

When you're feeling tired, dare to keep going.  
 When times are tough, dare to be tougher.  
 When love hurts you, dare to love again.  
 When someone is hurting, dare to help them heal.  
 When another is lost, dare to help them find the way.  
 When a friend falls, dare to be the first to extend a hand.  
 When you cross paths with another, dare to make them smile.  
 When you feel great, dare to help someone else feel great too.  
 When the day has ended, dare to feel as you've done your best.  
 Dare to be the best you can –  
 At all times, Dare to be!"

— Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*

**Copy date for November Links:  
 Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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## Links

October 2016 – Issue no. 126

Oct 6	Safety training	6/12 <sup>th</sup> Mitcham HQ 7.30pm
10	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
11	Appointments sub committee	Morden Hall DHQ
15	District Swimming Gala	Morden Park Baths
15	First Aid training	19 <sup>th</sup> Wimbledon HQ 9am
15/16	Explorers' Monopoly run	
15	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
17	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	Explorer Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
28-30	Mountain weekend	Bethesda
30	First Aid training	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mitcham HQ
Nov 9	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	Remembrance Day Parades	Wimbledon/Mitcham
14	Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	Cubs' Scooterthon	
20	Scouts' Incident Hike	Park Farm
30	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

### **District Commissioner**

Having now handed over the responsibility of running of my troop and my Unit to the safe hands of others, I am turning my attention to reviewing the District Development Plan and how it fulfils HQ's Vision 2018. I am mindful that whenever big visions or plans are drawn up that it is largely those in the colonies, packs, troops and units who are expected to implement them, so over the next few months I shall be speaking to as many members as I can. If you have any ideas please contact me or pass them onto your GSL or your ADC.

It would be great if we could repeat what we've done in the past and expect it to be successful in the future. But the world keeps changing, technology has got faster and smaller and it is no longer practical to communicate in the ways we did just 10 years ago, a scrap of paper handed out at the end of the meeting to be lost en-route to home is no longer sufficient. Parents expect to find information on line and activities planned and marketed to members well in advance so they can plan.

Young people have changed too. The way they communicate; the demands on their time; the choices open to them have all changed considerably and we need to make sure Scouting is still seen as relevant to them. Only around 20% of our members are adults and we all need to put our minds to how we provide a voice to the other 80% of our members in a way that works for our District.

Development is not just about increasing numbers but continues to be about improving the programmes we offer, the care we demonstrate and the quality of our communications in this digital world that means that Scouting will be attractive to young people and parents

And on the topic of digital communications Compass, like it or loathe it, is here and working. Reminders about DBSs are being issued to specific members and their line managers and from 3<sup>rd</sup> October I shall be required to suspend any member who does not have a valid DBS. At the time of writing this we have 37 members who, despite four reminders, may have to be suspended on the 3<sup>rd</sup> - many seem to be in the same groups/sections.

- Please check that your correct contact details are on Compass
- If you have been sent reminders act on them
- If you need help with your DBS, please ask.

**Deborah**

### **Tent poles**

There are a number of wooden tent poles currently stored at DHQ that are no longer required. They are mainly marquee wall poles of different lengths. If you can use any of them, please contact Dave Bixby [thebixbys@talktalk.net](mailto:thebixbys@talktalk.net). They will be disposed of after Christmas.

### **Mitcham Remembrance Day Parade**

Due to the Mitcham regeneration project and severe road works, the parade will need to take a different route this year and it will form up at the Canon Leisure Centre. Full details will be issued very soon.

**Mountain Weekend** – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October. We are looking at the details for this at the moment.

**Remembrance Day Parades** – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Usual routines. Details to follow by email.

#### **People:**

Over the summer 5 Explorer Scouts and one Network Scout took part in the Explorer Belt with the County Expedition. They will be making their presentations soon and hopefully all will be awarded the coveted Explorer Belt.

