

Our thoughts are with Tony Webb, President 1<sup>st</sup> Morden and SASU member, on the sad loss of his wife, Margaret, staunch supporter of 1<sup>st</sup> Morden over many years.

*"Man did not weave the web of life: he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself"*

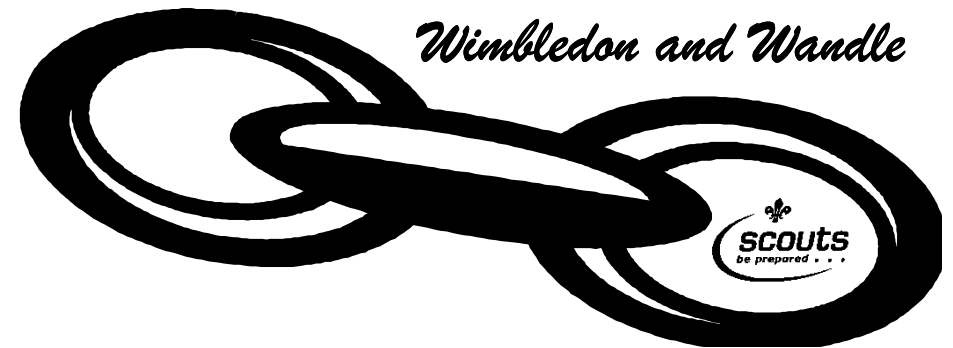
*Chief Seattle 1854*

The next Links will cover both December and January as there is no newsletter in January.

**Copy date:** 29<sup>th</sup> November, please

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## Links

November 2012 - Issue no. 88

Nov 12	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
18	Scouts' Incident Hike	Park Farm
21	CSLs' meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon HQ 8pm
25	Cub challenge day	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon HQ
28	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Dec 1	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
1	NSRA shooting course	1st Maldon HQ
13	Last night of Store	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
Jan 4	Troop Scouters' meal	Park Place 7.30pm
9	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	BSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	District store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
19	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
25	CSLs' meal	tbc
27	Cubs' astronomer badge day	1 <sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ

## District Commissioner

Following on from last month's focus on health and safety and the need to make sure that what we do with our scouts is as safe as reasonably practicable, without being "risk averse", this month it is worth looking at Safeguarding, by reminding ourselves of our responsibilities.

The Yellow Card (version 5 2012) is our touchstone when considering our responsibilities and ensuring that we have received Safeguarding training is vital (over 90% of the District have to date), as it gives the background to why we do what we do. The Yellow Card "dos" and don'ts" were based on NSPCC advice following analysis of the kinds of behaviours exhibited by those who abuse children and it has been revised over time to keep it as up-to-date as possible with the latest research.

The key finding of the research, however, has consistently been that those who "groom"/abuse children always "break the rules" and, had this been picked up on, and stopped, children would not have been abused to anything like the same extent as they were. We must, therefore, remember that these rules are there to protect our scouts and, by extension, ourselves. We have to be good role models for our scouts; we need to follow the Yellow Card rules and we need to challenge those who do not. We will never be able to prevent those who are absolutely determined to do evil from doing so, but we *can* make it as difficult as possible for them to succeed.

With November comes Remembrance Sunday and I hope that every effort will be made to ensure that 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 two available parades (in Mitcham and Wimbledon); 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

There will be a parade in Mitcham, open to all. If you can help with marshalling here please get in touch with David Gould (8395 1885). The parade will set off from the British Legion, St Mark's Road, at around 10.20 a.m. Service will be held at the Cricket Green.

Reminder - **Beetle Drive & Fish 'n Chip** supper -Wednesday 14th November, 7.30 p.m. Please let me have your order by Monday 12th November please (8542 6200).

**New Year Meal** will be held on Saturday 19th January 2013 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the King's Arms, Epsom. If you are interested in going please let David or Jean Gould know, a.s.a.p. A £5.00 deposit will be required with your booking.

We were all very sorry to say goodbye to two friends of SASU this month, Pat Devine and Margaret Webb. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families.

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## Swimming Gala - Michèle McNamara

We had a record turnout for the gala this year with 12 cub packs & 13 troops taking part.

Thanks as usual to all the people who helped at the gala itself and to all the leaders for getting their forms to me by the Friday evening, it certainly helps at the beginning if we only have to amend names rather than writing out potentially hundreds.

If you have any ideas, comments regarding the gala, please make them known at your section meetings so that we can consider them for any future event.

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Special thanks to Michèle for again organising this event.

