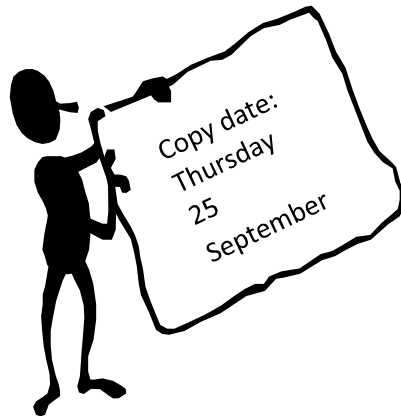


“ Life without tea is like a day without sunshine”

Baden-Powell



## Links

September 2014 – Issue no. 106

Sept 16	SASU: formal meeting and talk	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
17	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	District Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
20	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20-21	Scouts: canal boat experience	Grand Union Canal
20-21	Explorers: night hike	North Downs
21	Canoe Club pool session	Wimbledon College 1pm/3pm
22	Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
28	Cubs: cyclist badge day	
Oct 4	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
6	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
8	Scouts: District quiz	St John Fisher Church Hall 7.45pm
13	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
19	Canoe Club pool session	Wimbledon College 1pm/3pm
30	No Store – half term	
31-2 Nov	Explorers: mountain weekend	Bethesda

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Lesley Bixby  
1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park, SW20 9JR  
07713 154 317  
thebixbys@talktalk.net

## Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

As I write this I'm wondering: Where has the summer gone? It hardly seems two months since the Executive last met at the beginning of July. Anyway, I'm sure the memories of a happy summer out and about will remain long in the memory and I'm sorry that some of my Report might sound like coming back to reality with a bump!

We are blessed to have a fantastic team on the Executive who all go about their roles quietly and professionally. Meaning that I have little to report on a day to day basis; as stuff just gets done without a fuss! Those who serve behind the scenes are the backbone of Scouting and we are lucky to have such a strong one!

Over the course of the next few months, County will be rolling out The Association's training for Group Executive Members. So please look out for further information and **if I don't know who your Group Chairman is, then please let me know!**

Issues have been identified recently at County level whereby the requirements of POR (3.23b) have not been followed. Can I please remind all Group Chairman and Key Managers that your Executive must: "Present the Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting and **file a copy with the District Executive Committee**". Could I please use these pages to ask that **all Groups email me a copy of your Annual Report and Annual Accounts that will have been produced for your 2014 AGMs before 30th September?**

I am sure the next few years will present challenges as we get to grips with Vision 2014 - 18, a new County Commissioner and our updated District Plan. As ever, the District Executive stands ready to provide support and fulfil its functions as laid down in POR.

Andy

## Mini Census – Lesley Bixby (County Secretary)

While I thought we had got away without doing another mini-census, Region have asked for figures and Joe Rogerson has been tasked with collecting them from GSLs. Please make sure you get them to him in plenty of time – I have asked for the numbers as at the end of July as I feel they are more realistic that the beginning of September when Scouts are not yet back into the swing of regular meetings.

## Scout Active Support Unit – Linda Vaudrey



We hope you have all had a great summer and have taken advantage of the mainly good weather.

We all enjoyed our Summer Meal at the Kingswood Golf Club on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> August. Thanks to Jean and Rob for organising. It was a lovely meal eaten in good company.

Thank you very much to Dave and Jean for the BBQ held on 31 August. Good food, good company, a beautiful garden and fascinating tour of the estate. The weather was great too!

A reminder that our social meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September and Morden Hall HQ, when our speaker will talk to us about 'Pigs, Polytunnels and POY' – should prove interesting. The cost will be £2 per head and light refreshments will be provided. As this is a social evening uniform will not be worn.

