

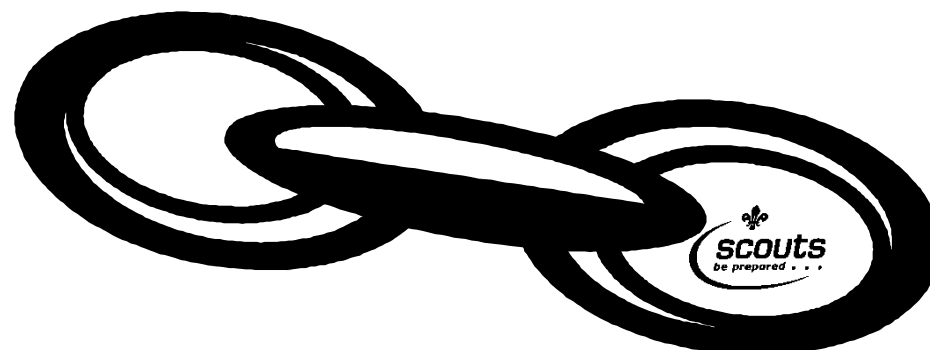
Patrick Devine

It is with the greatest regret that we report the sad death of Pat Devine on Monday 17 September at St Helier Hospital.

Pat became an ASL at the 16th Morden in 1970 and in 1972 he took on the role of GSL which he held until 1979. He served on the District Executive from 1981 to 1990 and then again from 1997 to 2003. Throughout this time he was a constant supporter of the 16th Morden and they appointed him their President in 2003. He was also a member of the Scout Fellowship.

Pat was loved by all who knew him. He had a calm, quiet manner that commanded respect as well as affection. He was truly a gentle man.

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.



Links

October 2012 - Issue no. 87

Oct 3	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
6	Explorer Leader Training	19 th Wimbledon
6	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
10	Inter-Troop quiz	St John Fisher Hall 7.45pm
14	Beavers' activity day	1 st Lower Morden
14	GLSW All Sections meeting	1 st Hook
20	Swimming Gala	Morden Park Baths 5.30pm
20	District store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
22	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Nov 1	Store closed for half term	
12	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
18	Scouts' Incident hike	Park Farm 9am
21	CSLs' meeting	22 nd Wimbledon 8pm
25	Cub Handicraft competition	22 nd Wimbledon
28	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

Copy date for November Links: 25 October 2012

Links Editor

Lesley Bixby

1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JR

thebixbys@talktalk.net

District Commissioner

You may have seen in Scouting magazine, on the Scout website or in the e-mailed updates that come out from HQ, that the safety of our scouts and leaders is a particular focus at the moment. If you are a leader you will have received an updated "yellow card" and there are also updated "orange cards" for Young Leaders (Alison Edwards has a plentiful supply of these if you require some). The reason is straightforward. We need to ensure that the activities that we provide remain as safe as reasonably practicable without detracting from the adventurous nature of many of them. This means that we must ensure that we are up to date in our understanding of safety and safeguarding issues (that is why it is important that we all undergo safeguarding training).

"Safety", as we all know, is common sense applied in an organised way. So, if we have a programme in place, which tells us what we are going to do; risk assessments in place that show that we have thought about how we are going to do it and a designated leader in charge of every activity (ie the leader responsible for ensuring that everyone is fully aware of the method we are to employ on a particular activity and who is responsible for what happens during that activity), then we are doing everything we can to ensure that, even very risky activities are carried out as safely as reasonably practicable.

A sense of perspective is crucial in all of this, of course. Scouting, if it is to be relevant and true to the vision of B-P, must give scouts, commensurate with their age, opportunities to experience as many challenging activities as possible in the great outdoors. Consequently, we must never, ever, be risk averse.

Joe

Our next meeting is **Monday 12 November** at 8pm in Morden Hall DHQ and the main item on the agenda will be the issue of the Red Books. It would be great if any Scout Section Leaders and Assistants etc could join us for a drink at The George (Harvester) afterwards - including those unable to make the meeting.

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

It was nice to see so many members at our meeting on 11th September. We all enjoyed the speaker. Many thanks to Bill for organising.



We have a fairly quiet month coming up but please remember we have a Beetle Drive and Fish 'n Chip Supper on Wednesday 14th November. Names and fish orders to me please by Monday 12th. (Linda 8542 6200).

Next month we hope to have more details about our New Year Meal.

- o -

District Store

The Cub Annual 2013 - £5.49

This is a fantastic annual full of activities, information and outdoor adventures. Learn how to cook on a campfire, identify clouds, pond dip, do origami, grow vegetables . . .

iScout Embroidered Baseball Cap £7.

Group Badges

We have been contacted by Fred Earley a retired ACSL living in Stoke On Trent, who is working on a project to record the details of those groups in the country who have a Group Badge and the history behind them. Fred's intention is to place those records in the archives at HQ. An example of the sort of detail that is recorded can be seen here

<http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/19thWimgroupbadge.pdf>

If your group, unit, former VSU or former Fellowship has its own badge and you would like to add it to Fred's project, please contact him at

fred@eardleyfamily.co.uk

The Purpose of Scouting - new wording

"Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society."

See October's Scouting magazine.

Section Reports

Cub report - Michèle McNamara



CSL Meeting- The next CSLs' meeting scheduled for 21st November will now be held at 22nd Wimbledon HQ, please make a note of this. If you are unable to attend please let me have your apologies, but I would be grateful if each pack could make the effort to send someone along. The meeting for January will revert to Morden Hall DHQ.

