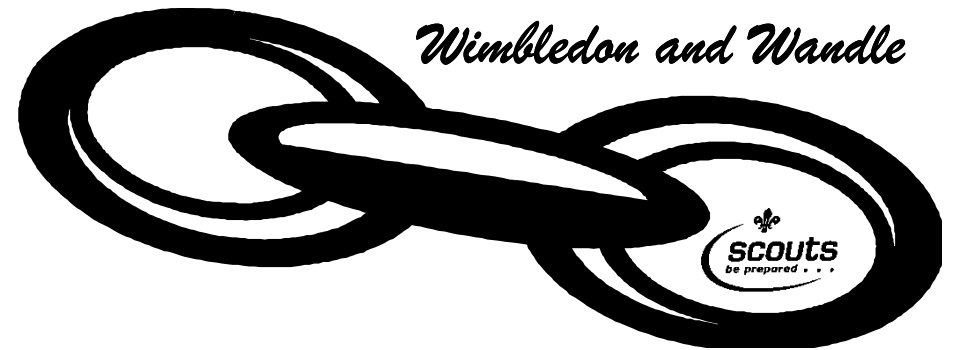


“Be who you are.  
Say what you mean.  
Because those who don’t mind matter  
and those who matter don’t mind”

Dr Seuss



*Wimbledon and Wandle*

## *Links*

February 2016 – Issue no. 119

Feb 6	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	Troop Scouters’ meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
9	Appointments meeting	Morden Hall DHQ
10	SAS Games evening	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
11	All accounts to DHQ	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
14	County Scouts’ cooking competition	1 <sup>st</sup> Hook 10.30am
18	No store – half term	
19	SAS Gang Show visit	
23	Key Managers’ meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
28	Cubs’ chess competition	
28	Scouts’ football competition	Powerleague 1pm
Mar 4-6	Young Leaders’ weekend	Walton Firs
5	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	Safeguarding training	8 <sup>th</sup> Morden
9	CSLs’ meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
12-13	County Scouts’ night exercise	Polyapes
15	SAS Annual Meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
24	No Store – Easter holidays	

Copy date for March Links  
25 February 2016

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**Links Editor**

**Lesley Bixby**

[thebixbys@talktalk.net](mailto:thebixbys@talktalk.net)

**1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park SW20 9JR**

**07713 154317**

## District Commissioner

A belated Happy New Year to one and all!

What a delight it was to see 212 scouts and explorers with their leaders in Cobham last weekend for our second paintballing day! There was, therefore, 38% (up from 25% last year) of our 10-18 year old membership together in one place, enjoying an extremely well organised activity. Everyone had such a good time again this year, that there is little doubt that this very popular event will become a staple of the calendar.

What was particularly noticeable was the way in which scouts from throughout the District got on so well together; it was a classic example of the Scout family in action. It gave those scouts who were there a perspective wider than their own troop, group or unit, which, if nothing else, recommends it as a worthwhile day. Add to that the evident teamwork, the obvious keen competitive spirit and ever-present good natured banter, it was, in every respect, a quality day's scouting. It does make one wonder why it was a proscribed activity for so long. A big thank-you again to Dave Bixby for putting it together (from an original idea by Deborah Carter) and to the many leaders and helpers who gave their scouts the opportunity to be part of such a great experience.

As mentioned in previous Links, Compass is being re-launched via a phased roll out that has just begun; we wait with bated breath to see if Son of Compass is more successful than his mum (or was it his dad?).

Finally, by the time that you read this, we should have some indication of the figures from this year's census. The interim, or mini, censuses last year hinted that our numbers would go up this January. We wait and see...

Joe

If you would like to attend the **Gang Show**, tickets will be available for Friday 19th February, £12.50 each. Please let Jean Gould know, a.s.a.p., if you like a ticket and she will give you further details.

### Dates for your Diary:

**SASU Annual Meeting** to be held on Tuesday, 15th March, at Morden Hall HQ, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. All members to attend please. Light refreshment will be provided.

**St George's Day** – Sunday 24th April, Edge Hill – help will be required.

**District Annual Meeting** – Wednesday, 4th May at the 19th Wimbledon H.Q. We shall be providing the refreshments again this year.

