

*Have a good summer.
 May your camps be safe and happy.
 Remember the rules - they are there for your safety as well as everyone else's.
 Do your NAN form.
 Do not carry a knife - ever - use it then lock it away.
 Only use an axe if you are properly trained and understand the safety rules - don't leave it lying around for the unwary.
 Keep your uniform smart and wear it with pride.
 Keep your site tidy.
 No-one will remember the name of your Pack or Troop when you vacate your site but they will remember if you were a credit to the Movement.
 Most of all - HAVE FUN!!*

There will not be an edition of Links in August. The next copy date is 27th August.

Links Editor

Lesley Bixby

1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park SW20 9JR

020 8542 2017 07713 154 317

thebixbys@talktalk.net

Wimbledon and Wandle



July/August 2009
Issue 55

July 8	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
11	District Sports	Wimbledon Park
12	Scouts' Raft Race	Ravensbury Park
14	Young Leader Training	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
15	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
25	Fellowship BBQ	Dave and Jean Gould's
Sept 9	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	District Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
13	Scout and Explorer activity day	Pod London, Whyteleafe
14	Troop Scouter's meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
22	Fellowship meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Oct 9	Scout Quiz night	22 nd Wimbledon HQ
10	Fellowship outing	
10	District Conference	Antoinette Hotel

District Commissioner

Joe Rogerson and I have begun the familiarisation process, leading to handover. We have agreed the formal date for handover, which will take place on Saturday 10th October at the District Conference

The District Conference will be a very important event in the life of the District and especially Groups. It will be an important chance to look at the problems of developing your Group and having a real go at looking at the problems of growth and putting thoughts and ideas together to provide a basic plan for the coming 5 years.

It will also provide an opportunity for the handover to take place and give a great starting point and lift off for Joe's time as DC.

It is therefore important for all Groups to attend. As development is the responsibility of the Group Executive we would like both GSL and Chairman to attend with mixture of personnel from 6 to 12 in number. The workshops are designed to provide information and inspiration to enable you to work in the afternoon to produce a plan to help you in the coming 5 years.

The conference will be at no cost to delegates

Full details are provided elsewhere in Links

The conference will be followed by a District Dinner which will also be an appropriate event to celebrate Joe's start as DC and for me to say thanks and farewell to the many friends I have made.

The dinner will be a carvery and will cost £25.00 per head. Vegetarian options will be available.

Tickets are now available strictly on a first come first serve basis (140 seats). I do encourage you to take part not only in the conference but also provide me with an opportunity to thank for your support.

I would like indications of numbers and workshop preferences as soon as possible

If you are going away camping have a great time and I trust it will be a great adventure for the young people going and an enjoyable time for all the Leaders who are giving up part of their holiday time for the young people.

Bob

Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey



Thank you to the Fellowship members who helped at the Beaver Bike Ride on Sunday, 14th June - your help was much appreciated.

It was a pity that so few members attended the summer meal on Sunday 21st June. We all enjoyed the meal which was held in the very pleasant surroundings of the Surrey National Golf Club. Thank you Jean (B) for arranging.

Our next event is the BBQ, to be held at Jean and David Gould's (48 Buckleigh Avenue) on **Saturday, 25th July** 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. The cost will be £5 per head, remember to bring your own drinks. Please let Jean know (0208 395 1885) by Friday 17th July. We all know the food will be good all we need is the weather!

We have a number of events coming up in September and October. Our annual trip to the 'Music Hall' at the Stanley Halls, South Norwood will take place on **Wednesday, 9th September**. The curtain goes up at 7.30 p.m. The cost of a ticket, including a fish and chip supper, is £13.50. Please send your cheque made payable to Mrs L M Vaudrey, 29 Cedars Road SM4 5AB by 25th July. Many thanks.

On **Tuesday 22nd September**, we have our general meeting at the Morden Hall DHQ. As you know Bill Walden always arranges for an interesting speaker. This year we have an ex-Customs and Excise man giving us a talk about smuggling. Once again light refreshments will be provided so please let Bill know (020 8643 6699) by Friday 18th September whether you will be attending.

On **Saturday 10th October** we have organized a visit to Bletchley Park, home to our wartime code breakers. Separate details have already been sent to you so please reply a.s.a.p.

We hope you have a good summer break and look forward to seeing you all at the events planned.

jacket, for age 13, if this is not claimed by the end of the term, I shall donate it to the nearest charity shop.

CSL Meeting - the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th July, it is at this meeting that we normally plan the calendar of next years events. So if you want any input into this planning please try and attend. If there are any events you would like us to run that we don't do at the moment, this is your chance to have your say. If you are unable to attend personally, you can always call or e-mail with your ideas.

