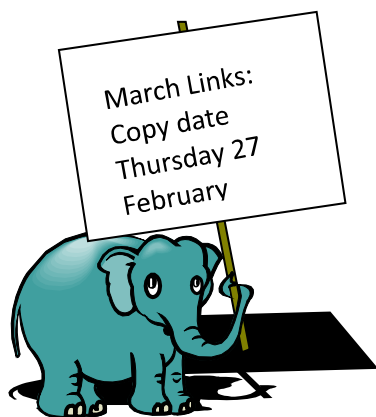


Do you know that . . .

each year, Scouts tackling the Queen's Scout Award walk the equivalent distance of once round the world?



Links

February 2014

Issue No. 100

Feb 3	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
5	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
11	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
12	District Cub quiz	St John Fisher Church Hall
15	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
19	Scouts' Indoor Skydiving	Airkix
19	SAS Rummikub evening	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
20	No store – half term	
Mar 1	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
2	Cubs' Chess competition	1 st Lower Morden HQ
8-9	Explorers: Operation Red Flare	
12	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
19	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
22-23	Explorers' Awards practice hikes	North & South Downs
26	SAS AGM	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
30	Scout Football	Powerleague, Croydon

Links editor:

Lesley Bixby

1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park SW20 9JR

thebixbys@talktalk.net

District Commissioner

The new year began with the unexpected, great news that **Les Savage, Scout Leader of the 8th Morden**, had been awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List, which included his service to Scouting, service that continues unstintingly. Our congratulations go to him and to all those who have supported him over many years.

In addition, our congratulations go to our former County Commissioner and current County Training Manager, Roger Hurrion, who has also been awarded the MBE for services to Scouting.

The importance of civic recognition for our Movement cannot be overstated, since it is a demonstration of the value given by society to the great work that we do for the nation's children and youth. Often, when we're bogged down trying to get the HQ's roof fixed or dealing with a particularly recalcitrant child, we can easily forget the esteem in which Scouting is held by the public. Why else are people so generous when we are out bagpacking or the like? Our challenge, in each and every Group, is to turn that esteem into concrete adult help "on the ground"...

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

Chairman's Chatter

No chatter from Andy this month as the Executive meeting is not until the beginning of February.

organisers and hope to have some more information for our next Leaders' meeting.

Our next section leaders' meeting is on **Monday 10 February** at Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm. Please try to have your Troop represented. If anyone has any items for the Bran Tub please let me know

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Carol Concert in December, especially Brian.

We enjoyed another successful New Year Meal, this time at Park Place, Mitcham. Thank you to Jean and David for organising. It was good to see so many members there.

Our next event is on **Wednesday 19th February** when we shall be holding a **Rummikub Evening** at the Morden Hall DHQ at 7.30pm. Names to Jean Gould asap. Please bring own drink.

We would like to see everyone at our **AGM** on **Wednesday, 26th March** – 7.30 for 8.00pm – when, amongst other items, we shall be giving details of our forthcoming events programme. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you are unable to attend please ensure that you send your apologies to David, Robert or me. Many thanks.



Steed who organises the event cannot do this date, **so it will now be held on March 9th** as we had originally planned. Venue still the 1st Lower Morden. Full details will be sent out to each pack shortly.

Adventure Day – Again due to a clash of dates this cannot be held at the usual time of year, Easter, Mother’s Day and various other events conflicting with the original date chosen. We have therefore decided to hold it in June, as we do not have athletes badge testing this year and the new date is June 22nd at Frylands Wood.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

Scout football, Powerleague, Croydon, 30 March



- Please remember that entries for this year’s football must be with me by **16th March**. *No direct entries to Gary Baker please*. Full details are in the Red Book but if you have any questions, just ask.

Backwoods Camp, Broadstone Warren, 3-4 May – Following on from our very successful training camp last year, this time we are moving things forward with the Scouts walking a short distance carrying their kit. Then they will be supplied with tarpaulins to build bashers and will go on to learn the basic skills for backwoods camping.

The number of places is limited and entries are already coming in so don’t delay. If you would like anyone to come and explain the camp to your scouts just let me know.

Camp Japan 2015 – In the December/January issue of Links, I gave a brief outline of a proposed County camp 26 July to 1 August 2015 to tie in with the Jamboree.

I asked for any Troop interested in taking part to register an interest by Christmas. No one responded so do I take it that no Troop is considering attending? Please let me know either way so I can feed the information back to the organisers.

Fishing Course at Cannon Hill Common – You should have seen an email from me concerning an offer of a course covering the Anglers badge. By the time you read this I should have had a meeting with the

Awards

Many congratulations to the following who have been awarded the Chief Scout’s Commendation for Good Service

Deborah Carter,	SL	5 th Morden (St John Fisher) and
	ESL	Flying Penguins
Tom Causton,	SL	9 th Wimbledon (Sacred Heart)
Veronica Kerridge,	OCH	22 nd Wimbledon (Holy Cross) and
		District Adviser-Special Needs
Di Munday,	ASL	6 th /12 th Mitcham Sea Scouts
Paul Rinne,	ASL	9 th Wimbledon (Sacred Heart)
Tim Starke,	ASL	9 th Wimbledon (Sacred Heart)
Tracy Sterlini,	BSL	5 th Morden (St John Fisher)
Peter Wraight,	BSL	6 th /12 th Mitcham Sea Scouts
Sharon Wraight,	ABSL	6 th /12 th Mitcham Sea Scouts

Training:

First Aid Training Dates

8 February	1st Coulsdon	Croydon District
22 March	1st Hook	Kingston District
13 April	22 nd Wimbledon	W&W District
17 May	1st Whitton	Richmond District

Application Forms for Module 10 First Aid can be downloaded from the County web site www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk/support

or contact Janet Drinkall tel: 020 8669 4774 - e mail

janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk

Cost for Module 10 £18.00

Cheques made payable to GLSW TRAINING ACCOUNT

Safeguarding

15 February Sutton District

Contact Alison Edwards for details of Safeguarding and for all other Training Modules.