**Sports Day** – Saturday 14th May – details to follow.

You will be most welcome to join the Morden Park Evening TG again this year for their Annual Quiz Night. This will be held on Saturday, 12th March, at the Methodist Church Hall, Martin Way, Morden.

The cost of a ticket, including a Fish 'n Chip supper, is £10 per head. Please bring your own soft drinks, **non alcoholic** because of the venue. If you would like to attend, or perhaps bring a team, please contact Jean Brumwell 020 8330 7466, by 1st March, for your ticket and further details.

Finally, our best wishes go to David Gould, recovering from a recent major operation and to Bill Cronk and Cliff Condon, who are both poorly at the moment.

### Printer cartridge recycling

Do any Groups recycle printer cartridges? If so, please contact Richard Marus [treasurer@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:treasurer@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org) as he may be able to send some your way.

Edinburgh's Gold Award. Very well done Robbie on achieving the top two training awards, a very rare accomplishment. The majority of the latest QSA holders will be attending the County Awards Dinner in April with the County Commissioner.

**Unit Closure:** Sadly I have to report that the Vikings Unit closed at the end of December. Many thanks are due to Jason and Louise (and previously Robert) who ran a very good unit for many years. Sadly a lack of numbers prevented them from continuing. As always I hope that we will be able to re-open the Unit at some point in the future.

**Unit Progress:** The Young Leader Unit at the 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham has some help trying to establish a permanent ESL (and perhaps other Leaders). We have a leader (Jack) on loan from Headquarters on an initiative to support all the great work already done by Peter, Peter and Andy. This has just started so hopefully more news soon.

**Future Events:** Our programme for 2016 has the usual mix of activities and trips. Highlights as below:

- Gang Show (just watching for most!)
- Dodgeball
- Award Practice and Qualifying Expeditions
- Monopoly Run
- Night Hike & Water sports Day
- Mountain Weekend

#### **Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey**

We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. We have a busy time coming up!

As you know, we have had to change the date of our **New Year Meal** to Saturday, 6th February. I think you will have received all the details from Jean Gould by now.

We extend an invitation to our **'Mexican Train Games Evening'**. This will be held on Wednesday 10th February, at Morden Hall HQ, 7.30 p.m. Please bring your own drinks. Names to Jean Gould please if you would like to attend by Monday 8th February.



#### **Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds**

The Executive met in early December and meets again in early February.

The KBH Flat is now vacant, is being re-wired and builders appointed to bring it up to a point where we can look to re-market by March. Expected costs are likely to be around the £25000 budgeted for and indications for potential future rental vary from £1700 per calendar month to £2150. Thanks to Rob Brumwell for all his efforts in overseeing the complexities!

Budget for District Development Plan over 2016 was agreed at £38250, and I would still expect to be annually around £30000 thereafter.

Alan Green has updated his Three Year Plan for Morden Hall DHQ, and total expenditure is expected over that period of £12000. This will all help to further improve this facility, which is now being used more often and at no cost to the users.

I await Census figures with great anticipation. It will be interesting to see if the £4500 earmarked, based on the last Mini Census, to Support Growth will be required?

It has been agreed to install broadband at Morden Hall DHQ, so as to help with online DBS checks and to allow Brian Whalebone and the District Store to offer the option of electronic card payments.

Keith Angliss and Richard Marus will be working together on producing the District Accounts. So if you have been asked for anything, please do ensure it is provided in a timely fashion. We only have a couple of months to produce the Accounts and get them audited, in time to be approved at Executive in April and then printed for the AGM on 4th May, which will again be held at 19th Wimbledon.

I hope everyone is aware by now of the changes that start after this year's AGMs as regards training for all Executive Members? If not, refer to your Group Scout Leader or the September 2015 issue of "Links". Headquarters is launching the material shortly to District Training Managers and we await details as to the District based training that County will be providing.

**Andy**

## Appointments Review Meeting – Muriel Treagust

Appointments agreed 15th December, 2015

Charles Connor	ASL	9th Wimbledon,
Richard Bowyer	AGSL	19th, Wimbledon,
Will Harman	ASL	9th Wimbledon,
Luke Young	ASL	9th Wimbledon,

We thank them for their support.

