

*“May the sun bring you new energy by day,  
May the moon softly restore you by night,  
May the rain wash away your worries,  
May the breeze blow new strength into your being,  
May you walk through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life”*

Apache Blessing



## *Links*

May 2015 – Issue no. 112

Copy date for June Links: Thursday 28 May 2015

May 11	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
12	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	CSLs' Meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15-17	GLSW Mountain Leader training	Bethesda
16	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
17	Cub Football competition	Raynes Park High School 1pm
19	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
20	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
27	SASU outing to Sister Act	Ashcroft Theatre
June 2	No Store – half term	
3	Explorer Leaders' meeting	Tbc
5-7	Water weekend	Thames Young Mariners
10	County AGM	1 <sup>st</sup> Hook
13	District Sports	Wimbledon Park
19	Cubs Athlete badge testing	tbc
20	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	Beaver Fun Day	Gilwell
20	SASU outing to Dover Castle	

---

**Links Editor**

**Lesley Bixby**

[thebixbys@talktalk.net](mailto:thebixbys@talktalk.net)

**1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park SW20 9JR**

fairly small hall, a long thin camping field but no on-site activities. Contact Lyn Stone [iscout@sky.com](mailto:iscout@sky.com)

Our next Troop Scouters' meeting is at Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Please bring along any items for the bran Tub.

### Explorers – Neil McLauchlan

Brief report this month!

- St George's Day Parade: Thanks to everyone who attended the parade.
- Next Leaders' meeting: Wednesday 3rd June, DHQ 8.00pm.
- Gilwell 24: Please get your units booked for this asap if you have not already done so.



### Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

**Reminder - District AGM** – Wednesday 6th May – 19th Wimbledon, Cottenham Park Road: We look forward to seeing all members there, in uniform please.



**Change of event:** the Beetle Drive/Fish 'n Chip supper has been deferred for the time being. Instead we have the opportunity to see 'Sister Act' at the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon. This production is being put on by the Croydon Stagers. Further details from Jean Gould.

### Forthcoming events:

**Sports Day, Saturday 13th June:** Help will probably be needed on the day, so if you can help please contact Robert.

**Our Away Day to Dover Castle** is going ahead on Saturday 20th June. If you would like to go please let Robert know. We shall be travelling via private car so any help with transport will be appreciated.

Looking further ahead please keep **Saturday 18th July** free for our annual BBQ. This year this event will be hosted by Deidre and John Smith.

I believe an e-mail has also gone out about our **summer meal**. This will be held on Sunday 9th August at the Kingswood Golf Club. Please let Jean Brumwell know a.s.a.p. if you would like to go.

### District Commissioner

Thanks to Richard Marus and his team, the SAS, the 9<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon and the Band for a memorable St George's Day parade. Some 600 members were present, as were Guides and parents, filling the Sacred Heart church and renewing their Promises with gusto. The idea of presenting Explorer Scouts with their major awards was a very good one, which will now become a fixture and here's hoping that there are many awards to present next year!

Our Promise is the bedrock on which B-P built our remarkable Movement and we ignore it at our peril. We must ensure that every Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer memorises it prior to investiture and, more importantly, fully understands what they are saying. The implications of the Promise are manifold, but at the simplest level, our scouts need to understand that they are making a personal commitment to a way of living, which will enhance both their own lives and the lives of those around them, be it at the section meeting, at camp, at home or in the wider world. It needs to be the cornerstone of every section's behaviour code and that may well be the ideal time to explore it with our scouts.

The census results were not good this year, and showed an overall loss of about 4.5%. There is doubtless work to do here and, regrettably, there may be some difficult decisions to make over the coming months. When looking at low numbers, it's worth remembering that Scouting is a Movement built, essentially, on friendships: friendships between adults; friendships between children. After all, our best "recruiters" are our existing members and, as highlighted in Scouting's Vision 2018, we need to encourage one another to involve our family, friends and acquaintances to join us in the big adventure, such that more and more people in Merton can reap the benefits associated with involvement in Scouting.

Joe

## Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

By the time you read this, our AGM will have come and gone; so I hope everyone had an interesting evening and that it all went according to plan! If it didn't, then I'll address that in June's "Links" (if I'm still in my role)!

I would urge everyone to please read the Annual Report (copy will be loaded onto the web site) and see what is being done to help everyone in the District meet our shared Objectives and the support that is available.

Hopefully all went according to plan and we also have a new District Treasurer! Again, more to say next month, which will allow time for new mandates to have been enacted by CAF Bank. In the meantime, watch the web site for further updates.