## Explorer Scouts - Paul Henderson



It has been a busy start to the autumn term with the launch of several new units. This is an exciting time for Explorers where our number now totals 180 Explorers in 10 Units and an additional 40 Explorers not in Units as Young Leaders. We will be shortly launching our District calendar for the Explorer section and we have a few events taking place soon (if not having taken place by the time of print).

26th October - 28th October - GLSW Explorer Scout Mountaineering weekend - a weekend spent at the GLSW mountaineering base in Bethesda, North Wales. There are currently 21 Explorers booked to go which is a great turn out and representation from the District. This should be a fun weekend where many a peak will be bagged as well as some rock climbing.

10th November - County Orienteering Competition - Wisley Common (meet and park at RHS Wisley Gardens). Time: 10am -1pm. Cost: £3 per person. There is no problem if the Explorers have never done it before as there will be people on hand to help. Please email Chris Wroe for entry ([glsw.orienteeing@gmail.com](mailto:glsw.orienteeing@gmail.com)<<mailto:glsw.orienteeing@gmail.com>>).

11th November - Remembrance Day Parade - As per every year there are two Remembrance Sunday parades, either in Mitcham or Wimbledon Village. Please can you let either Gary Baker (Mitcham) or Neil McLaughlan (Wimbledon Village) know which parade you will be attending so we can manage the assembly points and close off the right amount of space. Please can I remind you that all Explorers are to wear full uniform with black shoes and that all coats and other accessories are to be left in a vehicle at the assembly point, as we will not be parading with them!

## Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

A big thank you to Jean and Robert who organised our theatre trip on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. We all had an enjoyable evening.



**Remembrance Day Parade** - Sunday 11th November. The District is holding a parade in the Wimbledon area for Scouts and Explorers only.

## Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

A lot to report following the District Executive meeting in October, which maybe as evidence of how organised we have now become; completed a very full Agenda in two hours rather than the three when I first "took the reigns"?

We were pleased to welcome Jackie Lyon as potential Treasurer. One other potential volunteer pulled out at the last minute, but we now have another potential person who might be able to help us set up the systems to rationalise our processes.

Several people are being considered to replace Joan Burgess as Appointments Secretary and we wish Peter Newman well in his search. Hopefully with the updating of the Scout Association's database software next year (or beyond?), then Joan's replacement will find this very important role a bit easier.

Paul Henderson and District Explorer Leaders were meeting in October and on the Agenda will have been to format firm proposals so that the Executive can fulfil its' obligations. I am still looking for a volunteer to act as Non Woggle Wearing Representative for the Executive on what will become the District Explorer Executive Sub Committee. This should be an exciting and rewarding role as this key Section develops further.

I hope all Group Chairman have familiarised themselves with the detailed requirements released in the Summer for "Safety in Scouting"? Alan Green has taken a lot of time to review procedures and requirements at Morden Hall DHQ and further information will be released to Groups in due course.

Consideration was given to closing DHQ, but the Executive all agreed it can become an even greater resource and Alan Green and his Team will be working together to repair the building and to make greater use of the facility across the District.

A few outstanding issues still remain at Kenneth Black Hall and I really do look forward to the day (even if it's only once!), that this drops off our Agenda. However, Richard Mainwaring and Peter Treagust continue to work to ensure the last remaining small issues are fully addressed.

The District Commissioner presented the first Revision of the District Development Plan and the accompanying Budget to fully support the Plan

was unanimously agreed. The District's financial priorities for the next couple of years are to support the Explorer Section; develop more widely "traditional" Scouting Skills amongst Scouts and Leaders; to support wider training of Leaders in Groups through allocations for Leaders with Wood Badges and Groups with a Plan; and vital infrastructure work to stop DHQ falling down. Needless to say that every penny the District expects to "earn" is allocated and Reserves are only being held in case of unexpected obligations towards our two buildings.

Our budgeting has allowed us to ensure that the District Levy, abolished last year, remains so and there is no expected requirement for this to change.

Finally, I am delighted to report that the 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham has now drawn the first funds under the Atlasta Loan scheme and a programme of extensive modernisation of their HQ is progressing rapidly. Having known the building boy and man for almost 40 years, I look forward to being at the Grand (Re) Opening in January!

Andy

### **District Directory**

An updated version of the District Directory will be distributed before Christmas.

GSLs & team leaders will shortly receive a copy of their current page from Paul Atkins for review. Please advise any changes to [directory@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:directory@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org) so that the updated directory is as accurate as possible.

### **Air rifle training course**

The next air rifle training course, satisfactory completion of which will allow leaders to supervise Scouts on shooting ranges, will take place on 1 December at the 1<sup>st</sup> Malden HQ. Details from Jean Jenkins [athena@f2s.com](mailto:athena@f2s.com).

