March.

Advert

Have you heard the advert for Scouting on Radio Jackie? It will be running through to 13 February, 8 times a day.

Section reports

Beavers - Andrew Hayward



I feel very honoured and privileged (not to mention shocked!) to have been asked to take on the role of ADC Beavers. It's a completely new role and challenge for me but one that I am very much looking forward to. Beavers is a fun and dynamic section within the movement and gives most young people their first taste of Scouting and from what I hear we must all be doing something right as the numbers (and unfortunately waiting lists) continue to grow. We're also celebrating our 25th birthday in 2011 so hopefully a year of celebrations will soon follow!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin for what he has done in the past few years and I hope that with your support we can continue to grow the section. But support is a 2 way thing and that is what I will be offering you. It is my intention to visit all the colonies within W & W as soon as possible, but if there is anything that I can do for you or any support that I can give in the meanwhile (or at any other time) then please do not hesitate to contact me either via email or by picking up the phone - andrew.hayward@blueyonder.co.uk - 0797 129 8686.

I look forward to meeting with you all at the next Beaver Leaders meeting on 16 March.

Cubs - Michèle McNamara



Handicraft - sorry I missed this from my last report.

Thanks to all the Leaders who helped in anyway at this event and congratulations to the 23rd Mitcham for winning. 2nd place went to 22nd Wimbledon and the 2 19th packs came joint third. Also many thanks to our two judges, Muriel Treagust & John Young.

Science Badge Day - This was held last Sunday and 174 cubs attended from 15 packs to obtain their scientist badge. Thanks to all the leaders who ran such interesting bases and made it possible. I heard lots of people saying it was one of our best scientist days ever and you have yourselves to congratulate for that. We hope all the Cubs enjoyed the experience and any feedback would be interesting to hear.

Adventure Day - This will be held on March 27th at Frylands Wood campsite, please make sure you attend the next CSL meeting so that you are aware of all the plans for this event.

Updates to POR

Have you had a chance to look at the changes to POR that were published recently? There is a lot of information about Beavers at camp and on International trips; updates regarding the ratio of adults to Scouts on Troop activities and changes to the composition of the Group Executive amongst other things.

POR may mean 'Press On Regardless' to many, but it is important that all Leaders are familiar with it in principle and know where to look up the things they need - if you break the rules you will be personally liable if things go wrong; if you stick to them, you will have the full support of Scout HQ if you ever need it.

Games in the Dark

After a recent court case, following an incident in 2001 when a Scout was injured playing a game in the dark, advice has been published and can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/noticeboard.

Basically, it says use your common sense and do a risk assessment but continue to offer exciting games and activities.

Rugby at Twickenham

Did you go to the St George's Day match last year? Tickets are now on sale for this year's celebration on 23 April - go to www.stgeorgesdaygame.co.uk

Training report - Alison Edwards

New Year greetings to all of you.

2010 was another good year for Wimbledon and Wandle training wise. We awarded 24 wood badges in total, which is a little down on 2009, but there are several of you 'poised' on the edge of completing so the numbers for 2011 will go up I hope. We have awarded 2 in 2011 already so congratulations to Matthias Edwards of 1st Morden and Catriona Maher of 9th Wimbledon for claiming top spot!

Can I draw your attention to the list of training dates for 2011? The format of nights away has now changed, but essentially those of you who have been advised of the need to do this module (or modules as the theory is 16 and the practical is now module 38) could you as it were...get a wiggle on! Places as ever will go quickly and I would hate you to miss out!

There will also be a further 5 safeguarding awareness courses being run in the county between March and July. Leaders may attend any of them, not just the one in our District. Dates to be advised very soon, but the details should appear in the next Links and on the county website. For GSLs etc, can I remind you that you can't renew someone's appointment unless they have done safeguarding awareness training in the past 5 years, and essentially only doing the course run by County or the Educare course will do. Not my rules but Gilwell's.

Finally a plea:

We constantly have new people wanting to be Leaders and Assistants in the District. We are very short on people to advise them for training purposes. It seems that some of the best ones go on to better things. So....if you think you might be the man or woman for the job, and want to find out more, please contact me. Your District needs you!

