

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

A fairly quiet time coming up, just a reminder that the Beetle Drive will be held on Wednesday, 23rd November, 7.30 p.m. start. Please let me have your fish order by Monday 21st. Many thanks.

Diary date: Saturday, 21st January 2012 - New Year Meal - further details later.



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mohandas Gandhi



STOP PRESS: Sports Day 2012 will be on 23 June at Sutton Arena.

Lesley Bixby
1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JR
07713 154 317
thebixbys@talktalk.net



Links

November 2011 - Issue no. 78

Nov	5	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ at 10am
	6	Cub Handicraft	22 nd Wimbledon
	9	Cub Scout Leader's meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
	16	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
	18	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
	19	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ at 10am
	20	Scouts' Incident Hike	Boidier Hurst
	23	Safeguarding Awareness course	1 st Lower Morden at 8pm
	23	SASU Fish 'n' Chips	Morden Hall DHQ at 7.30pm
	24	Explorer Belt meeting	19 th Wimbledon HQ at 8pm
	30	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm
Dec	8	Last night of Store before Christmas	
	12	Troop Scouters' Christmas meal	Park Place
Jan	6	Pack Scouters' New Year meal	Tbc
	11	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ at 8pm

District Commissioner

The tragic death of a Beaver Scout in our County over the summer at an event that the Colony had organised annually for the past quarter century is something that all of us need to reflect upon when planning our programmes, despite the fact that such awful incidents are rare in Scouting. Not only does something like this emphasise the need for us to know what we're going to do (ie having a programme in place), but also that we know how we're going to do it safely (ie having risk assessments in place that every Leader or adult at the meeting/event understands). A written programme allows others from the leadership team to look at it with a fresh pair of eyes and flag up issues that we may not have considered or that we've forgotten we considered, because we've been doing a particular activity for so long. As we all know, it's simply a case of applying common sense to our everyday scouting and helping one another to provide the Big Adventure to as many scouts as possible within the bounds of acceptable risk.

Thank-you to all those Groups who have already submitted their Group Development Plans well in advance of the December deadline, if you still need help or advice on this, do not hesitate to contact me.

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, members should attend one of the three available parades in Wimbledon, Mitcham and Merton Park (details have already been circulated to Key Managers). 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

Gentle reminder to all Wimbledon and Wandle account holders - John Young

Sectional ADCs, ESUs, Band, Store, SASU, Badges etc: your accounts will need to be included in the main District Account and I would be grateful if your finalised figures, up to 31 December, can be with me by 20 January 2012.

I suggest you arrange for new cheque and paying in books as we will need to hold your 2011 books for audit purposes and this can take some time.

Section Reports

Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara



Next CSL meeting is on Wednesday November 9th at Morden DHQ please make an effort to attend. Need to discuss the Cub Leaders Christmas dinner at this meeting, if you have any ideas for a venue, please let us know.

Handicraft Competition - November 6th at 22nd Wimbledon HQ. Team of 4 Cubs any age, cost £12 per team. Please notify me if you are entering a team. Full details were e-mailed to each Group in October, if you haven't received these, please let me know.



Scouts - Dave Bixby

This year's **quiz** was another great evening with excellent hospitality provided by the 1st Lower Morden. The quiz is one of those events that really demonstrates that Scouting is alive and kicking in W&W with a spread of entries geographically from across the whole District. Congratulations to the 3rd Mitcham for repeating their success of last year, with the 6/12th Mitcham 2nd and the 22nd Wimbledon B team 3rd. This is slightly different to the results given on the night due to a small hiccup. Thanks to David Williams and Dave Hodges for officiating on the night.

Canal Boating: Having had to postpone this event due to the boat needing a new floor, the revised date blessed us with incredible weather for October. It seemed that the Leaders and Scouts who came along and tried driving the boat and working the locks had a great time. My sincere thanks must go to Gary Baker, Duncan Hold and Alan Green for crewing the boat all weekend.

