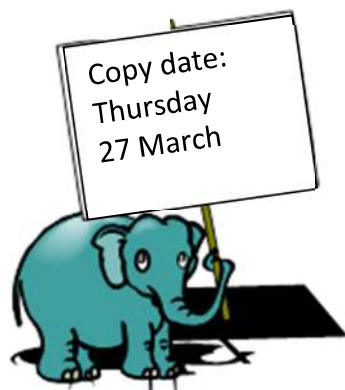


I hang out all the time with kids and young scouts and I never meet kids who don't want adventure.

Bear Grylls



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Links

March 2014 – Issue 101

Mar 8-9	Explorers' Red Flare	
9	Cub Chess competition	1 st Lower Morden
9	Scouts' Angling open event	Cannon Hill Common pond 10am
12	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
19	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
22-23	Award practice hikes	North & South Downs
22-23	County Scouts' Night Exercise	Westcott, Dorking
22	First Aid training	1 st Hook
26	Scout Active Support AGM	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
30	Scout football	Powerleague, Croydon
Apr 3	Last night of store before holidays	
Apr 12-13	Award qualifying hikes	North Downs/New Forest
13	First Aid training	22 nd Wimbledon HQ 9am
27	St George's Day Parade	Wimbledon Common/Sacred Heart

District Commissioner

Following the great efforts that everyone made to get the Census returns in so promptly, the draft figures are now in for the District census and they show, unfortunately, that our overall numbers have fallen by about 2½%.

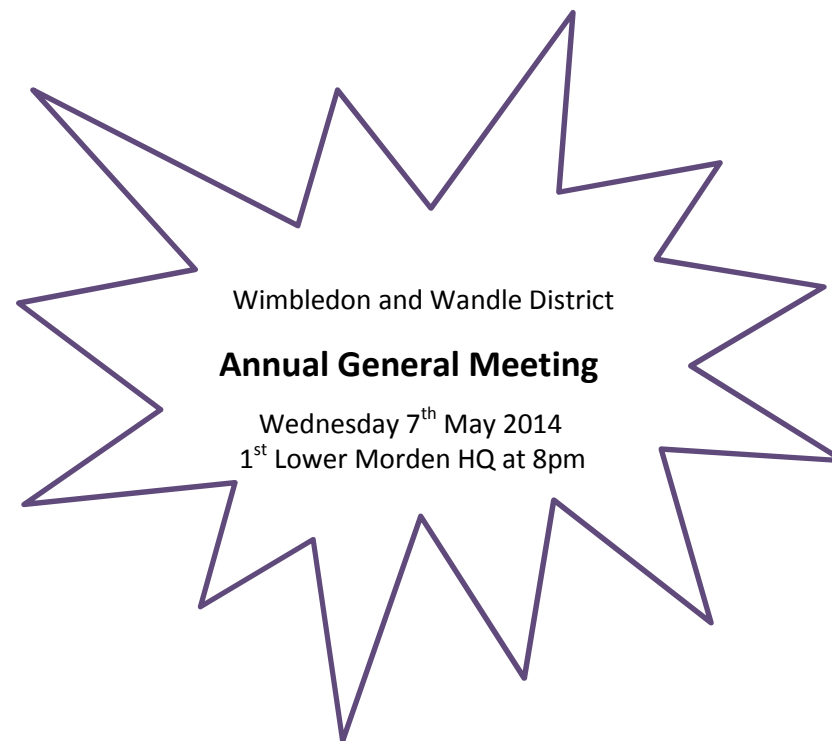
Nevertheless, we have seen increases in some areas and particular credit must go to the 22nd Wimbledon, whose numbers rose by 15%, no mean feat! We have 1375 youth members compared to 1230 in 2008, which shows that the overall trend is still upwards. Last, but by no means least, a big thank-you to Muriel Treagust for putting the District census together.

In the Groups where numbers have fallen we need to look at the reasons why this has happened in order that we are able to do something about it. Scouting's Vision Towards 2018 has as one of its main aspirations that "Scouting ... will be enjoyed by more young people and more adult volunteers" (the complete Vision can be found here: <http://members.scouts.org.uk/2018>). This aspect of the Vision will, of course, form part of our next District Development Plan, due in 2015, but if we see our Group numbers going the wrong way at the moment, we need to act now to both arrest the fall and reverse it. I know that those Groups facing this challenge are already "on the case" and we will see at the next interim census in April how far we have been successful in this endeavour.

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

Joe

Congratulations to Ashley Robinson (GSL 1st Morden) who has just completed a trek across the Sahara in aid of the Stroke Association – probably the first two stroke survivor to achieve this.



Wimbledon and Wandle District

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7th May 2014
1st Lower Morden HQ at 8pm

Morden Hall DHQ

Our DHQ grounds are looking great
with the first signs of spring greeting you as you come in the entrance.

