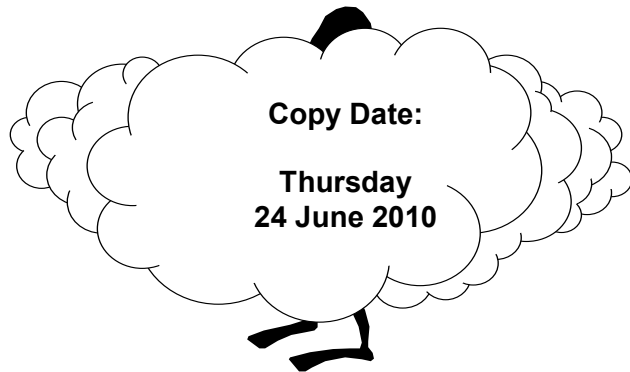


Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books.

John Lubbock



Wimbledon and Wandle



June 2010
Issue 64

June 13	SASU Summer Meal	Surrey National Golf Club
14	District Team	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19-20	Scouts Camping Assessment weekend	Park Farm
19	Scout Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
26-27	Chaos 2010	Tolmers
July 3	Scout Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
7	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	District Sports	Wimbledon Park
11	Scouts' Raft Race	Ravensbury Park
17	Scout Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
21	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
24	SASU BBQ	Jean & Dave Gould's garden
Sept 4-5	Site clearance	Paches

Links Editor:
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07713 154 317

District Commissioner

"The open air is the real objective of Scouting and the key to its success" wrote B-P in his Aids to Scoutmastership in 1919. Over 90 years later, it may be called the Big Adventure, but the message is still the same. We need to get our kids "out there" and we particularly need to make sure that they get to camp out as often as the manpower at our disposal allows. If you are struggling to provide nights away for your section(s), please talk to your ADC or District Leaders to see what can be done to help you. To make life even easier, our resident technowiz, Paul Atkins, has brought NAN forms into the 21st century, so you can now fill them in on-line and get an immediate response, see below for details.

Those who were able to get to the AGM last month will know that a new District Chairman was appointed, Andy Edmonds, and you will see below the first of what will become a regular update from him about the workings of our Executive. The Executive is our servant, not our master; its brief is to deliver, insofar as its resources allow, the logistic support that Scouters "on the frontline" require, be that through the appointments/vetting process, the allocation of financial resources for development and training or the provision of grants/loans for Group HQ development and maintenance. Your support for its work will be vital to its success.

The development of the District's Scout Active Support Unit, formed in March and managed by Dave Gould, is going from strength to strength with recruitment going well. Dave would welcome requests for support from you and he will do everything he can to deliver that support to you. The Unit offers a wide range of expertise from help in delivering catering or acting as stewards at large events to help with putting together group/section accounts. There is a vast well of experience within the Unit, just waiting to be tapped!

Joe

Raft Race 11 July: A great way to end the summer term; closing date 27 June. If you have any rafting equipment, please bring it along as we only have a finite amount and when it's gone, it's gone. A reminder that ALL Scouts taking part have to wear buoyancy aids (supplied by us) when on the water and shoes/trainers at all times. Anyone refusing will be sent home.

Paches management: our District campsite in Ashtead Woods is used by a number of Troops on a regular basis, but the management of the site tends to be rather haphazard. Before the Survival Skills weekend we are planning to check the area for litter and open up some of the sites a little. If you would like to be involved (weekend 4/5 September) please contact me on thebixbys@talktalk.net.

Summer Camp NANs: don't forget to get your NAN form done in plenty of time. It's really easy now it is all on the website.

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

Not much to report this month except to say we are hoping to have a few new members shortly. We look forward to welcoming them to the SAS unit soon.



Just a couple of dates to remember - Saturday, 24th July - our BBQ and Racing afternoon. If we can get sufficient numbers, Jean and David hope to arrange the racing event during the afternoon, if not, we shall go ahead with our annual BBQ during the course of the evening. Please let Jean and David know, a.s.a.p., if you are attending. (020 8395 1885) Last date for orders will be Friday 16th July. As usual please bring your own liquid refreshment. We shall let you have further details, including cost, when we have some idea of numbers.

