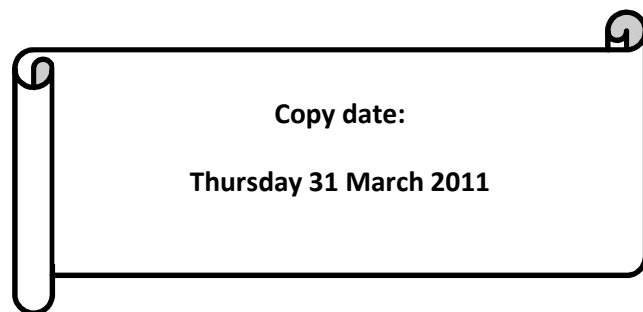


Follow the three Rs

Respect for yourself

Respect for others

And Responsibility for all your actions



Links

March 2011 : Issue no. 71

Mar 5	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
9	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	SAS Annual meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	Scout 5-a-side football	The Hub, Bishopsford Road
27	Cub Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
April 2	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
13	SAS Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
27	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
May 4	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	St George's Day Parade and Service	Assemble 1.30pm
8	Gang Show Auditions	
11	District AGM	Bow Lane

Links Editor:

Lesley Bixby

1 Springfield Avenue, London SW20 9JR

thebixbys@talktalk.net



Gang Show

The South West London Gang Show auditions take place on 8th and 15th May

Booking and information at www.souwest.net

District Commissioner

The District Development Plan is now on the website for all to see.

The Plan has been approved by the District Executive; Key Managers have discussed it at their recent meeting and it will be presented at Section meetings during the course of this month. Andy Edmonds and I are to discuss it with the CC and County Chairman on 2nd March with a view to the Plan being accepted at the County Executive in April. Once accepted, development funds become available from County to help deliver the Plan itself.

As with all such plans, our Plan is a working document that will be updated as we go, so comments on format and content are always welcome and should be sent directly to me. We will monitor progress continuously and undertake one full review annually.

One key element of the Plan is already in place. Where a group has a Group Development Plan, the Key Manager is now able to allocate money for additional training without having to go through the Executive. All the details of this are already on the website and, now that the Census is complete, Group training grant allocations can be made this month.

With eight weekends-worth of camping already notified; the Scout Football Competition and the Cub Adventure Day planned towards the end of the month, March contains plenty to look forward to!

Joe

District Camp

Blackland Farm 4-7 May 2012

Be there . . .

District AGM

Wednesday 11 May 2011

1st Lower Morden's HQ, Bow Lane

The Deep Clean 2011

Charity Thames21 is looking for volunteers to take part in its Deep Clean 2011 springtime events, focused on cleaning some of London's dirtiest riverside areas and helping to improve the local environment. On Sunday 20th and 21st March vast expanses of Thames foreshore, that normally remain covered on regular tides, will be exposed, providing the ideal opportunity to clean and green London's river.

If you would like to help, there is no need to register and the event is totally free. All equipment is provided, just turn up wearing old clothes that you don't mind getting muddy!

Further details are available on the website:

<http://www.thames21.org.uk/news/TheDeepClean2011.html>

Wimbledon DHQ - The Kenneth Black Memorial Hall

Excerpt from the 'Surrey Sheet' June 1957

"Scouts' £13,000 Headquarters. The new District Headquarters of Wimbledon and Merton Association, in the Worple Road, Wimbledon, was opened on Saturday, April 13th 1957 by Mrs R W Black, mother of Alderman C W Black, MP, Chairman of the Local Association. The Headquarters is known as the "Kenneth Black Memorial Hall" for readers will remember that Mr Kenneth Black (brother of the Chairman), who was District Commissioner for Kensington, was one of those lost at sea in the Mortlake Sea Scout Disaster in 1950. Designed by Mr E A H McDonald, the Association's honorary architect, it provides a main hall seating 240 and has separate rooms for Cubs, Scouts, Senior and Rover meetings. A two bedroom flat is provided for the caretaker and there are four lock-up garages and a well-equipped kitchen."

Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

The DC and I spoke after February's meeting of the Executive and we both said that following that meeting we felt a "weight lifting". Having recently read my predecessor's Report to last year's AGM, which included resignations of our previous Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, I can honestly say how enthused I am that plans for the future are very positive and we now have a Plan and a direction to focus on. We are lucky to have a DC such as Joe, who is so driven and focussed!

