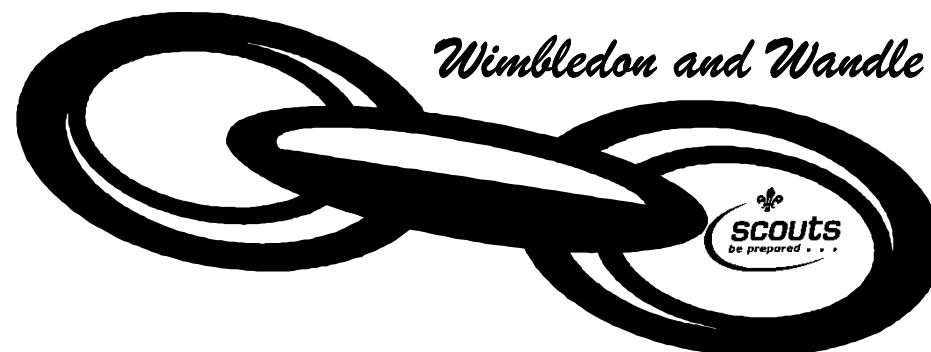


“When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully.
 When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light.
 When there is injustice, dare to be the first to condemn it.
 When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway.
 When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back.
 When there seems to be no hope, dare to find some.”

Steve Maraboli



Links

September 2016 – Issue no. 125

Copy date for October Links: Thursday 29th September

Sept 7	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	SASU meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
14	Cub Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
15	Additional Needs Training	5 th Sutton HQ 7.30pm
17	District Store open	10am
17-18	Explorers' Night Hike & Watersports	Cancelled
21	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
23-24	Scouts' Monopoly Challenge	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
Oct 1	District Store open	10am
5	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
5	Inter-Troop Quiz	1 st Lower Morden HQ 7.30pm
6	Safety Training	6/12 th Mitcham HQ 8pm
10	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
11	Appointments Committee	Morden Hall DHQ
15	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
15	Swimming Gala	Morden Park Baths
17	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
18	Explorer Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

Links Editor

Lesley Bixby

thebixbys@talktalk.net

1 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park SW20 9JR

District Commissioner

If you ran a camp this summer, I hope that it was really successful and that everyone has some chance to recharge their batteries.

Many of us will have followed the coverage of our Olympic team and can't have failed to have been impressed by their success. Behind every medal win were stories of individual's dedication and commitment to training, appreciation of the need to learn to adapt and the importance of a supportive team.

As the new Scouting term begins we need to emulate the medal winners and plan programmes that enthuse not only our scouts but also ourselves. We need to continue to adapt to the new challenges we face, be they changing badge criteria or how we engage with the young of today. Support for new ideas can be found both locally with the other leaders in the District and County and also nationally – look at the million hands campaign of HQ.

Our core training, as we know from Alison, needs to be up to date, and money for activity training is available for those who want it. In this way we can be best placed to give our youngsters the opportunity to learn new skills that allow them to push their boundaries.

After all Joe Clarke the Kayak K1 gold medal winner had his very first taste of kayaking at Scouts!

Deborah

Explorers – Neil McLauchlan

I trust that everyone had a great summer. Just a few updates for the start of term

Evening Hike & Watersports Day – Will not be happening as we do not have enough take-up.

Monopoly Run – This will be held on Saturday 15th October and may run until the Sunday morning. Please put the date in your unit calendar, full details on the email as usual very soon.

Mountain Weekend – Friday 28th to Sunday 30th October. Further details to come out shortly

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

We hope you all enjoyed the BBQ, and thanks go, once again, to Jean and David for an enjoyable afternoon. It probably seems quite a while ago now.

Thank you too, to Jean B for organising the successful summer meal. I take it you all spotted my deliberate mistake re the date. Apologies to anyone who turned up on the 9th!

As you all are aware we have had to cancel the scheduled meeting on Tuesday 13th September. However, it has been decided to hold a 'Mexican Train' evening instead. Please let Jean Gould know if you would like to attend. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible on that evening. (7.30 p.m. start).

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Swimming Gala

This has been booked for Saturday 15th October at Morden Baths. Michèle McNamara will be organising it again and now she has returned from her holiday she will get information out to each pack/troop shortly, however it will not differ greatly from previous years.

If you are able to help on the night that would be very much appreciated.

Please contact Michèle.



Please make every effort to update these details for your members as soon as possible.

