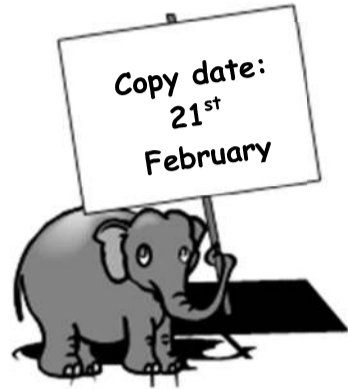


"Life is really very simple: what we put in is what we get out"

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout



Stop press: Congratulations to the girls from 23rd Wimbledon Troop who won the County cooking competition with full marks (which has never been done before) and to the 23rd Mitcham who won the presentation to explain the history of their meal.

Links Editor

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Links

February 2013 - Issue no. 90

Feb 6	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	Scouts' 5-a-side football	Croydon Power League 1pm
10	Cubs' Chess competition	19 th Wimbledon
12	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
17	County Orienteering	High Ashurst
20	SAS Rummikub evening	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
21	No Store (half term)	
26	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Mar 2	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
3	Operation Red Flare	
13	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
16	County Night Exercise	Boidierhurst
19	SAS AGM	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	Beaver Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

District Commissioner

2013 has begun with a bang!

- The 23rd Wimbledon are featured in the latest edition of Scouting Magazine;
- the 6th/12th Mitcham had the refurbishment of their HQ opened by the Mayor;
- some 150 Cubs had a great day doing their Astronomer badge at Bow Lane;
- the 5th Morden found themselves in the paper having enjoyed an activity-packed weekend at the Gilwell Winter Camp and
- the 22nd Wimbledon Scouts won the national pioneering competition and await their £1,000 winner's cheque.

As you can see from the Diary, there are many exciting opportunities for all our youth members over the coming months and given the number of Nights Away Notifications that have already come in, 2013 looks like it's shaping up to be a very busy year.

There is no doubt that the Big Adventure is alive and well in Wimbledon and Wandle!

Over the Christmas period, however, did come the sad news of the sudden death of Simon Shute, Chairman of the 22nd Wimbledon, who had been involved in Scouting for over 40 years, having started out as a Wolf Cub in the fifties. May he rest in peace.

Finally, thank-you to everyone for their efforts in getting the census information in to Muriel again this year; the results will be circulated as soon as they become available.

Joe



Simon Shute

It is with sadness that we report the sudden death of Simon Shute, Chairman of the 22nd Wimbledon Group, on 24th December whilst on holiday.

Simon had a long involvement with the 22nd going back to the 1950s when he joined as a Wolf Cub. He was an Assistant Scout Leader from 1973 to 1977 following which he became a Venture Scout Leader from 1977 to 1988.

He worked closely with the scout troop for many years becoming an instructor and general supporter of the Group. In 2003 he accepted my invitation to become Group Chairman, a post which he held with distinction until his untimely death at Christmas.

Simon was the holder of a number of awards. In 1982 he received a 15yr service award followed by a 25yr award in 1997. In 1986 he was awarded the then Medal of merit, followed in 2010 by the Silver Acorn.

His dedication to the Group and his leadership of the executive committee in recent years will be sorely missed. In recent years his health had not been good but he continued to work with the Group, often visiting camps and events and always being available for fundraising activities. May he rest in peace.

Alan Maloney - Group Scout Leader

Old abseil rope: Do you have any old abseil rope hanging around your HQ? Once climbing and abseil ropes are 5 years old they should not be used. Surrey 4x4 Response provides voluntary assistance to the emergency services in times of adverse weather conditions. Recovering vehicles from muddy fields without suitable recovery eyes is quite a challenge. Old abseil rope can be used in short lengths as a makeshift alternative so if you are prepared to let us have any you no longer need, for a small donation, please let me know.

Troop Scouters' meeting: I look forward to seeing all Troops represented at the next meeting on Tuesday 12 February.

Scout Activity Support - Linda Vaudrey

Thank you to those who helped at the Carol Concert in early December.

New Year Meal - I am sure everyone enjoyed a great evening - we all made it regardless of the weather. The food and service, we thought, were excellent - thanks to Jean and David for arranging the evening.

Rummikub Evening on Wednesday 20th February - 7.30 p.m. start. This is a new social evening for us - if you haven't played it before don't worry as Jean will enlighten you all! Nibbles will be provided but please bring your own drink. Please let Jean Gould know if you will be attending.

SASU AGM - Tuesday 19th March - 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. prompt start. All members are expected to attend. If you cannot attend please send your apologies.

Please note that we have had to change our Away Day outing from 18th May to **11th May**. More details later.