Things are being done, problems overcome, and decisions are being made; hopefully with minimal "bureaucracy" for those at the "sharp end"?

We do have vacancies on the Executive after May this year and I would welcome self-nominations (or otherwise) from anyone interested in standing for election.

If you are interested, an email will be sufficient and I will give you all the information you need to make a firm decision. An awful lot has been done and I am keen that as Trustees for Scouting in Merton, the Executive is representative. Yes, there are still jobs that need doing and I personally cannot continue to do all that I have done in Year 1, but having "learnt on the job", you will get all and any support you need!

The initial issues at 20th Mitcham HQ have been sorted and 23rd Mitcham are to trial the building. We will look at the 20th's extensive equipment and camping store as the weather improves.

A full review of the District's equipment and insurance is on-going. Thanks to ADCs Scouts, Cubs and the Band for updated information received so far. Brian Whalebone continues on his invaluable mission. Brian is also co-ordinating dumping or storage of District equipment and the Executive has approved expenditure on new racking for KBH.

No further news on ex 36th Mitcham / Rowan School site. A meeting is still to be arranged with Councillors in Longthornton Ward.

Partnership Agreement with Sutton / W&W Canoe Club awaits final signatures.

Lease at Morden Hall DHQ has been signed by us and then we need to follow up LB Merton Planning Application for storage unit and approval for overnight stays with National Trust.

Our Committee dealing with issues at Kenneth Black Hall continues to meet and the District's finances will improve following an agreed increase to the rent charged to the Bridge Club.

We continue to look for extra help gardening at Morden Hall. **Any offers (one hour a week)?**

Future financing of events such as Jamboree 2015 remain; as the Executive weighs up the cost of supporting such events for a few individuals, against the possible benefits to our wider Community of spending such monies in another way (e.g. "optional" Leader training)?

Thanks again to Muriel (and Peter) who have worked hard on the Census and Muriel will do so for the Annual Report which will be presented at our AGM. **Reports to Muriel by Easter, please.**

Heartfelt thanks also to Keith, John and Rich who are now working on the District Accounts; this is one major job that I am glad I can't be involved with!

Peter and Joan continue to run Appointments with efficiency that we do take for granted.

Venue for the District AGM is 1st Lower Morden (Bow Lane), 8pm Wednesday 11th May and that, folks, is your chance to hold us to account!

It would be also be nice then **to meet Group Chairs** to discuss ways in which we could share experiences, best practice and **to progress and discuss or vision for Scouting in Merton.**

Canal Experience 14-15 May: There has been a good deal of interest in this activity, judging by the number of enquiries I have received. The Saturday morning session is largely full so don't delay if you are aiming to take part. Bring your Scouts or come on your own to find out what the fuss is all about.

Canal training: If you want to run your own canal boat trip, you will need a 'Certificate of Community Boat Management'. Reach Out Plus are running weekend courses at their base at Nash Mills, on the Grand Union Canal, near Phasels Wood Camp Site. Dates are 18-20 March; 8-11 April; 17-19 June; 16-18 September; 14-16 October and 18-20 November and it costs £130 per person.

Summer Camp 2011: I would like to think that those aiming to run a Troop summer camp are well into the initial planning stages. If anyone would like to run a summer camp but doesn't have the necessary numbers, permit, tents, equipment or experience etc, please give me a call and we will try to find another Troop to help you out.

Leaders' meeting: Our next meeting is on Monday 14 March at 8pm in the Morden Hall DHQ. As ever, anyone with a keen interest and positive attitude towards the Scout Section in W&W is very welcome. If Monday is your Troop night, join us for a drink in the Harvester (George Inn), London Road, Morden afterwards.

This is your chance to quiz Joe Rogerson on the District Development Plan. See you there.

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

Our Diminishing Whist evening on the 16th February, appeared to be very successful. Made us all think a bit! We hope to put on another whist evening later in the year.

Please note our annual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 15th March**, 7.45 for 8.00 p.m. and **not** the 8th March as recorded in last month's Links. We would like to see all members, old and new, on that evening as we can give you more details of events coming up during the year.

Diary date for April - we have our Beetle Drive and Fish supper on the 13th. Names and fish order to Jean Gould this time please.