Handicraft Competition - Due to the absence of a key team member for this event, it has now been renamed Cub Challenge Day. The minutes from the September CSL meeting will give you more information. If you intend to enter a team can you please let me know by November 14th. Cost will be £15 per team. The competition is on 25th November at 22nd Wimbledon H.Q.

CSL Christmas Dinner - This has now been moved to January 25th, venue still to be confirmed.

Scout report - Dave Bixby



It was great to see so many people at the recent Section Leaders' meeting. We have sorted our activities for 2013 and are making the bookings ready for the issue of next year's Red Book at our November meeting. We have a couple of new events along with the return of the very popular canal boat experience.

I would advise that Troops look into the events that they think their Scouts would be interested in at an early stage. Trying to book a place on the canals a week before the activity will be too late.

Christmas Meal: Because of the difficulty in finding a date immediately before Christmas, it was decided to hold this on Friday 4 January at Park Place.

Incident Hike - 18 November at Park Farm: Entries must be to me by 11 November, please. We need to have a minimum of 8 teams entered for this event to run, so please enter as soon as possible. All details are in the Red Book. If you have lost your copy an electronic version is on the District website under Info. Each Troop will need to provide at least one adult to be there all day to help run a base.

The Bran Tub: If you have any items for the Bran Tub, please don't be shy - let me know and I'll slot you in.

Unique Opportunity: Unfortunately, a Scout Leader from one of the Troops in our District has had to give up for personal reasons, so if anyone out there fancies a new challenge this may be just what you are looking for. This is a small but lively Troop with heaps of potential. Just get in touch with me for details.

Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

Not much to say this month as this Report is again timed a week before the District Executive meets to formulate and agree plans to address all the issues I summarised in my last Report and the earlier one in July.

I am pleased to say however, that everything is coming together nicely and as I write all I have to do is see what my Budget spread sheet makes of it all!!

A BIG "Thank You", to Peter Hutton for forwarding "Links" to his parents and Leaders which has resulted in one potential recruit as District Treasurer! This has been augmented yesterday by a very interested reply to one of the many adverts I have made elsewhere looking for volunteers. The DC and I will be meeting both people next week and their combined skills would appear to "tick all the boxes", so "Watch This Space"!

The District Executive will be agreeing procedures to oversee the Explorer Section that remains a "District Provision". Time constraints will prevent me from being involved personally, so I am looking for a volunteer to work alongside the "Woggle Wearers" in the Section; hopefully with a new Section Treasurer, to Chair the Explorers Sub Committee and report back to the District Executive. So if you want to play your part in the exciting growth and plans we have for the 14-18 age range, please contact me for an informal chat.

These really are exciting times, with great opportunities for the future and whilst I will personally have to take a "back seat" from attending evening meetings due to pressures of work, I hope I can continue to play my small part in the Journey we have started.

Andy

Media Manager required

As part of the District Development Plan we are looking for somebody to take on the role of raising the profile of Wimbledon & Wandle Scouting in the local media, primarily newspapers, to enable the district, groups & units to gain positive coverage.

The method of doing this can be tailored to suit the time that the individual is able to commit to it.

If this is a role that you would be interested in, please contact Paul Atkins.

Swimming Gala - Michèle McNamara

If anyone hasn't received their swimming gala literature please let me know. The details are on the district website.

Please remember I need to know how many teams are entering cub and scout events by 11th October, with a final entry form to be submitted by October 19th. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Air Rifle Diploma

There will be a training course for the NSRA YPS Tutor Diploma on October 13th/14th. Details from Jean Jenkins (County shooting advisor) athena@f2s.com.

Changes to POR

The safety issues outlined in Joe Rogerson's report have resulted in a number of changes to POR. Please ensure that you are aware of these. Safety is such a vital subject that it is essential that everyone stays up to date with the rules.

Safeguarding Training

Details of the changes to the way that Safeguarding training is provided have been circulated.

In a nutshell -

1. Any person's first Safeguarding training session is at a County course
2. Any person's first refresher is at a County course
3. Any person's second refresher may be done online or at a County course
4. Thereafter online and County course provision alternates.

Membership fees

Neither HQ nor County have increased their membership fee this year so we just wait to find out what the District will do ...

HQ fee will be £21 with 50p discount for prompt payment

County fee will be £6.

Woolly Hat Day

Want to do your bit raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves? Why not take part in Woolly Hat Day in aid of St Mungo's, a charity that works with homeless people.

Get your information pack by emailing events@mungos.org as soon as possible - Woolly Hat Day is at the end of October.

Training Dates

21 Oct	11	Administration	10.00-11.15	1 st LM
21 Oct	19	International	11.30-13.00	1 st LM
21 Oct	17	Activities outdoors	14.00-16.30	1 st LM
17 Nov	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00-12.00	1 st LM
17 Nov	14	Young people today	12.00-13.00	1 st LM
17 Nov	9	Working with Adults	14.00-15.00	1 st LM
17 Nov	8	Skills of Leadership	15.15-16.30	1 st LM
1 Dec	13	Growing the Movement: Section Leaders	10.00-13.00	1 st LM
1 Dec	21	Growing the Movement: Managers	10.00-16.30	1 st LM

1st LM = 1st 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 or contact Joan Condon on 020 8540 5115 or 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

First Aid training

Please contact Janet Drinkall tel: 020 8660 4774

jdrinkall@sky.com

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

Congratulations to the 23rd Wimbledon Scout Group
who had their inaugural meeting
on 30th September.
Welcome to the District.