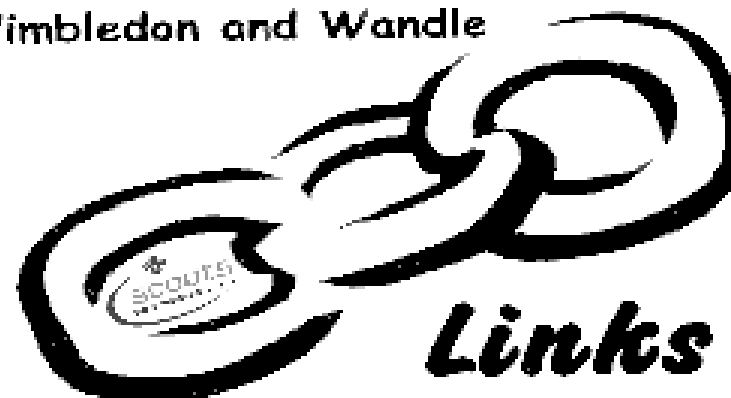
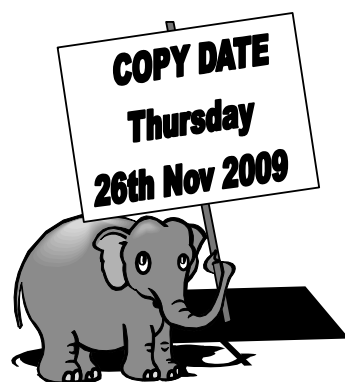


*A Scout leader and his wife were driving along a rural highway, when they found the road blocked by a herd of cows that had escaped through a broken fence. The Scout leader tried beeping his horn to scare the cattle from the road, but to no avail. For some reason, no sound was heard. He got out of the car, lifted the bonnet, and saw the problem, a loose wire, which he quickly fixed. As he got back into the car, his wife asked him if he'd had any luck. "Yep," he replied, "beep repaired!"*

## Wimbledon and Wandle



November 2009  
Issue 58



Nov 7/8	Scarefest	Walton firs
7	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
11	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Scouts' Incident Hike	Polyapes
15	Cubs' Handicraft competition	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon HQ
16	GSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
23	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
25	Fellowship Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
Dec 5	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
10	Last night of Store	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
12	Morden Park Choral Soc. Carols	St John the Devine
14	Troop Scouters' Christmas Meal	Park Place
Jan 6	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
8	Cub Scout Leaders' Christmas meal	thb
9	Fellowship Christmas Meal	Prince of Wales

**Links Editor**  
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## District Commissioner

I was privileged to have the handover from Bob take place at the District Conference last month, an event that was a great success, with many positive comments received both on the day itself and subsequently. This was wholly due to Bob who had single-handedly organised the event; although, of course, thanks go to the workshop leaders especially Keith Daly, Peter Newman and John Young, together with Rob Brumwell and the Fellowship.

Hard on the heels of the Conference came the District Swimming Gala at which twelve groups were represented. The new format was extremely successful and congratulations must go to Michèle and her team for another great night.

I am very grateful for the support that I have received over the past month, particularly from the many people who have been happy to continue in their roles, despite them having the opportunity to resign on the arrival of a new DC! I look forward to meeting everyone involved in the District over the coming weeks and months, not least at the All Leaders' Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

As we all know, the District is in good shape, with rising membership numbers for the past five years. Our task over the next five years will be to continue that trend by focusing on People, Programmes and Places, that is, all of us working together to ensure that outstanding Leaders have all they need to deliver the highest quality programmes in halls and headquarters that provide the very best Scouting experience.

Bob pointed out in his last piece for Links that he had "done his best" during his tenure, I hope to do the same during the time that I serve you as District Commissioner.

Joe

## Postscript - Bob Prescott

### Conference

My thanks to everyone who came to the conference, in whatever capacity. I believe, from some of the comments made, that it proved valuable and enjoyable. I phoned HQ to thank Lisa and she was very complimentary about our conference, which was good to hear. It certainly provided a springboard for Joe to commence his warrant as DC and I wish him well and hope he enjoys it as much as I did.

My thanks for the letters and cards received.

My appointment as **County Scout Network Commissioner** has commenced and this will be a huge challenge for me. Getting Network to the point where we are not losing our 18 to 25 year olds is fundamental in the development of Scouting. It is so important to retain in young people Scouting so they can enjoy the adventure of Scouting in an inhibited way, achieve their Queens Scout or D of E awards and still be in Scouting when they might be ready to offer warranted service.

I have commenced a period of consultation before I make an announcement of the new structure of Network for the future. So if you have any ideas, thoughts or concerns please let me know by email or phone.

Can I just say finally a huge thank you to you all for your support, kindness and encouragement through what has been a very difficult time in my personal life? Thankfully I am just getting back on my feet and I seem now just to be turning the corner and be able to look forward to a much more stable future.