Later in the year we have our formal meeting, with speaker, on Tuesday 21st September. Don't forget to bring an old clock with you!

We are still hoping to arrange the trip to Bletchley Park later in the year - further information later.

a bit too hot to make any fuss. Thanks also to our catering team from the 23rd who kept us all supplied with refreshments. Congratulations to the winners, 5th Morden, runners up 13th Wimbledon and joint 3rd - 1st Lower Morden & 2nd Morden.

Athletes Badge Testing - I have sent an e mail to everyone I can, to let them know that this event has been cancelled for this year. It has proved impossible to find a venue for the date required, with suitable facilities and at a reasonable price. We will start the search now for next year and hopefully be more successful.

NAN Forms - Don't forget if you are going away during the summer to get your NAN forms in to Paul Atkins a.s.a.p. and also check that your night's away permit is up to date. If it isn't please fill in an application form to renew it.

Scout Report - Dave Bixby

Canal Boat experience: Although the weather wasn't particularly sunny, everyone I have spoken to seems to have had a really good time on the boat trip. I was surprised that more Troops didn't send at least one representative along to see what it is all about. Reachout Plus is run by the Diocese of St Albans and has a number of boats and also a residential centre available for use by youth and community groups. To do a boat trip you can either have a self steer hire but for this you need a qualified skipper, or take one of their skippered cruises. This means hiring and feeding their skipper for the event. There are currently at least 3 qualified skippers in the District.

Camping Assessment weekend 19-20 June: All the entries should have been in by 6 June but if you are running late - phone me **NOW**. If you are using parents for transport, can you please ensure that they keep their speed down when entering the site otherwise vehicles will have to unload in the outer car park and carry their kit in. This is due to one or two people driving irresponsibly within the site last year.

Also - a gentle reminder that all rubbish must be taken away - not like one Troop, also last year, who tucked their black bag behind one of the buildings and then left in a hurry. Bless 'em - we know who you are . . .



Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

I was honoured and delighted to accept the DC's nomination to stand as Chairman of the District Scout Council and your Executive. I look forward to working with everyone to "Do my (our) Best" and to help focus on "People, Programmes and Places".

By way of background, my connection with Scouting in the Borough goes back to 1970 (subs were 6d a week!), when I joined the Cubs. I was Scout Leader of the 20th Mitcham for 21 years and more recently District Scout Leader in Wandle and then W&W. I have also served as Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of Finance of a primary school in Mitcham. My working career has been in the financial services industry and I now work as a self employed Independent Mortgage Broker (all enquires very, very..... welcome!).

It is my wish to enhance communication within the District. To this end I will be making regular contributions to "Links" and I am looking into posting Minutes of the Executive on our web site.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who attended the AGM, those who stood down from the Executive and those who have agreed to stand in the future? Your support and service is and always will be very much appreciated.

The District is looking for a new Treasurer. Yes, a very big responsibility; but I can assure any would be volunteers that you will have the full support of the DC and myself in order to rationalise, improve training and reduce the work load into the future.

We will need to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting in late September / early October in order to sign off the December 2009 District Accounts and review membership and workings of your Executive Committee.

I would like to use the meeting to ensure that your Executive meets your wishes. As members of the District Scout Council, you are able to elect (between 4 and 6 is suggested) representatives to serve on the Executive. It is not for me (or the DC) to say who these should be or how you elect them! So, I would welcome ideas / feedback / nominations on this point; by the end of July please.

VACANCY: Scout Association usual rates of pay!

DISTRICT TREASURER

This is an important and vital role, which includes ex-officio membership of the District Executive Committee (DEC) and responsibilities as a Trustee. You will have the full support of the DEC in order to rationalise, improve training and reduce the work-load into the future.

Outline:

To assist the District Chairperson in the effective administration of the Scout District in accordance with Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Responsible for:

The provision of sound financial administrative support and information to the Scout District.