The garden alongside the path
(Mary's garden, named in honour of a very long serving Badge Secretary)
is looking lovely.

Don't just rush in to your meeting, take a moment to look around as the evenings get lighter and consider how you and your members could use the grounds. There are no camp fees. The District pioneering equipment is stored on site and is available to everyone by arrangement with Dave Bixby.

There are altar fires and a camp fire circle.
Bookings through Betty Cronk 020 8393 6233

Paul's job has taken him abroad more than ever and he and Claire are expecting their second child in May of this year. We all know that family and work life must be put before scouting to ensure the correct life balance.

These demands mean that he is unable to respond as rapidly to his scout role as he would wish to do. He believes that it is time for a fresh leader to take the District Explorer Scouts forward.

Paul and I have worked together for many, many years, so I will not be letting him go. He wishes to still be involved with the Explorer and Network sections so we will be discussing the best way to use his time and skills in the future.

I would like to record my personal thanks to Paul and his family for all he has done for Scouting and hope that we will be in the hills again soon!

Please refer to myself for all Explorer and Network items for the time being.

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

Thank you to Jean and David for organising our Rummikub evening. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time.

Thank you also to all members who came along to the Townswomen's Guild Quiz Night on 8th February and help much it such a great success.

Reminder that our AGM is on Wednesday, 26th March – 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. at the Wandle DHQ. Shirts/uniform to be worn at this event please. We hope to see all members there. If you are unable to come please let David, Robert or me know.

Diary Notes: Don't forget that St. George's Day will be held on Sunday 27th April this year and that the District AGM will be on the 7th May.

Best wishes go to Bill Walden who has been a bit under the weather lately. We hope you will soon be feeling much better.



Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

The last meeting of the Executive was the shortest in time since I took over as Chairman! A further indication, I hope, that the Executive is moving away from a long list of long outstanding issues to addressing future needs in support of Vision 2014-2018.

Whilst there have been one or two exceptions, the combined tasks of Annual Census and Financial Accounts have been made a lot easier by Groups, Budget Holders and Explorer Units getting their figures to Muriel, Jackie and Keith promptly. So a very big "Thank You" for playing your small part in making these enormous tasks a bit easier!

Having said that, there are a few minor areas that could do with looking at and have long been "parked", whilst Members of the Executive prioritise elsewhere and balance personal time constraints. To this end, we are approaching the AGM season, so if there is anyone who would like to serve on the Executive from May? Please let me know and I'll happily explain more!

The District continues to find itself in a very strong financial situation and as the period covered by our District Development Plan comes to an end, we will be looking at alternative ways that funds can be channelled to the "front line" to support Vision 2014-2018 and the new DDP that will need to be drawn up. County will be presenting its Plan in Support of Vision 2014-2018 at the County AGM on 11th June. If you have a Vision for Scouting in Merton and ideas to make us stronger, then your ideas and suggestions are welcomed.

On the subject of AGM's all is now in hand to bring everything together for ours on Wednesday 7th May at 1st Lower Morden HQ (Bow Lane), for an 8pm start. Food and beverages will follow and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

Andy

St George's Day Parade and Service – Paul Atkins

Our St George's Day Parade & Service will be on Sunday 27th April and follow the same format as last year.



Details are on the web site. The key details are to assemble on Wimbledon Common at 13:30. The Parade will move off at 13:50 for a service in Sacred Heart Church on Edge Hill. Dismissal will be from the Wimbledon College playing fields at 15:15.

The Duty Group this year is the 6/12th Mitcham. I will be in touch with them and those who volunteered last year to seek their help again shortly.

The Police have confirmed that they will have 5 officers in attendance and Merton Council will pay for the necessary traffic order. We also have permission to use the common from the Rangers.

Project Compass – Paul Atkins

The clean-up of our data is well under way and so far we have identified 73 adults, 5 Sections & 1 Group that need deleting from the old system before it gets migrated over to the new database. Thank you to all those GSLs who have co-operated in this work. Explorer Units are next in line.

There has been some delay in the availability of training material & other information but it should be available shortly.

Our migration to Compass remains scheduled for September 2014.

For now, some information is available on scouts.org at <http://members.scouts.org.uk/membershipsystem>

District Store – Brian Whalebone

Cash's Names Tapes Update: Scout Shops have confirmed that they have resolved all issues with the supply Name Tapes and once again offer them for sale.

All existing orders will be honoured by Cash's in the normal way.

3 Dozen £9.75 6 Dozen £12.10 12 Dozen £14.65

Be sure to get your special order scarves and flags in time for St Georges day: Flags by Monday 3rd of March and scarves by Monday 24th of March

The Store will be closed for Easter on 10 and 17 April and re-open on 24 April.