For those of you going away on summer camps, I wish you a good time; make sure that all NAN forms have been forwarded in good time to Keith Daly.

Scouts - Dave Bixby

Camping Assessment - Once again we were blessed with good weather, which was a real bonus, as some of the teams would have struggled to cope had it been wet. A couple of teams had a few problems with equipment, either it was defective or, in one case, down right hazardous to health! I would urge Leaders to spend a bit more time and effort on checking the equipment before a camp to help avoid problems later.



The winners of the cooking competition were the 1st Morden B team and top camping honours went to the 11th Mitcham.

Scout/Explorer Link Event 13th September - This promises to be a great day with an opportunity for the older Scouts to join members of Explorer Units for a spot of 'Zorbing'. Details have been circulated, please ensure that your Scouts are given the chance to have a go.

The Red Book 2010 - the next Troop Scouters' meeting is on Monday 14th September and anyone working with a Scout Troop is welcome to come, but please bring your diaries as we need to decide on events and dates for the coming year. The 2010 Red Book is due to be issued at our November meeting.

My best wishes to everyone heading off for a summer camp, be it for two weeks or just one night. I hope the weather is kind to you.

Appointments Committee (April - June 2009) - Joan Burgess

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have now had their full warrants approved:

Ashley Robinson	ASL	1 st Morden:
James Hickson	AEXL	Raynes Park Unit;
Alan Haskell	SL	2 nd Morden;
Lucy McLauchlan	AEXL	Raynes Park Unit;

All outstanding Warrants have now been issued.

I would like to remind those Groups who have still not completed their Reviews up to 2008 that it is necessary to have Warrants reviewed and the new review date has to be sent to Gilwell. There is little point in starting the Reviews for 2009 until we have finished the current exercise.

The latest directive from Gilwell is that CRB Disclosures last for 5 years and then need to be renewed. Please check that all your Leaders have CRB clearance (including Leaders who have been in your Group prior to the start of CRB checks) and arrange for renewal if out of date. Your help in this would be much appreciated.

Grassroots Funding - Beverley Burton, Merton Voluntary Service Council

Due to unprecedented demand, the Grassroots Grants programme is now suspended until April 2010. All applications already received will be processed in the next round, but we can't accept any further applications for that round or the remainder of this financial year.

We have been incredibly successful in publicising the Programme and have been able to fund some excellent projects. We have also demonstrated that there is a real need for small grants for community groups in Merton.

The grants panel considered this was the best way forward, rather than trying to make a small amount of money stretch for a further 10 months.

If you were intending to submit an application, please contact me to see if we can find an alternative funding source - ☎ 020 8685 2277

Young Leaders' meeting - Liz Laverick

There will be a meeting of all Young Leaders ie 14 to 18 year olds who are **not** members of other Explorer Units and currently doing their service within the other sections of the Scout Movement.

The meeting will be to discuss how these YL would like to arrange regular meetings and to complete module A; we aim to finish at 9.30pm.

This meeting is **not** for Explorer Scout Unit members undertaking regular service in other Sections, although we hope to open up all the training to these Explorers in the future.

Please pass on my contact details to the YLs so that they can confirm their attendance. Dave Suckling and Neil McLauchlan will also be there. We need all the views of the YLs so please ask them all to attend, even if they have already completed Module A.

Please contact me if you need any clarification: ☎ 020 8605 1401; 07786 334 386; liz.laverick03@hotmail.com.

District Store

After 4 years of static prices, increases will come into effect from September.

For example:

Beaver Sweatshirts	£10.50 (up £1)
Cub Sweatshirts	£11.00 (up £1)
Scout Shirts	£16.00 (up £1.50)
Belts	£11.00
Boys Trousers	£15.50 (up 50p)

and now the good news - Leather Woggles **down** in price by 2p now 98p.

Summer closing: the last Thursday night of the Store will be 16th July but it will be open on Saturday 18th July from 10am to 12 noon.

The Store will re-open on 10th September.

Badges

Badge prices will also be increasing from September - activity badges will be 45p, challenge badges 52p and Patrol flashes 56p.

