

"No one should be ashamed to admit they are wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that they are wiser today than they were yesterday."

Alexander Pope



## Links

June 2013 - Issue no. 94

June 8-9	Canal Boat Experience	Grand Union Canal
12	<b>County AGM</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon HQ 8pm
15	District store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
21	Athlete's badge testing	Sutton Arena
July 3	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
6	Core Skills training	Morden Hall DHQ
6	District store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
6	SAS BBQ	Dave and Jean Gould's house
10	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	District Sports	Wimbledon Park
17	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	District store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
21	Rafting	Ravensbury Park
Aug 11	SAS summer meal	Kingswood Golf Club

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Links Editor:

Lesley Bixby

1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JR

thebixbys@talktalk.net

### **District Commissioner**

Scouting skills and Safety are both topics to the fore at the moment locally, regionally and nationally.

Firstly, the need for us to have the necessary Scouting skills to deliver exciting and relevant programmes to our sections has been highlighted by many leaders over the course of the past couple of years. To help widen the "skill set" that we have, Dave Bixby and a team of leaders will provide skills training on Saturday 6 July at DHQ. The activities will be available throughout the day and will be in 'bite sizes' chunks to allow leaders to dip in and dip out. Each leader that completes six skills areas will be entitled to a free Scouting skills book, which is packed with ideas for sectional programmes.

With regard to Safety, by the Autumn we will look to be in a position to deliver the new safety training module to all adult members in the District over a two/three year period (or quicker if we can). The training will be delivered by a team of local scouters to adults within their group setting. Once the details are confirmed a timetable of delivery will be agreed with Groups.

Finally, Nights Away notifications have been flooding in of late - let's hope the weather is kinder this year than last!

Joe



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

Just to say thanks to everyone for attending our AGM and to all those who helped organise the event.

After the meeting Jim Anning offered to represent the District on the County Executive and has also accepted the DC's nomination to join the District Executive so as to ensure proper liaison between both bodies. Jim

especially those who regularly don't attend district events, perhaps they can suggest some new ones or explain why they don't attend the ones we normally hold.

### Scouts - Dave Bixby



**District PLs and Older Scouts' camp** - unusually for a District camp we were blessed with excellent weather and all the canvas came home dry and packed. Some 60 Scouts and 24 Leaders spent a very pleasant weekend rediscovering the skills that have been the backbone of scouting for over 100 years.

Whilst I understand the convenience and ease of cooking on gas and using battery operated lamps, I really do think that sometimes we are doing our Scouts a disservice in not letting them get to grips with the real aspects of our Scouting traditions. I recently came across a young Scout who had a creditable 20 nights away logged but had never had the opportunity to cook even a sausage on a stick over a fire.

The majority of camp sites offer a whole range of activities at a cost, but in these financially challenging times it might be worth considering escaping from the activity camp and letting your Scouts spend time cooking over a fire.

At the District camp all the Scouts were taught how to light fires, saw and chop wood, light Tilley lamps and primus stoves, build gadgets and carve tent pegs/furze sticks (used in fire lighting).

Spread around Wimbledon and Wandle we have some of the most experienced Leaders in the County - make use of them. I can put you in touch.

We also have a small selection of Tilley lamps and paraffin stoves that actually work! You can borrow these, along with someone who knows how to light them if needed, to give your scouts some experience.

My sincere thanks to all those involved in the camp, especially the planning committee and to the District Executive for part funding this exceptional training weekend.

### Raft Event - 21 July Ravensbury Park

A quick reminder to register your Troop with me if you are planning to take part.

### Morden Hall DHQ

Have you been round the grounds of the DHQ recently? It is looking really good. You can camp in the grounds or use them for a weekend or evening activity totally free of charge.