We have had various changes in leaders. the main changes are as below:

**Empire ESU:** ESL Geordie Logan

**Raynes Park ESU:** ESL Robbie McLauchlan, AESL's Claire Sain and Isla Turner

**Wimbledon (Edge Hill) ESU:** ESL Caroline Craig, AESL's Natalie Dubant, Daniel Mitchell, Conor Johnson and George Vaughan-Barratt

#### **Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey**

Many thanks to those SASU members who assisted over the weekend 9-11<sup>th</sup> September at the Scout Taster session, held in conjunction with Wandle Fortnight. Their help was greatly appreciated.

I think everyone again enjoyed our Mexican Train evening held on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Our next event will be a Beetle Drive and Fish 'n Chip supper, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Please let me know if you would like to attend, together with your fish order, by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

Maggie Pooley has offered to arrange another quiz for us. This will be held, at the Morden Hall Park DHQ, on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. If you are interested in making up a team please let Robert know.

Dates for your Diary – Annual Carol Concert, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December (one performance only this year) – details from Brian. Our New Year Meal will be a mid-week event, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017, venue to be confirmed; Rummikub evening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.



#### **Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds**

I would like to congratulate Dave Christmas, Alan Green and their band of supporters from 3rd Mitcham, 2nd Morden, 612 Explorer Unit and the SAS, who put together a fantastic display of what Scouting in the Borough can offer for the inaugural River Wandle Celebration. Financial support from the DDP was minimal and it is to be hoped that the interest generated will lead to new members in the District.

#### **Appointments – Muriel Treagust**

The next Appointments' interviews will be held on 11th October at the DHQ.

#### **PLEASE NOTE AND ACTION THE FOLLOWING**

**There have been many updates, published in previous Links, from HQ regarding DBS checks and the importance of having a DBS request completed within 30 days of registering a new member on Compass. DBS requests have to be renewed every 5th year thereafter. However, we have come to the unhappy position of having a great number of our Membership being at risk of having their membership suspended due to allowing his/her DBS to expire.**

**When a new member is added on Compass a DBS request MUST be undertaken within 30 days. HQ will not allow any leeway on this.**

**When a DBS is due to expire, emails are sent out from H.Q. both to the member and to his/her relevant GSL - 90, 60 and 30 days prior to expiry date. Please do not ignore these emails.**

Please keep me informed of all new members, changes to members Roles, and any leavers.

If there is any difficulty in doing DBS requests I am happy to do them, just contact me.

### **Nights Away** – Paul Atkins

Like many other aspects of Scouting, Nights Away guidance is always under review.

HQ has provided a list of Frequently Asked Questions along with a lot of other supporting information on the Scouts.org website at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/3636/nights-away-faqs?cat=26,358,575&moduleID=10>

The generic information in the second FAQ should be ignored as NANs must only be submitted using our form on the district website at [www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/nan.htm](http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/nan.htm)

### **Swimming Gala** – Michèle McNamara

Don't forget the deadline for entering your pack or troop is 7<sup>th</sup> October, entries received after this date will not be accepted.

### **Wimbledon Windmill Museum launches an oral history project**

The volunteers of Wimbledon Windmill are embarking on an exciting oral history project. The aim is to collect memories from anybody who has a connection with the windmill. We know for example that various families lived there until it became a Museum. There is also the connection with Scouting as Baden Powell wrote **Scouting for Boys** whilst staying in Mill cottage.

Certainly there are many people who have visited over the years. If you have a memory, however small, that you would like to share with us, do get in touch, we would be delighted to find out more about the people who have visited the mill over the years or even lived there!

Call or text Linda on 07989218583, email [Linda.Roberts93@ntlworld.com](mailto:Linda.Roberts93@ntlworld.com) or send a message through the website contact page [www.wimbledonwindmill.org.uk](http://www.wimbledonwindmill.org.uk)

Wimbledon Windmill Museum is entirely run by volunteers and new team members are always needed, welcomed and appreciated!