Risk Assessments

Something else that arose recently: I was doing an assessment for a couple of nights away permits for one Group and they use a generic risk assessment for camps.

That's ok to use as a template but they really do need to be reviewed for each activity, to ensure that they are relevant.

In this case every adult was supposedly responsible for every action under the risk assessment, whether or not they were due to be there.

If you would like clarification of risk assessments, please feel free to contact any member of the District Team or if your Leaders could use training or a refresher in preparing them please get in touch with Alison Edwards ADC (Training).

Monopoly Challenge

Don't forget that if your team is aiming to camp at DHQ or doing a sleep over at your HQ for the Monopoly Challenge that you need to submit a NAN form by Friday 9th Sept. at the latest.

District Scout Quiz Wed 5th October

This year the quiz will be held at the 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, Morden. Please remember to register with me in your Troop is aiming to enter. Entry fee can be paid on the night.

Nights Away Permits

If you have any new Leaders looking to get a Nights Away Permit They will need to do modules 16 and 38.

Generally, there is just one module 38 each year due to the normally low take up.

The next one is over the week-end 8-9th October. Details from Joan Condon.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Wednesday 7th September at Morden Hall DHQ at 8.00 pm.

This is the meeting where we decide on our dates and activities for the following year so please try to have your Troup represented.

If that's just not possible, please forward your Troop's views to me beforehand. Thank you.

Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

Thank you very much to those Groups who have provided copies of their Annual Reports and Accounts over the summer holiday period.

At the time of writing (22nd August), the following Groups are still outstanding in relation to 2016 AGMs:

1st Morden (been in contact May); 1st Wimbledon; 3rd Mitcham;
5th Morden (been in contact July); 8th Morden; 8th Wimbledon,
9th Wimbledon (expected October); 11th Mitcham; 16th Morden and
23rd Wimbledon.

If you have not been in touch yet, please note the comments in my Report in July's "Links" and it would be good to hear from you before the Executive and the DC are due to discuss the subject at our October meeting.

Thank you also to those Units who have added Richard Marus as District Treasurer to their bank accounts. This is a compulsory requirement and we look forward to fully completing this exercise by the end of September.

Whilst no decision has been made yet, we are looking for a book-keeper or administrator to oversee the finances of the Explorer Section. It is a requirement of POR that bank statements are produced and verified quarterly, with a Report to the District Executive. If we cannot find a volunteer to take on the responsibilities, then there is no reason why the Executive cannot use part of the Explorer budget to pay for the necessary work to be completed. So if you know of anyone who may be interested in taking on the role, either voluntary or otherwise, please get in touch.

Whilst it is very much a "work in progress" and something that has developed very quickly; the Executive agreed at its last meeting to support the Wandle Fortnight. No figures were available then, the idea was at its infancy. Over various conversations during the summer, I have encouraged the organisers to think "big" and rely on funding from the District Development Plan. We will evaluate the success of the weekend and activities afterwards and hope to see some positive outcomes for the Groups bordering the River Wandle.

Introduction to mandatory suspension of volunteers without a valid disclosure check

Over the past weeks, information has been sent out informing/reminding members of the consequences of outdated or missing DBS checks. The mandatory suspension of those without a valid DBS check in place will now be going live during next week.

New and re-joining members: -

A Disclosure Check must be completed within 30 days of being added on or on re-joining the movement on Compass (includes Occasional Helpers) – a valid email address must be included. (a reminder will be sent if no application has been made within 20 days)

Renewal of a Disclosure will receive a reminder approx. 90 days, 60 and 30 days before current Disclosure expires.

Suspensions of adults who have not submitted a Disclosure Application

If after 30 days (of joining for new adults or expiry for existing adults) a completed disclosure application has not been made, the DC will be informed that they must suspend the individual concerned and inform them of this situation.

If a disclosure check is undertaken within 7 days of notification no suspension will be implemented.

If a disclosure has not been applied for within 60 days of suspension (i.e. at least 90 days since a disclosure expired or was required), the roles held by the individual concerned will be closed. If they subsequently wish to re-join Scouting they will need to restart the joining process.

Note for Group Scout Leaders

In Compass the following changes have been made:

New report: the 'Disclosure management report' for Group Scout Leaders, Commissioners and Appointment Secretaries which provides an overview of the outstanding disclosures in their area.

Updated: the visible text shown in the 'Status' column within the disclosure tab on members' records, to reflect the current status of the disclosure or disclosure application.