### **Scouts - Dave Bixby**



**Quiz** - My thanks go to Tim Kerridge for pulling together this year's quiz. We had a very good turn out with 16 teams. Thanks also go to David Williams as scorer, Dave Hodges as question master and the 5<sup>th</sup> Morden for hosting the event. Top honours were taken by a joint team from the 11<sup>th</sup> Mitcham and 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon.

**Red Book** - Most of the dates agreed at our last meeting have been confirmed, the exception being the venue for the 5-a-side football. The pitches at what was called The Hub (now the KNK Stadium) are back in use but they don't have a 2013 diary yet?? so will not accept any bookings. Keep the date 10 February in your diary and we will confirm the venue asap.

Following the demise of the district photocopier, Neil McLauchlan is getting the Red Book printed for us this year and we are very grateful to him.

Please make sure that someone from your Troop is at the Leaders' meeting on 12 November to collect your copies.

**Gala** - it was very impressive to get no less than 13 Troops entered into the swimming gala this year. It is almost unheard of to need heats for the Scout events and my congratulations go to the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon for winning the Scout trophy.

### **Incident Hike 18 November, Park Farm**

Closing date for entries is 11<sup>th</sup> November and although several Troops have told me they are coming, I have only had one proper entry (ie 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden) at the time of writing this, so please get your forms in quickly.

**PLs' and Older Scouts' Camp** - one of our biggest events in 2013 will be the PLs' and Older Scouts' camp at Thriftwood 3-5 May. Get it in your diaries now!

Our next leaders' meeting is on Monday 12 November 8pm at Morden Hall DHQ. Please try to ensure that your Troop is represented. Anyone connected to the Scout Section is very welcome to join us at the George (Harvester, London Road, Morden) for an early Christmas drink after the meeting, even if you can't make the actual meeting itself.

## Training

17 Nov	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00-12.00	1 <sup>st</sup> LM
17 Nov	14	Young people today	12.00-13.00	1 <sup>st</sup> LM
17 Nov	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00	1 <sup>st</sup> LM
17 Nov	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30	1 <sup>st</sup> LM
1 Dec	13	Growing the Movement: Section Leaders	10.00-13.00	1 <sup>st</sup> LM
1 Dec	21	Growing the Movement: Managers	10.00-16.30	1 <sup>st</sup> LM

1<sup>st</sup> LM = 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SJ

Application forms for all Modules can be downloaded from the County website [www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk](http://www.glsWSCOUTS.org.uk) or contact Joan Condon on 020 8540 5115 or [joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com)

Cost for each Training Module £3.00

Cheques made payable to GLSW TRAINING ACCOUNT

### Safeguarding training

To attend Safeguarding Training you must apply via Alison Edwards.

[Alison.Edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Edwards@local.gov.uk)

### First Aid training

Please contact Janet Drinkall tel: 020 8660 4774

[jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)

A course in Wimbledon and Wandle has been booked for 23 February 2013 at 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon HQ.

### District Store

The Store will be closed for four weeks at Christmas - from 20 December to 10 January inclusive and will re-open at 7.45pm on 17 January 2013.

## Section Reports

### Beavers - Andrew Hayward



Firstly, please accept my apologies for the lack of recent reports!

Secondly, many thanks to all those who made the Activity Afternoon at Bow Lane such a success. It was great to see such a nice number of Beavers all working together and having fun. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all the Leaders, helpers, SAS etc for giving up their Sunday afternoon. It was also very encouraging to have some new colonies and Leaders attend. Please let me have your feedback either via an email or at the next DBSLs meeting so we can build on this event and make the next one even better!

As we discussed recently I am working on putting together a Toy Carol Service for the Beavers for Christmas and when details have been finalised I will get the information out to you ASAP.

Finally, to those who have submitted new leader applications I promise I will get to you and talk to you about the role you wish to take on. It may take time if you meet on a Monday or Tuesday but I WILL get to you!

Thank you once again for your continued support.

### Cubs - Michèle McNamara



**Challenge / Handicraft Day** - This is due to be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon H.Q. It would be helpful to know before the event if your packs are planning on entering. I hope to have full details of this event out to all leaders within the next couple of weeks.

**CSL Meeting** - The next CSL meeting is on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon H.Q. in Motspur Park. Please make an effort to attend especially if your pack was at the swimming gala, so that we can have your feedback. We also need to finalise plans for the badge day in January.

**County Chief Scouts Award Day** - This is also planned for November 25<sup>th</sup>, details have been e-mailed to you, if anyone has any cubs eligible for this event please let me know a.s.a.p.