Bob

### Census – Sue Southwood

Please can I remind everyone that the annual census is almost upon us again?

I should receive the census forms by the end of November and will be emailing them to all people involved in the completion of the details. The collection of the membership fee will be at the first GSLs' meeting after Christmas. The charge will be £26 per head, if received by that date.

There will be an additional charge of 50p for any late payments. Please remember that Young Leaders working with a Group should be paid for by the Group.

Thank you.

### Asbestos in Scout HQs

Many Scout HQs are undergoing face-lifts at the moment and, while commercial properties are subject to all sorts of surveys and regulations, the people most at risk from the dangers of asbestos are those involved in community projects; people like us! The most common form of asbestos in Scout HQs will probably be white corrugated roofing so be doubly careful when doing things like removing ceiling tiles that may have a layer of asbestos dust on top of them.

Electronic copies of a couple of leaflets have been sent to GSLs.

### Boat Authorisations

Only the really hardy take their boats out during the winter months, but this is the time to get them spruced up, get any repairs done and arrange for them to be inspected ready for next summer.

If there is an accident and everyone's authorisations, boat inspections and licences are fully up to date, you will get the full support of the Scout Association, but if they have lapsed, you will be on your own.

Contact Robin Corti who is ACC Activities and the County Boat registrar at [robin.corti@glswscouts.org.uk](mailto:robin.corti@glswscouts.org.uk).



### Scouts – Dave Bixby

**Quiz:** Thank to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon for hosting another very successful quiz night. There were 14 teams entered and, judging by the noise, a good time was had by all. Joint winners were the 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon, despite a bonus round aimed at breaking the deadlock. Next year the quiz moves back to its previous home at St John Fisher Church Hall, Cannon Hill Lane on a Wednesday.

**Incident Hike:** This will take place around Polyapes on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November. All entries should be well and truly in by now!

**RNLI SOS:** Some years ago, Scouts across the UK raised money for an inshore lifeboat. Next year, on 29<sup>th</sup> January, the RNLI are holding a massive fund raising day - so, if you use boats on the Thames or the sea, swim or paddle or just walk along our beaches, you may one day have to call on them. Please consider giving them your support by involving your Scouts in raising funds for someone else - log on to [www.rnli.org.uk/sos](http://www.rnli.org.uk/sos) for details.

**The Red Book 2010:** This is due to be distributed at our next Troop Scouters' meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Morden Hall DHQ 8pm. Meanwhile, the Scout dates for next year are on the website.

**Christmas Meal:** Don't forget to book your place on the Scout Section Christmas meal on 14 December at Park Place, Mitcham. Just give me a call.

### Explorer Scouts – Neil McLauchlin

As you may know Paul Henderson has taken over from me as the DESC [District Explorer Scout Commissioner]. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Paul best of luck with his new role. Thank you all for your support etc. that you have given me over many years. I am sure that you will give Paul your support in the future. I am still DDC so you have not got rid on me yet!

Coming up events are as listed below:

The County Night Hike is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November as per the details already circulated by email. Entries must be in by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Please let's have teams entered from all Units and lots of adult help on the night.



## Swimming Gala - Michèle McNamara

Firstly thank you to all the Cubs and Scouts who took part.

Secondly a big thank you to all the Leaders who helped run the gala and to those who looked after their teams and ensured that this years poolside behaviour was the best yet.

It was an experimental format this year and we will need feedback to help us plan next year's event, assuming you all still want a gala. Can you please let me have your comments direct or ensure that you are at your next Section Leaders' meeting to discuss the event? Thank you.

### Swimming Gala results:

<b>Group</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Lower Morden
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Morden
<b>GTT</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Morden
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mitcham
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon
<b>Cubs</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Lower Morden
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Morden
<b>Scouts</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup> Wimbledon
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> Morden

Full results are on the District website.

### Store

The last night of the store before Christmas will be 10<sup>th</sup> December and it will re-open on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Currently in stock - 1 x XXL new style men's fleece £25

Scout belts have not been available for some weeks but new stock are expected during November.

# CHAOS 2010

*25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010*

*GLSW's inaugural camp for Scouts and their Leaders*

*Tolmers Camp Site*

*There will be:*

*Bungee trampoline Splash pool Pioneering*

*Rifles*

*The Rock Abseiling Vertical Wall Assault*

*course*

*Archery Inflatables Coconut Tree Climb*

*Canoeing*

*and lots more*

*£27.50 per Scout*

*to include activities, camp fees and camp scarf*

*food and transport extra*

*Book places for your Troop now*

*Contact Nigel Waine ACC Scouts*

*14 Rumsey Close, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3X4*

*nigel\_j\_waine@hotmail.com*

## Section reports

### Beavers - Kevin Quigley

We had a great time at the Beaver Activity days last month. Sandwiches, cress heads, snappers and rocket mobiles were made, skeleton people (and Beavers) were stuck to cards, treasure was found, a blindfold trail was followed and we all ended up with a great sing-song at a campfire. My thanks to all the people who organised and bought the necessary materials for the bases, and came to help on the day.



