

## Explorers cont . . .

March 2016:

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> – Sun 6<sup>th</sup>: Operation Red Flare. Details to follow in November – [NAN to be completed by each Unit.](#)

## Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey



We were pleased to see so many at the talk on Tuesday 15th September and hope that you didn't feel too exhausted after the walk around the North Island of New Zealand! Thanks to Jean B for arranging and to Jean G for the refreshments.

Help may be needed for the swimming gala in October – but David will contact you with further details as and when.

Remember to keep **Saturday 14th November** free as this is the date we are hoping to have our Quiz Night at 1st Lower Morden H.Q. Cost will be £5 per head – further details later.

**Tuesday, 1st December** is the date for our 'Reindeer Drive' – a bit more festive than the 'Beetle'! Again more details later.'

Best wishes go to Maggie Pooley who has been unwell recently. We hope you will soon be feeling better.'

Copy date: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October

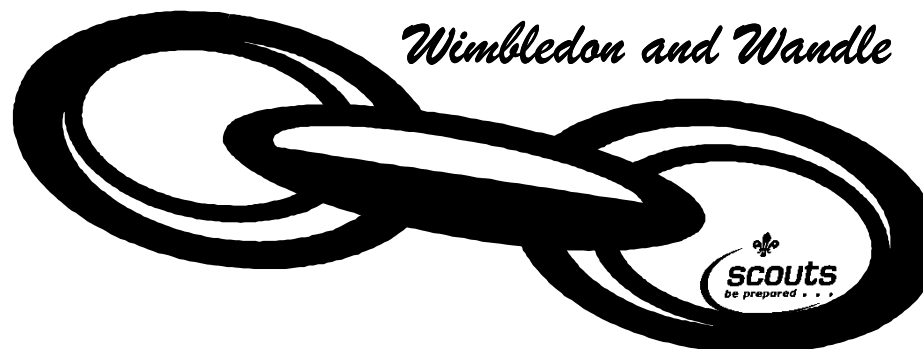
*Don't ever be afraid to dream too big. Nothing is impossible. If you believe in yourself, you can achieve it." -[Nastia Liukin](#),*

**Links Editor**

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## Links

October 2015 – Issue no. 116

Oct 3	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
5	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
7	Scout Quiz	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon HQ 7.30pm
12	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	District Executive meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	Swimming Gala	Morden Park Baths
20	Explorer Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
29	No Store – half term	
30/1	Mountain weekend	Bethesda
7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
8	Remembrance Day	Mitcham/Wimbledon
11	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Scouts' Incident Hike	Boidierhurst
16	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
22	Cubs' Scooter Rally	Morden Hall DHQ
25	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

## District Commissioner

#JustOneMore, commonly known as the 2016 Census, hoves into view, with the drive from HQ that we increase our figures (after two years of losses) in order that we play our part in meeting the Movement's target of 500,000 youth members by 2018.

As mentioned last month, your District Executive and District teams will be doing what they can to help you recruit, as will both the Regional Development Service (already working with three Groups in the District) and the County Adult Recruitment Officer. The keys though, as we all know, are the quality of our Programmes, which will have been submitted to ADCs by the end of September, and the quality of our commitment as adults.

I would urge all leaders to make use of available training opportunities (and money!); to take part in District events; to attend the sectional leaders' meetings to share challenges, share your good ideas and learn new skills; to contact ADCs to access support from the sectional teams; to share ideas with other leaders within the Group. These are some of the ways in which we can enhance our provision such that we attract not only youth members, but also adult helpers.

All that each section needs to aim for is one more youth member than the section had in January this year and the Group needs to aim for one more leader than last January.

And there's no doubt that we have the wherewithal to do that!

Joe

Best wishes go to Margaret Pooley – we understand she is home from hospital after a multitude of tests. Hope you're OK, Maggie, our thoughts have been with you.

One new event we are aiming to try is a District Monopoly Challenge. Richard Frewin and Siva Ravishanker (Ravi) have volunteered to organise this for us. This should be interesting flooding London with teams of Wimbledon and Wandle Scouts.