The next Appointments' Interview evening will be held on 9th February, 2016 at DHQ, Morden Road.

## District Skills Day – 16 April 2016

Wimbledon and Wandle and Sutton Districts are holding a skills day on 16 April 2016. The day is aimed at anyone and everyone:

- Leaders in training are encouraged to come and try out some new skills and complete Module 18 of the Adult Training Scheme in the process.
- Those of you who have been around a little longer, come and take the part and refresh your knowledge.
- Young Leaders come and try some new things and take them back to your section.

It is free to attend and you don't have to come for the full time. So why not drop in and see what there is?

Please could anyone wanting more information, or wishing to attend, let me have names by 6 April at the latest. Please email me on

[Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)

## NSRA's Tutor Diploma in Air Rifle shooting

The next two courses to enable Leaders to supervise Scouts in air rifle shooting will take place 28/29 February and 9/10 April.

Please contact Jean Jenkins (County Air Rifle Adviser)  
email [athena@f2s.com](mailto:athena@f2s.com)  
or phone 020 8942 8352 / 07929 775 062

## Scouts – Dave Bixby

**Paintball Day:** The staff at Campaign really seem to be on the ball. We had over 200 participants enjoying some fine weather. It was good to see so many of our Scouts and Explorers having a great day.

A couple of the Explorer Units appeared to lose the plot and forgot that the object of the exercise was to build a good relationship between the sections and not win at all costs.

One in particular was penalised, quite rightly, by the referees for over aggressive play. It would be a shame to have to exclude groups or even not run the event because of inappropriate behaviour.

**Scout Football** Croydon Powerleague Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Don't forget that team entries must be to me by 14<sup>th</sup> February at the latest.

## County Events

Cooking Competition 14<sup>th</sup> February

Night Exercise 12-13<sup>th</sup> March.

Details of these have been circulated to all Troops but are also on our District website.

Details of **water activities** organised by Richmond Boating Centre, including the very popular water week-end have been circulated. These get booked up very quickly so don't delay to avoid disappointment.

This is also repeated on our District website.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February at Morden Hall DHQ at 8.00 pm. I have only received 4 Troop programmes for this term so please bring yours with you (or I'll set my boss on you). Submission of a section's programme is a compulsory requirement under your Group Development Plan.

## Explorers – Neil McLauchlan

**Past Events:** We have just returned from the Paintball Day joint activity with the Scouts. Many thanks again to Dave Bixby for running the day. We had 6 units taking part in total, although some members do take it a little too seriously!

**Awards:** Following on from the fantastic number of Network Scouts obtaining their Queen's Scout Award as reported in December, I am very pleased to announce that Robbie McLauchlan has also obtained his Duke of



## Section Reports

### Beavers – John Tweedley

A belated Happy New Year to you all. By now you should all have had the details of the District Beaver Badge Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, to be held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden Scout Group, Bow Lane.



Our next activity will be the Beaver Bike & Scooter ride on 20<sup>th</sup> March. This looks like being held at a new venue for the cycling part plus D.H.Q. I will send out information before the day but we will finalise the event on the 16<sup>th</sup> March at our next meeting.

The visit to Legoland is to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July please tell your Beavers and their parents soon as I will need to know numbers well before we go. I want to use this to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> year of Beaver Scouting as H.Q. have no intention of holding any celebrations. As the Beavers go for just £16.00 instead of £46.00 each, I will give an estimate of £22.00 per Beaver this to include travelling by coach to Legoland.

Finally some of the leaders attended our New Year's Meal on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and a good time was had by all, at my expense !!!

### Cubs – Michèle McNamara

**Badge Day** – On Sunday 180 cubs went to Bow Lane to attempt their astronomer's badge. A good day was had by all and a lot of thanks must go to all the leaders who ran bases to help them achieve this target. The bases were many and varied and the cubs were thoroughly entertained by them all.



**Chess Competition** – This is due to take place on Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon HQ, full details will be issued shortly. You will need teams of 4. If you have some cubs that want to take part and you can't make up a full team let me know and perhaps we can put you in touch with another pack in a similar situation. Cost £4 per team.