Dorrie Cooper :

It is with regret we report the death of Dorrie Cooper on 8 December 2010. Dorrie was a Cub Mistress in the 1940s and early 1950s in Balham and Tooting, District Secretary for Morden and St Helier between 1969 and 1979 and an inaugural member of the Scout Fellowship. She wrote the History of Morden and St Helier and continued to support the Movement throughout her life.

Training Dates 2011

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----|--|
| 29 Jan | 9am-5pm | 10 | First Aid - Sutton DHQ |
| 06 Feb | 9.30-1.30 | 12 | Providing a Balanced Programme - Bow Lane |
| 06 Feb | 2.30-4.30 | 11 | Administration (Section Leaders) - Bow Lane |
| 13 Feb | 10.00-11.15 | 08 | Skills of Leadership |
| 13 Feb | 11.30-12.30 | 09 | Working with Adults |
| 13 Feb | 1.30-2.30 | 14 | Young People today |
| 13 Feb | 2.45-4.30 | 15 | Challenging Behaviour |
| 20 Feb | 9am-5pm | 10 | First Aid - 1 st Whitton HQ (Richmond) |
| 05 Mar | 10am-1pm | 16 | Nights Away - Bow Lane |
| 05 Mar | 2.00-4.30 | 38 | Nights Away Residential "A" (must attend "B") Bow Lane |
| 13 Mar | 10.00-1pm | 13 | Growing the Movement (Section Leaders) |
| 13 Mar | 10.00-4.30 | 21 | Growing the Movement (Managers) |
| 26/27 Mar | Residential | 38 | Nights Away Residential "B" (must attend A) Bears Wood |
| 26 Mar | 9am-5pm | 10 | First Aid - 1 st Coulsdon (Croydon) |
| 07 May | 9am-5pm | 10 | First Aid - 1 st Lower Morden |
| 10 May | 7.45-10.15 | 08 | Skills of Leadership |
| 25 May | 7.45-10.15 | 09 | Working with Adults |
| 28 May | 9am-5pm | 10 | First Aid - venue tbc |
| 08 Jun | 7.45-10.15 | 11 | Administration (Section Leaders) |
| 15 Jun | 7.45-10.15 | 15 | Challenging Behaviour |
| 22 Jun | 7.45-10.15 | 17 | Activities outdoors |
| 05 Jul | 7.45-10.15 | 16 | Nights Away |
| 12 Jul | 7.45-10.15 | 19 | International |
| 24 Sep | 9.30-1.30 | 12 | Providing a Balanced Programme - Bow Lane |
| 01 Oct | 10am-1pm | 16 | Nights Away - Bow Lane |

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|-----------|-------------|----|--|
| 01 Oct | 2pm-4.30 | 38 | Nights Away Residential "A" (must attend "B") Bow Lane |
| 15/16 Oct | Residential | 38 | Nights Away Residential "B" (must attend A) Bears Wood |
| 23 Oct | 10.00-11.15 | 08 | Skills of Leadership |
| 23 Oct | 11.30-12.30 | 09 | Working with Adults |
| 23 Oct | 1.30-2.30 | 14 | Young People today |
| 23 Oct | 2.45-4.30 | 15 | Challenging Behaviour |
| 20 Nov | 10am-12 | 19 | International |
| 20 Nov | 1pm-4pm | 17 | Activities outdoors |
| 26 Nov | 10am-1pm | 13 | Growing the Movement (Section Leaders) |
| 26 Nov | 10am-4.30 | 21 | Growing the Movement (Managers) |

Unless it states otherwise in the Training Dates, the training modules are held at Morden Hall DHQ and are limited to 20 participants.

For further details of modular training contact Mrs J Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden, SM4 4DX, telephone 020 8540 5115, email training@glswscouts.org.uk or contact your Local Training Manager, Alison Edwards.

For further details of First Aid courses contact Janet Drinkall, telephone 020 8669 4774, email janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk.

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|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Costs: | Module 38 | Nights Away Residential | £40 |
| | Module 10 | First Aid | £15 |
| | All other modules | | £3 each |

Details of the grants available from the District to cover the cost of training can be found on www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/qaidinstructions.pdf

20th Mitcham

As the 20th Mitcham closes after many years of providing brilliant Scouting in Mitcham, we are pleased to publish a brief history and some memories from past members.

