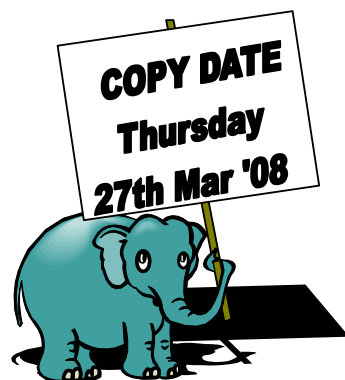


The Purpose of Camping

The object of the camp is healthful recreation without temptation. The camp is where boys live close to nature, give themselves up to play, acquire skill in sport, eat plenty of wholesome food and sleep long hours . . . and are taught high ideals for their own lives.

From Camping for Boys - first published in 1913



Links Editor

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Wimbledon and Wandle



Mar 9	Scout 5-a-side football	Power League, Norbury
12	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	GLSW Leaders' Skills Day	Walton Firs
16	GLSW Network Rugby Sevens	
17	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	Fellowship AGM	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
30	Cubs' Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
31	GSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Apr 5	GLSW Night Exercise	Bentley Copse
10	District store closed	
16	Fellowship Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ
17	District Store closed	
22	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ
27	St George's Day Parade & Service	tbc
May 7	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	District AGM	Kenneth Black 7.45pm

District Commissioner

I am very pleased to report that our **census** return shows an increase from 1415 to 1513 representing a growth of 7%. This is an amazing growth figure and even more so following 5.8% last year. I am certain this is due to the investment by the District to our Centenary and especially the Centenary camp.

12 Groups increased by a total of 153 but of concern 8 dropped by 54. 9th Wimbledon topped the growth with 24 and 13th Wimbledon with 23.

Clearly we are together getting something right and my thanks to you all for providing Scouting of a quality that attracts young people.

Target for 2009 is 1600 that is every Group growing by 5.

St George's Day is Sunday 27th April at 1.00pm. The venue is yet to be confirmed but I am hoping it will be Wimbledon College, which would mean arrangements would remain the same as last year. Details will be issued as soon as possible.

Bob

Appointments Sub-committee - Joan Burgess

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

Cara Boyle (ABSL) 11 Mitcham;
Ann Davies (ABSL) 14 Wimbledon;
Tony Hildreth (ASL) 11 Mitcham;
Andrew Nowak (AESL) Merton Park Unit;

Alison Edwards (Training Manager) was welcomed to our last meeting and is working on getting our new Leaders up to date with training. We have only had one meeting so far this year, but we have a long list of Leaders working on their initial training so it looks as though it may get busy. We have had only one cancellation so far.



Kidsoutdoors is all about bringing out the 'out' in Scouting. An old adage but this new campaign reminds us that we should all be providing what Scouting is best at - camping and outdoor activities. Have a look at the website

www.kidsoutdoors.com for some new ideas and use it to publicize the special things that the members of this District are so good at.

Water Rocket Challenge

Looking for something different for your Troop or Unit? The next Water Rocket Challenge will be on Wednesday 25th June 2008. Details can be found on <http://www.npl.co.uk/waterrockets>.

Newsletter Distribution

We offer you the choice of receiving your copy of Links in the way that you most prefer:

- Electronically - it is published on the District website and we will happily send you an email each month with a link direct to Links.
- Personal paper copy - if you provide the stamped addressed envelopes we will send you your personal copy each month.
- Many Groups also have a number of paper copies each month that they can distribute to Leaders and supporters. They are left at the Morden Hall DHQ on the first Thursday of each month for collection.

If you would like to change the way you receive your copy, contact the Editor who will pass on your request.

Easter Camp

Are you going to Easter camp? Traditionally, this is the first camp of the year for many. I wish you warm, dry spring days; well-behaved, happy Scouts and fun for all.



Explorer Report - Neil McLauchlan



Liz and I have now attended the County Conference and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Day. At our next Leaders' meeting (date not yet fixed) we will present our findings from these two events. I also have all the new Unit Essentials Books, Programme Books and Badge Books to distribute.

