

*"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today"*

H Jackson Brown Jnr

Copy date for the next issue of Links is  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June**  
There will not be an edition of Links in August

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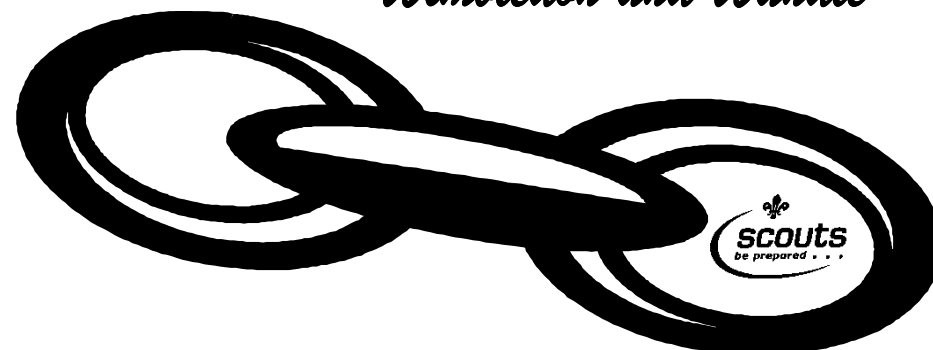
**Links Editor**

**Lesley Bixby**

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

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

*Wimbledon and Wandle*



## *Links*

June 2016 – Issue no. 123

June 4	First Aid training	5 <sup>th</sup> Sutton
8	Explorer Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ
	County AGM	Richmond
14	Appointments committee	Morden Hall DHQ
18	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
25/26	Scouts Camping Skills weekend	Park Farm
29	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
July 2	District Store	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
2	Beaver trip to Legoland	
2	Explorers' Monopoly run	
3	Scouts rafting	Ravensbury Park 12noon
8-9	Gilwell 24	
9	SAS BBQ	
13	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	Last Thursday of store for summer	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
Aug 14	SAS summer meal	

**A big welcome to Deborah Carter who has taken on the role of District Commissioner for Wimbledon and Wandle.**

Deborah has been running a very successful Troop at the 5<sup>th</sup> Morden and an equally successful Explorer Unit, The Flying Penguins.

Deborah, we wish you well.

**Explorers – Neil McLauchlan**

Update on the latest activities as below:

**Leaders Meeting** – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June: DHQ at 8.00pm.

Agenda to be circulated soon.

**Monopoly Run** – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Details and times have been circulated. Meeting at West Barnes HQ at 8.30am. Finishing that evening.

**Gilwell 24** – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July: Coach is booked and will leave at 7.00pm on the Friday. Pick-up point to be confirmed. If anyone else wants to go there are still 3 places left on the coach and we do have a potential mini-bus option if required. Please check with Gilwell 1<sup>st</sup> about tickets.

**Kandersteg 2017** – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017: Get signed up with your unit now. Units to confirm that they want to take part now.

**Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey**

Thank you to everyone who came to the District A.G.M. Once again our help was much appreciated. Also thank you to those members who helped at Sports Day.

The Away Day trip is arranged for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, when we shall be visiting Arundel.

The annual B.B.Q. will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July at Jean and David's, time to be confirmed. This is always an enjoyable, well attended event. If you are interested in coming please contact either Jean or David a.s.a.p. for further details ([baldygouldy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:baldygouldy@hotmail.co.uk)) or telephone 0203 715 4441.

Our summer meal has been booked at the Kingswood Golf Club, where the lunches have always been excellent, for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 12.30 for 1.00 p.m. If you have not already done so, please contact Jean at [brumwells@btinternet.com](mailto:brumwells@btinternet.com) or telephone 0208 330 7466.

Finally, just a reminder for September when our speaker will tell us about his 'Life on the Railway'. This is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. at the Morden Hall DHQ. Light refreshments will be served after the talk.



**Raft Event 3 July Ravensbury Park:** Don't forget to let me know if your scouts intend entering the raft event to ensure that we put aside equipment for you.

Troops are welcome to bring their own equipment provided the raft is built on the day and not delivered to the park ready built. No parts of boats are allowed but teams can bring their own paddles.

The 23rd Mitcham will be bringing their pop up café so refreshments are available.

**Powerboat Experience 3 & 4 September:** We have booked Hot Fuzz for two days so that scouts can experience riding in a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) at high speed on the Solent.

The boat will be paid for so all you have to do is get your scouts to the Hamble base.

Places will be on a first come first served basis but if successful we will repeat the event. Full details will be circulated shortly.

**Monopoly Challenge 24-25 September Morden Hall DHQ:** The challenge will start with a briefing on Friday night with the main event on Saturday.

We have the DHQ booked for all week-end in case any Troops would like to camp both nights.

Troops will be responsible for submitting NAN forms in the usual manner and catering for their scouts etc although we can supply a NAP holder if needed. All entries to Richard Frewin.