**Scout Football:** As you should have seen by email, Gary Baker has stepped down from organising the Scout Football competition so for this to happen in 2016 we need someone to pick it up.

The date pencilled in is 28 February and we usually hold it at Powerleague, Wallington. If you're interested in taking on the challenge please contact me by 10<sup>th</sup> October.

If no one comes forward then there will be no Scout football in 2016.

**2015 Incident Hike:** Just a gentle reminder that any troop intending to enter the incident hike needs to enter to me by 1<sup>st</sup> November at the very latest.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00 pm Morden Hall Park DHQ. The Red Book for 2016 should be available at the meeting.

## Explorer Scouts – Neil McLauchlan

A few reminders below together with some dates for your diaries.

It is essential that we have representatives from all units at our leaders meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at DHQ. We will be agreeing all our activity dates for 2016, see you all there!

October 2015:

Sun 4<sup>th</sup>: Water Sports sessions. I should have had names by now, please contact me immediately if you wish to attend and have not told me as yet.

Tues 20<sup>th</sup>: Leaders Meeting 8.00pm. District HQ Morden Hall Park.

Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November: Mountain Weekend. Details to be emailed by Jo Lynch – NAN to be completed by each Unit

November 2015:

Sun 8<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Day Parades, followed by Air Hop and Ice Hockey. Names please asap. Full details to be emailed nearer the time.

January 2016:

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>: Paintball day joint activity with the Scout Troops. Cost £30. Details are being emailed out. Names and deposits by 4 December to Dave Bixby.



## Section reports

### Beaver Scouts – John Tweedley

It was good to see a few more leaders at last night's Beaver Leaders' meeting, including three new faces, but we still have a lot of colonies not represented. Welcome to Alison from 1<sup>st</sup> Merton Park who is the new Beaver Leader there.

We have set some dates for events next year so please look at the minutes when you get them.

We have planned do the Bike & Scooter ride in Morden Hall Park in March, also we are going to hold a badge day for the older Beavers in February and we are thinking of doing the international badge so if you have any bright ideas for this please bring them along to the next meeting, which is Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Also we are looking at having a Beaver outing to Legoland next June / July. Peter Hutton has set a date for the District Sports Day 14 May 2016. As this event was not very well supported this year I would want a commitment from Colonies to say that they will attend the day nearer the time. We would run it as in the past as a fun day {non competitive event}

### Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara

**Scooter Rally** – it is hoped to run our own version of this event in November this year, full details will be sent out to each pack nearer the date, which is provisionally 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**CSL Meeting** – 11<sup>th</sup> November, please make an effort to attend. If Leaders want to have a Christmas dinner this year, could they please come to this meeting with some ideas for dates and venues.

### Scouts – Dave Bixby

**2016 Events:** We set the dates for Scout events for next year at our recent meeting and are now booking venues. The Red Book should be available at the November meeting but I will feed the dates through to Paul Atkins for uploading on the District website as they are confirmed.

Two early events worth noting are our **New Year's meal** at Park Place, Mitcham 7<sup>th</sup> January 7.00 for 7.30 pm and the **Scout / Explorer paintball day** at Campaign Paintball, Cobham on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.



### Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

Following County Executive in September (yesterday as I write), I can confirm that Headquarters Capitation / Membership Fees payable next year will be £25.00 (including £0.50 discount for prompt payment), £2.00 for County and £Nil for District. Therefore a total will be payable of £27.00 in respect of all your members aged under 18 i.e. Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts. £1 per head paid to County is retained towards supporting Jamboree every four years.

This compares very favourably to £26.00 per head (including adults) last year and should represent a total saving across the District of over £6000. County is reducing its' expected take from our District this year from Reserves; which is a short term measure and as such we can expect future upward and staged increases.

In December last year, I quoted the Scout Association; saying that figures for this year would be available in "the Spring". As it turned out, HQ did not announce until mid July!