Because of the training elements involved, the District Executive has agreed to subsidise this event so the cost to Scouts will now be £15 with no cost to Adults.

Flasks

We have been given a number of small flasks by Wimbledon Tennis via George Gallant.

Thanks George.

These are available to borrow for hikes, D.O.E. expeditions etc.

Contact Brian Whalebone for details.

Leader Opportunities

Over the last year or so there have been Leader changes at a number of Troops across the District.

As might be expected, there are a variety of reasons for this i.e. work or family circumstances changing, long term Leaders looking for a new challenge or just covering other vacant positions within their Group.

If you fancy a new challenge in the exciting Scout Section or have some time to fill, give me a call about the vacancies that exist across the District.

I'm also on the look-out for a volunteer to take on the role of exploring, negotiating and promoting new activities for our Scout Troops.

GSLs

If you have issues concerning your Troop, please contact me directly, initially, rather than through Tim Kerridge or Alan Green so that we can manage our support more effectively.

You should have seen an email from Joe Rogerson concerning National Volunteer Week 1st – 7th June, and I was thinking that we might be able to use it to search for Scout Section volunteers.

Is this something you might be interested in?

Explorers – Neil McLauchlan

Sadly I have to report that Paul Henderson will be stepping back from the role of District Explorer Scout Commissioner. Paul has spent many years putting systems in place and shaping the Explorer Scout section, responding to the ever changing requirements from HQ, County and District. Linked with the fact that the role has also grown from the initial 5 units to include the new units that have started in recent years.



Section Reports

Beavers – John Tweedley ADC Beavers



Not a lot to report this month but I am now back on my feet and can come and visit all the colonies that I have not been around to see yet.

It has been nice to see some Adult Application forms for new leaders coming through, although some have had sheets missing.

When we have our meeting in March we can get down and arrange some activities for the Beavers to do, and I welcome any new ideas you may have.

Cubs – Michèle McNamara



District Quiz – Thanks to those teams who turned up for this event and apologies for the icy temperature in the hall!

The cubs appeared to enjoy the event and congratulations to the 1st Wimbledon whose 2 teams came 1st & 2nd and to the 11th Mitcham for coming a very close 3rd. The 1st Wimbledon and 11th Mitcham are due to go forward and represent the district at the County Quiz at 1st Hook on March 9th.

Chess – To be held at 1st Lower Morden HQ on March 9th. If you haven't told me whether or not you are entering a team I need to know by March 5th at the very latest. Full details will be sent out to each pack shortly.

Pack Programmes – There are still some packs who have not forwarded their programmes for this term, if you are one of the guilty ones, could you please send it a.s.a.p. Thank you.

Cub Leaders Meeting – The next meeting is at Wandle HQ on 12th March. I should like as many of you to attend as possible. If you are unable to do so, can you please advise me?

Scouts – Dave Bixby



Scout Football – 30th March

Last call for entries to me by 16th March.

It was decided at the last Scout Section meeting that all players must wear **TRAINERS** for this event – no other type of footwear will be allowed to save arguments on the day.

Backwoods Camp, Broadstone Warren – 3-4th May

Closing date for entries 30th March.

Training Dates

Date	Module	Title	Time
15 Mar	16	Introduction to residential experiences	09.30 – 13.30
15 Mar	38A	Skills for residential experience	14.00 – 17.00
05-06 Apr	38B	Skills for residential experience	Weekend camp
20 May	11	Administration**	Croydon
24 May	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00 - 12.30
24 May	17	Activities outdoors	13.00 – 16.30
7 June	13	Growing the Movement (Leaders)	10.00 – 16.30
7 June	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)	10.00 - 16.30
21 Sept	16	Introduction to residential experiences	10.00 – 13.00
12 Oct	12	Providing a balanced programme	09.30 – 13.30
12 Oct	19	International	14.30 – 16.00
16 Nov	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00 – 12.30
16 Nov	17	Activities outdoors	13.00 – 16.30
30 Nov	13	Growing the Movement (Leaders)	10.00 – 13.00
30 Nov	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)	10.00 – 16.30

All Modules will be at the 1st Lower Morden Scout Headquarters unless stated
Cost per Module is £4.00

Application forms from

Mrs J Condon 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden SM4 4DX

e.mail joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com or download from the County web site www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationforms.

** Held at 9th Croydon HQ Alverston Gardens, South Norwood, SE25 6LR (near the Crystal Palace Football ground and just up from Selhurst Station).

For further details contact **Alison Edwards** (Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)

First Aid Dates

22 March	1 st Hook	Royal Kingston
13 th April	22 nd Wimbledon	W&W District
17 th May	1st Whitton	Richmond

Contact Mrs Janet Drinkall 020 8669 4774 e.mail jdrinkall@sky.com