Training

Safeguarding dates for 2011 are as follows:

14 Mar	Kingston (Southwood)
5 April	Croydon venue TBC
18 May	Richmond venue TBC
16 June	W+W at Bow Lane
18 June	Sutton District HQ Wallington

Please contact Alison Edwards to book yourself onto a course - they are on different days so you should be able to find one to suit you, though of course we hope you will attend the one at Bow Lane! No cost to attend.

Training Dates 2011

05 Mar	10am-1pm	16	Nights Away - Bow Lane
13 Mar	10.00-1pm	13	Growing the Movement (Section Leaders)
13 Mar	10.00-4.30	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)
26 Mar	9am-5pm	10	First Aid - 1 st Coulsdon (Croydon)
07 May	9am-5pm	10	First Aid - 1 st Lower Morden
10 May	7.45-10.15	08	Skills of Leadership
25 May	7.45-10.15	09	Working with Adults
28 May	9am-5pm	10	First Aid - venue tbc
08 Jun	7.45-10.15	11	Administration (Section Leaders)
15 Jun	7.45-10.15	15	Challenging Behaviour
22 Jun	7.45-10.15	17	Activities outdoors
05 Jul	7.45-10.15	16	Nights Away
12 Jul	7.45-10.15	19	International
24 Sep	9.30-1.30	12	Providing a Balanced Programme - Bow Lane
01 Oct	10am-1pm	16	Nights Away - Bow Lane
01 Oct	2pm-4.30	38	Nights Away Residential "A" (must attend "B") Bow Lane

Advert: this advert has appeared on 'Trustee Net'

Vice Chair of Trustees Wimbledon and Wandle District Scout Council (London Borough of Merton)

The opportunity

Wimbledon & Wandle District provides Scouting activities for boys, girls and adults from all backgrounds aged 6 and upwards across London Borough of Merton. Individual Groups are based in Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon and are independently run by local adults as Leaders and Trustees.

The District is responsible for providing central support and the Trustees sit as an Executive Committee whose responsibilities are set out under legislation and Scout Association rules and guidance.

Our new District Development Plan includes procedures to develop: PEOPLE: by increasing numbers of skilled, qualified adults PLACES: Scouting taking place in safe, welcoming, fit-for-purpose halls/HQs in Groups that have a secure income. This is an exciting time to join a committed and focused team.

A vacancy exists for the newly created role of Vice Chair. The role will provide support to the Chair with particular responsibility for managing and overseeing the District's assets, which currently include property over three sites. A great deal has been achieved over the last twelve months and the volunteer appointed will therefore receive all necessary support from the Chair; who has already set up procedures to review all existing arrangements. Opportunity also exists in conjunction with the Chair (who was newly appointed last year), to enhance the profile of the Executive and Scouting within the wider community and outside agencies. Responsibilities will also include leading a complete review of District assets with a view to ensuring that the maximum monetary benefit is derived from them for the good of youth members across the District.

The District Executive Committee meets five times a year on a Wednesday evening near Morden Hall Park.

The main responsibilities are such that they can be done from home at times to suit the individual. Key skills will include: An ability to work on your own and with other people. Good organisational, communication skills and a proactive approach. Excellent record keeping and administrative skills. Computer literate; most communication is by email. Some knowledge of property insurance would be helpful. As would some knowledge of lettings management. A Criminal Records Bureau check may be required. For further information and an informal discussion, please contact District Chairman.

Application Contact: Andy Edmonds andrwedmnd@googlemail.com
07817 672125

Closing Date: 31/03/2011

St George's Day Parade & Service

Planning for this year's event is well under way and full details will be circulated to Groups and published on the web site shortly.



Key details to allow Groups to plan the event with their members are:

- the event is on **Sunday 8th May**, as advised last year. This is due to the timing of the Easter & school holidays.
- Assembly is alongside The Causeway on Wimbledon Common at 1:30pm.
- The parade will move off at 1:50pm, led by the band, over the usual route through Wimbledon Village and along The Ridgway for a service in Sacred Heart Church commencing at 2:30pm.
- Dismissal will be from the Wimbledon College playing field next to the church at approximately 3:15pm.

Any queries to Paul Atkins.

Census

The census is in and the numbers appear in the centre of this edition of Links. At 1571 members our numbers are almost the same as last year.

How different it was in 1957 . . . As recorded in the Surrey Sheet that year, we had 1149 members in Mitcham, 907 in Morden & St Helier and 1296 in Wimbledon and Merton. This gave us a grand total of 3352 - and that was long before Beavers existed.