Morden Hall DHQ News - Alan Green

The National Trust has felled three trees that would become hazardous so we now have plenty of wood for fire lighting.

The internal fences are being replaced so the camping/games field will look a lot smarter and safer as we have removed all of the barbed wire that had been wound into the old fence.

NB: I will be ordering some new **Gopak tables** for the DHQ in February. If any Group would like to 'piggy-back' on the order to take advantage of a 15% discount please E-mail me (green.alan@mail.com) before 15th February.

The Gopak catalogue can be downloaded from GOPAK.COM.

Appointments Advisory Committee Secretary

It has been well publicised that Joan Burgess is retiring as Secretary to the Appointments Advisory Committee, and that Muriel Treagust is taking on this role. The date this change will become effective is 1st March 2014, and from that date all matters normally referred to Joan should be referred to Muriel. Muriel's details are contained in the District Directory in the District Executive section.

From 1st March 2014 Appointments Advisory Committee meetings will be held at District HQ.

The District owes a great debt of gratitude to Joan for the exemplary way in which she has done the job of Appointments Secretary over many years, often contending with problems of communication with applicants, but always being helpful, and with sympathy and good humour. I am very pleased that Joan's expertise will not be lost to the Committee as she has agreed to stay on as a member of the Committee to assist us in our deliberations. More will be said about Joan at this year's AGM.

Peter Newman - Chairman of the Appointments Advisory Committee

Section reports

Beavers – John Tweedley

Hi all BSLs / ABSLs

A happy new year to you all.

I have managed to make one visit to a colony this year and hope to resume again in March.

Many thanks to the colonies who have sent me their programmes for the next term.

If the colonies who I have not visited yet would like to send me some dates, that I can come down and see you from March, or bring them to our next District Beaver Leaders Meeting in March.

I have had an enjoyable time at the colonies I have managed to see, and it has been interesting to see how different colonies start and end their meetings. What has come apparent at my visits is I am asked by the Leaders and Beavers what am I to be called as most BSL/ABSL have names. So I would like to invite all colonies to come up with a name for me which can be used by the Beavers. Please bring them along to our next meeting.



Cubs – Michèle McNamara

Scientist Badge - Thank you to all the leaders and helpers who turned up last Sunday to provide a fascinating day exploring many different aspects of the science badge. We had a total of 149 cubs attending, the morning being especially busy, the leaders were rushed off their feet. Well done to everyone involved.

District Quiz - This is due to be held on Wednesday February 12th at the 5th Morden H.Q. in Cannon Hill Lane, SW20. To date I have had a very poor response from packs, it would be encouraging to see some different packs at this event, and winners are due to go onto the County Quiz which is being held on Sunday 9th March. Please let me know if you intend entering a team a.s.a.p.

Chess – Due to some confusion on my part this had been re-arranged for March 2nd so as not to clash with the county quiz, however Mark



District Store

Saturday openings – Morden Hall DHQ 10am to 12 noon:

1 and 15 February,	1 and 15 March
5th April	3 and 17 May
7 and 21 June	5th and 19 July
20 September	4 and 18 October
15 November	6 December

The dates are also listed on the District website.

New cards are now available with the Alternative Promise on at 31p each. Please contact Brian if you would like to order some. He is not keeping them in stock at present.

He does, however, have a stock of free, colourful flyers to show where the badges go. He is giving them to parents when they buy uniforms but if any leaders would like a supply, please let him know.

Profits from the store: Every year the profits from the store are shared pro-rata with the Groups and Units that have used it, so every time you send a parent to buy a uniform, you are earning money for your Group. The profits are distributed in August/September and Brian delivers the cheques direct to the GSLs or ESLs.

By the end of December, 6 Groups/Units had not paid their cheques in and a total of £733 was outstanding. If your Group or Unit has not paid the cheque in yet, please do so as quickly as possible.

NB: Cash's nametapes have gone into administration and we have been instructed not to sell any more cards. If you have one that you have not posted, please return it to Brian.

Good buys:

Camp cutlery – Wilkinsons are doing a knife, fork, spoon and teaspoon set for £1.73

Methylated spirit – Toolstation are doing 2 litres for £6.81

Jack Petchey – Lesley Bixby

The Groups included in this round of the awards have all been notified and applications must be with me by the end of February.

Paintballing

As soon as it was announced that our members can take part in Paintballing, we were contacted by Campaign Paintball Park, Old Lane, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1NH who can offer laser tag and mini-paintballing for 8-10 year olds as well as the standard experience for the over 11s. Their website is www.campaignpaintball.com and they offer exclusive games where only your group plays against each other.

Caving for Scout Groups

An email has already gone round regarding a company offering caving – go to www.pmaltd.biz. They state that they hold all the necessary insurances and comply with all current scouting guidelines but don't forget to check POR and Factsheet 120086 and ensure that you see the appropriate documentation if you are using any external providers. It is your responsibility to ensure that your members are as safe as possible whilst doing exciting activities.

Tent Hire: Can anyone help?

“Wimbledon ladies rugby club are looking to hire some tents for our camping trip away in May. I've heard some scouts hire out their equipment and wondered if you knew of any scout groups in the local area that do have some large tents that they put out for hire? We are ideally looking for 3 or 4 8+ man sized.

Laura Balaam, WRFC, lbalaam@hotmail.com “