At the AGM I mentioned our Legacies from "Atlasta" and Kenneth Black, that are combining to provide for the development of Scouting in LB Merton. The history of Atlasta is already detailed on the web site under "Information". We are arranging similar for Kenneth Black, in order to mark the 65th anniversary next month of his untimely death.

Can I remind all Key Managers, Group Chairs, Group Secretaries and Group Treasurers that POR requires all Groups to provide District with copies of your Accounts and Annual Report. This is mandatory and will be strictly applied this year. In light of changes in District Treasurer, can I please ask that, as for last year, all such documents are sent (email or post) to me?

All Group Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers should have received an invite to County Executive Day in Wimbledon on Saturday 19th September. This is the first part of rolling out support from Scout Association Headquarters and places are limited. Further information and links to book your place are available via the web site.

County AGM is at 1st Hook on 10th June, and copies of the County Development Plan have been circulated and are also available via GLSW web site.

Andy

bases to avoid having unwieldy numbers in the groups, however despite this the cubs all seemed to have a good time. The weather could have been a little warmer but at least it didn't rain! Thanks as usual to all the leaders from the cub and scout sections without whom this event wouldn't happen. Special thanks to Martin & Mia who not only do their stint on the day but do all the planning necessary before the event.

**Football** – This is planned for the afternoon of May 17<sup>th</sup> 13.00 – 18.00 a change from our usual time since Raynes Park High School have an ongoing morning booking from "Little Kickers" throughout the term, so the option of choosing another date wasn't available. I have asked for entries to be notified to me by **1 May**, to date I have been contacted by just **8 packs** - if you are one of the packs that hasn't responded even if it's to say you can't make it, can you please do so a.s.a.p. Full details will be sent out to entrants shortly after 1 May.

**CSL Meeting** – next meeting will be May 13<sup>th</sup> at which the football draw will be made, we haven't now had a meeting since January so please try your hardest to make this one.

## Scouts – Dave Bixby

**Leadership Skills Weekend:** We had a great weekend at Southwood with Scouts from 8 Troops. Even the rain Saturday night/Sunday morning did nothing to dampen their spirits. The Scouts had to tackle a variety of tasks, taking it in turn to lead. It was interesting to see the age range of the participants, given the current age profile of the Troops.

A few Troops sent their Scouts without any Leaders which was not a problem but a couple had not fully checked their equipment, which was! There were a few challenges with tent poles missing and the wrong type of gas bottles for the stoves. Our experienced leader team was able to overcome the difficulties but it was not fair on the Scouts concerned.

Talking of the leader team, given the diverse groups concerned, the team really gelled and worked as one whole unit right from the start.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone involved.

The venue we used was Southwood Activity Centre, home of the 6<sup>th</sup> Tolworth Group. It is to the left of the A3 heading south between New Malden and Tolworth, an ideal weekend site very close to home. It has a building with a



## Wimbledon and Wandle Appointments

The following came for interview on 28th April 2015  
Claire Churchill is now GSL, 8th Morden

Our thanks extended to her for supporting our District

I would appreciate updates on any changes within Leadership of Groups  
please whilst Compass is unavailable.

Muriel Treagust  
Wimbledon and Wandle District Appointments Secretary

## Christmas is coming . . .

Sainsburys at Wimbledon have a 6 foot evergreen Christmas tree with some decorations & Christmas hats which they are looking to donate to a group who would welcome the opportunity to give it a new home.

If you think you can use it then please contact Charity Co-ordinator Becky Reid at [pri.wimbledon@sainsburys.co.uk](mailto:pri.wimbledon@sainsburys.co.uk)

## Section reports

### Beaver Report – John Tweedley

Nothing much to report this month, as all colonies have been informed due to unforeseen circumstances I will not be at this year's District Sports Day but this will not affect colonies attending this event. I have contacted you all on the lay out of the day I hope you all have fun and remember this is for the kids.

I will contact the colonies very shortly on the arrangements regarding the Cub & Beaver Fun Day at Gilwell Park on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. All monies to be paid by the end of May. I hope to see more representatives at our Beaver Leaders Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May at D.H.Q. 8.00pm start.

### Cub Report – Michèle McNamara

**Adventure Day-** We had a final total of 105 cubs at this event which meant we had to make some last minute additions to the



## St George's Day Parade and Service – Richard Marus

A big thank you to those that took part in and supported this year's District St George's Day Parade. The weather was (reasonably) kind to us and the band did its usual great job of leading over 600 scouts, guides and leaders through Wimbledon Village, with more filling the Sacred Heart Church for the service and renewal of promises.

