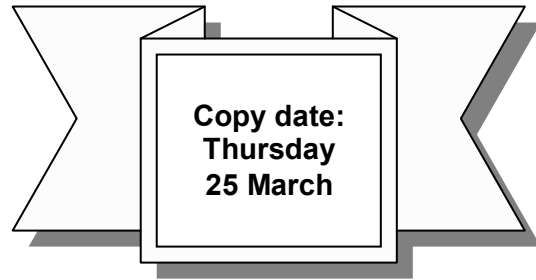


*May there always be work for your hands to do;
 May your purse always hold a coin or two;
 May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
 May the hand of a friend always be near you;
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.*



Wimbledon and Wandle



March 2010
 Issue 61

March 5-7	Patrol Leaders' training course	Bow Lane
6	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
9	Fellowship AGM	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	GLSW Scouts Night Exercise	Boidier Hurst
15	Troup Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
21	Scout 5-a-side football	Power League
22	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
28	Beaver Bike Ride	Morden Hall DHQ
28	Cub Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
April 14	Fellowship Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
25	St George's Day Parade	Wimbledon College

Links Editor
 Lesley Bixby
 1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JR
 020 8542 2017 07713 154 317
 thebixbys@talktalk.net

District Commissioner

Following on from last month's Links, the final figures are now in for the District census and, as expected, they show an overall increase in membership. The number of adult leaders at the grassroots grew by 4.3% and the number of youth members by 10%. Particular credit must go to the 1st Wimbledon, whose numbers rose by 32%, and to both the 19th and 22nd Wimbledon whose numbers also increased significantly. Twelve groups showed increases on last year and four groups have over 100 youth members, which means that we now have over 1300 scouts. The number of Young Leaders who are not attached to an Explorer Unit stands at 42, so, taken together with the many Explorers from units who also fulfil this role, this augurs well for the future.

You may have read that, following consultation, the Association has issued changes to the "Home Contact" system, which is now known as "In Touch". As a District our policy remains that every Nights Away event needs a Home Contact, so there is no real change to the way that we have been doing things for years. The one slight amendment that we have made is that we have removed the absolute need for the home contact to have no family tie with any of the participants, although, of course, this is still preferable.


Just a gentle reminder to everyone about NAN forms needing to be filled in prior to going away or having sleepovers, as one or two have been forgotten recently. The reason for the form is obvious, particularly if anything were to go wrong.

Finally, Youth Organisations in Uniform (known as Project YOU) is being launched in Merton at the Savacentre in Colliers Wood on 20th March. We will be represented at the event, as will Guiding and the other local uniformed youth groups, it being an opportunity to showcase our Movement and recruit. If you would like to lend a hand, please contact Liz Laverick.

Joe

Don't forget our next Scout Section meeting on Monday 15 March, 8pm at Morden Hall DHQ. This is our only Monday meeting this year as we are trying out a new system of a different night of the week each time ie Tuesday 18 May, Wednesday 22 September and Friday 19 November.

Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey

Although there were only a few of us at the recent  games evening it turned out to be a very pleasant, social event. Thanks to Jean and Dave for thinking up the idea and organising. Also thank you to Bill and Rob for their quizzes. Next time Rob promises to have all the answers!

Our **A.G.M.** is to be held on **Tuesday, 9th March**, at the Wandle DHQ - 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. We hope that all members will be able to attend as this will be the last one under the present Fellowship format. If you are unable to come please let Betty Cronk have your apologies (Tel. 020 8393 6233).

The visit, as detailed in last month's 'Links', to **Bletchley Park** is going ahead on **Saturday, 8th May**. More information available at the A.G.M.

FUTURE DATES:

- There will be a Beetle Drive on Wednesday, 14th April.
- St George's Day - Sunday 25th April - help will be required - further details later.
- 21st September we have a speaker coming to talk to us about antique clocks and watches. He will also be prepared to do a 'Roadshow' - so if you have a clock/watch for valuation, please bring it along.

Cub Report - Michèle McNamara

ADVENTURE DAY - Our next event is the Adventure Day at Frylands Wood on Sunday March 28th; you should have now all received details of this event from Mia Patterson, if you haven't please contact her or myself. Payment for this event must be with me by March 19th in order for it to clear the bank. Any problems with payment give me a call.



CSL meeting - next meeting is March 10th please try and come along, as we have to plan for our next events and it helps to have as much input as possible.

DISTRICT QUIZ - Thanks to the 5 groups who attended, I think the teams who took part had a good time, despite the temperature of the hall and 3 teams will now go forward to the county event on March 7th. The amount of teams entered was a little disappointing and it would be interesting to find out why so many packs didn't bother with this event.