This is a great activity for Scouts and I urge all Troops to give it a try. There are a number of community boat schemes around the country, several of which are based in London. We use Reachout Plus who are based in Kings Langley near Phasels Wood campsite. You can hire a boat with skipper for a day or longer.

Incident Hike - Boidier Hurst 20 November

All the details are in the Red Book. Closing date for entries is 13 November - to me with a deposit of £5 per team please. Please remember that each Troop entering needs to provide at least one Leader to be at the event all day and help run a base.

Please note that it was decided at the last Troop Scouters' meeting that, in future, all closing dates will be strictly enforced and deposits must be received on time to confirm entries. Don't let your Scouts miss out by entering late.

Next meeting is on Friday 18 November, 8pm at Morden Hall DHQ where, all being well, the main item will be the issue of the Red Book 2012.

Swimming Gala - Michèle McNamara

Thank you to all the Leaders who helped with the gala in any capacity, we couldn't do it without you. Congratulations to all the competitors and to the 22nd Wimbledon who won both the Cub and Scout trophies, and to the 5th Morden who won the Group Team Trophy. Full results have been posted on the District website.

I do have 2 pieces of lost property from this event - a towel with a picture from Pirates of the Caribbean on it and a T-shirt from Next - Age 10 years with the legend ZH454 WS61 Rescue unit written on the front, if anyone would like to claim these can they please e-mail me. If they are not claimed within 1 month I shall take them to a charity shop.

Change of meeting times

Please note that the 1st Lower Morden Troop now meets on Thursdays, 7.15 to 8.45pm, instead of Mondays, and the 13th Wimbledon Pack have brought their meeting times forward by 15 minutes to 6.15 - 7.45pm

Queen's Scout/DofE Expedition 'practice' and Explorer Belt meeting

County is arranging Queen's Scout / DofE Gold Award 'practice' and 'qualifying' expeditions on foot in the Yorkshire Dales next April. These are open to any Explorer Scout over the age of 16 and members of the Scout Network. All training should have been completed and signed off. The dates (to be confirmed) are 31st March to 6th April, 2012 inclusive. The likely cost is £100. Contact Chris Dean tinkerscorner@aol.com for further information.

Next year's Explorer Belt expedition will be help from 18th to 26th August in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France. If you are aged between 16 and 25 and would like to know more, there is a meeting hosted by the Raynes Park Unit on 24 November at 8pm.

Store

Please note that the last night of the store before Christmas will be **8 December**. This will allow time for stocktaking before the end of the year. There are a large number of new items available - waterproofs, rucksacks etc. They can be viewed on line but don't forget that your Group will get a share of the profit if you purchase from Brian.

Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

October has been a very busy and productive month following the Executive Meeting in October.

We welcomed Ayesha Hussain, Alan Green and Richard Mainwaring as co-opted Members of the Executive until the next AGM.

Ayesha is a chartered accountant and is working with John Young and Keith Angliss to review our financial procedures. They will then work with Liz Collins (also a chartered accountant) as the "Fantastic Four", to look at ways our procedures can be streamlined, computerised and brought into the 21st Century.

Alan has agreed to co-ordinate requirements for Morden Hall DHQ in the short term and funding has been allocated to meet the needs identified in our recent Risk Assessment. We all look forward to being able to make much greater use of this valuable building and in particular the grounds during 2012 and beyond.

Richard has volunteered to take on the role of "Vice Chairman" that I advertised here in "Links" in March. Following his retirement at the end of the year, Richard will take on a lot of my background duties and paperwork, so as to free up time to spend with the DC and Groups as we work through the District and Group Development Plans.

Thanks to Peter Treagust and David Williams, the work of the "Employment Sub Committee", has reached an agreement as regards the future of the flat at Kenneth Black Hall. Assuming that the legal documentation is agreed, then we will need the services of a reliable builder to modernise the flat, including central heating, replacement windows and a list of other building works. **If anyone has had recent dealings with a trustworthy builder, please let me have their details.**

The Rowan Park site in Mitcham has now passed Planning Committee again. Meetings are due to be arranged with the Developer, Council and Residents Association to agree final specifications for the new Scout Hall and Community Rooms, with funding from Section 106.

