

Training Dates

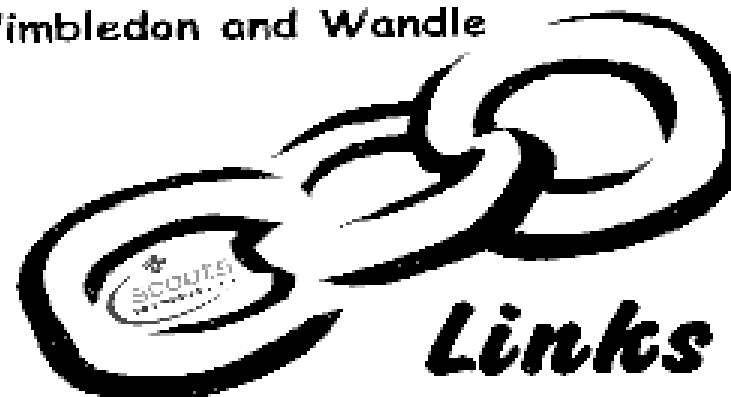
16	Nights Away	17-18.10.09	
	First Aid	18.10.09	
13	Growing the Movement (Leaders)	25.10.09	10am-1pm
21	Growing the Movement (Managers)	25.10.09	10am-4.30pm
22	Section Support	01.11.09	10am - 1pm
24	Managing Adults	01.11.09	2pm - 4.30pm
26	Supporting Adults	01.11.09	2pm - 4.30pm
	Cam,p Fire Leaders' course	01.11.09	2pm - 10pm
	First Aid refresher	11.11.09	7.30pm - 10pm
	First Aid	14.11.09	
8	Skills of Leadership	21.11.09	9.30am-11.15am
9	Working with Adults	21.11.09	11.30am-1pm
14	Young People Today	21.11.09	2pm-3.15pm
15	Challenging Behaviour	21.11.09	3.30pm-5pm
07	Valuing Diversity	06.12.09	10am-11.15am
19	International	06.12.09	11.30am-1pm
17	Activities Outdoors	06.12.09	2pm-4.30pm

Please check the County website www.glsWSCouts.org.uk for more details.

"Note how good you feel after you have encouraged someone else. No other argument is necessary to suggest that you never miss the opportunity to give encouragement"
George Adams

Newsletter Editor:
 Lesley Bixby
 1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JR
 thebixbys@talktalk.net

Wimbledon and Wandle



October 2009
 Issue 57

Oct 6	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ
9	Scout Quiz Night	22 nd Wimbledon 7.30pm
10	District Conference	Antionette Hotel
17	Swimming Gala	Morden Park Baths 5.30pm
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
26	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
29	No Store - half term	
Nov 7/8	Scarefest	Walton Firs
7	District 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 nd Wimbledon
18	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
23	Troop Scouters meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
25	Fellowship Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ
Dec 12	Morden Hall Choral Society Concert	St John the Devine

District Commissioner

Final Links

It certainly doesn't seem almost 10 years ago that I was invited to become DC of Wimbledon and Merton. My first engagement was Millennium Camp, an unforgettable weekend. Coming as I did from outside the District, it provided me with a great opportunity to meet so many of the Leaders. The challenge of merging with Wandle came in 2004, and challenge it certainly was . . . but with enthusiasm and understanding and hard work we have become the District we are today, one of the best in the County.

Of course not everything goes just as you want, but I am certain we had as successful a 2007 centenary year as any in the Country. The dinner, the camp and the sunrise ceremony were hugely successful and enjoyed by all.

The Centenary camp stood out amongst them all and was the most successful camp I have ever been involved with and was a huge personal triumph for me. Leading that camp will, I am certain, remain at the pinnacle of my Scouting life; seeing the delight, awe and wonderment on the faces of the young people at the opening ceremony made all the work worthwhile. The street party, the evening shows, the well organised activities were all highlights but for me it was seeing 20 Groups working closely together and young people and Leaders clearly getting on and enjoying themselves.

The life of a DC is varied with a mixture of some very difficult things and some very enjoyable things that I am required to do.