Working with Group Treasurers and ensuring the completion of the District Annual accounts including the receipt and monitoring of financial statements from each Scout Group

Ensuring the completion of the District Annual accounts in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Charities Commission.

Receives all monies on behalf of the District, keeps account of all funds and pays out on authorisation from the District Executive Committee.

**For further information please contact either:
Andy Edmonds (District Chairman)
or Joe Rogerson (District Commissioner)**

Section reports:

Beaver Report - Kevin Quigley

We had our Beaver Leaders' Meeting coming on Wednesday 19th May 2010 - the minutes will be circulated soon. Again it would be nice if a representative of each Colony could attend the meetings later in the year.

Whilst I have received some copies of Colony Programmes, I'm still short of a number. If you haven't done so, please could Beaver Leaders send me a copy of your latest programme. My details are in the District Directory.

The County are trying to organise a Beaver Leaders Training Day to be held on 12th September 2010 - venue, with adequate facilities, to be decided. Each District will be asked to provide a 'summer' and 'winter' activity to share with Leaders who attend.

Advance notice - The County Beaver and Cub Fun Day will be held on 11th June 2011, at Walton Firs. More information will follow later this year but 2011 is the Cubs 95th and Beavers' 25th Birthdays so important dates for both sections.

There are changes in the way that CRB forms will be dealt with, and please be aware of Vetting and Barring system that is coming into play. GSLs should have the information and the details are on the on District Website.

Also for those of you working towards their Wood Badge, Module 16 (nights away) is going to change. It is to be split into two parts; this change will take place over the next 8-9 months.

Finally a reminder please - Census dates end of June and October - numbers only please.

Cub Report - Michèle McNamara

Football - Well done to all the teams, Leaders and parents who attended last week's football competition. It was one of the most stress free football events for some years and played in a very friendly manner, perhaps we were all



District Sports - 10 July - Wimbledon Park



You will find Peter Hutton's vision of a perfect sports day on the District website. You will also find more mundane things like the programme, entry forms and rules.

Please note there are some changes to the rules:

- The upper age limit for Scouts is now **14½** (previously 15)
- Scouts and Cubs can now **enter up to three events plus the relays BUT no more than two of those events can be track (running) events.** (Thus, they can do two running and a jump, or two jumps and a throw but they cannot do three runs. The Cubs' novelty events are still intended for those who are less athletic and cannot be mixed with any running events.)

It takes a large number of people to run a successful sports day. If you or any members of your Group can help - Explorers, Young Leaders, Parents, Supporters or Leaders - please contact Peter Hutton peter@brandenergyresearch.co.uk

Agoonoree 2010

The Agoonoree Scout Camp is being held this summer for Scouts, Explorers and Scout Network in Greater London with special needs from 31st July to 7th August 2010. It provides a summer camp under canvas (and indoors when needed!) with a week full of activities! Transport is included and a coach will take you to camp from Wallington!!

This year we urgently need a nurse for camp to take the role of first aider and look after the medicines that the young people have. If you are a nurse and would be interested, or know someone who might be able to help, please get in touch.

We are also as always looking for helpers for the patrols and the service crew. This is a great way to sign off service requirements, help other Scouts and meet new friends!!

For more information, or if you have any questions, please get in touch with Claire Devine (mrss...@hotmail.com) or Nick Devine (n...@ndevine.freeserve.co.uk). www.agoonoree.org

St Georges Day Parade & Service 2011

Due to the timing of Easter and school holidays next year our St George's day event will be on Sunday 8th May.

Nights Away Permits

Paul Atkins has taken over the issuing and renewal of Nights Away Permits from Keith Daly. When your existing permit expires the renewal application form can be downloaded from the Info page of the web site and, when completed, should be posted to Paul.

Nights Away Notification (NAN) Forms

A NAN form is required to be completed **14 days in advance** of any overnight event and this can now be done online through the web site. The form is accessible from the Info page and when you submit your form online you will receive an immediate acknowledgement. For those preferring to fill in a paper form, this can also be downloaded from the web site and should then be posted to Paul Atkins.