The Unit's activities are as varied as usual including: fundraising events, night hikes, award work, service work etc. etc.

We are also looking at the links with all the Scout Troops and how we can improve these.

Network - Alex Minjew



The development of Scout Network within the District was recently discussed with your District Commissioner and other interested parties. I am delighted in the enthusiasm shown for the growth of this part of Scouting and the possibility of working with some people that I have gained high regard for in my previous contacts with your District.

Details of the County Explorer Belt Expedition 2009 'Ciao Italia' will be coming out soon. This promises to be a fantastic opportunity and build on the success of a similar exercise to Lithuania a couple of years ago.

Details of all Scout Network events are posted on the County Website.

Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey



Tuesday 18th March - Fellowship Annual General Meeting - 7.45 for 8.00 at Wandle DHQ. Please note we have changed the day of our meeting this year. We hope to see all members on this date when we will be discussing plans for the forthcoming year. We would be pleased to welcome any new ideas you may have. Light refreshments will be provided.

Please keep Wednesday 16th April free for our Beetle Drive and Fish 'n Chip supper. More details later.

Best wishes to Jean Nelson who is recovering after a recent operation.

Training - Alison Edwards

Thanks once again to those Groups who I have been in touch with regarding training queries. Could GSLs and Scouters in Charge please encourage Leaders who need to undergo training to sign up for training courses run by County. The take up from the District has been poor recently and it would be nice to improve it. All Leaders who need to do Module 16 'Nights Away' will receive a letter in coming weeks regarding the courses being run in April and October this year. This course is only run twice a year but does provide a useful and fun experience for all Leaders doing training. You do not have to wait till you have almost finished training to do the course so it would be nice to see W+W folk signing up!!

NB Please note that Alison's phone number is 020 8646 7927 and not as printed in the District Directory and last month's Links.

Jack Petchey Awards

The Jack Petchey Awards have gone up to £300 a month and, in order to keep the supply of money flowing, please get the names of your future young winners to John Young as soon as possible. Groups are allocated the opportunity to submit names on a rota basis but if it is your Group's turn and you don't contact John promptly, he will offer it to the next Group that has sent him names.

Please note that nomination for Leader Awards should go to Bob Prescott. These awards will not be made until October.

Young Performers

The 22nd Wimbledon Cub Pack have recently been busy recording their first (of many!!) 'Cub Pack Song' - with the premier showing at the Group 'Celebration of Christmas' event, they are now live on 'You Tube' - why not take a look and send in your ratings?!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNAuAAf5xJQ>



District Store

School holiday dates mean that the store will be

Open	Maundy Thursday 20 March
Closed	10 and 17 April

The new publications are slowly becoming available. They are not kept as a stock item at the store but must be ordered.

The Jamboree scarves are now £2.50 standard size and £3 for the adult size (only 2 left).

Section Leaders are asked to let Brian know if they are sending several parents to the Store for uniform at once, especially if the children are all roughly the same size. Space means that only a limited number of uniforms can be kept at the DHQ, but more can be taken down specially if required to avoid disappointment.

Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act

The District is registered under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act so it is not necessary for individual Groups to do so. If you are running a fund raiser which falls into this category, please contact Eric Hayward to register the event and ensure that you are complying with certain minor requirements.

District Annual General Meeting

I trust you have all got this important date in your diaries:

Wednesday 14th May
Kenneth Black District HQ,
Worple Road, Wimbledon
7.45pm

See you there!

Scouts - Dave Bixby



Handball competition: thanks to the Leader team from 23rd Mitcham for organising another great event that saw 11 teams enter.

Congratulations to the team from 6/12th Mitcham who are this years' winners.

Results:	1 st	6/12 th Mitcham	2 nd	1 st Morden
	3 rd	23 rd Mitcham A	4 th	5 th Morden

County Cooking Competition: we had 6 teams from Wimbledon and Wandle take part in a very close competition at the 1st Hook HQ. The standard was very high but none so high as the worthy winners from 19th Wimbledon. Well done also to the 23rd MitchamB and 1st MordenB who were joint 3rd. Full results can be found on the County website.