One other enjoyable highlight was my trip to Austria to present Mary White with her Silver Wolf. This was a real privilege and my thanks to Jack Atkins, our new President,

from your Troop can attend, please let me know in advance so that I can get your copies to you.

There is a new event of narrow boating this year, to give Scouts and Leaders a chance of steering and working locks for half a day. This is the only way to see if this activity is for you. There are limited places so it will be first come, first served. Be advised - book early!

Explorer Scouts - Neil McLauchlan

I have had the pleasure of attending two Unit AGMs and have listened to reports of excellent Summer Expeditions.



The **Linking Day** with the Troops will be in May next year. Full details will be discussed at our next meeting (dates to be discussed and emailed soon).

The **County Night Hike** is in November as per the details already circulated by email. Please let's have teams entered from all Units and lots of adult help on the night.

Red Flare will be in March [as details also circulated]. Again, let's have lots of teams entered from our District.

Scout Fellowship - Linda Vaudrey



I think everyone who came to the talk on Tuesday enjoyed the evening. It was a most interesting talk about 'Smuggling'. I, for one, could have listened to a bit more. Thank you Bill for arranging and special thanks to Enid for the delicious refreshments.

We have a fairly quiet time coming up but can I remind you about the Scout Conference on Saturday 10th October. If you can spare a couple of hours, please let Rob know (8330 7466).

The Beetle Drive and Fish & Chip supper will be held, at the Wandle DHQ, on Wednesday 25th November. We start promptly at 7.30 p.m. Please let me have your fish orders by Friday 20th November (8542 6200).

Copy Date for November Links: Thursday 29th October 2009

and entry forms for the event will be issued shortly. Please note that Bill Smith has requested that anyone with any junk modeling materials, bring them along to **the next CSL meeting, which is 11th November** at Morden Hall DHQ, so that he has time to sort them out.

We are still looking for a venue for the Cub Leaders Christmas meal, if you have any ideas please let me know, this is planned for early January.

Scouts - Dave Bixby

Pioneering at CP100: The runway, monkey bridge and swing boat were very well received at the Guides Centenary launch party, Crystal Palace. All three projects were in great demand all day, with waiting time for the runway being over 2 hours. There are a few photos on the District website.

Our next booked project is a runway for the W&W District Cub Adventure Day at Frylands Wood in March. We will build the runway on Saturday ready for the event on Sunday 28 March, so if anyone is interested in coming along with the 'runway team' for the fun or to gain experience in building/operating such a project, give me a ring.

Scout Quiz: Don't forget the Scout Quiz on Friday 9 October at the 22nd Wimbledon HQ, Arthur Road at 7.30pm. Questions are answered in teams, max 6 Scouts per team. Entrance of £3 per team is payable on the night; refreshments are provided.

Incident Hike: 15 November at Polyapes. Troops may enter as many teams as they like, each of between 4 and 6 members. Entries to me by 9 October. Details are, as always, in the Red Book.

Scout Section Christmas Meal: By popular demand we are having a Christmas meal for anyone involved with the Scout Section, with or without partners (your choice) on Tuesday 14 December at 7.30pm: Park Place, Mitcham. The special Christmas menu is 3 courses for £12.95 + drinks. Bookings to me with a deposit of £5 a head by 30 November, please.

Dates for 2010: The dates for meetings and events were agreed at our recent meeting and, apart from a couple of confirmations, most have been booked at the various venues. The Red Book is due to be issued at our next meeting on 23 November at Morden Hall DHQ, 8pm, but if no one



and David and Lesley Bixby for giving me support and taking time to be able to see their friend Mary in her proudest moment.

I have to say that on the whole I have thoroughly enjoyed being your DC and getting the timing right for me to change my warrant has been difficult because I have enjoyed it so much. However now that we are almost at the point of handover, which will be at the conference, I do feel I have got it right both for me and the District.

I really could not have done this job without the support of everyone in the District, particularly in the last few years and so a very special thank you to you all for your support and encouragement especially my District Team and my team of GSLs.

I do not usually single out people but I will make mention of three; Keith Angliss my chairman when I arrived who has given me tremendous support; Paul Atkins my Deputy who has also given me superb support and, of course, my friend Keith Daly who I have been Scouting with since 1979. Keith is taking the opportunity to use his skills closer to his home in West Sussex and I want to thank him on your behalf for his work, wisdom and the advice he gave us all.

