

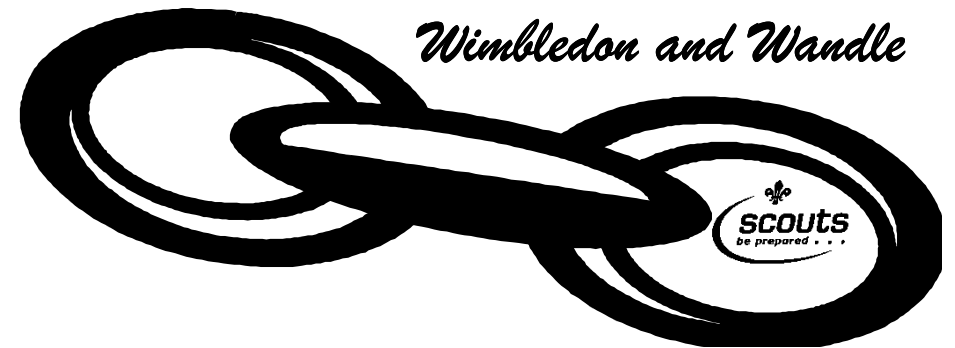
SASU New Year Meal will be on Saturday, 11th Jan 2014 – venue and time tba. If interested contact Jean/Dave Gould.

SASU assistance has been requested for Polyapes Incident Hike on Sunday, 24th November for traffic control. If you are able to help please contact Rob Brumwell (020 8330 7466)

Success does not lie in “Results” but in “Efforts”,
“Being” the best is not so important,
“Doing” your best is all that matters...

There is no issue of Links in January so copy date for the joint December/January issue is Thursday 28 November 2013.

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Links

November 2013 - Issue no. 98

Nov 10	Remembrance Day services	Mitcham and Wimbledon
11	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	Cub Scouters' meeting	6/12 th Mitcham HQ 8pm
13	SAS Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
16	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
23	District Beaver outing	RAF Hendon
24	Scouts' Incident hike	Polyapes
24	Cubs' Handicraft competition	22 nd Wimbledon HQ
27	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Dec 7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
12	Last night of Store before Christmas	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm

District Commissioner

Following the publication of the new Guide promise mentioned in these pages previously, the new alternative Promise for non-believers was made public recently by the Scout Association, attracting coverage from all the major media. As the Chief Commissioner made plain, this was a signal of the inclusivity of the Movement and more evidence that the Association is engaging with (modern) society in order to remain relevant in a changing world.

What this alternative Promise is *not*, however, as some vociferous commentators would have us believe, is that Scouting is now a secular organisation; that now God has no place in Scouting. The exploration of belief remains a fundamental element of the programme and both leaders and youth members must continue to be given the opportunity to do just that. Traditional activities such as Scouts' Owns and church parades or practices such as prayers at section meetings should continue as before. Within sponsored Groups that profess a particular faith, maintaining the distinctive character that the particular faith brings to the Group remains a core element of the Scouting provided by such Groups and a key responsibility of the Group's leaders.

In short, the contention that religion and/or faith have no place in Scouting is manifestly false. Anyone presuming to suggest that religion and/or faith have no place in Scouting is wrong and must be strongly challenged.

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

cancelled at the last minute if we believe that there could be insufficient participants. You have been warned!

Events 2014 – The Red Book is due for issue at the next Troop Scouters' meeting on 11 November so please arrange for someone to be there to collect it.

The dates and venues are largely decided at the September meeting with the exception being next year's meetings due to the availability of Morden Hall DHQ. Please note that these dates have changed slightly from those discussed at the meeting.

One new activity for next year is **Indoor Free-fall experience**. This will take place in the Basingstoke Airkix centre. We have negotiated a reasonable discount for our Scouts and Leaders to try free fall in a vertical wind tunnel and brush boarding for £30 plus travel.

This will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 19 February during half term. It's only about 45 minutes from home (M25 permitting!) and we will be coordinating transport to reduce costs and help availability.

We have booked 48 places and these will be strictly allocated on a first come first served basis.

Incident Hike – Polyapes 24 November - Final date for entries to reach me is 17 November.

Those Troops that have parents helping with transport are asked to remember that, once booked in at Polyapes, your Scouts will need to be transported to their start point.

There will be a kit inspection for all teams before they are allowed to start so please ensure that they have the equipment listed in the event details in the Red Book.

Our next meeting is Monday 11 November at Morden Hall DHQ 8pm.

NB: don't forget the Red Book can also be found on the District website under Info/Scouts.

Scout Active Support – Rob and Jean Brumwell

Thanks to 7 SASU members who were able to assist at District Swimming Gala. Thanks also to Matthew Smith and Peter Wraight for their help on this occasion.



Don't forget to let Jean/Dave Gould (020 8395 1885) know your fish order asap if you are coming to Beetle Drive on November 13th.

Section reports

Beavers - John Tweedley

Hi all B.S.L./A.B.S.L.s

There are a few Beaver programmes I have not received yet so please send them to me when you can.

The trip to the RAF museum - we have at the moment 14 beaver colonies going but there are still 4 colonies that have not replied to the invitation to attend the trip. So far we have 254 people going on the visit, I will e-mail the 4 who have not replied with a cut of date 4th November.