2008 Events Handbook: all Troops should have received two copies of this year's events book at or just after the All Leaders' meeting on 30th January. Anyone who has not seen one yet should let me know. I would like to fix dates for 2009 at the SLs' meeting on 24 September so that next year's book can be issued at our November meeting and cover the full year.

All Leaders' meeting: it was great to see every Troop that didn't have a section meeting that night, represented at the All Leaders' meeting. I'm in no doubt that it shows the effort and commitment all those involved are putting into running their Troops. A further indication is an approx. 25% increase in the number of Scouts across the District shown on this year's census. My sincere thanks to everyone concerned.

County Night Exercise: 5-6 April at Bentley Copse. The closing date for entries is 15 March. If you need the entry form downloaded, just let me know and I will get a copy to you but you will need to hurry as time is running out.

Summer Camps: The time for planning summer camps is upon us once more. If any Troop would like to give their members the experience of a summer camp but can't due to time commitments, lack of viable numbers or no Nights Away permit etc, get in touch and we will try to find another Troop for you or your Scouts to go with.

Section Reports

Beavers - Clare Tweedley



The **Beaver Bike/Scooter** ride is arranged for April 6th, DHQ/Morden Hall Park 1.45pm -4pm.

Information for Leaders and letters for Beavers will be sent to all Colonies very shortly.

County are running a **Skills Day** for all Leaders on 15th March at Walton Firs Camp site, Cobham. All Colonies have been sent information on the event and application forms if you wish to go.

We are running a stand on the programme area Community Zone, which includes the Friendship Challenge. If you have any excellent ideas we could display or give information on please contact Joan Condon, Hilary Mavin or Clare Tweedley.

Hilary, Julia and Clare hope that all the Leaders that came to the meal at Frankie and Bennys had an enjoyable evening and we would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, they were a lovely and very unexpected surprise.

Reminder the next **Beaver Leaders meeting** is on Wednesday 19th March at DHQ 8pm. We look forward to seeing a representative from every Colony there.

Cubs - Michèle McNamara



Adventure Day - March 30th at Frylands Wood

for all Cubs aged 9½ and over. You should have received relevant information and forms from Mia. Please let her have numbers, forms and money by March 21st at the latest.

7-a-side Football - Sorry for recent confusion regarding this event, it will take place as originally planned at Raynes Park High School on Sunday May 18th. Further details will be issued shortly.

Next CSLs' meeting is on 12th March at Morden Park DHQ.

This piece of prose was published in the February edition of Bourne Again - Croydon's District newsletter. It was written by a Scout Leader in Australia and found by Nan Brodie, Croydon's Leader Training Manager. She says 'When I feel a bit down and fed-up with my Scouting, I read this and it reaffirms why I do it and gives me the confidence and belief in myself to carry on.'

My thanks go to Nan and Croydon District for being happy for me to reproduce it here.

Why I am a Scouting Leader

I'm not a Scouting Leader for the easy hours, high pay, parents' gratitude, power or prestige.

I'm a Leader because I want the world for your child and mine - a world they can share and help shape: a world of love and laughter where they can show compassion.

I want them to look at the stars, a sunrise, a sunset, the work and world of a man - and feel its beauty inside of themselves.

I want to help them to finish anything they start and do it well, and to guide them to know their worth with a deeper understanding of themselves.

I want to help shape adults who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others. I want them to be the best they can be.

I am giving of myself and my time. I reap rewards far beyond what I give. I receive for my children, your children and future children a better world.

Anyone who can teach me or show me a better way to do this job, anyone who gives of their time to help me become a better Leader, and anyone who by action or deed makes the Scouting programme come alive will forever have my undying gratitude.

How much is a Scout Leader paid? I hear you ask!

My wage consists of smiles and laughter, observing a child's growing confidence and the look of personal triumph on the face of a child who has achieved more than they thought they could.

I am a Scouting Leader because I care!