



Bill Walden

It is with great regret that we report the death of Bill Walden at the end of January.

Bill was Akela in the 7th Morden for many years and was much loved and respected by the generations of Cubs who were members of his Pack. Having resigned from the Pack at a time when the age rule was still in place, he became a member of the Scout Fellowship (later SASU) and held the office of Treasurer until quite recently.

Bill was familiar figure at District events and will be much missed. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Copy date:

There will not be an edition of Links in March so the next copy date will be Thursday 19 March. This will allow for publication before the Easter holidays.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before beginning to improve the world.”

Anne Frank

Stop Press: Congratulations to 5th Morden (1st), 22nd Wimbledon A (2nd), 19th Wimbledon B (3rd) on their performance at the Cooking Competition.

Links Editor
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Links

February/March 2015 – Issue no. 110

Feb 4	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
6-8	Mountain Leader Training	Bethesda
9	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
11	District Cubs' Quiz	St John Fisher Church Hall
12	Accounts due in	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
14-15	Southern 50	Tring
15	Deadline for Compass Youth Data upload	
18	SASU Games Evening	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
26	Explorer Leaders' meeting	Raynes Park HQ
March 1	District Scouts' football	Powerleague Croydon
7-8	Operation Red Flare	
8	Cubs' Chess competition	
11	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
12	Memberships fees due in	
12	Accessible Scouting training	New Malden
14	Skills Day for PLs and Older Scouts	22 nd Wimbledon HQ
18	Cub Scout Leader's meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21-22	Explorers' Award Practice Expedition	North & South Downs
21-22	County Scouts' Night Exercise	Bentley Copse
25	SASU Annual Meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Apr 10-12	Explorers' Award qualifying expedition	North Downs/New Forest
15	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

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, 2015 looks like it's already shaping up to be a busy year!

The 2015-2018 District Development Plan outline was approved by the Executive before Christmas and the final version should be approved within the month. This will be our template for delivering the targets set out in HQ's Vision 2018 Strategy document and we will cover this in the normal meeting cycle over the coming months.

Compass has proved a challenge for everyone (the system was taken down again this week), but we are on track to upload all necessary data by the deadline. Thanks to everyone who has done their bit. The payment of census this year will not be as previous years, as the Compass data will determine the "head-count" and hence the "bill". The Executive will be looking at this at their February meeting.

Finally, the Paintball day last weekend, which involved 25% of our youth membership in the 10-18 age range, was a great success and also blessed with ideal weather! A big thank-you to Deborah Carter and Dave Bixby for putting it together and to the many leaders and adults who helped make it happen on the day.

Joe

Programme Update: Please see the latest information about the Programme Update at: prepared.scouts.org.uk

Membership Fees 2015: Please see the information about how to pay this elsewhere in this copy of Links. We will need to tally your cheques with the information on Compass. This payment will need to be for all Leaders & Explorer Scouts (but not Occasional Helpers). Please also refer to my emails about payments.

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year.



Thank you to the members who helped Brian at the Carol Concert at both performances on 6th December.

We all enjoyed our New Year Meal at the Horseshoe on 17th January. Thank you to Jean and David for organising. The venue was new to us and the food and company were great.

We have a few events coming up, the first one being our Games Evening on **Wednesday 18th February**. We have decided to combine a Rummikub and Mexican Train evening – should be interesting! Please bring your own drinks and let Jean or David know if you would like to come (020 3715 4441) to what should be a fun evening.

On **Sunday 8th March** we have been asked to help, along with Croydon SASU, with providing breakfast for Operation Red Flare, an Incident Night Hike. This will take place at Westcott, Dorking, 6.30 a.m. Contact Robert if you can like to help.

Please also contact Robert if you can help to run a base/checkpoint for a night hike on **Saturday 21st March**. This County event will be held at Bentley Copse and we would need to be there for 5.30 p.m.