The DC will have further positive news to announce to Key Managers in person next week, so please make sure you are represented!

Group Development Plans are due to be updated and with the DC shortly. District and County Plans are fully focussed on providing Groups with training and support to develop from within and grow numbers.

We were reminded at County Executive that training is not optional and is something we all agree to when accepting our Appointments. In the worse case scenario if adults are running activities outside of their authorisations or have not completed training within required time-scales: You are not insured and neither are those taking part in your activities; any consequences are yours alone!

I reported last month that more structure is coming our way for Executive Members. In my opinion, this is a challenge that can only make our District and Groups stronger and I look forward to working with everyone to make the most of these opportunities.

The District Executive continues to seek a Youth Member (aged 18-25). I have a role description; with training plan and will be happy to discuss with anyone who might be interested. I remember as a young Scout Leader and District Executive Member in 1990, hearing via my ADC that if I didn't refrain from questioning the then DC, his Executive would all resign! Times are different now, and we have exciting opportunities ahead that will only be enhanced by "Youth Focused" input!

## Safeguarding dates

As part of the requirement for all leaders to do or renew their safeguarding training the county will be running safeguarding sessions for leaders, managers, assistant leaders, exec members, young leaders and supporters on

1 October 2015- 4<sup>th</sup> Worcester Park (Braemar Rd Worcester Park)

21 October 2015- 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham, Glebe Court Mitcham

27 October 2015- Sutton District HQ Wallington

19 November 2015- Bears Wood Croydon

22 November 2015- 1st Whitton HQ Whitton.

All sessions apart from the one in Whitton run from 8pm-9.30pm with refreshments served from 7.30pm. The Whitton session runs 10am-11.30am (it's a Sunday)

Come and see the county Safeguarding Team in action! Come and chat to old and new friends in scouting!!

To book on a session contact Alison Edwards on [adct@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:adct@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org)

## Training Dates

Oct 4	12a/22	Delivering a quality programme	10.00-12.30	1LM
Oct 4	12b	Programme planning	13.30 -17.00	1LM
Oct 10/11	38b	Skills for residential experiences	Weekend	B W
Nov 8	19	International	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 8	17/23	Running safe activities	13.30-16.30	1LM
Nov 29	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00-12.30	1LM
Nov 29	13/21	Growing the Movement	13.30-17.00	1LM

1LM 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, off Lower Morden Lane SM4 4SJ  
B W Bears Wood campsite, Oswald, Croydon CR09HJ

Cost per module is £4 except Modules 38a and b which is £40  
Download applications forms from the County website  
[www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform)  
or contact Mrs J Condon [joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glsWtraining@btinternet.com)

## Job opportunities and career development

Do you like meeting new people?

Do you have a wealth of scouting and other knowledge to impart?

Could you help another leader get their wood badge?

If any of these might be you, I would love to hear from you. I am looking for new Training Advisers and trainers to help with either providing mentoring and support to new leaders, to provide advice and assistance on training modules or to deliver training.

Even if you think, 'I could do something but I don't have a lot of time', job sharing and flexible volunteering opportunities will be considered ☺.

Full training given.

The pay is lousy, but the rewards are good! Come and enhance your own skills by helping others!

Please contact me on [adct@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:adct@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org). Your district needs you!!!

## First Aid

25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 1<sup>st</sup> North Sutton HQ

14<sup>th</sup> November 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> Kingston HQ

6<sup>th</sup> December 2015 1<sup>st</sup> Richmond HQ

Application forms can be downloaded from the County web site  
[www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/support](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/support)  
or contact Mrs Janet Drinkall [jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)  
Cost for module 10 £18.00

## Swimming Gala – Michèle McNamara

Please don't forget to register your pack or troop as entering the gala by the 8<sup>th</sup> October, entries after this date will not be accepted. Detailed entry forms showing individual entrants should be with me by Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> 23.00 hrs.

If anyone wishes to volunteer to help at the Gala, your assistance would be greatly appreciated, please contact me directly.