**District Camp** – a meeting has been arranged for the interested packs at 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham HQ on Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>

### St George's Day Parade – 24 April 2016

The venue will remain the same and full details will be sent out by Richard Marus very shortly.

### Store

SALE: 40% off (all sizes subject to availability)

Beaver Adult Hoodie	£13.80
Cub Unisex Adult Hoodie	£13.80
Cub Unisex Zipped Hoodie	£16.80

### Compass

HQ has recently sent out some publicity regarding the re-launch of Compass - the Scout Association's membership management system.

The re-launch is being rolled out in 4 phases as follows:

- Phase 1: District, County and Regional Commissioners and Appointment Secretaries
- Phase 2: Group Scout Leaders, District Explorer Scout and Network Commissioners and Scout Active Support Unit Managers
- Phase 3: County Training Managers and Local Training Managers and Training Administrators
- Phase 4: All other adult volunteers.

Phase 1 started on 27 January with the other phases following on dates to be announced by HQ.

This means for the majority of Leaders, no action is required until phase 4, when it would be wise to check your own personal record.

You need to have a Full appointment (not Provisional) to be given access.

In the meantime, please support our District Appointments Secretary Muriel Treagust, by answering any queries that she may have promptly and advising her of any new adults or changes to adult records as and when they happen. Compass is currently only for adult membership records, not youth members.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Atkins on [compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org)

## Training

Date	Mod.		Time	Venue
13 Feb	12a/b	Planning quality programmes	09.45-17.00	Le
27 Feb	16	Introduction to residential experiences	09.45-13.00	1LM
27 Feb	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-16.30	1LM
11/12 Mar	38b	Weekend camp skills - residential		WF
19 Mar	17	Running safe activities	09.45-13.30	1Rich
19 Mar	19	International	14.30-16.00	1Rich
14 May	15	Promoting positive behaviour	09.45-12.30	1LM
14 May	13	Growing the section	13.30-16.30	1LM
24 Sept	16	Introduction to residential experiences	09.45-13.00	1LM
24 Sept	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	1LM
8/9 Oct	38b	Weekend camp skills - residential		WF
23 Oct	12a/b	Planning quality programmes	09.45-17.00	4WP
27 Nov	17	International	09.45-12.30	Le
27 Nov	19	Running safe activities	13.30-17.00	Le
4 Dec	15	Promoting positive behaviour	09.45-12.30	1LM
4 Dec	12	Growing the section	13.30-16.30	1LM

Le	Leander Sea Scout HQ, Kingston
1LM	1 <sup>st</sup> Lower Morden, Bow Lane, Morden
WF	Walton Firs, Cobham
1Rich	1 <sup>st</sup> Richmond
4WP	4 <sup>th</sup> Worcester Park

Application forms from

Mrs J Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue Email [joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com) or download from the County web site [www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform)

**Safeguarding:** 8 March, 8th Morden at 8pm.  
Names to Alison Edwards [Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)  
by 6 March please

**First Aid:** 10<sup>th</sup> April at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon.  
Applications via Janet Drinkall ([jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)).

**District Young Leader's weekend:** 4-6 March.  
All applications need to get to Alison Edwards  
[Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)  
by 12 February to allow for planning

## Space for Hire

If you have a headquarters which you are willing to hire out for meetings etc, it can be registered on the MVSC website. Contact them on [info@mvsc.co.uk](mailto:info@mvsc.co.uk).

## Youth Organisations in Uniform (YOU)

All leaders are invited to a meeting at Wimbledon Police Station on Wednesday 17 February at 6.30pm to discuss the work being done with young people across the borough and how the Police and Leaders of the Council can help.



**Bill Cannon**

The 22nd Wimbledon has recently lost a long-time friend in that Richard Cannon (known to many as Bill or Dick) passed away during January after a long illness which he fought bravely for the last three years.

Bill was an Assistant Cub Leader from 1964 -66 and Cub Leader from 1966-1982. A long term supporter of the Group he was persuaded by the late Chairman of the Group, Simon Shute, to take on the task as Group webmaster, a job he did to great effect for the past four years.

The Group sends its sympathies to his wife Wendy and their family. A funeral and memorial service took place on 28th January attended by leaders both current and past and the Group President, Martin Conrad.

May he rest in peace.