Scout Report - Dave Bixby

County Cooking competition: Congratulations to the 23rd Mitcham for winning the County cooking competition. It's good to see W&W providing over one third of the entries in this event. The 22nd Wimbledon A team came joint 4th and the 13th Wimbledon got the prize for the smiliest team . . . well done to all who entered.



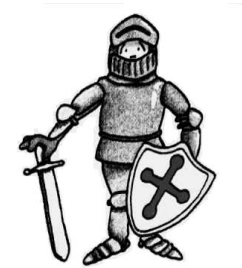
5-a-side football: Don't forget that entries for the football at Power League on 21 March need to be with me by 14 March. Given the problems caused by late applications for the Patrol Leaders' training course, **no entries will be accepted after this date**, whatever the reason.

Nights Away Permits: With the main camping season creeping up on us, it might be an idea to check that your nights away permit is not due to expire - I know mine is! Drop Keith Daly an email or give him a call for a form - you no longer need a photo. If you are not a warranted leader, there is no requirement for you to have a valid first aid certificate provided a first aider is present for the whole of your nights away event.

Scouting models: Tony Burley from Sutton produces scale models of Scouts across the ages, including B-P. He is happy to come and talk to your Troop. Tony can be contacted on tonyburleyscouts@btinternet.com

St George's Day Parade and Service

At their recent meeting GSLs were advised of the arrangements for this year's parade & service on Sunday 25th April. Format is as for the last few years with assembly in The Causeway on Wimbledon Common at 12:30 and moving off at 12:50 through Wimbledon Village to Wimbledon College where the service will commence at 1:30pm.



Dismissal will be from the college playing fields at about 2:15pm. We are unable to use Sacred Heart church this year as the floor is being relaid so are grateful to Wimbledon College for the use of their sports hall.

Details are on the web site.

District Directory

A new District Directory is being put together, to be produced in time for the AGM.

If you know of any changes that should be included, please contact Sue Southwood on email suewimble@aol.com in the next 3 weeks.

Grant Aid

Grants of between £500 and £1000 are available from funding raised by Sports Relief this spring. For more information, log on to www.sportsrelief.com or call the Capital Community Foundation on 020 7582 5117.

And if you are raising money for Sports Relief, you can be in with the chance of a prize voucher worth £100 to spend on sports equipment for your Scout Group. To enter, all you have to do is email sport.relief@scouts.org.uk and tell them how your Scout Group will be raising money for Sport Relief. Tell them what you will be doing and when and where you will be doing it. Your event must take place and not just be an idea because they will be asking you lots of questions! The closing date for entries is **15 March**.

Training Dates

10 Mar	7:45pm - 10:15pm	<u>Module 16 - Nights Away</u>
13 Mar	10:00am - 11:15am	<u>Module 07 - Valuing Diversity</u>
	11:30am - 1:00pm	<u>Module 15 - Challenging Behaviour</u>
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	<u>Module 17 - Activities Outdoors</u>
21 Mar	9:00am - 5:00pm	<u>Module 10 - First Aid</u> 1st Whitton HQ - Richmond
27 Mar - 28 Mar		<u>Module 16 - Nights Away</u>
21 Apr	7:30pm - 10:00pm	<u>First Aid Refresher Course</u>
5 May	7:45pm - 10:15pm	<u>Module 07 - Valuing Diversity</u>
7 May - 9 May		<u>Mountain Skills Weekend</u>
12 May	7:45pm - 10:15pm	<u>Module 08 - Skills of Leadership</u>
19 May	7:45pm - 10:15pm	<u>Module 15 - Challenging Behaviour</u>
22 May	9:00am - 5:00pm	<u>Module 10 - First Aid</u> Wimbledon College - Wimbledon & Wandle
13 Jun	9:00am - 5:00pm	<u>Module 10 - First Aid</u> 7th Malden HQ - Royal Kingston

16 Jun	7:45pm - 10:15pm	<u>Module 14 - Young People Today</u>
		<u>Module 19 - International</u>
9 Jul	7:45pm - 10:15pm	<u>Module 11 - Administration (Section Leaders)</u>
		<u>Module 17 - Activities Outdoors</u>
14 Jul	7:30pm - 10:00pm	<u>First Aid Refresher Course</u>
18 Sep	9:00am - 5:00pm	<u>Module 10 - First Aid</u> 3rd Beddington HQ - Sutton
19 Sep	10:00am - 4:30pm	<u>Module 25 - Assessing Learning</u>
25 Sep	9:00am - 1:00pm	<u>Module 12 - Providing a Balanced Programme</u>
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	<u>Module 18 - Practical Skills</u>
29 Sep	7:45pm - 10:15pm	<u>Module 16 - Nights Away</u>

Section Reports

Beavers - Kevin Quigley

Hello everybody . . . We are well into the New Year, and the evenings (or late afternoons!) seem to be getting lighter, and the next thing on the agenda will be Mother's Day and Easter. Plenty of programme ideas there then!