Wimbledon Village Fair

The organisers of the Wimbledon Village Fair are looking for volunteers to help on the day. This year's event takes place on 18 June and if you would like to get involved with the setting up before the fair, taking down afterwards, making sure everything runs smoothly during, selling raffle tickets or anything else, please contact mfvolunteer@wimbledonguild.co.uk

15/16 Oct	Residential	38	Nights Away Residential "B" (must attend A) Bears Wood
23 Oct	10.00-11.15	08	Skills of Leadership
23 Oct	11.30-12.30	09	Working with Adults
23 Oct	1.30-2.30	14	Young People today
23 Oct	2.45-4.30	15	Challenging Behaviour
20 Nov	10am-12	19	International
20 Nov	1pm-4pm	17	Activities outdoors
26 Nov	10am-1pm	13	Growing the Movement (Section Leaders)
26 Nov	10am-4.30	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)

The March Module 38 has been cancelled due to lack of support but there are a large number of Scouters who need to do this course - please get yourselves booked onto the October one as soon as possible.

Unless it states otherwise in the Training Dates, the training modules are held at Morden Hall DHQ and are limited to 20 participants.

Contact Alison or Joan Condon for more information.

For further details of First Aid courses contact Janet Drinkall, telephone 020 8669 4774, email janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk.

Costs:	Module 38	Nights Away Residential	£40
	Module 10	First Aid	£15
	All other modules		£3 each

Details of the grants available from the District to cover the cost of training can be found on

www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/gaidinstructions.pdf

Section Reports

Beavers - Andrew Hayward

Just in case you have not been made aware, there have been a couple of rule changes concerning Beaver Sleepovers and International Trips. The information is show below.



Changes to rules for Beaver Scouts

The Operations Sub-Committee agreed to changes to the rules for Beaver Scout residential, which include a relaxation of the time restriction of residential experiences so that they are to be for one night only, rather than the more restrictive 24 hours. Beaver Scouts will also be allowed to camp, and the minimum standards for the Colony are updated to reflect the expectation that each Beaver Scout should now be offered the opportunity to go on a residential experience each year (POR 3.7).

International trips

The other change for Beaver Scouts is that they are now included in the rules for visits abroad. Beaver Scouts are now allowed to go overseas, but only with a nominated adult (POR 9.64).

As I mentioned in my last piece I am here to help and support you and your Colony. I've already made one visit to a Colony and have more planned. But to this end I would be grateful if you could please let me have a copy of your Colony programme. Part of my role is to ensure that every Colony is offering a balanced programme. I'm sure you all are but if I'm not aware of your programmes then I can't offer help where it may be needed nor can I confirm this up the chain of command!

As before, if you have any questions, queries or problems please get in touch. I look forward to seeing you or a representative from every Colony on the 16 March.

Scouts - Dave Bixby

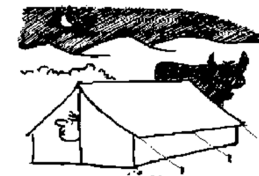
Scout football - 20 March The Hub: don't forget entries for the 5-a-side football need to be with me by 14 March at the latest.

The first match kicks off at 1.30pm, just right for those returning from the County Night Exercise.



Nights Away - Paul Atkins

As we emerge, blinking, into the spring sunshine from the winter gloom, Sections will be getting out and about more, so the time seems right to remind everybody of some of the **Nights Away Frequently Asked Questions**.



- A Nights Away Notification form is required to be submitted to Paul Atkins at least **14 days before the event**. The easiest way to do this is go to the link on the web site <http://www.wimbletonandwandlescouts.org/nan.htm> complete the form and click the Submit button at the bottom of it. You will receive an instant acknowledgement confirming the details you have supplied.
If you prefer to put paper in the post, Form NAN is available on Scouts.org and from the Information Centre
- If you are acting as the Permit Holder for somebody else as the Event Leader you must attend the event yourself, especially during the overnight part of the activity.
- An Event Passport can only be issued by a Permit Holder to somebody under the age of 18, it cannot be given to an adult.
- POR guideline minimum ratios for nights away activities are:-
 - o Beavers - 1 adult to 6 Beavers, plus the leader in charge
 - o Cubs - 1 adult to 8 Cubs, plus the leader in charge
 - o Scouts - 1 adult to 12 Scouts, at least 2 adults present overnight
 - o Explorers - no ratio specified

If you have any questions on Nights Away, please contact me.