**VHF Radio course:** I still have not had a response from the instructor for the radio course but I will circulate details as soon as I have them.

**Trackers:** As you will see from the last Scout Section meeting minutes, we have now purchased 15 tracker units that can be borrowed by groups. The trackers are issued to teams on hikes or similar and allow you to track their position in real time on a map via a tablet, laptop or smart phone. Contact Tim Kerridge for details.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Wednesday 7th September at 8.00 pm Morden Hall DHQ.

### **District Commissioner**

I am honoured to have been asked to be the new DC and I hope to be able to serve you as well as Joe. Replacing him is a daunting prospect as he has left some very big shoes to fill but he has also left a team of outstanding leaders who are dedicated to providing the very best Scouting experience to our young people.

Congratulations must go to Peter Hutton and all the many leaders and helpers who made Sports Day such a success again, it was wonderful to see all four of our youth sections coming together for the day. I am also grateful to everyone who was there for their understanding in allowing me to attend as a SL and ESL one last time as my teams had yet to find out the news.

Thanks also to Michèle McNamara and her team of leaders who provided a day of adventure at Frylands Wood allowing Cubs the chance to try a range of activities from archery to zip wires. It bodes well for the future that at both events we had Young Leaders giving up their time to help.

I should like to express my gratitude to everyone for welcoming me so warmly to my new role and for all the support I have received so far. I look forward to meeting everyone who is involved in the District and apologise if I don't get to meet you all before the summer break. For this term one of my main priorities has to be organising a smooth transition for the 70 scouts and explorers directly under my care and finding them a new leader.

Deborah

## St George's Day Parade

Sunday 24 April 2015

Had this year's event taken place 24 hours later when the heavy rain persisted we would have had to abandon the parade and gone straight to the Sacred Heart! As it was, the large numbers were able to march proudly through the streets with a light breeze to air the many flags that were on parade.

We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Merton who was very appreciative of the £270 collection that was taken to support his two chosen charities.

Canon John Clark gave us a humorous story about the importance of being prepared. Joe Rogerson, in one of his final acts as District Commissioner, presented certificates to four of the eight Explorers who achieved their Platinum and Diamond awards this year and in his address reminded the 700 plus present about honour and Scouting values.

We also received some very positive coverage in the local media [http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/14455986.Hundreds\\_of\\_scouts\\_march\\_through\\_Wimbledon\\_for\\_St\\_George\\_s\\_Day/](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/14455986.Hundreds_of_scouts_march_through_Wimbledon_for_St_George_s_Day/)

My thanks to the groups and units that took part, in particular the Band, the 9<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon as the Duty Group (as well as their support with the venue for the service) and the members of SASU and the organisation team whose efforts support such an important event in the Scouting calendar.

We are very fortunate to have the continuing support of the local authority who again provided us with the Traffic Management Order free-of-charge and to Merton Police, particularly as they have withdrawn from most other events of this type.

And 23 April next year falls on a Sunday so no excuses for not having the event in your diary; Be Prepared!

Richard Marus  
District Treasurer

Tickets for Legoland have been ordered, and the coaches booked, nearer the time I will send out all the information you will need for the event including to which coach your colony has been allocated.

You will see from the minutes from our last meeting that I am thinking of putting on a Beavers' 30 years event, to be held within the District during the month of September. If you or your leaders have any suggestions either for a venue or activities, please let me know before our next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

### Cubs – Michèle McNamara



**Adventure Day**- Unfortunately we had a very low turnout this year for this event with just 39 cubs taking part. However, they all seemed to have a good time and we were blessed with good weather. Thanks to all the leaders both cub and scout sections who helped run the event and to Martin & Mia for all the preparation and planning beforehand.

**District Camp**- A meeting of those involved was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May and it was agreed that the date for paying the balance for those attending of £15 was to be 6<sup>th</sup> June, all cheques should be made payable to "Wimbledon & Wandle District Cub Account", as this is so close to the date of the actual camp and half term intervenes, please make sure that you arrange to get the payments to me **promptly**. Don't forget each pack needs to send in a NAN form to Paul Atkins beforehand.

**Football** - This has been booked for July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Raynes Park High School from 12.00 – 18.00 Full details will be sent out a.s.a.p. but the rules etc. will be as for last year, cost £25.00 per team. Entries and money by June 29<sup>th</sup>, draw will be made at DHQ on June 30<sup>th</sup> and notified to everyone that night.

**Paintballing** – All numbers and money should have been with Graham by now, final cost will be notified a.s.a.p.

### Scouts – Dave Bixby

**Patrol in Camp Week-end 25-26 June:** By the time you read this the book will be closed for entrants for the Patrol in camp week-end at Park Farm.

If you need any help sorting equipment for your scouts just get in touch.



## Uniform and Badge prices

Scout shops are about to announce an increase in prices for both uniforms and badges with effect from June.

This is the first increase for three years.

We will keep the price of both at the old level until the store re-opens in September.