**Incident Hike 20 November:** Based in the area around Park Farm, Banstead, entries need to be with me by 6<sup>th</sup> November at the latest.

Traditionally this has been one of our shortest routes so we are trying to add an extra loop. Please bring any additional adults or Young Leaders that you can so that we can provide the new check points. We don't necessarily need activities for these new points. Please remember that if you are using parents to transport Scouts that they will need to stay to transfer your team(s) to their start point once everyone is checked in.

**Christmas Tree Challenge:** Recently we received a request from a Cub Pack in South Africa. They had seen a Christmas tree built by a local service team and they wanted to have a go so asked if we had a set of instructions for one. We generated some for them and that got me thinking about a District Challenge. To this end if any Troop or Unit likes to build a Christmas tree project between now and the 25<sup>th</sup> November, let me know and I will provide a small prize for the best one.

If you need equipment, you can borrow some from DHQ. Just contact myself or Alan Green.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Morden Hall DHQ at 8.00 pm when the Red Book for 2017 will be issued. Please try to have your Troop represented even if it's your normal meeting night. You could even send you GSL! All we ask is for a positive approach to Scouting in Wimbledon and Wandle.

### **Explorers** – Neil McLauchlan

#### **Programme:**

**Monopoly Run** – This is on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The idea of this activity is to visit as many of the properties on the Monopoly board in London in a day and also find some extra bonus places or items.

Meet at West Barnes ESU HQ, Arthur Road at 8.30am. Finishing at @ 9.00pm. Teams of 4-7 Explorer Scouts. Full details have been circulated but please contact me for any further information.

**Leaders' Meeting** – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, DHQ 8.00pm. Please ensure that all units are represented. The main item will be next year's Calendar.



## Cubs – Michèle McNamara

**Programmes** - if you are one of the packs who hasn't yet sent me a copy of this terms programme for your pack, can you please do so a.s.a.p. and "I don't have a programme" isn't a valid excuse.



**Scooterthon** – the next cub event will be the Scooterthon.

Details will be sent out nearer the date of the event (which is in November 19th) but they will be the same as last year.

**CSL Meeting** – next meeting is November 9<sup>th</sup> please make an effort to have someone from your pack attend.

**Christmas Meal** – As you will see in the September minutes it is proposed to have our Christmas Meal at Frankie & Benny's in Merton on December 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 100 years of cub scouting, we need to make a booking soon, so please if you are interested could you let me know by the date of the next CSL Meeting. Thanks.

## Scouts – Dave Bixby

**Monopoly Challenge:** Although I know that several Troops have run the Monopoly Challenge for themselves, we tried it on a District basis for the first time at the end of September.

Despite a few teams dropping out at the last minute, it was a great success. Representatives of the teams gathered on Friday evening for a briefing and to start planning their route then all met on Saturday for the off.

Most teams headed for West end of town as that is where the greatest concentration of properties on the monopoly board exist. While Tim Kerridge went west, Lesley and I were dispatched to the area around the Tower of London in case any teams had a problem there. I didn't know that you could by a wide range of fish and chips at 08.45 am on a Saturday morning directly opposite the Tower. It was a bit early for us....

We used the trackers that were bought earlier in the year to keep tabs on the teams and they proved very successful. They are available to borrow for your Troop or Unit hikes or DoE expeditions from Tim Kerridge.

My grateful thanks go to Ollie Foster and Andy Sloan for their help with the organisation and to Richard Frewin for pulling it all together.

Winners on the day were the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Training – Alison Edwards

### Safeguarding Training

There will be a session of safeguarding training running at Bow Lane on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. 7.30pm for an 8pm start. The training is intended for any new leaders or sectional assistants/supporters/helpers who have not done the training, plus any young leaders who need to complete module A of the training.