Most importantly of all, is our Annual Meeting on **Wednesday 25th March** at Morden Hall HQ. All members to attend please, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Light refreshment will be provided. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Sunday 26th April – St George's Day – further details later.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Bill Walden who passed away recently. We will miss him.

Skills Day 14th March 22nd Wimbledon HQ. - Full details will be issued shortly but this event is open to Scouts and any new Leaders / Helpers. There is no cost but we will need Troops to register approx. numbers for organisation / catering purposes.

Leaders from any Section are welcome to come and update their skills or share any tricks of the trade gained in the past.

County Night Exercise Bentley Copse 21-21 March - Entries need to be in by 28 February at the latest to the County (not me). This time each District is being allocated a base to run / organise which should not be a problem as Wimbledon and Wandle quite often staff several. Even if you don't work with a Troop or your Troop is not entering but you would like to come along, just give me a ring. This is usually a very sociable event.

Explorer Scouts – Neil McLauchlan

I trust everyone had a great Christmas & New Year?

Firstly I must report some sad news as the **Mitcham ESU** closed at the end of last year. Being the ever optimist I hope that this is a temporary closure but we will have to see.

I do wish to thank the many leaders that have been involved since Joe first launched it in the spring of 2004:

2004-2008 Joe Rogerson with David Widden
2008-2009 Joe Rogerson with Rory McDermott and Steve Turner
2009-2010 Rory McDermott and Steve Turner
2010-2012 Andy Dunfield
2012-2014 Jo Lynch, Tony Hildreth and James Conlon, Will Gavin & Matt Price

Countless Explorer Scouts have had the benefit of these leaders offering them a complete & diverse programme of activities over many years. I also thanks the leaders on behalf of these members.

Paintball Day: Many Explorers have just been on the Paintball Day with the Scouts. Many thanks Dave Bixby for organising the event.

Spring Award Hikes: If any Units that have not replied as yet want to take part in these hikes then please email me by return.

Next Leaders meeting: This will be held at the Raynes Park ESU venue (HQ of the 19th Wimbledon). Thurs 26th Feb at 8.00pm. Agenda to be circulated soon.



Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

As I write this in mid January, no further meetings have been held since my last Report in December.

Exciting plans are now in place for the next few years to provide considerable financial support to the "front end" by way of training and programmes.

Those who have looked at the web site since Christmas will know that we now urgently need to find a replacement for Jackie as Treasurer. Thankfully, Keith Angliss has stepped into provide support in the meantime, but this is and can only be a very temporary measure. I have advertised widely; so far without success.

The Executive in February will have to seriously consider seeking some kind of paid support, as the District simply cannot function without a Treasurer. The cost of such paid support can only be met by reducing planned support to the updated District Development Plan.

We are running out of time, so please let me know if you have any ideas?

Andy

District Store

The store will be closed for half term on Thursday 19 February and on 2 and 9 April for Easter.

The store will be open on the following Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon:

7 February
7 and 21 March
18 April

The books for the new programme are now available and one set of books will be purchased by the District for each Section and distributed through ADCs and DESC.

Programme idea

Are you looking for a different idea to enliven your programme? You may like to consider www.trunkcircus.com for circus skills.

Compass

On the 28th January HQ took the decision to make Compass unavailable whilst an investigation is undertaken into concerns about data security. Feedback on other aspects of usability is also being considered and there is no date currently being offered as to when Compass will be made available again in its present form.

HQ recognises that interim arrangements are urgently required to allow the DBS procedures to restart and to complete the collection of census figures so some features of Compass will hopefully have been made available for those purposes by the time you read this.

In the meantime, the Excel template for Youth Data can still be populated so that you are ready for when the upload can be done. If you need a copy of the template, email me at compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org and I will send it to you.

The availability & status of Compass and advice on DBS & Census is changing frequently so please check with the home page of our web site for the latest updates <http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/> or for the full story from HQ at http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?page_id=21128

Thank you to those groups & units who had already completed their upload, I appreciate the effort that was put in to get to grips with a new system which most found not too scary once they got into it.