District Store

There is a selection of new fun badges available at £1.30 each:

Mang, Sahi, Chil, Jacala, Tabaqui, Shere Khan, Bandarlog, and Akela

Also, a DVD has been made of the 5 years that Peter Duncan was Chief Scout: available for £9.95 you will also get a free copy of the 100 Years of Scouting DVD.

These items can all be ordered through Brian Whalebone.

In Touch

With summer camps approaching, are you all sure you are up to date with the 'In Touch' system, which has replaced the old 'Home Contact' scheme. Have a look at FS120075 Nov/09. This fact sheet does not only deal with camps but gives examples of all kinds of situations varying from trips to the park during a section meeting to Jamboree contingents on the other side of the world.

Training Dates

13 Jun	9:00am - 5:00pm	Module 10 - First Aid 7th Malden HQ - Royal Kingston
16 Jun	7:45pm - 10:15pm	Module 14 - Young People Today
		Module 19 - International
9 Jul	7:45pm - 10:15pm	Module 11 - Administration (Section Leaders)
		Module 17 - Activities Outdoors
14 Jul	7:30pm - 10:00pm	First Aid Refresher Course
18 Sep	9:00am - 5:00pm	Module 10 - First Aid 3rd Beddington HQ - Sutton
19 Sep	10:00am - 4:30pm	Module 25 - Assessing Learning
25 Sep	9:00am - 1:00pm	Module 12 - Providing a Balanced Programme
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Module 18 - Practical Skills
29 Sep	7:45pm - 10:15pm	Module 16 - Nights Away
10 Oct	10:00am - 1:00pm	Module 20 - Administration (Managers)
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Module 23 - Safety for Managers and Supporters
16 Oct - 17 Oct		Module 16 - Nights Away (Bears Wood)
16 Oct	9:00am - 5:00pm	Module 10 - First Aid Morden Hall DHQ
31 Oct	10:00am - 1:00pm	Module 13 - Growing the Movement (Section Leaders)
	10:00am - 4:30pm	Module 21 - Growing the Movement (Managers)
6 Nov	10:00am - 1:00pm	Module 22 - Section Support
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Module 24 - Managing Adults
		Module 26 - Supporting Adults
14 Nov	10:00am - 11:30am	Module 07 - Valuing Diversity
	11:45am - 1:30pm	Module 19 - International
	2:30pm - 4:30pm	Module 17 - Activities Outdoors
21 Nov	9:00am - 5:00pm	Module 10 - First Aid 1st Whitton HQ - Richmond

Training dates - continued

From the beginning of September, any modules due to be held at Bow Lane Scout Centre will now take place at Morden Hall DHQ. Further information can be obtained from Joan Condon or the County website www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/adult-training

Training - Alison Edwards

We have had a fairly quiet month on the training front although I am pleased to report 4 more wood badges for you:

Ian Tanner 1st Merton Park
Andy Sloan 16th Morden
Lisa Poulton 16th Morden and
Pauline Godden 19th Wimbledon.

Can I also encourage those of you who need to do your Nights Away course in October to get on and get it booked. Places will go quickly and if all the people who ought to do the course do as they have been asked...we would more or less fill the whole County allocation!

Thank you to those of you who sent me programmes for the term as part of your modules. It makes knowing when to ask TA's to visit much easier.

The details of changes to **CRB, Nights Away and Safeguarding** are on the District website. The info on Safeguarding changes regularly (every week it seems) so if you have any questions please feel free to email or call me.

GNAS Archery Leader course

There will be a GNAS archery course held at Well End Scout and Activity Camp, Well End Road, Borehamwood, WD6 5PR.

Dates 2/3 October and 23/24 October.

Contact Sarah & Michael Raines

Okchuluk Archery Society, Tel: 01923 246701; Mobile: 07961 742 959 or

07505 756 063 Archery.leader@ntlworld.co.uk

archery.leader@live.co.uk or archery.leader@archeryonline.org.uk