There seems to be some confusion about cost: all people going on the visit pay the £10.00 fee, this is to pay for the coaches /badges etc.

Our next District Beavers Leaders' meeting is on Wednesday 20th November 8.00pm at D.H.Q. It would be nice to see representatives from some of the colonies who do not normally attend this meeting. These meetings are for you to have some input in the way you wish the district to help you and for your input on district events.



Cubs – Michèle McNamara

Handicraft Competition – To be held on November 24th at 22nd Wimbledon H.Q. Teams of 4. Cost £16 per team, to be paid on the day. Please let me know if your pack intends to enter this competition. Full details to be sent shortly and discussed at next CSL meeting.

CSL Meeting – Please remember the next CSL meeting will be at the 6/12th HQ. on Wednesday November 13th, please make an effort to attend especially if your pack hasn't been represented for some time.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

Scout Quiz – Congratulations to the 22nd Wimbledon for winning the Scout quiz. It was another very enjoyable evening hosted by the 5th Morden. Special thanks to all who submitted questions and especially to Tim Kerridge and David Williams for organising and running the evening.

I did ask for Troops to let me know if they were taking part but most didn't bother and just turned up on the day. This could lead to events being



Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

The Executive met in early October and after full assessment and discussion, was pleased to support an application from 19th Wimbledon for Atlasta Loan of £50000, to support their plans to build a new Headquarters on their to be enlarged site. This is an exciting project and the figures and projections ideally lend themselves to why we designed the Scheme.

We are grateful to Muriel Treagust who has agreed to also take on the role as Appointments Secretary. She will be working closely with Joan Burgess and Peter Newman over future months, to ensure a seamless handover.

2014 Budget will be agreed at our meeting at the end of November, as the DC wished to discuss the District Plan Review with Key Managers at their meeting in October. In any event, the District will not need to reintroduce the District Levy.

Last chance to take up what will be the two available garages at the rear of Kenneth Black Hall! No one has shown any interest to date, so they will be advertised in the New Year.

The developer at the former 36th Mitcham / Rowan School site has applied to LB Merton to amend the previous agreement to build a Scout / Community Hall to include £100,000 to fit out. They are trying to go back to the previous plan to build to "shell and core". I have again told the Council that the Executive feels it is inappropriate for any Scouting monies to be used for a purpose other than to benefit Scouting.

In any event, we don't currently have any Group in the District interested in the facility, nor anyone with the time on a week day to join in new discussions. The County have been offered the chance to review what is available; otherwise to see if any Group in Streatham or Norbury might be interested.

I am delighted to report that after nine months, Richard Mainwaring has left hospital. He is being cared for at home and is up for visits, even without cake! Richard is walking short distances with the help of two sticks. It is going to be a long road ahead and best wishes go to Richard and his family.

On a personal note, I was saddened to learn of Bryan Wagner's passing. Bryan was my Personal Training Advisor when I started as an ASL in 1980. He was an inspiration to me and countless others, has given a lifetime's support to Scouting in Mitcham and will be sadly missed.

Swimming Gala

Thank you to Michèle McNamara and her team for another successful gala and congratulations to the Cubs from the 1st Wimbledon and the Scouts from the 22nd Wimbledon who won their section trophies. The Group trophy went to the 22nd Wimbledon and the Group Team Trophy race was won by the 5th Morden.

The full results are on the District website.

“Thank you to all the people who helped at the gala in any capacity, your help was much appreciated.
Congratulations to all the competitors for being so well behaved.
If you have any comments or suggestions regarding future galas please either contact me or make them known at your section meetings.
Thank you - Michèle”

Training

16 Nov	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00-12.00
16 Nov	14	Young People today	12.00-13.00
16 Nov	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00
16 Nov	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30
7 Dec	13	Growing the Section	10.00-13.00
7 Dec	21	Growing the Movement	10.00-16.30

All Modules are at the 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SJ
Each training module costs £4.

Contact Mrs Joan Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden, SM4 4DX
tel: 020 8540 5115 - e mail: joan.glswwtraining@btinternet.com

For details of First Aid courses contact Janet Drinkall jdrinkall@sky.com

Safeguarding

7 November	Bears Wood
18 November	Southwood
20 November	Sutton – venue to be confirmed

Please book your Safeguarding course through Alison Edwards
Alison.Edwards@local.gov.uk

Badges – Lesley Bixby

World Membership Badge: a new Membership badge is being introduced with enhanced definition resulting in a clearer and more detailed fleur-de-lis. The design and colours have been updated but this is a cosmetic change only and the price and format remain the same. New ones will be in stock as soon as the old ones are sold.

With the changes that are due to the training scheme towards the end of 2014, I shall start to run down the number of badges that I keep in stock so as not to be left with large numbers of obsolete badges when the new scheme is implemented. For once I've had some warning that this will be happening! Please email me with your requirements and I will order your badges for you – they normally come within 4 or 5 days - thebixbys@talktalk.net

There are lots of new Fun Badges for Beavers and Cubs (not to be sewn on uniforms). They include birthday badges, well done, 1st Cub camp, welcome to Beavers/Cubs and a 3 part Beaver badge for achievement outside of the programme. Special order only.



It is with great regret that we report the passing of Tom Dimmock and Bryan Wagner who have both given many, many years of service to the Movement in Mitcham.
Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.