A note for your diary: '**Maggie Pooley's Quiz Night**' is on 15 November. This will be held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden HQ in Bow Lane – 7.30 p.m. start. An invitation is extended to all sections and, as Maggie is our quizmaster, you can be sure of an entertaining, and possibly taxing, evening. The cost will be £4 a head; please bring your own drinks, but nibbles will be provided. Maximum of 6 per table. If you would like to come please let Jean or Robert Brumwell know by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November. ([Brumwells@btinternet.com](mailto:Brumwells@btinternet.com)) or telephone 020 8330 7466

## Congratulations

Many congratulations to the following who have all received awards during the summer. Well done and thank you for all you do for Scouting:

### Award for Merit

Mrs Nicola Dawn Hayward, BSL 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden

Robert William McNally, ACSL 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden

### Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Paul Drinkwater BSL 23<sup>rd</sup> Mitcham Scout Group

Tracey Drinkwater GSL 23<sup>rd</sup> Mitcham Scout Group

Ian Haynes Group Secretary 19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon

Paul Henderson DESL

Brenda Inwood CSL 6/12<sup>th</sup> Mitcham Sea Scouts

Theresa Jerrom Group Chairman 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden

Adrian Wagner DSI

### Appointments – Muriel Treagust

The next Appointments interviews are to take place on Thursday, 4th September.

It is hoped that the new membership system - "Compass" - will soon be up and running. More information on using Compass will be issued as soon as it is available.

There will be some changes to the Disclosure checking process. The information and rules will be formalised in the next edition of Policy, Organisation and Rules which will be published next month.

## Section Reports

### Beaver Report – John Tweedley



Hi all Beaver Leaders /A.B.S.L.

I hope you have all had a good break and if you went away on holiday that you had a nice time.

Just a reminder that we have a Beaver leaders' meeting on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at DHQ at 8 pm**. It would be great to see more colonies attend this meeting as we only had 7 colonies at our last meeting, and it would be lovely to see some new faces from the colonies that have never been to a district meeting.

Now that everyone is back from the summer break, I will be dropping in to see those colonies that have not yet given me a date to visit them. I do keep stressing that I am not there to criticize I just would like to meet the leaders and introduce myself to them.

Sports day went very well with the changed format from last year so letting the Beaver parents watch from within the centre field, as the criticism the year before was that they could not see the Beavers do their activities. It would have been nice to have had more colonies attend this district event and I look forward to having more colonies there next year.

Our next event will be the **Beaver Activity day 19<sup>th</sup> October** at 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden H.Q.

### Cubs – Michèle McNamara



I hope that all of you who managed to take your cubs away in the summer had a good and safe time.

**The CSLs' Meeting in September has been cancelled** for various reasons. In addition to ideas for the handicraft competition at the CSL meeting in October we also need to come up with ideas for celebrating the centenary of cub scouting, which we need to report back to the county, so please start thinking about this as well.

### Scouts – Dave Bixby



I hope everyone had a good relaxing summer break and that you are all ready to face the exciting challenges of the autumn term.

## Training

Date	Module	Title	Time
21 Sept	16	Introduction to residential experiences	10.00 – 13.00
21 Sept	38A	Skills for residential experiences	14.00 – 17.00
11/12 Oct	38B	Skills for residential experiences weekend camp	tbc
26 Oct	12	Providing a balanced programme	09.30 – 13.30
26 Oct	19	International	14.30 – 16.00
16 Nov	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00 – 12.30
16 Nov	17	Activities outdoors	13.00 – 16.30
30 Nov	13	Growing the Movement (Leaders)	10.00 – 13.00
30 Nov	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)	10.00 – 16.30

All Modules will be at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden Scout Headquarters unless stated  
Cost per Module is £4.00 except module 38 which is £40

Application forms from

Mrs J Condon 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden SM4 4DX

e.mail [joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com](mailto:joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com) or download from the County web site [www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationforms](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationforms).

