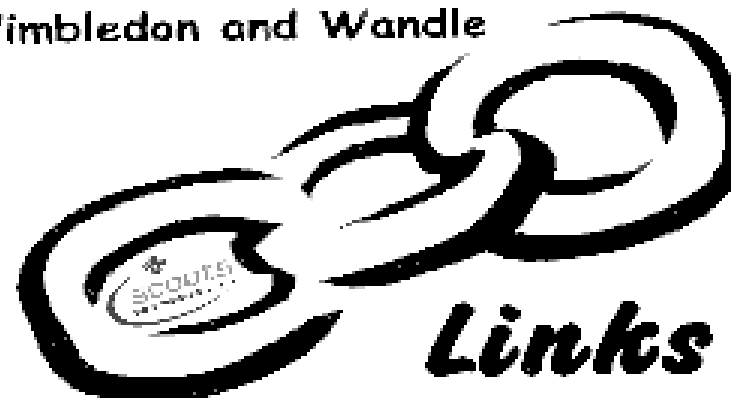


"If you are one of those important people responsible for the appointment of Commissioners, will you please remember that the criteria must not necessarily be of long service or contribution to date, but rather an ability to read and enthuse adults, and an understanding of a new inspired Scouting, with a flexibility of approach. And the last quality is certainly not the least."

*Colin McKay - A Canny Crack
Scouting Magazine*



Wimbledon and Wandle



March 2008
Issue 51

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|---------|---|----------------------|
| March 7 | District store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 8 | Scout 5-a-side football | Power League |
| 10 | Fellowship AGM | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 11 | Cub Scout Leaders' meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 14-15 | County Night Exercise | Polyapes |
| 16 | District Team meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 18 | Beaver Leaders' meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 21 | District store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 29 | Cub Adventure Day | Frylands Wood |
| 31 | Nominations for new DC close | |
| April 2 | Store closes for Easter holidays | |
| 15 | Fellowship Beetle Drive | Morden Hall DHQ |
| 23 | Store re-opens after Easter break | |
| 26 | St George's Day Parade & Service | |

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Mini-buses and the low emission zone

Those Groups that own diesel mini-buses will be aware that they were due to come under the low emission zone rules from October next year. The Mayor of London has announced further consultation on this proposal and Transport for London has informed us that the 'operators of vehicles affected by the third phase of the LEZ are advised that they should not take any action until the outcome of the consultation is confirmed'. More information can be found on the Transport for London website.



Flags

Last month, Brian reported that there was a problem with the supplier of Scout flags. This has now been resolved and delivery is back to the usual time. Mounts and poles may take a little longer, however.

Buddy Badge

The Buddy Badge is back - it's free and anyone, from Beaver to Leader, can wear it on their uniform. What is more, you can have a badge for every buddy you bring along, provided they stay to get invested as a member of the Movement.

The Big Adventure



Details of The Big Adventure can be found in the current copy of Scouting Magazine. There is, as always, a uniform badge that anyone who is involved in The Big Adventure can wear. As they cost £1 each, they must be ordered in advance.

Join-in-Centenary badges

The District has a large number of these badges remaining. The plan is to keep about 50 sets for posterity but to dispose of the rest. If anyone wants them, or has links with badge collectors' clubs, who may be keen to have them for a donation to District funds, please let Lesley know (thebixbys@talktalk.net). Any remaining at DHQ after Easter will be removed.

Search for new DC

Wimbledon and Wandle District Commissioner, Bob Prescott will be standing down from his role in 2009 and the County and District are seeking a keen and able person to succeed him. The job will start in October, although the successful candidate will shadow the role from the District AGM in May.

You are invited to submit your own name, or that of someone else you consider suitable, for this demanding role to the District Search Group. This may be done by using either a form available on the link at the bottom of this page or from me at the address below, or you may nominate directly by post or e-mail. Nominations sent by post should be marked 'Personal and Confidential'.

As this is a confidential process you should not approach your nominee nor indicate to others that you have nominated yourself, or anyone else by name.

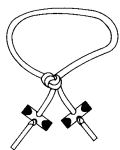
At this stage it is important to draw up a list containing a wide cross section of people from which the Search Group can prepare a short list to present to the County Commissioner.

Nominations should be received on or before **Tuesday 31st March 2009**.

Forms & further details are available on the web site at <http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/newdc.htm> or from Peter Newman at 5 Hoylake Gardens, Mitcham Surrey, CR4 1ET. 020 8764 3838.