For those who have made a start, thank you also & please continue with the task of populating the template. Do please contact me if you hit any problems at all at compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org so that we can complete the census.

Appointments

Congratulations to the following whose appointments have been approved

Sivapathalingham Ravishankar (known as Ravi)	SL	23 rd Wimbledon
Graham Coverdale	ACSL	13 th Wimbledon

We wish you all the best for your future Scouting.

there are any leaders in any other sections who could come along and help with the scoring/judging please do let me know.

County Quiz – This is also scheduled for March 8th (we scheduled our event before this date was published) the 2 teams with the highest scores from the district quiz will be put forward for this. I haven't had full details yet but I presume that, as has happened in prior years, it will be held in the afternoon at 1st Hook H.Q. I will advise everyone as soon as I receive any information.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

District Incident Hike - The weather was kind to us as we held a very successful incident hike based around Bentley Copse despite the communication challenges we faced due to the particular terrain in the area.

My sincere thanks to all who took part and also those who spent their day manning bases.

Special thanks go to Paul Atkins and Tim Kerridge, without whom the event would just not run as efficiently.

Congratulations to the 1st Lower Morden for taking top honours on the day.

Wimbledon Food Bank - We spent a very enjoyable couple of hours sorting out cereals and biscuits at the Elim church.

My thanks go to the 13th Wimbledon, 23rd Mitcham, Lesley Bixby and Josh Martin, a new helper at the 14th Wimbledon, for giving up their time to help with this vital task so that the food bank organisers can prepare the food kits for distribution.

I believe that help will be required again towards the end of the summer for this most rewarding task.

Paintball - What a great day! We had over 160 participants and perfect weather.

The Campaign centre were very well organised and there was a great atmosphere.

Lots of people were telling me at the end of the day that we should make it a regular event in the District calendar.

Scout Football Croydon Power League Sunday 1st March - Don't forget entries need to be with me by 15th February at the very latest.



Section Reports

Beavers – John Tweedley

Firstly, may I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and I hope an eventful scouting one. So far this year I have managed to visit 3 more colonies, only 4 to go so if I have not visited you yet you will see me soon.

You should all have had an e-mail from me about numbers going to the Beaver Fun Day at Gilwell as I would like final numbers going from your colony by March 31st. This is so that I can book tickets and coaches. You should find the fun days leaflet in this month's Scouting magazine, and some of the activities they are putting on. You will also see that the Beaver Logo is changing!!!

Do not forget that we are having our Bike and Scooter ride on the 22nd March, I hope to have the police down on that day to talk to the Beavers and have their bikes invisibly marked and recorded against theft. Letters will be sent out at the end of this month.

Our next Beaver Leaders' meeting is on the 11th March at D.H.Q. at 8.00pm and it would be nice to see representatives from colonies who do not normally attend as their views on events and what we can do for Beavers within the district would be most welcome.

Cubs – Michèle McNamara

District Communicator Badge Day – this was held on 1 February and was as popular as usual. Thank you to everyone who helped put this event together.

District Quiz – the district round of the county quiz will be held on Wednesday February 11th at 5th Morden HQ which is the church hall behind St. John Fisher Church on Cannon Hill Lane. Post code SW20 9DB Teams of 6 please, maximum of 2 teams from each pack. If you haven't got 6 cubs please do still come along, you can either compete with less members or maybe join up with another pack who also can't field a full team. 18.30 – 20.00

Chess Competition – This will be held on Sunday March 8th in the afternoon at 19th Wimbledon H.Q. teams of 4 cubs. Full details will be issued shortly. **If**



Membership fees

The Headquarters Fee this year is £21 (less 50p for prompt payment) and the County Fee is £6.

This makes a total of **£26.50 IF YOU PAY ON TIME.**

We have to get all of our monies to County by the end of March.