I think we are all looking forward to what Joe Rogerson will bring with him when he takes on the DC role commencing 10th October. You were very giving of your support to me in my time as DC and I ask you to be equally supportive of Joe. He has a difficult task ahead getting into a new and demanding job and that will be made much easier with your understanding and support.

I am delighted to announce that Laurence Barham has accepted my invitation to become a Vice President of the District. This should receive approval at the next District Executive. Laurence is busy battling with his health and I know you wish him well.

I am also pleased to announce that Paul Henderson has accepted my invitation to become District Explorer Scout Commissioner. Paul will be working closely with Neil McLauchlan to develop the Explorer Scout section. I note that Lucy McLauchlan has just had her full warrant as an AESL approved and I am sure Neil must be a very proud.

The District conference and dinner is the most important event of this year and I encourage as many as possible to come and not only help your Groups but also give Joe a real welcome to his time as DC.

You will be interested to hear that Atlasta Hall has been sold and the proceeds banked. Some may be disappointed we have lost an asset but with no Scout Group interested in taking it on I was keen to realise its value. We are, after all, in the business of Scouting and not property management. We have also passed on the Cannon Hill Lane property to the County for their use.

I am not leaving Scouting and my next role will no doubt be announced in due course. I sign off my final notes by saying that when I started "I promised to do my best" and I feel comfortable that I did just that. I leave you in very capable hands: over to you Joe.

Bob

Section reports

Beavers - Kevin Quigley

It seems only yesterday that it was the end of the summer term at school, and people's thoughts were turning to the long summer holiday. But that's over now and it's back to Beavers and - dare I say it - the run up to Christmas! We've got a couple of Beaver events coming up as well!

For Beavers of 7 years, we've got the Activity Day in the afternoon of Sunday 4 October 2009 - 1.45 to 6.00 pm. at the 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, Morden. Letters have been sent out. As is often the case, we could do with some more Leaders to come forward to help 'man the bases' - please let me know if you can help.

On Saturday 14 November we're going to visit the RAF Museum at Hendon. Letters will be out on this shortly. The cost will be £7.50 which will cover a coach to and from the Museum from a central point in the District. We'll be working towards the Air Activities Badge, so it's time to practice your paper aeroplane skills at your Colony Meetings!

On the Programme front, the County has been kind enough to purchase a DVD titled 'Programme in a box' with a copy for each Colony. This has been prepared by a team in Greater London North, and it contains a programme and list of resources for a whole year - does what it says on the tin I suppose. These are coming into my possession by the end of September and I will (try to) deliver them to all the Colonies during October.

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.

Happy Beaverering

Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara

Handicraft Competition - This is due to take place on Sunday 15th November at 22nd Wimbledon H.Q. The theme was decided by those Leaders present at the last CSL meeting and will be published in the minutes. Full details



Jack Petchey Awards Presentation

120 young people with their families and Leaders gathered at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon for the presentation ceremony at the end of September. Every one of them had been chosen by their Groups for the contribution they had made to Scouting and most of the 24 Scouts and Explorers from Wimbledon and Wandle were there to receive their medals from the Mayor of Merton. Congratulations to all the award winners. It was a lively evening with opening music played by the Kingston and Malden Scout Band, a variety of routines performed by some of the Gang Show cast and an amazing display of body popping!

Award winners:

Joshua Carter	Symeon Ang
Tom Miller-Carr	Kailish Arulkumaran
Victoria Frewin	James Brevitt
Jade Robinson	James Tinsley
Hannah Gayfer	Joseph Ambridge
Kieran Eales	Leah Hopgood
Mikey Ward	Kathryn Payn
Daniel Stone	Alyssa Crabb
Andre Malcolm-Neale	Chris McAlister
Richard Edgeworth	Benedict Yelf
Megan Horsford	Stephanie Fisher
Bradlee Mulroe	Geordie Logan

Leader Awards:

Graham Fairclough	John Tweedley
-------------------	---------------

District Store - Brian Whalebone

iScout hoody Size Medium (comes up small!) - others can be ordered for £19.57

New 'Beaver Leader' Leather Woggles: 7 colours £1.47

New Cub Leaders leather woggles: Akela, Bagheera, Baloo, Chil, Hathi, Kaa, Raksha, Shere Khan £3.25

Beaver & Cub of the Month Leather Woggle £1.47

Store is closed for half term on 29 October.