On the subject of programme, many of you will know that our DC is focusing on three main areas during his first term of office - People, Programme and Premises. To that end he has charged his ADC's to make sure that all of our sections have a programme in place, and so I would be grateful if you could send me a copy of your latest programme. My details are in the District Directory.

We have a few dates coming up - the Bike/Scooter Ride is on Sunday 28th March 2010 at Wandle DHQ. Format as last year - we will be cycling/scootering around the National Trust behind DHQ. Letters etc. have been circulated, and the details are also available on the District Website - <http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/> in case you didn't know the web address.

We also have the next Beaver Leaders Meeting at Wandle DHQ on Wednesday 17 March 2010 at 8.00pm. As usual I would be grateful if **all Colonies** could send a representative to the meeting - it is the arena for the District's Beaver Leaders to exchange their views on what is happening in the District, and to set out what they want the District to do for them and their Beavers. All I ask is for a brief written report, and as the next mini census date will be soon be upon us, I will need to Colony numbers and make up etc. I understand that GSLs have all the information about the revised information that County require.

At the meeting we will also be trying to sort out a venue for the next District Beavers' Day Out, hoping to beat our visit to the RAF Museum in terms of numbers and the amount of fun we all had.

Finally some of you may be thinking of having a Beaver Sleepover. Don't forget all the necessary paperwork that will be needed, and please let me know the date in good time so that I can arrange to visit. You may be able to put me to work! (My abilities at recent sleepovers run to bingo, making/eating toast and breakfast, odd games and craft activities... but not ones involving glue please!).

Census

A big thank you to the Groups that got their numbers and fees in on time - what a pity there is always someone who can't quite manage it!
The numbers are up, as Joe says, and full details are in the middle of this edition of Links.

National Trust Barn

At the back of the Surrey Arms is a barn owned by the National Trust. The District have used it for storage for many years but we have now been asked to vacate it. Are you interested in any of the following? If so, please contact Cliff on 020 8540 5115:

- One set of patio doors, 5' wide
- Counter/shelf unit 7' x 2' x 3½' - some parts lockable
- 2 chemical toilets
- Computer work station
- 2 small trailers

There will be a work day to clear the barn on 13 March - offers of help to Cliff please.

Trophies

If you have won a trophy recently and would like it to be engraved, please get it to Cliff (020 8540 5115) as soon as possible.

Scouting Skills

A new book 'A Complete Guide to Scouting Skills' is now available. It has a forward by Bear Grylls and covers such subjects as camp cooking, hiking, first aid, wild life and adventurous activities. It costs just £9.99 if ordered through the Store (full price £14.99).

The Big Adventure

It's back! With support from Sainsbury's and their Active Kids voucher scheme, lots of information in Scouting Magazine plus The Little Guide to The Big Adventure, a pocket-sized pack which offers practical tips to parents and new adults it is a practical way to recruit new adults.

If you want the badges you will need to order them . . .

10 Oct	10:00am - 1:00pm	<u>Module 20 - Administration (Managers)</u>
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	<u>Module 23 - Safety for Managers and Supporters</u>
16 Oct - 17 Oct		<u>Module 16 - Nights Away</u>
16 Oct	9:00am - 5:00pm	<u>Module 10 - First Aid</u> Bow Lane - Morden
31 Oct	10:00am - 1:00pm	<u>Module 13 - Growing the Movement (Section Leaders)</u>
	10:00am - 4:30pm	<u>Module 21 - Growing the Movement (Managers)</u>
6 Nov	10:00am - 1:00pm	<u>Module 22 - Section Support</u>
	2:00pm - 4:30pm	<u>Module 24 - Managing Adults</u> <u>Module 26 - Supporting Adults</u>
14 Nov	10:00am - 11:30am	<u>Module 07 - Valuing Diversity</u>
	11:45am - 1:30pm	<u>Module 19 - International</u>
	2:30pm - 4:30pm	<u>Module 17 - Activities Outdoors</u>
21 Nov	9:00am - 5:00pm	<u>Module 10 - First Aid</u> 1st Whitton HQ - Richmond

Courses are held at Bow Lane unless it states otherwise. Further details can be obtained from the County website.