Training dates

Module No	Name	Date	Time
	First Aid	19.09.09	
16	Nights away	23.09.09	7.45-10.15pm
11	Administration (Leaders)	27.09.09	10am-11.30am
12	Providing a Balanced Programme	27.09.09	11.45am-4.30pm
16	Nights Away	17-18.10.09	
	First Aid	18.10.09	
13	Growing the Movement (Leaders)	25.10.09	10am-1pm
21	Growing the Movement (Managers)	25.10.09	10am-4.30pm
	First Aid	14.11.09	
8	Skills of Leadership	21.11.09	9.30am-11.15am
9	Working with Adults	21.11.09	11.30am-1pm
14	Young People Today	21.11.09	2pm-3.15pm
15	Challenging Behaviour	21.11.09	3.30pm-5pm
07	Valuing Diversity	06.12.09	10am-11.15am
19	International	06.12.09	11.30am-1pm
17	Activities Outdoors	06.12.09	2pm-4.30pm

Please check the County website www.glsWSCouts.org.uk for more details.

Section Reports

Cubs - Michèle McNamara

Athletes Badge Testing - Thank you to all the Leaders who turned up to run this event, thankfully this year we had good weather. About 80 Cubs attended and all managed to earn at least one badge. Unfortunately these grounds have now been sold by the AELTC so if we intend to run this event again, we will need to find a new venue, I doubt it will be so cheap. I have one piece of lost property from this event, a white



Tent Repairs

Are your tents all up to scratch for the summer? Do you need any spare bits and pieces to take away with you 'in case'?

Mike Williams, who repairs many tents for Scouts and Guides in GLSW has a number of items for sale on a first come first served basis:

Large wooden mallets, 3 kg and with 36" handle (2), £10 each and a variety of smaller ones (several) £3:00 each

Rope, Manilla (natural fibre) about 13mm Diameter or 2" circ. Half coil. £30.

Rope various man made 4 mm to 8mm Diameter Several coils and part coils.

Pegs, wooden, cleaved 9" and 12" priced at 3 pence per inch so 9" = 27p.

Bags, I can make bags almost any size and shape ... ask for quote.

Wire pegs, 7" and 9".

Wooden guy runners: large and small eg for Patrol tents.

A pair of ridge pole separators (for double ridge poles).

Zips off the roll: 10 mm heavy duty. You can sew or ask me to quote.

Shock cord about 6 mm.

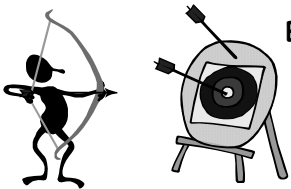
Buckles, clips rubber loops and similar bits and pieces.

Brass eyelets, various sizes. (But not the closing tools, punch and die).

Webbing various widths and weights.

Mike lives in Welhouse Road, Carshalton and can be contacted on 07050 043 963 or michael.williams63@tesco.net

Archery



Bob McNally and Andrew Hayward have added their names to the list of qualified archery instructors across the District by completing their GNAS courses. The 1st Lower Morden Group are hoping to build an archery range at

their HQ in Bow Lane which other Groups will be able to use. If your Group would be interested in adding archery to the programme, have a word with Andy at andrew.hayward@blueyonder.co.uk .

District Conference "The Way Ahead"

Now that Joe Rogerson is identified as the DC Designate the preliminary arrangements for the District Conference have been made.

This will be a significant point in the life of the District and the Groups within it. It will provide a wonderful start to Joe's District Commissioner warrant and the formal handover from Bob to Joe will take place at lunchtime during the day.

The conference is booked for **Saturday 10th October 2009 at the Antoinette Hotel Wimbledon. There will be no charge for participants.**

The conference will be open for booking in and light breakfast from 08.00 with the first plenary session commencing at 9.00

There will be workshops covering various topics in the morning and then Group session in the afternoon to provide Groups with the opportunity to think about the development of their Groups in the next 5 years and to produce an outline plan

The conference will finish at 17.30. Lunch will be provided, together with tea and coffee.

Following the Conference there will be Dinner at 18.30 for 19.00 to celebrate this significant point in the life of the District.

The Dinner will open to anyone who wishes to come and tickets will be on sale at £25 per head and will be in the form of a carvery with vegetarian options. Tickets available from 1st July through Bob; there will be 140 tickets available strictly first come first served, and open to anyone; cheques payable to Wimbledon and Wandle District.

The conference is for both warranted Leaders and members of the Executive Committee and to that end individual letters will be posted to the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We are looking for a minimum of 6 from each Group and a maximum of 10.

Please advise Bob as soon as possible the places you require for the conference.

Why have a Conference?

To look at how we can build on the growth of the last three years

To produce Group plans as a positive help to development

To provide an opportunity for interaction between leaders

To provide an opportunity for an effective handover to the new District Commissioner, Joe Rogerson, and say farewell to Bob Prescott