### To book DHQ

contact Betty Cronk: 020 8393 6233

Once your booking is confirmed, **obtain keys from**

Cliff or Joan Condon: 020 8540 5115

### Appointments Committee - Joan Burgess

Congratulations to the following new Leaders:

Matthew Bignell	ASL	11 <sup>th</sup> Mitcham
William Hay	AESL	Edge Hill
Roberta McAlister	ASL	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon
John Offin	AESL	Edge Hill
Shauna Stainer	CSL	13 <sup>th</sup> Wimbledon

**GSLs: Reviews** - Reviews now need current First Aid and Safeguarding before they can be agreed. If you have done a review but are waiting for the courses, may I suggest that you send the review to me and I will hold it on file and complete it once you inform me that the courses have been attended.

**New Gilwell Membership Database** - Ian Mellor has sent an e-mail to all members in preparation for the new Database system. **DO** please check your details.

Please remember to let me know when a warrant or certificate needs to be cancelled, especially Occasional Helpers (who do not receive a certificate) and therefore sometimes get forgotten.

This is an ideal time to check our records and make sure we enter the new system up to date.

## District Sports – 13 July 2013

### Wimbledon Park

This year the sports will be a truly District activity: the Beavers will be joining in for the first time and all members of the District are invited to be there.



Long jump, high jump and throwing the cricket ball events for Cubs and Scouts will take place during the morning and the track events, Cub novelty events and the tug-o'-war occur in the afternoon.

We are back at Wimbledon Park this year and it would be great to see all Groups represented.

There will be refreshments available (excellent food including BBQ at a reasonable price).

Organised, once again, by Peter Hutton, all the details are on the Wimbledon and Wandle website and, as always, help is needed throughout the day. If you can help, please contact Peter on [Peter@brandenergyresearch.com](mailto:Peter@brandenergyresearch.com)

### Tiger print scarves

The District Scouts bought orange tiger print scarves for their Older Scouts and PLs camp at the beginning of May. There are 9 left and these are available at DHQ for anyone who wants one.

### Autumn Activities

Thinking about something special to start the new Scout year with a bang?

Plan a great day out with your Scouts and save up to 70% through The Great Merlin Get Together from September 27 to 29, with additional dates now available at selected attractions. Take advantage of special discounted entry to top UK attractions including Alton Towers Resort, Thorpe Park and Warwick Castle.

Have a look on the Merlin group website or call 0871 222 6944

## Section Reports

### Cubs – Michèle McNamara



**7 a side Football** – Thank you to all the leaders who bought teams along to this event, it was played in very good humour and even the weather smiled on us. A special thanks to all the referees who always work so hard and without whom the event wouldn't take place. Also, a special note of thanks to our first aider, Alison, who despite being a little under the weather, did a magnificent job of first aiding and scoring. Thanks also to Graham for doing most of the running around! A special thanks to all the cubs for playing so well and congratulations to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon on finally winning the event after a very close final with the 16<sup>th</sup> Morden. This was only decided after extra time, penalties and then a sudden death penalty shoot out. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places went to the 11<sup>th</sup> Mitcham & 5<sup>th</sup> Morden respectively.

**Athletes Badge Testing** – This is due to take place at David Weir Centre (formerly Sutton Arena). All packs are welcome to bring cubs along to try for their athletes plus badge, however we do need leaders to run the following bases:-

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1) 50m sprint   | 2) Throwing a cricket ball |
| 3) High Jump    | 4) Long Jump               |
| 5) Sargent Jump | 6) Shuttle run 6 x 10 m    |
| 7) Skipping     | 8) 1000 m run              |

I have had an offer from one leader so far, to help with the sprint and running. If you are able to volunteer your services please let me know a.s.a.p.

Event is held on 21st June from 18.00 – 21.00hrs, cost £1.00 which includes the badge. Cubs may turn up when they can, within those times. The requirements for this badge can be found on the scout website. It would be helpful to have a rough idea of how many cubs we may expect on the night, so please let your cubs know about this event a.s.a.p. and then let me know approximate numbers by 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Next **cub leaders' meeting** is Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup> back at normal venue. Traditionally this is the meeting at which we set our events calendar for the coming year, so I would like each pack to send a representative,

## Training dates

Date	Module	Title	Time
21 Sep	12	Providing a Balanced Programme	9.30-13.30
28 Sep	16	Residential experiences	10.00-13.00
19 Oct	11	Administration (Leaders)	10.00-11.30
19 Oct	19	International	11.45-13.00
19 Oct	17	Activities Outdoors	14.00-16.30
16 Nov	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00-12.00
16 Nov	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
16 Nov	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
16 Nov	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
7 Dec	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
7 Dec	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30

All Modules are at the 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SJ

Each training module costs £3.