## First Aid

20 <sup>th</sup> September	Trinity Church, Sutton
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	5 <sup>th</sup> Sutton Refresher Course (places limited)
5 <sup>th</sup> October	61 <sup>st</sup> Croydon
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Richmond District
16 <sup>th</sup> November	22 <sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon
7 <sup>th</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> Wallington

Application forms can be downloaded from County web site or contact Mrs Janet Drinkall 020 8669 4774 email [jdrinkall@sky.com](mailto:jdrinkall@sky.com)

Cost per Module 10 £18.00 cheques payable to GLSW TRAINING A/C

## Safeguarding Training

18 <sup>th</sup> September	Southwood Royal Kingston District	8pm
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Polyapes Royal Kingston District	2.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Sutton District HQ	10am
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Wimbledon & Wandle District	8pm
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Croydon District	8pm

Applications to Alison Edwards [alison.edwards@local.gov.uk](mailto:alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)

## District Sports

Sports Day feels like it was a long time ago, but it is important to thank Peter Hutton who organised this event yet again and his band of helpers. It is great to have an event where all members of the District can meet together for a day of fun and competition – just a shame that more Sections don't come along and join in.

Thanks also to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Mitcham for the refreshments and Dave Bixby and Alan Green for the pioneering projects.

The full results are on the District website but congratulations go to everyone who took part.

### Help wanted!

Dave and Lesley Bixby put together the website [www.pioneeringmadeeasy.co.uk](http://www.pioneeringmadeeasy.co.uk) some years ago with the help of a friend of a friend.

Their contact is no longer able to maintain the site and problems have arisen in the last year or so – most especially the link between the 'contact us' section and its associated email.

Is there anyone in the District who would be willing and able to help out? If so, please contact them on [thebixbys@talktalk.net](mailto:thebixbys@talktalk.net)

## Jack Petchey Awards

The time for getting nominations in for the next round of Jack Petchey awards has arrived yet again. Group Scout Leaders should have received the forms and information sheet by email and you are asked to get your nominations in to Lesley Bixby as soon as possible – the deadline for the current round is 25 October.

There are not enough spaces for every Group to put forward a nomination so there is a rota system in operation. If you have not received an email but have an outstanding Scout/Explorer, please let Lesley know.

## County Navigation Day – Chris Dean (DCC – Programme) Boidierhurst Camp Site, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – all day

This is a practical training event for all adults and Network members (over 18s) who would like some practice with navigation skills.

Please contact Chris Dean (DCC – Programme) on [tinkerscorner@aol.com](mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com) if you would like to take part. The cost is £5 and includes a BBQ lunch.

## Jamboree of the Air and Jamboree of the Internet 18 - 19 October 2014

### Gilwell Park

There are 150 places for Scouts from the South London Counties to enjoy a weekend of International Scouting. No passport required!

Leave from your County on Saturday 18th for a weekend of International and adventurous activities, talking to Scouts from across the globe.

£25 fee includes camping overnight at Gilwell Park, food, all activities and event badge.

Contact your ACC International for more information and to book your places. Claire and David Pearcy [acci@glsWSCouts.org.uk](mailto:acci@glsWSCouts.org.uk)

## Mini Bus Permits

The permit is now the responsibility of the Group/Unit driving the mini-bus and not the owner of the bus. Permits cost £5 and last for 5 years and can be obtained from <http://scouts.org.uk/media/354828/Minibus-Application.doc>.

Also, if you hire/borrow more than one mini bus, you will need a permit for each one. You can face prosecution if you do not display a permit.

## District Store

The District Store in Morden Hall DHQ is open during term time every Thursday 7.45 – 9.15pm and on the first and third Saturday each month from 10am to 12 noon. Actual dates can be confirmed in Links or on the website.

If you have had an influx of new members and are sending a large number of parents to the Store for their uniforms, please notify Brian, the Store Manager on [b.whalebone@btinternet.com](mailto:b.whalebone@btinternet.com) if possible, so he can order extra stock.

Items ordered through the Store are normally available within a week.

Please encourage your Group's parents and supporters to use the Store as the profit will come back to you. Brian can let you have a supply of leaflets to hand out.

## Morden Hall DHQ – Alan Green

Work is in progress to replace the water damaged Disabled Toilet floor and wall and to rebuild it to meet Building Regulations.