Training - Alison Edwards

We managed to achieve 36 wood badges in the District in 2008 and this year looks like getting off to a flying start on training as well. Congratulations to John Crowhurst, Andy Sims and Andy Larkum of 3rd Mitcham on finally completing the requirements of their wood badges and also William Rhind of Edge Hill Explorers, who has also now finished off his training. Could I remind all leaders that are doing nights away at the end of March that their applications need to be in, with payment by the end of February. All applications should be with Joan Condon please!



We are fortunate to have several new Leaders taking up appointments in the District, but I would like to repeat my plea from December that if any of you who have recently done your training have no further need for your training files, in the interest of cost efficiency and eco friendliness could I have them back to 'recycle'!!

Finally, may I say well done to Corinne Garrod and Kerry Inwood, who seem to be undertaking every training module we have on offer. Your dedication to getting trained is magnificent!!

Training dates:

20	Administration (Managers)	04.03.09	7.45pm-10.15pm
12	Providing a Balanced Programme	07.03.09	2pm - 5pm
24	Managing Adults	11.03.09	7.45pm-10.15pm
26	Supporting Adults	11.03.09	7.45pm-10.15pm
16	Nights Away	18.03.09	7.45pm-10.15pm
23	Safety for Managers and Supporters	25.03.09	7.45pm-10.15pm
05	Fundamental Values of Scouting	25.03.09	7.45pm-10.15pm
06	Changes in Scouting	25.03.09	7.45pm-10.15pm
16	Nights Away	28/29.03.09	From 8.30am
10	First Aid - Richmond	29.03.09	9am-5pm
10	First Aid - Pinewood, Croydon	02.05.09	9am-5pm

Census

A big thank you to everyone who got their census (and their cheque!) in on time. Compiling the census return is very time consuming for the District Secretary and it is a great help if everyone co-operates and provides the details the Scout Association asks for.

District equipment

Don't forget, as the camping season progresses, that the District has 4 ex-Jamboree 3 man tents. We also have a very good resussi-anne and a lap-top/projector.

To borrow any of these, speak to Brian Whalebone, District Store manager (b.whalebone@btinternet.com).

Following the PL's training course, the Scout Section has a set of equipment for "Business manufacture", a trading post game that lasts 40-50 minutes.

To borrow this, contact Dave Bixby, ADC Scouts (thebixbys@talktalk.net).

Air Beds

More ex-Jamboree equipment owned by the District: we have 20 or so air beds for sale. Originally the District were asking £10 each but this has now dropped to just £8. Please contact Brian Whalebone if you are interested.

Wimbledon and Wandle District

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 13th May 2009

District Commissioner

I read with interest the article in February's Scouting magazine by our Chief Scout. It referred to the fact that some of our traditions surrounding the Promise and wearing of uniform can put off parents who might volunteer and suggested a more relaxed approach. I am of the opinion that these two things are part of the reason that Scouting remains at the forefront of youth organisations. Yes, we could take more opportunity to have events that are non uniform, but when we are in uniform my view is that we should do that correctly. As for the Promise, the Chief says 'he is baffled by the solemnity of the Promise.' I, again, believe strongly that young people should take the Promise with solemnity and seriousness. The Promise binds us together as a Movement and I cannot see any reason to make light of this. I wonder how you see it? I think the point we should take from his article is that we should take time to talk to volunteer parents about some of the traditions and ceremonies we have so that they do not become issues that put off parents who might help us.

The process to find my successor is now underway and everyone has the opportunity to nominate someone, or themselves. Please take this opportunity to be involved.

The job of DC is of course an easy one! Doesn't take much time! And there are never any problems to deal with! And the GSLs are easy to deal with! Absolute teddy bears!! AGSLs: well, they are a different bunch altogether. . .

Peter Newman heads up the search Committee and I wish him well in his difficult task ahead.

I have begun planning the District Conference, which I had intended to be on Saturday/Sunday 3rd and 4th October, very much on the lines of the successful County Conference. However, the District Executive has not supported me and wants me to look at a cheap option. The plan was to formally hand over to the new DC at the Saturday night dinner.

I am now looking at using a Scout HQ and keeping to Saturday only, ending around 6pm with some social drinks.

We had a very full programme that kept everyone on the go from Friday to Sunday. My sincere thanks go to all involved in making the course an undoubted success and to the 1st Lower Morden for their hospitality.

