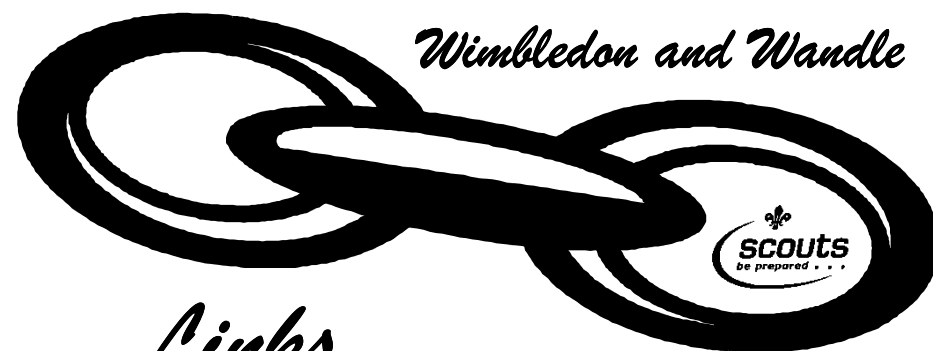


Copy date for joint December/January issue:

Thursday 25th November 2010



November 2010 – Issue no. 67

Nov 6	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ at 10am
7	Scouts' Incident Hike	Bentley Copse
10	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
17	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8[m
19	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
21	Cub Handicraft competition	
21	Beaver Activity day	
24	SAS Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ at 7.30pm
Dec 1	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
13	Troop Scouters' meal (TBC)	Park Place

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Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be modest. Be innovative. Think differently and positively.

When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile.

Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence.

Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and lose the fear.

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling!

And even more beautiful, is knowing that you made it happen!

District Commissioner

"This is the best camp that I've been to for a long time" said Chief Scout **Bear Grylls** on entering the Paches campsite to visit 61 of our Scouts who were taking part in a Survival Skills weekend. Coming from someone who sees Scouting in action nationwide, and who has a particular interest in the traditional skills that were being passed on there, this was praise indeed for the dedicated leaders who had put the course together.

Particular thanks must go to Dave Bixby, Gary Baker and the team for organizing another quality event. Thanks must also go to the Leaders of the 22nd who, in the best traditions of Scouting, pulled out all the stops very late on the Saturday night, when the weather became so bad that everyone had to de-camp from Paches to the welcome haven of the 22nd's HQ (and ate all Tim Kerridge's soup!).

Backwoods skills are the birthright of every Scout. In Paches we have the perfect place to learn and practise them; in the District we have highly skilled Leaders who can teach them. If you want your Scouts to benefit and you are unsure of your own skills, then talk to Dave who will be more than happy to help you.

Another successful Swimming Gala followed two weeks later involving 15 of 18 possible Groups, which is testament to the enduring appeal of this long running event and is another example of dedicated leaders coming together to deliver a quality event that everyone obviously enjoys attending. As ever our grateful thanks to Michèle McNamara for all the hours of work she puts in to ensure that the Gala happens every year.

Now that we have a settled Executive following the EGM last month, we can look forward to providing the District with a Development Plan to complement the Group Development Plans that are in place at the moment, with the aim of continuing to grow good quality Scouting in Merton.

The 1st Lower Morden Scout Group present...

The Big Quiz Night!

On Saturday 27 November 2010

**At the 1st Lower Morden Scout HQ, Bow Lane,
off Lower Morden Lane, Morden.**

7.45pm for an 8pm Start

Teams of 4-6 £2 a head

**Tea and coffee will be provided
but feel free to bring your own!**

**To book a team contact Andrew Hayward (GSL) on
020 8542 4829 or 0797 129 8686**

See You There!

Swimming Gala

Thanks to Michèle and her team for another successful event.

Group result:

- 1st 22nd Wimbledon
- 2nd 16th Morden
- 3rd 5th Morden

Group Team Trophy

- 1st 5th Morden
- 2nd 1st Lower Morden
- 3rd 13th Wimbledon

Cub trophy

- 1st 22nd Wimbledon
- 2nd 13th Wimbledon
- 3rd 19th Wimbledon

Scout Trophy

- 1st 16th Morden
- 2nd 5th Morden
- 3rd 1st Lower Morden

Training dates

6 Nov	10:00am – 1:00pm	Module 22 – Section Support
	2:00pm – 4:30pm	Module 24 – Managing Adults
		Module 26 – Supporting Adults
14 Nov	10:00am – 11:30am	Module 07 – Valuing Diversity
	11:45am – 1:30pm	Module 19 – International
	2:30pm – 4:30pm	Module 17 – Activities Outdoors
21 Nov	9:00am – 5:00pm	Module 10 – First Aid 1st Whitton HQ – Richmond

