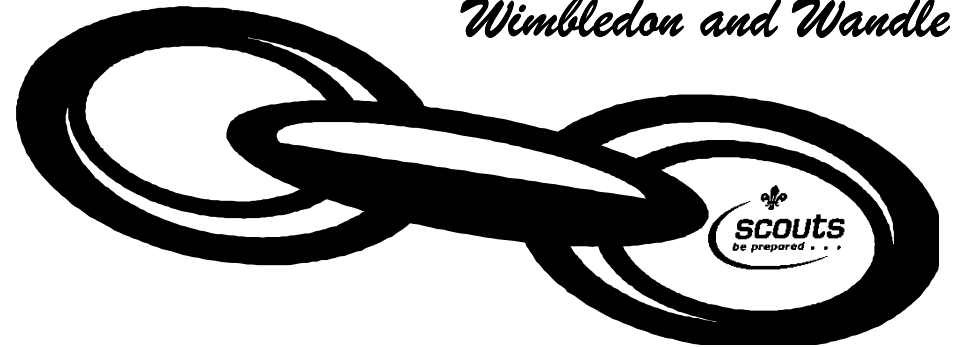


Bear Grylls dedicated his book 'Living Wild' to 'every one of the 28 million Scouts worldwide.' Saying "You are part of a global force for good and one of the largest, most positive youth movements of all time. That is good reason to be proud. But Scouting pride requires us then to walk humbly and to give of ourselves. Remember that your strength lies in the skills you are learning, the camaraderie you share and the adventures you are living."



## Links

March 2013 - Issue no. 91



Mar 9	Operation Red Flare	
13	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
16	County Night Exercise	Boidierhurst
19	SAS AGM	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	Beaver Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Apr 17	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
21	St George's Day Parade	Sacred Heart
24	SAS Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
28	Cub Adventure Day	Frylands Wood
May 3-5	Older Scouts' and PLs' camp	Thriftwood
4	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am

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### Links Editor

Lesley Bixby

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thebixbys@talktalk.net

## District Commissioner

Following the great efforts that everyone made to get the Census returns in so promptly, the final figures are now in for the District census and they show that our overall numbers have stayed virtually the same as last year (to within 0.23%!).

Nevertheless, we have seen increases in adult involvement and in the Explorer and Network sections with the opening of our new units. Particular credit must go to the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon, whose numbers rose by 25%, no mean feat! We have 1371 youth members compared to 1230 in 2008, which shows that the overall trend is still upwards. Last, but by no means least, a big thank-you to Muriel Treagust for putting the District census together.

Thank-you, also, to everyone for the programme planning that has been done ready for this term, and, together with the NANs that continue to flood in, as mentioned in last month's Links, this demonstrates that we continue to provide as wide-ranging an experience as possible for our scouts. It is worth remembering, however, that it is important for us to ensure that whatever activity we are providing, be it a meeting night, an activity day or a camp that, as adults, we are all absolutely clear as to who is in charge and what the risks are of what we are doing.

I wish our teams entering the County Night Exercise (scouts) and Red Flare (explorers) all the best in their endeavours; let's hope on those two nights at least it doesn't rain!

Joe

I would ask Leaders to remind spectating parents that the referees are all volunteers doing their best under difficult circumstances, usually having been press-ganged into service on the day. The ref's decision is final and, as always, if anyone can do better, they are welcome to volunteer.

**Canal Boat Experience** - If you are going to offer this to your Scouts this year, don't forget to book it! It is definitely first come first served with a couple of sessions booked already.

**District PLs and Older Scouts camp** - We have held a second planning meeting and more information will be sent out to Troops shortly. From the estimates of possible participants, it looks as though we will be taking approx. 60 Scouts. Once again, it is first come first served and a number of forms have already been received and places booked.

I would remind you I need a camp form from all adults and Scouts intending to come to the camp so we can be sure of the numbers.

Permission to camp forms, kit list and joining instructions will be sent direct to all attendees.

**Rafting Event** - As mentioned in last month's Links, we discussed moving the Ravensbury Park Raft Event to avoid it being the same weekend as the sports. It was decided that the Rafting will now take place on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July**. All other details remain the same so please amend your Red Books and diaries.

**Next meeting** - our next meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Please make sure the date is in your diary and, if it is your Troop night, please send a representative.

## Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey



A big thank you to Jean Gould for organising our first Rummikub evening. I hope everyone enjoyed it - once we had got our head around the rules!

I hope you have all remembered that our **AGM** is on **Tuesday 19th March**. All members to attend please.

**Please note** that our Away Day date has been changed from Saturday 18th May to Saturday 11th May, when we hope to visit Waddesdon Manor.

## Section Reports

### Cub Report - Michèle McNamara



**Chess Competition** - Thank you to all the cubs, leaders and adults who attended this competition, we had a record entry of 14 teams, although unfortunately on the day, a number of cubs dropped out for various reasons leaving the organiser a headache as to how to replace them. Adults stepped in which is far from satisfactory but I think the cubs all enjoyed the competition and we congratulate the 23<sup>rd</sup> Wimbledon on winning the event. I do think there must be other packs out there that have chess players amongst their membership and it would be nice to see a few new faces when we next run the event. A big thank you to 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon (Oakwood) for hosting the event and to Mark Steed for organising the event and running it so efficiently.

**County Quiz** - Due to a change of date one of the 3 district teams has had to drop out of this event, is there any pack out there who can provide a team of 6 cubs for this event which is to be held now on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1<sup>st</sup> Wallington Scout H.Q. from 13.45 to 17.00. If you are interested please let me know a.s.a.p.

**Adventure Day** - This event is due to be held at Frylands Wood campsite on April 28<sup>th</sup> and is aimed at cubs aged over 9½. Information will be issued to packs following the next CSL meeting.

**CSL Meeting** - The next CSL meeting will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Morden Hall Park H.Q. if you are unable to make this please let me have your apologies. However I do urge as many leaders as possible to attend so that we can have a true representation of ideas/opinions from the whole district.

### Scout report - Dave Bixby



**Football** - I was amazed that, given the weather on the day, no one suggested that we abandon the event. Scouts and referees persevered despite cold winds, rain and sleet. My thanks go to all who had a hand in making this activity a success once again, none more so than Gary Baker and his team for delivery another quality event.

Congratulations go to the 5<sup>th</sup> Morden, winners (again) from the 11<sup>th</sup> Mitcham on penalties.

## Chairman's Chatter

The Executive met in early February and it is pleasing that all issues are now being pursued with vigour and purpose and that over the last three years we have halved the time of meetings!

With the District AGM fast approaching on 8<sup>th</sup> May (8pm at 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden), it is time to ask if there are any volunteers who want to join the Executive? We do need to ensure that the Exec is representative of all parts of the District and different opinions are heard. Meetings are 5 times a year for an hour and a half.

We could also do with offers of help to serve on a Sub Committee to oversee the District's responsibilities for the thriving Explorer Section. This would be in an administrative function and is a chance to get involved at the building stage of something that will impact on an increasing number of young people in the Borough.

I am delighted to say that Richard Mainwaring is showing signs of improvement, but it could be many months before he is back to a stage where he can resume his duties. That does mean we are again looking for a Representative to serve on the County Executive (also 5 meetings a year); even if just as a temporary measure.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with clearing rubbish around the rear and garages of Kenneth Black Hall on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Please wear appropriate clothing and be at KBH for 10am. We will be having a skip delivered, so it's just a case of "many hands making light work"! There really isn't that much to do; I promise!!

We are currently actively pursuing HM Revenue & Customs to clarify procedures and requirements for Gift Aid as it affects Explorer Units. Hopefully, all will have become clear by the time of our next meeting in April and we will then publish some definitive requirements.

Alan Green in conjunction with Dave Christmas, have prepared some detailed Risk Assessments for users of Morden Hall DHQ. I have asked Paul Atkins to put these up on the web site, and if you want "word" versions for editing for your own use, then please let us know.

We are in need of an Asbestos Survey for Morden Hall DHQ, before Alan Green and his team start ripping things apart. If anyone has any contacts, could they please let me or Alan know?

The District has now formally signed up to the Partnership Agreement and Constitution with Sutton District and the Canoe Club.

Thank you to Lesley Bixby who offered and has obtained formal agreement from the County Executive to support the District Development Plan in our second year.

I have met with the Chair of 16<sup>th</sup> Morden to discuss the District's initial response to their application under the Atlasta Loan scheme. It is pleasing that the DC has been able to garner support from the Regional Development Team and we look forward to being able to formally approve this second application to develop our "Places".