It is also intended for anyone who last did safeguarding in 2010 or 2011 and as a result your training has expired. It is a requirement of continued appointments that your safeguarding, safety and first aid are all kept 'valid' and up to date, along with the need for a current DBS check. Plus, if you haven't got a current safeguarding you can't have a nights away permit renewed. If you think therefore 'oh this might affect me' please feel free to book on... just email me on [alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)

### First Aid

There are a couple of spaces free on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> December first aid courses, both of which take place at the 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon HQ. The 30 October course is now full. However, I am operating a waiting list in case we have any drop outs from the course plus a list of anyone who needs to do a course. It may not be possible to fit a 4<sup>th</sup> course in this term however I shall shortly be booking dates for early 2017. So if you need to do first aid please contact me.

*W+W has engaged a district trainer to deliver courses, to cope with the need for training in the district. Hence why now this training is booked through me. However, courses are also still being run via the county and if none of the dates arranged in our district are suitable you can still book onto county courses However none of these will be 'in' Wimbledon and Wandle as such for the reason above.*

### Trainee leaders

By way of advance notice, we will be changing the way we deliver some of the adult leader training from early 2017. So if you are or have leaders in your group/unit who are midway through their training please could you make an effort to complete as many modules as possible this year as there is a possibility you might end up duplicating something inadvertently. Leaders who have not yet started their training as of 1 October will probably do their training under the new system. More details will follow soon.

## County Training

8/9 Oct	38b	Weekend camp skills - residential		WF
23 Oct	12a/b	Planning quality programmes	09.45-17.00	4WP
27 Nov	17	International	09.45-12.30	Le
27 Nov	19	Running safe activities	13.30-17.00	Le
4 Dec	15	Promoting positive behaviour	09.45-12.30	1LM
4 Dec	12	Growing the section	13.30-16.30	1LM

Le	Leander Sea Scout HQ, Kingston
1LM	1 <sup>st</sup> Lower Morden, Bow Lane, Morden
WF	Walton Firs, Cobham
4WP	4 <sup>th</sup> Worcester Park

Application forms from

Mrs J Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue Email [joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com) or download from the County web site [www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform)

**First Aid:** details from Janet Drinkall ([jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)).

## Photographic Competition



This year we are planning on holding a District photography competition, it will be open to all age groups from Beavers upwards including Leaders and SASU.



The theme will be **“Spirit of Scouting”** and we hope to display the shortlisted photos and announce the winners at St Georges Day. Further details will be distributed in the next few weeks but for those planning programmes now maybe you can tie this in with the Photographer Activity badge or the Creative Arts badge?

More information very soon.

## Section Reports

### Beavers – John Tweedley

Firstly, it was nice to see a few more faces at our last District meeting.



By the time you read this we will have had our District Beaver Fun Day to finish of the 30 years of Beavers, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden H.Q.

At our last meeting the A.C.C.Beavers Karl Bromley came down to see us to give us an update from County and to inform us that he is standing down from the position of A.C.C. and the colony that he runs. He will be missed by both the County and his beavers.

I have been asked to list some events already planned for next year these are as follows.

- Probably New Year’s Leaders meal if Jane Ginty is willing to organise it again in January 2017
- International Badge Day booked for the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Bow Lane with an extra country to be added, probably Canada.
- Annual Beaver Bike & Scooter ride at Ravensbury Park on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
- District Sports Day 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 .
- Cub & Beaver Fun Day at Gilwell June {date to be confirmed}

If any colony is going to use Morden Hall Park for any activities during the day or in the evening could you please inform Alan Green mobile: 07980 856268 e-mail [green.alan@mail.com](mailto:green.alan@mail.com) This is because the National Trust has changed its policy and all youth groups have to register if they are using the Park with risk assessments, insurance cover etc, but Wimbledon and Wandle have set up a system where you inform Alan and he does the rest.

Next Year I will be visiting all Beaver Colonies again even the 3 I did not get to see last time.