Chairman's Chatter

The District Executive meets shortly, so I don't have a great deal to report; more next month!

Jackie Lyon is in the process of taking over as District Treasurer and I should like to thank her for volunteering to take on his essential role. It will take a while for Jackie to familiarise her with Scouting and its procedures, so please "bear with", whilst Jackie "gets her feet under the table"!

Jackie has an email address for all Scouting issues:

treasurerwimwan@hotmail.co.uk

Keith Angliss will be supported by Jackie in collating the 2012 Accounts and **we should by now have received all Books, Receipts and Bank Statements from everyone whose figures feed into the District Accounts**. If you are late for any reason, then please contact Keith

I was sorry that my working on a Saturday prevented me from attending the formal opening by The Mayor of the 6/12th Mitcham's modernised Hall. I hope in time that it will become an example of what can be achieved by working together and cement Scouting's profile at the forefront of the local Community.

Finally, with great sadness I have to report that my close friend and our Vice Chairman Richard Mainwaring is currently in intensive care, having suffered an abscess on the brain. He has been in a coma since mid-January and is receiving the best possible care from our fantastic Health Service. My thoughts and best wishes go to Josie and the rest of the family, for what will be a long road back to what, I hope, will be a full recovery.

Andy

Sports

Please note that the date of the District Sports has changed. The sports will now be held on Saturday 13th July 2013 to avoid a clash with the Wimbledon finals day, which would restrict our access.

Peter has already sent this information round but please ensure that you have amended your diaries.

Disability Awareness

John McCorkell currently works with primary schools across the country raising awareness of various disabilities.

He is interested in visiting Scout Groups to discuss how people with disabilities do things eg talk with their hands; use wheelchairs or adapted cars; find their way using white sticks or guide dogs etc. and to promote the truth that people who are disabled are also human with feelings just like everyone else.

He is disabled himself so can speak from personal experience.

If you would like to invite him to talk to your Section, please contact him on j_mccorkell@hotmail.com or via his website www.itsallnormal.com

BCU Award Training Weekend

This weekend for the over 12s (including adults) covers the 1 and 2 star with a possible assessment on the Sunday afternoon.

The course will run 9.30am - 4.30pm daily at Paxmead Riverside Base, Dockett Eddy Lane, Shepperton, TW17 9NT, over the weekend of 11/12 May 2013.

Candidates may attend either or both days at a daily cost of £20, which includes hot drinks.

More details on the District website.

website. Please try and get a team together, if you ask your cubs you may be surprised at how many actually play chess. Any leaders from any section who know the rules would be more than welcome to come along and help with the judging.

Adventure Day: - 28th April at Frylands Wood, for cubs aged 9½ years and over, if you are able to help on the day please contact Mia. Please let us know approximate numbers by the next CSL Meeting on March 13th. Any queries please contact either me or Mia.

Scouts - Dave Bixby

Pioneering competition: Early last year a pioneering competition was announced in Scouting magazine sponsored by the Discovery Channel. We put details in Links and did our best to encourage Troops to enter. The 22nd Wimbledon were the only Troop I am aware of that entered, having built a swing boat over three Troop meetings. I am very pleased to report that they have won the first prize of £1000.

Definitely a case of who dares wins! Well done.

District PLs' and Older Scouts' Camp 3-5 May 2013: By the time you read this, those Troops planning to send Scouts to this great weekend should have registered an interest so that planning can proceed. There has already been a lot of interest from a good number of Troops, so if your Scouts want to come, tell me now! Places are filling fast.

County Night Exercise 16-17 March 2013: Details have been circulated and are on the District website. I can thoroughly recommend this event so book early as it is very popular and places are limited. If any Troop needs a quick briefing on how the event works or needs a hard copy of the details, give me a call.

Sports/Rafting: As you will all know by now, the date of the sports has had to change. This puts it on the same weekend as the raft event in Ravensbury Park. Are you happy with this or shall we move the Rafting to the following Sunday, 21 July? Please let me have your comments asap.

Section Reports

Beavers - Andrew Hayward

Firstly, Congratulations to Peter & Sharon Wraight (6/12th Mitcham) on the birth of little Scarlett.

Secondly, a big thank you to all those who attended our last meeting. It was a shame yet again that the same old colonies are not represented. Please do come along! These meetings are run for your benefit and it would be great to see you!

Here's an update on the plans for 2013:

RAF Hendon - Saturday 23 November. Cost approx £10 per PERSON.

Gilwell Funday - Saturday 22 June. Cost approx £20. A letter will follow but the cut off for replies is Good Friday - 29 March. There will be a £10 NON RETURNABLE deposit required from all attendees.