Age range: All Leaders should have received a letter from HQ notifying them of a change to the age when Scouts must move on to Explorers. POR has been changed to say that no young person over the age of 14½ should take part in Scout Section activities except as an Explorer Scout or Young Leader. The change comes into effect from 1 September and therefore we will need to apply this maximum age to our District activities from that date.

Explorer Scouts - Neil McLauchlan

We had a very good attendance as the Young Leader Training Weekend 20-22nd Feb. I understand that the weekend was a great success & the members who went have covered most of the training modules for Young Leaders.

Operation Red Flare is rapidly approaching. The closing date has passed but please contact me if there are any more people who want to go as there may be a chance to get them into an existing team.

The hike season is almost upon us again. Please let me know if any Units have members needing to complete hikes and do not have a team to go with.

Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey

Tuesday, 10th March 2009 - our Annual General Meeting at the Wandle D.H.Q. 7.45 for 8.00 p.m. We should be pleased to see all members at this event as, not only is this our AGM, but it is good to see members we haven't seen for some time. As usual light refreshments will be served. If you are unable to come please let Betty Cronk know (020 8393 6233).

Wednesday 15th April -our popular Beetle Drive and Fish 'n Chip Supper. This will be held at the Wandle DHQ and will start promptly at 7.30 p.m. Please let me have your fish orders by Monday, 13th April (8542 6200). Many thanks.



Section reports:

Cubs - Michèle McNamara

ADVENTURE DAY - By now, you should all have received the details regarding this event, planned for 29th March at Frylands Wood for Cubs aged 9½ years and older. If you haven't had the details, please contact Mia Patterson. Please remember numbers and money should all be with us by **20th MARCH** at the latest. Cheques should be made payable to "Wimbledon & Wandle District Cub Account.



PLEASE NOTE - I have just found out that, on that day, 1500 children from 23 Merton Schools will be taking part in a rehearsal for a concert at the Albert Hall the following day; this appears to involve Year 5 & 6 children. If this means that the majority of Cubs who would normally attend Adventure Day are unable to do so, we MAY have to reconsider the date, I will let you know a.s.a.p.

CSL MEETINGS - The next meeting is 11th March - the meeting for May 13th will have to be re-arranged since it now clashes with the district AGM, this date has just been published on the web site. I will advise of new date a.s.a.p.

Scouts - Dave Bixby



County cooking competition - it was good to see a strong entry from W&W in the cooking competition and congratulations to team "1" from the 19th Wimbledon and the team from 22nd Wimbledon for coming joint 3rd, just 3 points behind the winners.

District handball - the entry was slightly down this year but my thanks go to Gary Baker and his team at the 23rd Mitcham for organising the event. It was a pity that 2 teams entered then failed to turn up or notify the organisers. It takes a great deal of work to put an event together, no matter how many teams take part. Congratulations to the winners.

Patrol Leaders Training course: 26 Scouts from 7 Troops took part in the first Wimbledon and Wandle PLTC at Bow Lane. The weather was kind to us, all the Leaders worked extremely hard and there was a really positive attitude amongst the Scouts taking part.

DC - continued

St George's Day Parade and Service will be held on Sunday 26th April. Full details will follow soon.

Keith Daly tells me he sends out renewal forms for nights away permits. What he can't do is fill it in for you and return it!! So, if you want it renewed, do what is required and then you will have your permit.

The All Leaders' meeting was well attended and my thanks go to our regional Commissioner, Dean Milton, for coming over from Chigwell to speak to us. You will have noticed I was not at my best and do I apologise for that, thankfully I am much better now.

Census 2009

The figures for 2009 look quite reasonable and in fact have grown again by 0.9% to a number of 1526. So it is a year of consolidation and, given our remarkable growth figures over the last 2 years, this is a very significant achievement. As usual, there are significant gains and losses. 5th Morden, 1st Lower Morden and 22nd Wimbledon all recorded figures with over 10% growth, so congratulations to them.

GSLs: please take the opportunity of attending the GSL Workshop - details online at either District or County website.

Many congratulations to Alison Edwards, who has been awarded a Regional award in recognition of her fantastic work as Local Training Manager. Alison will not be able to collect her award on the presentation evening because she has also received a Jack Petchey leader award in Guiding, and she has to be present to receive her cheque in person on that same evening. It will be presented at our AGM.

The District AGM will be on Wednesday 13th May, 7.45 for 8pm start at Kenneth Black DHQ. Please put the date in the diary now.

GSLs: could you please let me have the date of your Group AGM as early as possible, especially as I would like to visit every Group in this, my last year as DC.

Bob