Group and Unit cheques to cover all members (including leaders this year) must therefore be with the District at the latest by 12th March to enable us to process them and send funds to County.

Keith Angliss who is standing in as treasurer at the moment will be at the DHQ on 12 March to receive your cheques or, if you wish you may post the cheque to Keith to arrive ON OR BEFORE 12 MARCH.

Cheques should be made payable to:-

Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Council

and if you are posting them should be sent to :-

Keith Angliss
5 Burleigh Park,
COBHAM,
Surrey,
KT11 2DU

Badges – Lesley Bixby

The requirements for the new badges have now been published and the badges can be ordered.

I am trying to run down stocks of the old badges and will only order the new ones as they are requested so please let me know what you need – I can usually get badges within a week but an email may save you a wasted trip to the Store - thebixbys@talktalk.net

Once the new scheme is fully implemented, I hope to be able to maintain a reasonable stock of all badges once again.



County Training dates

Date	Mod	Title	Time	Venue
Feb 14	19	International	10.00-12.30	SDHQ
Feb 21	16	Intro. to residential experiences	10.00-13.00	1LM
Feb 21	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	1LM
Mar 7/8	38b	Skills for residential experiences	Weekend	B W
Mar 21	12a/22	Delivering a quality programme	10.00-12.30	1LM
Mar 21	12b	Programme planning	13.30-17.00	1LM
May 16	17/23	Running safe activities	10.00-13.00	SDHQ
Jun 13	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	SDHQ
Jun 13	13/23	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	SDHQ
Sep 26	16	Intro. To residential experiences	10.00-13.00	1LM
Sep 26	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	1LM
Oct 4	12a/22	Delivering a quality programme	10.00-12.30	1LM
Oct 4	12b	Programme planning	13.30 -17.00	1LM
Oct 10/11	38b	Skills for residential experiences	Weekend	B W
Nov 8	19	International	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 8	17/23	Running safe activities	13.30-16.30	1LM
Nov 29	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 29	13	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	1LM

SDHQ Sutton District Headquarters, Woodcote Road, Wallington SM6 0LY

1LM 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane SM4 4SJ

B W Bears Wood campsite, Oswald, Croydon CR09HJ

Cost per module is £4 except Modules 38a and b which is £40

Download applications forms from the County website

www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk/applicationform

or contact Mrs J Condon joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com

Safeguarding dates can be obtained from Alison Edwards (District Training Manager)

First Aid Training – Module 10

22 February Croydon

22 March Richmond

19th April Kingston

Application forms can be downloaded from the County web site

www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk/support or contact Mrs Janet Drinkall 020 8669 4774

email jdrinkall@sky.com

Cost for module 10 £18.00

Bob Prescott

Bob was the first District Commissioner for Wimbledon and Wandle but was forced to give up some years ago due to ill health. He emailed me last week and his news is reproduced here.

“I am currently not involved in any scouting position for the first time in over 50 years of scouting. My condition has deteriorated as expected with Parkinson’s, so fulfilling a role which would be appropriate to my interest and knowledge is difficult.

I am however going to be admitted into hospital (University College Hospital London; National Neurology hospital) soon for a brain operation called deep brain stimulation which is a six hour operation followed a few days later with a 2 hour operation. This will entail them putting electrodes into my brain and later connected to a neuro pacemaker. The outcome is that the symptoms of Parkinson’s will largely cease and I will be much more stable. Very few get to have this operation as the criteria for having this is very high; so I consider myself very fortunate indeed.

My consultant said I would be having this either just before or just after Christmas but I have heard nothing to date. Once I am admitted I expect to be in hospital for about 18 days.

I will look forward to seeing everyone later in the year when I fully expect the operation to have settled and hopefully making a huge difference to my life.”

I sent Bob our best wishes and asked him to keep us up to date with his progress. - Lesley Bixby.