Atlasta Fund has approved its first application for a loan towards HQ building modernisation in conjunction with an approved application to the Big Lottery Fund. Interesting feedback is that the Group found the procedure extremely helpful and that the application process and requirements helped them to identify and apply full analysis to their plans.

Budget for 2012 has been agreed with projections forward for the next 3 years. I regard the hard work over the last 18 months as having laid strong foundations to support the District in achieving its objectives as set out in the District Plan. I will be happy to make a presentation on these plans to all at the AGM on 16th May 2012

at 1st Lower Morden and maybe also at District Camp, so as to get the information out to the widest audience.

As part of our work on the District's finances we have been able to abolish the District Levy. The £1.00 reduction over 2011 and 2012 has however been offset by the £1.50 increase in the Headquarters Levy. County Levy has remained at £6.00 per head.

One or two Groups have expressed an interest in Trustee Training for members of their Executive. Whilst I am largely "self taught", I have picked up a mine of information over the last 18 months and as Trustees we have some very important legal responsibilities! I will work with our Leader Training Manager to see what we can put together in 2012.

Muriel Treagust has contacted all Key Managers about the forthcoming Census. I know as a former Scout Troop Leader how much of a "pain" this exercise can be! However that "pain" is nothing in comparison to what Muriel and Peter endured earlier this year. So we have asked for your co-operation to ensure a less onerous task and I would ask for everyone's co-operation and support please, even if it is Christmas! Frankly, I would be lost without Muriel's help and experience, so don't need that problem in 2012. Thank You!

Andy

Awards

Many congratulations to the following who have been awarded the **Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service**

Gary Baker	SL	23 rd Mitcham
Richard Bowyer	Group Chairman	19 th Wimbledon
Mrs Anna Hurst	GSL	11 th Mitcham (R.C.)
Leslie Savage	SL	8 th Morden
Mrs Nicola Sykes	ASL	14 th Wimbledon
Robert Brumwell	DSAS Co-ordinator / DAACM / DAdmin	Wimbledon and Wandle

District Directory

A new edition of the District Directory will be circulated in December. Please advise any updates, changes or corrections to the current June 2011 edition to Paul Atkins at directory@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org by the end of November.

District Camp update following the organising team meeting October 2011

General Notes

- Peter Hutton will be the overall contact for co-ordinating the zones. He will contact those who have offered to run zones. Following those conversations he will contact the Groups who have not offered to help as yet as we need every leader to play their part in the weekend. Peter to determine zone leadership and leader numbers for each zone.
- Neil McLauchlan will have a meeting with Andrew Hayward and Paul Henderson to discuss the Beavers and Explorers roles for the camp.
- The Beaver Leaders & helpers coming down for the day on the Sunday will need to circulate with the Beavers and help on the zones as required.
- There will be a Catholic Mass arranged. Probably for Saturday afternoon @ 5.30pm.
- We have booked a hut for the weekend [Restrop, same as last time]. If any Groups have a request for anyone who needs indoor accommodation then will they please let me know asap.

Important Points

- Groups will need to arrange their own In-touch/Home Contacts for the weekend.
- Groups will need to CRB all adults asap [ideally by the end of Jan]. The forms need to be cleared well before the camp.
- Groups will need to complete their own NAN forms in the usual way.

Important Dates

- Groups to pay deposit for members by the end of January.
- Groups to pay balance for members and Leaders by the end of March.
- Further details will follow soon with full details of the finance.

Important Request

- Is there anyone who could be available to be on site on Thursday 3rd & possibly Friday 4th May, during the day, to oversee the marking out of the sleeping field, positioning of the large marquee, porta loos etc.

Finally

- Can anyone suggest a Camp name? We have Millennium and Centenary camps, any ideas for this time?

Any questions

Neil McLauchlan...
neil.mclauchlan@glwscouts.org.uk
020 8542 6850
07815 925116