Appointments Committee (July-September 2009) - Joan Burgess

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have now had their full warrants approved:

Andrew Dimon	GSL 1 st Wimbledon
Victoria Miles	ACSL 1 st Morden
Maria Moore	BSL 22 nd Wimbledon
Carys Purchase	ESL Raynes Park Unit
Ross Robinson	ASL 1 st Morden

We have also issued 20 Group Supporter Certificates.

Reminder: Please make sure that all members of your Group have a current CRB. If you need help, contact me and I will arrange to call in to your Section Meeting to provide forms and check identification etc. Advice and Forms will also be available at the District Conference. Don't forget, if you change your warrant within the Group, you still need to complete an Adult Application Form.

Queen's Scout & Gold DofE Expedition Training

Dates: October 27 to 31 inclusive.

Area: Derbyshire Peak District.

Base: Bell's Box cabin near Hathersage.

Cost: £65 (includes travel, food, accommodation, and training).

Training will include day hikes on Stanage Moor, Bleaklow and Keilder plateau to improve walking skills, micro-navigation, and teamwork.

A few places remain - apply to Chris Dean asap. Tel 01883 723081.

Archery

The 1st Lower Morden have now purchased their Archery Equipment and their HQ & grounds have been viewed by the GNAS and have been deemed suitable for archery activities. As a result both Bob McNally and Andrew Hayward would be more than happy to organise Archery Sessions for Cubs, Scouts & Explorers. The Scout section could even earn their Master At Arms badge with them, if so desired.

If anyone is interested, please contact Andrew Hayward to sort out the arrangements!

Independent Safeguarding Authority regulations

The Scout Association has been working closely with the ISA and the Home Office to ensure that the new scheme, designed to protect Young People, is implemented in an efficient manner. The revised Appointments processes were designed with this in mind.

Parents who make informal arrangements with their friends and neighbours to transport young people to Section meetings etc will continue to be able to do so and are specifically excluded from the scheme.

More information will be published in due course but if you have any concerns, please contact the Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.

Scout Active Support

The Scout Fellowship will be getting a new name, new pink scarves and green tee shirts, and a new slogan - Just Ask! The blurb says that Scout Active Support Units are:

- Practical
- Supportive
- Pro-active
- Adaptable
- Sociable
- Approachable



Sounds just like our current Scout Fellowship, doesn't it? More details will be available from from David Gould (ADC Fellowship) and Rob Brumwell (Fellowship Chairman) in due course.

New email address

Please note that Michele McNamara has a new email address:

michmc@sky.com

Swimming Gala

Following the Cub and Scout Leaders' meetings, the following amendments to the rules/arrangements were made, please make sure you make a note of these.

1. Maximum age for a Scout to compete is 14½
2. The scout age ranges will therefore be amended to Under 12½ and over 12½
3. The date of birth for scouts in the lower age group has therefore changed to 17th April 1997
4. All races will be heats including Relays: however the Group team trophy relay race will still have to be based on times, since we will not have enough time between any heats and a final for competitors to have a rest, if we are to be on schedule for the rest of the gala.
5. A two handed finish in the breaststroke races is now no longer required.
6. The rule regarding the number of adults poolside is still 2 per team but we appreciate during the changeover period there may be more than this.

It is hoped that the Cubs part of the gala will conclude by 19.15 approx, with the Group team trophy race in between this and the Scout gala, commencing at approx 19.30. Scouts will need therefore to be at the pool by 19.15 ready to swim and those competing in the Group team trophy race may need to be there a little earlier. Cubs will then be expected to leave after the presentation of the Cub trophy.

As you will be aware, this is all a change to normal arrangements and we would appreciate your patience and co-operation with this new schedule.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL COMPETITORS ARE ABLE TO SWIM THE DISTANCE REQUIRED OF THEM.

Any queries please call or contact me at michmc@sky.com Please note this is a new address.