With November comes Remembrance Sunday and I hope that every effort will be made to ensure that our Scouts of every age have the opportunity to reflect upon the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made by our soldiers, sailors and airmen. If at all possible, every Explorer Scout should attend the Parade in Wimbledon Village and Groups local to Mitcham should attend the Parade there. It is worth remembering, especially on this occasion, that the standard of our uniform is a tangible demonstration of our respect for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Joe

Census and membership fees

This year's membership fee will be made up as follows:

- Headquarters £20.25 (less 50p reduction for early payment);
- County £6.00
- District 25p

The District has absorbed the 75p increase announced by Headquarters, so the fee is the same as last year's.

The census will be available in December, but HQ is warning us in advance that they will require far more information regarding the ethnicity of our members, in order to compare it with the data collected by the National census to identify whether or not Scouting truly reflects our local areas. The additional information about disabilities and special needs should help improve and more accurately target the support provided for adults and young people.

Please check www.scouts.org.uk/census for more information and sample letters to help you collect the required data from your members' parents.

What can you drive?

If you are uncertain what you can drive on your normal licence, this link may help:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/WhatCanYouDriveAndYourObligations/DG_4022619

Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

Following the Extra-ordinary General Meeting in October, I should like to express my thanks again to Jack Atkins (District President) who agreed to be co-opted to the Executive after the resignation of the previous Chairman and Secretary. Jack has now stepped down having provided valuable counsel. Thanks also to John Young and Keith Angliss; who both agreed to rejoin the Executive in May as co-opted members. I was delighted that both have now agreed to remain with us as nominated members.

Welcome to Richard (Rich) Nicol who was elected at the EGM as District Treasurer. Rich will take a while to settle into his role and he and John Young will work together in the future.

Welcome also to Andrew Hayward (GSL 1st Lower Morden), who volunteered to join the Executive and was also nominated at the EGM.

Very shortly we will be formulating a District Plan for 2011 – 2014 that will involve maximising our financial resources; with the intention of meeting the needs of “People, Places and Programmes”.

Please do put **11th May 2011** in your diary for our AGM. It will not be held at Kenneth Black Hall and I can't promise substantive refreshments! I do promise however that I will do my best to put the Report and Accounts on the web site before the meeting, so everyone can come well briefed.

Paul Atkins is currently circulating details to GSLs to update the District Directory. It would be extremely helpful to me to have contact email addresses for your Chair, Treasurer and Secretary please.

Food for Thought: Do you review your headquarters buildings insurance arrangements as you might your own car insurance? Renewal quote for Kenneth Black Hall of £2835 was reduced to £1590 thanks to my own professional contacts. I know of at least one Group in the District whose largest annual outlay is for buildings cover. Let me know if I can get my contacts to call you and arrange a quote!

Section Reports

Scout Report – Dave Bixby

Scout Quiz: The evening saw 13 teams battling it out to lift the trophy for the brains of Wimbledon and Wandle. Worthy joint winners were the 3rd Mitcham and 8th Wimbledon. My grateful thanks go to Tim Kerridge for co-ordinating all the questions, David Williams for marking, Dave Hodges for being question master and the 5th Morden for giving up their Troop meeting to accommodate us.

Programmes: Joe has tasked the ADCs with reviewing programmes for all Sections to promote the District Development Plan objectives – ‘good programmes delivered by good people in good premises’. To date I have only received this term's full programme and outline for 2011 from 1 Troop. I await the others with baited breath . . .

If any Troop is unsure what we are looking for, needs help in sorting out their programme or anything else, just let me know.

Troop Scouters' meeting: our next meeting is on Friday 19 November at Morden Hall DHQ for the issue of the Red Book.

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

If any members are interested there will be a Remembrance Day Parade, in Mitcham, on Sunday 14th November. Parade starts at around 9.45 a.m. at the Royal British Legion, St Marks Road; a short service will be held at the Mitcham Fire Station.

Wednesday 24th November, Beetle Drive and Fish 'n Chip supper. 7.30 p.m. start at the Wandle DHQ. Please let me have your fish orders by Friday 19th November (8542 6200), thanks.

New Year Meal - early notice that this will be held on Saturday, 8th January 2011, possibly at the Prince of Wales, Cheam. Further details will be forwarded as soon as possible.

We are always looking to extend our annual programme, so would be pleased to hear from anyone with any fresh ideas. Please contact David Gould on 8395 1885 if you have any ideas.