Don't forget on Saturday 14 November we're going to visit the RAF Museum at Hendon. Details have been circulated and please get your numbers etc. back to Linda Vaudrey as soon as possible please.

I've managed to deliver a number of the 'Programme in a box' DVDs and the rest should be with you soon.

Next Beaver Leader's Meeting - Wednesday 18th November 2009 at 8.00pm at Morden DHQ - please can each colony send a member.

Finally, with Christmas approaching, if your Beavers (or Group) are having a Carol or Festive Concert, please let me know and I'll try to attend - if I'm invited.

### Cubs - Michèle McNamara

**Handicraft Competition** - 10 Packs have entered; please remember to get your entry fee of £12.00 to me by the next CSL meeting, which is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at Morden Park DHQ. Also, if you have any items suitable for junk modelling can you please bring them with you to that meeting as well, to give Bill a chance to sort them out.



**Badge Day** - This is planned for 31<sup>st</sup> January at 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ, we need to discuss this at the next CSL meeting so if you to intend to bring your Pack to this, can you please try and make the meeting.

**Christmas Dinner** - We are still looking for a venue for this, if you have any ideas or suggestions can you please contact me.

## **Training - Alison Edwards**

Things have been busy on the training front recently. 9 people from the District took part in the Module 16 Nights Away training at Bears Wood last month. Congratulations to those of you who attended despite the rather 'chilly' weather overnight!

Particular congratulations to:

Corinne Garrod of 3rd Mitcham,  
Sue Jacobs from the 1st Lower Morden,  
Andrew Nowak and Martin Chick of Merton Park ESU and  
Andy Dimon of 1st Wimbledon

on completing their wood badges this month. The total for 2009 so far is 26, and hopefully there will be a few more before Christmas!

Well done to all of you who are working hard on training at the moment. We await dates for the next nights away training but details of the other modules run by County are available from either the District or County websites.

## **First Aid dates**

The dates for first aid training have been set for 2010 but venues have still to be arranged:

23 <sup>rd</sup> January	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	16 <sup>th</sup> October
13 <sup>th</sup> February	13 <sup>th</sup> June	14 <sup>th</sup> November
21 <sup>st</sup> March	19 <sup>th</sup> September	

## **Quiz Night**

The Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare

Booking has now opened for the Quiz Night on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Our quizmaster is comedian and writer Andy Hamilton;  
the mouth-watering meal will be by Karen Hopkins (Thoughtful Food);  
and the setting is the magnificent senior hall at Wimbledon High School.

You can book in teams of 8 or individually.

For full details and booking information, go to [www.wimbledonguild.co.uk/events.htm](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk/events.htm)

The County Orienteering competition - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Happy Valley, Coulsdon. We are aiming for the first team to go off at 10.00 am and the last to go off about 2.30 pm. Details already circulated by email.

#### Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey

Thank you to all who helped at the Conference at the beginning of October. I feel we did help to make things run smoothly.



We have our Beetle Drive coming up on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Wandle D.H.Q. Prompt start 7.30 p.m. If you would like the fish 'n chip supper, please let me have your order by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Many thanks (Tel. No. 020 8542 6200)

We hope to hold our New Year Meal on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010 so make a note of the date in your new diaries! Further details to follow.



#### Links Distribution

We are still printing and distributing in excess of 100 copies of Links each month. If you prefer to receive a paper version, we are happy to send it to you, but if you don't mind reading it on line, or printing your own copy off the website, so that we can save paper/postage perhaps you would let us know.

Please email the editor ([thebixbys@talktalk.net](mailto:thebixbys@talktalk.net)) and we will stop your paper copy and will send you an electronic notification that the latest edition has been published, with a link to the website, each month.



#### Jamboree - David Williams

**Sweden 2011** I am pleased and proud to have been selected as one of the Assistant Leaders for the Greater London South West contingent to the next World Jamboree in Sweden. Now we are looking

for the Scouts/Explorers who will make up our contingent.

Wimbledon and Wandle have been allocated 11 spaces for young people. Participants must be born between the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1993 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 1997 and details have already been sent to GSLs and Scout Leaders.

Find out more at the presentation evenings:

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

St Patrick's Church Hall

Address: 47 Park Hill Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 0RU

From 7.45pm to 8.45pm

or

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009

7<sup>th</sup> Malden HQ

Address: Green Lane Hall, Green Lane, New Malden, KT3 5BX

From 5pm to 6pm

Uniform is not required.

Deadline for return of Jamboree Selection Application Forms:

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2010

Selection days for Jamboree Participants:

23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010, location Bow Lane

There is more information on the websites

<http://scouts.org.uk/ws/j2011> and [www.worldscoutjamboree.se/](http://www.worldscoutjamboree.se/)

or you can contact me [williamsdavidm@hotmail.com](mailto:williamsdavidm@hotmail.com)