Beaver Bike Ride - Sunday 24 March, Morden Hall Park. A letter will follow very shortly.

Beaver Sports Day - The Beavers will be joining the District at Wimbledon Arena on Saturday 13 July. More details to follow in due course.

Please can you also forward your programmes to me if you haven't already done so. This is the 3rd reminder for some

Many thanks for your support and understanding following the announcement of my decision to step down from the role at some point during 2013. Talks are ongoing with my possible replacement and I hope to introduce him/her to you VERY soon!

Cubs - Michèle McNamara

Badge Day: - Last Sunday 147 cubs ventured out to the 1st Lower Morden HQ to learn about astronomy from various leaders. The bases were many and various and a good time was had by all. A big thank you to all the leaders who helped in any capacity for making this such a successful event.

Chess Competition - This is to be held on Sunday February 10th at the 19th Wimbledon (Oakwood) H.Q. Teams of 4 are required and entries should be with me or Mark Steed by February 3rd. Details are on the district

Red Bull Soapbox Race

Could your Scouts/Explorers build a novelty cart powered only by gravity? Would they like to race it in front of a 30,000-strong crowd at Alexandra Palace in July? Full details can be found at soapbox.redbull.co.uk. Entries must be registered by 31 March.

District Store

We hope that all Groups will continue to support the Store this year - don't forget that the profits come back to you! If you need any more leaflets, please contact Brian, b.whalebone@btinternet.com

Can you ensure that your parents understand that they must pay by cash or cheque as we don't have the facilities to accept cards? Thank you.

CRB checks

In December, the government announced that, from early this year, volunteers will no longer have to apply for a new criminal record check each time they apply for a new volunteering opportunity.

They will be able to apply once to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a certificate that can be checked online to find out if it is still up to date.

Details about how this will work with the Association's existing vetting processes will be issued soon.

Safety Training and Risk Assessments

A recent report issued by the HSE <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/rnn-ldn-02113.htm?eban=rss-> highlights the need for correct training for our young people and properly administered risk assessments when they are using stoves such as Trangias.

A 15 year old girl was engulfed in a fireball when another teenager poured meths onto a Trangia, thinking it was going out.

Please ensure that your Scouts and Explorers are aware of the dangers of not using stoves correctly.

Training dates

Date	Module	Title	Time
10 Feb	12	Planning a balanced programme	09.30-13.30
24 Feb	8	Leadership skills	10.00-11.15
24 Feb	9	Working with Adults	11.30-12.30
24 Feb	14	Young people today	13.30-14.30
24 Feb	15	Challenging behaviour	14.45-16.30
2 Mar	16	Residential experiences	10.00-13.00
2 Mar	38A	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-16.30
3 Mar	11	Administration (Leaders)	10.00-11.30
3 Mar	19	International	11.45-13.00
3 Mar	17	Activities outdoors	14.00-16.30
16/17	38B	Skills for residential experiences	tba
28 Apr	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
28 Apr	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30
18 May	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.00
18 May	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
18 May	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
18 May	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
21 Sep	12	Providing a Balanced Programme	9.30-13.30
28 Sep	16	Residential experiences	10.00-13.00
19 Oct	11	Administration (Leaders)	10.00-11.30
19 Oct	19	International	11.45-13.00
19 Oct	17	Activities Outdoors	14.00-16.30
16 Nov	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00-12.00
16 Nov	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
16 Nov	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
16 Nov	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
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 except **Module 38** which will be held at Bears Wood Campsite, Forestdale, New Addington, Croydon CR0 9JH
Each training module costs £3 except Module 38 which is £40.

Safeguarding

7 February 3rd Teddington (Richmond)
20 February Wallington District HQ (Sutton)
20 March venue tbc (Pinewood/ Bears Wood Croydon)
27 March 22nd Wimbledon (W+W).

All courses are from 20.00 - 21.30 and anyone who needs Safeguarding training can attend any of the above. Please contact Alison Edwards to book alison.edwards@local.gov.uk.

There is no charge for this training.

First Aid

26 January 2nd Whitton Richmond upon Thames District
23 February 22nd Wimbledon, Wimbledon & Wandle District
24 March venue to be advised Croydon District
12 May venue to be advised Wimbledon & Wandle District

To book please contact Janet Drinkall tel: 020 8660 4774
janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk

The course costs £15

Applications forms for the main modules and first aid can be downloaded from the County website www.glswscouts.org.uk or contact Mrs Joan Condon, 34 Aundel Avenue, Morden, SM4 4DX
tel: 020 8540 5115 - e mail: joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com

Modules 20-26 for Line Managers and Commissioners will be run as required. Contact Joan Condon for more information.