Please note that the National Trust will be laying a track through the car park this term which may affect our access for a while.

I would like to plant some spring bulbs in the grounds of the DHQ on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. If any section would like to help, please email me at [green.alan@mail.com](mailto:green.alan@mail.com).

Finally, the District now has 12 litter pickers that can be used by any section doing a community clean-up. Please contact Brian Whalebone if you would like to borrow them.

## Swimming Gala

The District Cubs' and Scouts' Gala will be held on 18 October and information will be sent out by post. If you have not received your information pack, please contact Michèle McNamara [michmc@sky.com](mailto:michmc@sky.com). Details will also be available on the District website. Please note that there is a deadline for getting entries in and no late entries will be allowed.



If your Troop held a camp, expedition or even just a day out, I hope it was successful and gave your Scouts the king of experience that memories are made of.

Our next **Section Leaders' meeting** is on Monday 22 September in Morden Hall DHQ when we need to decide on the District activities that your Scouts would like during 2015.

Do we need to run

- Another PLs and older Scouts camp
- PLs training course
- A revamped Patrol in camp weekend incorporating the opportunity for Scouts to achieve a bronze, silver or gold camping standard badge

Given the support that some events have received this year, have they had their day and therefore need to be given a rest.

**Programmes:** I am supposed to review Troop programmes but on average I only receive them from 4 or 5 Troops each term (out of 20!). We hear of Leaders struggling to run their meeting either due to lack of help or time and this is where a pre-planned programme can help. If this seems a daunting prospect please remember that we are here to help either with ideas, activity support or just encouragement in implementing the process. If you need help in any way – just ask!

**Scout Quiz:** Wednesday 8 October at St John Fisher Church Hall, Cannon Hill Lane

**PLEASE ensure that your Scouts do not arrive before 7.45pm.** This is because the 5<sup>th</sup> Morden Cubs meet in the hall before this event and we need to let them get clear. Please let me know if your Troop is planning to enter so that we can organise refreshments and the printing of answer sheets etc.

**Incident Hike:** Sunday 30 November, Bentley Copse  
Entries to me by 16 November please. If you would like someone to come along and help with preparations for this, just let me know,

**Nights Away Permits:** Don't forget to keep an eye on the expiry date of your Nights Away Permit when planning overnight events.

New Leaders requiring a permit will need to attend Modules 16 and 38.

There is a Module 38 being held on the weekend of 12/11 October so if you need it contact Joan Condon to get booked up.

## Compass - Paul Atkins

Migration to Compass continues with final testing under way and the old MMS system being replaced has now been switched off.

All data that was held in MMS has been transferred to Compass and will be available to you.

Administration & Executive people will be able to log on to Compass in early September with Districts & Counties beginning to use the system in a phased roll-out from mid-September.

When the system is ready, each individual will receive an email inviting you to register on Compass and start to use it.

Comprehensive User Guides have been made available now at <http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/> so please make a note of this link.

There is also a series of Frequently Asked Questions (with answers!) available which should also help you prepare to use Compass  
[http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?page\\_id=2](http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?page_id=2)

Section leaders will need to enter the details of their youth members if it didn't previously exist in MMS and this can be done either by manually entering each record, by using an Excel template which is currently being finalised and can be found here  
<http://compassuserguide.scouts.org.uk/?p=4513> or by exporting data from Online Scout Manager if you use that system.

It is planned that there will be some changes to the Appointments process as a result of the introduction of Compass.

AA, CR & RCRB Forms would no longer exist in their current forms. GSLs, Section Leaders & Assistants will be able to enter a new adult's details directly into Compass. This activity will be advised to our Appointments Secretary, Muriel Treagust, who will then manage the process further.

Once we all have access to Compass the benefits & processes will become clearer (honest!) but if at this stage and after you have looked at the FAQ & User Guides you have any questions or concerns please contact me at [compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org](mailto:compass@wimbledonandwandlescouts.org) and I will do my best to help.