Applications forms for the main modules and first aid can be downloaded from the County website [www.glsWSCouts.org.uk](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk) or contact

Mrs Joan Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden, SM4 4DX

tel: 020 8540 5115 - e mail: [joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com)

Modules 20-26 for Line Managers and Commissioners will be run as required. Contact Joan Condon for more information.

For details of First Aid courses contact Janet Drinkall [jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)

For details of Safeguarding courses contact Alison Edwards [Alison.Edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Edwards@local.gov.uk)

# Basic Skills Day

Morden Hall DHQ,  
Morden Road, Mitcham CR4 4DD

Saturday 6 July 2013  
9.30am to 5.00pm

If you are undergoing Wood-badge training and need  
Module 18 validated;  
if you are looking to complete your on-going learning  
or  
would like a refresher on some real Scouting skills,

whatever Section you work with  
... this is for you.

Details from your GSL,  
Alison Edwards  
or  
your Section ADC

### **Going Abroad with your Scouts/Explorers?**

Please ensure that you complete all the necessary forms in plenty of time and forward them to the ACC(I)s, Claire Devine and David Pearcy. They must be in 3 months before the event if you are going to Europe and 6 months for the rest of the world.

### **Virtual Camp Blanket**

Celebrate Scouting - Post your favourite scout badges on our **Virtual Camp Blanket** and help us to raise funds for our new scout headquarters "Phoenix 2".

Just follow the link to <https://www.19thwimbledonscouts.co.uk>

### **Jack Petchey Awards**

John Young has just sent out details for the next round of nominations for the Jack Petchey Awards. Please let him know as soon as possible (if you haven't already) if you will be putting forward a nomination; if you are not he has a chance to arrange a replacement.

### **District Store**

The last time the Store will be open before the summer holidays is Saturday 20 July and it will re-open on Thursday 12 September.

### **Thanks Badges**

There are now 3 different Thanks Badges available for non-uniformed volunteers, sponsors and benefactors:

Sterling silver	£25.50
Laser etched	£6.60
Cloth	£1.67

### **Advert - Coach Company**

We were very impressed with the coach company used for the recent District Scout camp and are happy to recommend Freeway Coach Services  
Email: [freewaycoaches@hotmail.com](mailto:freewaycoaches@hotmail.com) ; tel: 0208 397 0761.

### **District Grants towards Training**

There are two sources of money towards training:

**Money for Compulsory Training:** this is training required to achieve a Woodbadge and for continuing obligatory training, like First Aid and Safeguarding that must be updated regularly.

**Money for Additional Training:** an example of such training might be to gain an Archery qualification or the like.

The District has recently updated the process and full details of how to claim your grant can be found on the Wimbledon and Wandle website, together with the application forms.

### **Discounts**

Don't forget to ask for your Scout discount when shopping: Cotswold camping give 20% off to Leaders on production of their membership card; Blacks and Tam Leisure will give 10% but it is surprising who else will give you discount - just ask nicely!

### **County Adult Recruitment Officer**

There is still time to apply for the post of Adult Recruitment Officer in Greater London South West.

It's a 3 year contract with a salary of £23,000pa and you need to be happy talking to people to encourage them to become adult volunteers.

You must have

- excellent communication skills,
- be well organised,
- fully committed to the Aim and Method of Scouting and
- prepared to work unsocial hours.

The closing date for applications is 13 June 2013.

Contact the County Secretary on [lesley.bixby@glswscouts.org.uk](mailto:lesley.bixby@glswscouts.org.uk) for more information and an application pack.