The Group opened in March 1939 and met at the Church of the Ascension in Pollards Hill. Led by an enthusiastic band of young people, the Group was hit hard when the Leaders went to war and closed temporarily in September 1940. Within two years it had re-opened and as the war ended the 20th were well known in the area as they organised whist drives, socials, dances, spring and Christmas fairs and two giant jumble sales a year.

By 1950 there was a Senior Scout Troop and the following year numbers reached 60 in both Pack and Troop and they split into the Seeonee and Waingunga Packs and the Brownsea and Mafeking Troops. In 1952 the Cornwall Sea Scout Troop was opened and had its own boats at Teddington.

In 1952 the Group was re-registered as most of the members did not attend the Church and they moved to Pollards Hill Junior School (now Garden Primary).

Two years later the Group formed a Drum and Bugle Band which has survived to this day. It has had several changes of name but is now known as the Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Band.

When a history of the Group was written in 1957 there were 249 members. Building work began on the Group's headquarters in 1974 when they leased a piece of land from the Council at the end of Robinhood Close. It was completed a year later at a cost of £24,000. Scouts, Venture Scouts, Leaders, Parents and supporters dug drains, put up fencing and installed the internal fittings. The HQ was officially opened in 1976 by Skipper Hedge, the then District Commissioner, and named after Reg Woolmer who had been Scout Leader since 1963 and had continued to provide inspirational Scouting, even when extremely ill. He did not live to see the building completed.

The Beaver Colony opened in 1985 and although Group numbers had declined since their peak in the 1950s and '60s, they were still very healthy and there were 64 young people shown on the 1995 census.

Unfortunately, the introduction of girls into the Movement convinced several of the longest serving Leaders that it was time to hang up their woggles and the Group started to experience problems getting new Leaders. With no Group Scout Leader from 2000 to 2005, and the younger Leaders getting married and moving out of Mitcham, the Group started to experience the difficulties that have finally led to its closure.

Some memories from ex members:

From a Patrol Leaders Notebook 1940: John Roberts was sent home as he had forgotten his gas mask.

Ian Duff (writes from Australia): 1946 or about this time Roger Deane and a few others were commended by the Chief Scout for saving a lady in difficulties at Box Hill swimming pool - I felt proud to be associated with such heroes.

Colin Robertson (ex-Scout Master): We collected jam jars and newspaper to sell so we could replace the trek cart thus enabling us to walk to Frylands Wood with the camping gear.

1951 - I was selected to attend the Jamboree in Austria - a great experience; the then Chief Scout Lord Rowallan ask how I was doing with the King Scout award; I was not doing too well - but eventually gained the award.

The band was formed and being tall I was up front as drum major - Les Gray who won the leading bugler Silver Trumpet (sadly died of throat cancer some years ago) formed the band 'Mud' and they often played at our social events.

Doug Cox (ex-Scout): We seemed to camp almost every week-end pulling a treck cart with all tentage and gear to Frylands Wood camp site and how easy it was to loose the cart on Gravel Hill.

Marjorie Woolmer (ex. Cub Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader & Vice President): recalls 1984 when Scouts & Venture Scouts from the 20th & 36th Groups had a wonderful time staying at the Kandersteg International Centre, Switzerland. Up at 6 a.m. to cook breakfast for the climbers and prepare packed lunches with the help of Margaret Pooley & Margaret Winch, then on their return each evening a good hot meal would be waiting as they all came down the mountains starving and eager to talk of their experiences.

Marion Clifford (ex Cub Scout Leader & Vice President): I joined the Seeonee Pack after complaining that my son was not getting Proficiency badges - I was asked to help and stayed for 23 years!!

Margaret Pooley (ex. Cub Scout Leader & Scouter in charge): Sunday afternoons at camp were always great fun -lots of water games, a little 'christening' ceremony for Cubs and Leaders who had never camped before. At Bushy Wood Camps we were always visited by the Wardens who watched from the side lines except once - one of them decided to walk across the area and got his very smart blazer covered in flour, he also saw our young vivacious blonde assistant (Pauline) running from the wash room in her red undies! (was his face red!!).

Andy Edmonds (former Cub, Scout & Scout Leader): When in Scouts, upsetting Len & George by playing football between the tents at 3am! In 1981 canoeing on the field where we had slept the previous two nights - now under 4ft of water!