The 8th Morden, together with Empire ESU, were excellent as Duty Group, supported by the 11th Mitcham, 3rd Morden and 2nd West Barnes Guide units.

The District honoured Maddie Thompson's (16th Morden) memory with a minute's silence and were given much to think about by the addresses from the Mayor of Merton, Canon John Clark and the District Commissioner. Joe was joined by Deputy County Commissioner Martin Whiting to present Chief Scout's Platinum Awards to Theo Carter, Kieran O'Connor, James Hold and Jack Liddy of the Flying Penguins ESU.

The collection raised £290 which will be going to the Shooting Star Chase Hospice, one of the two Mayoral charities.

Finally, a big thank you to the team of supporters that did so much in the lead up to and on the day to make it all work.

## Jack Petchey Awards

All GSLs and Explorer Leaders have been asked to nominate Scouts/Explorers for the current round of awards by 25 May. The award carries a grant of £200 which can be spent on anything the nominee likes – from tents to theme park outings – and we currently have 4 still available. Please get your nominations to Lesley Bixby as soon as possible as they will be taken on a first come first served basis.

## District Sports – 13<sup>th</sup> June

Don't forget that the Sports is BEFORE Wimbledon fortnight this year and now is the time to be putting your teams together.

Peter Hutton is still looking for a few extra people to help on the day so please email him if you have any volunteers: [Peter@brandenergyresearch.com](mailto:Peter@brandenergyresearch.com)



## Training Dates

Jun 13	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	SDHQ
Jun 13	13/21	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	SDHQ
Sep 26	16	Intro. To residential experiences	10.00-13.00	1LM
Sep 26	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	1LM
Oct 4	12a/22	Delivering a quality programme	10.00-12.30	1LM
Oct 4	12b	Programme planning	13.30 -17.00	1LM
Oct 10/11	38b	Skills for residential experiences	Weekend	B W
Nov 8	19	International	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 8	17/23	Running safe activities	13.30-16.30	1LM
Nov 29	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 29	13/21	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	1LM

SDHQ Sutton District Headquarters, Woodcote Road, Wallington SM6 0LY  
1LM 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane SM4 4SJ  
B W Bears Wood campsite, Oswald, Croydon CR09HJ

Cost per module is £4 except Modules 38a and b which is £40  
Download applications forms from the County website  
[www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform)  
or contact Mrs J Condon [joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com)

**Safeguarding dates** can be obtained from Alison Edwards (District Training Manager)

### First Aid

19th July 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon

Application forms can be downloaded from the County web site  
[www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/support](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/support) or contact Mrs Janet Drinkall [jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)  
Cost for module 10 £18.00

For information about other modules, which are District-run, contact Alison Edwards on [alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)

## Compass

HQ issued a further update on Compass on 30th April in which the stated focus is to deliver the functionality that was provided by the old MMS system in the first instance - Managing Adult Members, Disclosure & Vetting Processing, Training Records and Reports.

No dates are yet offered for this.

The full text of the update can be read here

[http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?page\\_id=21128](http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?page_id=21128)

### Wimbledon Guild Fair - Joe Chamberlain, WVF Volunteer Co-ordinator

We are currently looking for volunteers for the Wimbledon Guild Village fair on Saturday 27th June. We were wondering if any of the local scouting members would be able to assist us on the day. We are looking for a group of volunteers to help with the close down from 5pm – 7pm. I was wondering if you had anybody who may be interested. Volunteers would need to be over 16 years of age.

Please see our website for more details: [www.wimbledonguild.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself, or Nick Linney at the Wimbledon Guild

T 020 8946 0735

E [volunteer@wimbledonvillagefair.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@wimbledonvillagefair.co.uk)

### Wild Wood Adventure

Peacock Wood, Lido Road, Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey GU11HB

You could book a 2 or 3 hour session and choose 3 or 4 activities from the following list: milk crate stack, all aboard, leap of faith, abseiling, rock climbing, Jacob's ladder and the gladiator challenge.

Alternatively your group can instead go around the high ropes course for a discounted price!

All sessions end with a 'big finale' on either the 100m zip lines or the 15m fan descender drop.

E: [booking@wildwood-adventure.com](mailto:booking@wildwood-adventure.com)

T: 07557 440892

W: [www.wildwood-adventure.com](http://www.wildwood-adventure.com)