I am delighted to report that in view of The District's current balanced and planned Financial Strategy, the Executive has agreed not to pass on recent increases in District Badge costs. Additionally, we have waived our 30% share of profits from the District Store. Therefore, 100% of profits will now come back to Groups that use this facility; in proportion to the percentage turnover from your Group.

Andy

### **23<sup>rd</sup> World Jamboree 2015 - Japan**

Do you have the necessary skills to lead (or help lead) this contingent to the Jamboree?

Would you like the chance to go?

The County is starting the process of recruiting adults to lead our contingent in 2015. The deadline for applications is 6 April.

It is expected that there will be a large number of applications so if you have not seen the details which the DC circulated mid-February, ask him for a copy or contact the ACC International, Claire Devine, on [mrssmashy@hotmail.com](mailto:mrssmashy@hotmail.com).

### **Safeguarding**

- 7 February 3rd Teddington (Richmond)
- 20 February Wallington District HQ (Sutton)
- 20 March venue tbc (Pinewood/ Bears Wood Croydon)
- 27 March 22nd Wimbledon (W+W).

All courses are from 20.00 - 21.30 and anyone who needs Safeguarding training can attend any of the above. Please contact Alison Edwards to book [alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:alison.edwards@local.gov.uk).

There is no charge for this training.

### **First Aid**

- 26 January 2nd Whitton, Richmond upon Thames District
- 23 February 22nd Wimbledon, Wimbledon & Wandle District
- 24 March venue to be advised Croydon District
- 12 May venue to be advised Wimbledon & Wandle District

To book please contact Janet Drinkall tel: 020 8660 4774  
[janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk](mailto:janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk)

The course costs £15

### **District Annual General Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ  
8pm**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

## Training dates

Date	Module	Title	Time
16/17 Mar	38B	Skills for residential experiences	tba
28 Apr	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
28 Apr	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30
18 May	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.00
18 May	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
18 May	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
18 May	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
21 Sep	12	Providing a Balanced Programme	9.30-13.30
28 Sep	16	Residential experiences	10.00-13.00
19 Oct	11	Administration (Leaders)	10.00-11.30
19 Oct	19	International	11.45-13.00
19 Oct	17	Activities Outdoors	14.00-16.30
16 Nov	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00-12.00
16 Nov	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
16 Nov	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
16 Nov	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
7 Dec	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
7 Dec	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30

All Modules are at the 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SJ except **Module 38** which will be held at Bears Wood Campsite, Forestdale, New Addington, Croydon CR0 9JH

Each training module costs £3 except Module 38 which is £40.

Applications forms for the main modules and first aid can be downloaded from the County website [www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk](http://www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk) or contact

Mrs Joan Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden, SM4 4DX

tel: 020 8540 5115 - e mail: [joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com)

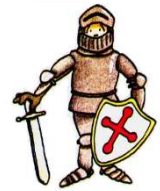
Modules 20-26 for Line Managers and Commissioners will be run as required. Contact Joan Condon for more information.

## St Georges Day Parade and Service

Our St Georges Day Parade & Service on Sunday 21st April will soon be upon us and arrangements will be the same as for last year:

- assemble on Wimbledon Common at 13:30
- move off through Wimbledon Village at 13:50
- arrive at Sacred Heart Church for a 14:30 service.

Duty Group this year is the 5th Morden. Details are on the web site at [www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/stgdp13.htm](http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/stgdp13.htm)



## Carrot Night Walk

The Carrot Night Walk is the flagship event for the sight loss sector throughout the UK, hosted by major cities on 20 September 2013 including London, Birmingham, Cardiff and Glasgow.

The organisers are keen to involve the Scouting community in these events as participants or volunteers, helping to orienteer themselves and others around the 6 or 15 mile routes.

If you and your section would like to be involved in any way, please contact Sam Davies at [sam@fightforsight.org.uk](mailto:sam@fightforsight.org.uk)

## Clean up the Wandle

Looking for a project for your older members to help them with the Community Challenge? You could try the Wandle Trust who organise regular clean-ups in the river. Visit [www.wandletrust.org](http://www.wandletrust.org)

## Morden Hall DHQ

Please make the time to go and look at the Morden Hall DHQ in daylight. All the rubbish is gone, the grounds are safe and there is a decent area for camping on.

With camp site fees so high, why not take your members to sunny Mitcham for a week-end, where there are no camp fees and transport costs are minimal.