The Store will be closed from 16 July and will re-open on 15 September. If you need anything during the summer period, please contact Brian on [b.whalebone@btinternet.com](mailto:b.whalebone@btinternet.com) or Lesley on [thebixbys@talktalk.net](mailto:thebixbys@talktalk.net).

## Mini Census

Paul Atkins has recently asked for your figures for the Region's mini-census. Could you please get them to him as soon as possible? Thank you.

## Opera

Complimentary opera workshops are being offered to youth groups across Merton during June. If you have a gap in your programme and want something completely different for your members, contact [joanna@baselessfabric.co.uk](mailto:joanna@baselessfabric.co.uk)

## Section Reports

### Beavers – John Tweedley

It was great to have 7 Beaver Colonies attend the District Sports Day. Judging by the fun and laughter from the Beavers they all seemed to enjoy themselves. As for the colonies that did not come down, your Beavers missed out on a lot of fun. My thanks to the Leaders and parents who helped out on the day. My thanks also go out to the organisers of the Cubs' obstacle course who left the equipment up for the Beavers to use.

It was nice to see some new faces at our last District Meeting and I hope that it wasn't just because I requested that it was the last day to pay for Legoland



that more people attended. Please keep on coming and have a say and input into what we should do for the Beavers within the District.

### Good Luck Gary - I have put a tenner on your lot!

This year was the tenth year we have run an all day athletics event for the whole district. In July 2007, it seemed a fitting way to follow up the highly successful Millennium camp two months earlier. Wouldn't it be great, we thought, if we could have an annual event where we were able to bring together the whole district for a day of fun and achievement? The basic format changed little from the Mitcham and Morden District Sports except that we brought it together into a one-day event rather than splitting the track and field over a weekday evening and a Saturday afternoon. In 2012 we introduced the explorers as part of the event and in 2013 were delighted that the beavers decided to join us for their fun activity day in the Arena in the afternoon.

Well done to those teams who won, and deservedly so, but it has got to change! It is beginning to look like the premier league. In the past 9 years only two teams have won the scout trophy and two teams have won the cub trophy seven times in the last 10 years. So where is our Leicester City? Where are the teams that are going to come in and overthrow the seemingly established order? This has only happened once in the last ten years when the 1st Wimbledon cubs came from never having featured in the top three before to clinch the cub trophy.

I cannot believe just 4 Groups have a monopoly of the sporting talent in the district. Indeed, if you look at some of the individual performances this year, there were some great nuggets outside of the usual suspects such as Curtis Hines of the 3rd Mitcham in the under 9½ long jump, David Rees of the 11th Mitcham in the scout over 12½ 400m, Alex Buchannan of the 14th Wimbledon in the under 12½ 400m and Mathew Rockwell-Wolf of the 1st Wimbledon in the over 9½ 200m - all of whom put in magnificent performances.

So who can be the next Tottenham or even Leicester City? I gather Ladbrokes are offering 5000-1 on the 23rd Mitcham to win the scout trophy next year with Gary losing 5 stone to inspire his team to get into shape!

Good luck Gary; I have put a tenner on your lot!

Peter Hutton

**Will whoever took the copy of the Scouts' Red Book  
from the District Headquarters please return it,  
either to DHQ or to Dave Bixby.  
If you would like a personal copy please contact  
Dave on 07889 598960 or download it from the District website.**

### Training diary

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  
 4WP 4<sup>th</sup> Worcester Park

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

**First Aid:** details from Janet Drinkall ([jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)).

There is a first aid course on 4<sup>th</sup> June at 5<sup>th</sup> Sutton. Contact Janet to see if there are any places left.

### Training – Alison Edwards

#### Ongoing safety training

We are organising 2 sessions of ongoing safety training for the district this year (more may follow if demand requires it). This is part of the compulsory ongoing learning that adults need to do as part of their appointment. The sessions will be as follows:

28 June 8pm at the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon HQ  
 Oakwood Rd, West Wimbledon SW20 0SZ

6 October 8pm  
 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham. Glebe Court, Mitcham

The training lasts about 90 minutes and is valid for up to 5 years. Free to attend. Refreshments provided. Names to me for either event, but names for the 28 June event by 24 June at the latest please.

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

#### Safeguarding

We will be organising a safeguarding training for any new leaders, supporters, section/unit assistants before the end of term, plus, if you have any, young leaders working in sections in groups and they need it to. (I know which of them has) More details to follow.

#### A word on training . . .

When adults sign up for becoming a leader in scouting, one of the bits in the small print is that you agree to do the training that goes with that role. And that you do it in the timeframe prescribed for doing it. This is 3 years! So whilst I know there are always exceptions to this rule and 'extenuating circumstances' Gilwell are getting tougher on this. It isn't a new rule, it is just that it is being more firmly enforced. So what may well start to happen is if you or you have leaders who have been 'lurking' in training for 3 or more years, Deborah, as DC, and I may start asking questions... you are duly advised as they say.