In Atlantic Data the following changes have been made:

Atlantic Data is automatically updated with a disclosure application 30 days before a person's current disclosure expires

Any outstanding disclosure applications are automatically cancelled overnight when a person's record is closed in Compass.

Section Reports

Beavers



No report from John this month as he was on holiday at copy date, but he sends everyone his best wishes and looks forward to seeing you at the meeting on 21st September.

Cubs – Michèle McNamara

CSL Meeting – next meeting is 14th September at Wandle DHQ, you should have all received a calendar of planned cub events for September 2016 – August 2017, if you haven't please e-mail me and I will send it through to you, these have been put on the district website.



Paintballing – 199 cubs attended this event, thanks to Graham Fairclough for all the organisation, the cubs and leaders seemed to have a great time and we were really lucky with the weather, feedback at next CSL Meeting.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

I hope that everyone had a great summer and that you are looking forward to the start of a new Scout year as the autumn term begins.



As you read this we are probably running our Hot Fuzz power boat experience. I have to say that I was surprised at the lack of interest shown in this exciting free activity. Even if the actual week-end booked for this was not convenient I was really expecting troops to reply registering an interest for other dates, but there you go.

Several people have been prompting all Leaders to check their details on Compass in recent months and also Paul Atkins asked Groups to update their entries for the District Directory.

It can't be stressed enough the importance of keeping all records up to date.

This was highlighted with the powerboat experience as when next of kin details were requested - one Troop didn't give names for them just phone numbers and the incorrect address of a Leader due to take part; another Troop didn't have a record of the names of several parents which is quite often different from the Scout's name.

In case of an emergency it may well be someone remote from the Group who needs to contact them i.e. the emergency services.

Appointment Secretary or me as ADC Training. So, firstly, if we don't know who they are we can't appoint or train them. And also if you aren't seeking the references, Muriel is having to do this and if we don't have paperwork we can't do that. Because we are good... but we aren't psychic!

So if you do have someone joining your Group/Unit and they have filled in a form to do so, please could a copy of this form be sent to us (you can scan it) so we can make the process smoother?

Likewise if you have people who leave you for whatever reason, ie they have left the area, had enough !... could you also let us know? Muriel needs to know to cancel appointments and I need to know if they no longer need training.

I shall be in touch with leaders in training shortly (either directly or through their Training Advisers) so this is a reminder that leaders have 3 years to complete their training. Only in exceptional circumstances should this be extended. There are some leaders whose 'training expiry date' is approaching. So they need to 'get a wiggle on' or else appointments may well be cancelled. Again as with most things, if you don't know whether you have anyone in this position... please just ask'

District Store – Brian Whalebone

The store will reopen on Thursday 15th September from 7.45pm to 9.15pm and will be open Saturday 17th September from 10.00 until midday. Saturday openings in October will be on 1st and 22nd.

As previously notified, some prices have been increased:

Beaver Polo	£11.50	Beaver Sweatshirt	£13.00
Cub Polo	£12.50	Cub Sweatshirt	£13.50
Scout Shirt and Blouse			£18.00
Explorer shirt Short sleeved			£21.00
Explorer shirt and blouse Long sleeved			£22.00
Leaders shirts and blouses short sleeved			£21.00
Leaders shirts and blouses long sleeved			£22.00
Adult Polo Shirt			£16.00
Sea Scout Shirt long sleeved			£22.00

Badges are also increasing in price – 60p activity and 71p challenges.

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?

Appointments – Muriel Treagust

At our August Appointment meeting the following were agreed:

Eric de Regnacourt	ASL	19th Wimbledon
Tom Smyth	ACSL	19th Wimbledon
Thomas (Tom) Betti-Berutto	ASL	9th Wimbledon.

Thanks to Mr David Christmas for attending as our "volunteer" interviewer.

Warrant Reviews:

I am at present compiling a list of Warrants throughout our District which are outstanding. Warrant Reviews should be undertaken every 5 years for all leaders. When complete I shall email GSLs' with Warrant Reviews outstanding relating to their Group.

DHQ bookings

The 2017 diary is now in my possession so any dates requiring logging for next year, please contact me -

Muriel Treagust, wwappointssec@aol.com, or 02083957869 or 07715571153

Jack Petchey

The next round of Jack Petchey Awards is now open for nominations. The Foundation is requiring greater detail regarding how the grant is spent and so there is a new form. This has already been sent to GSLs and ESLs and needs to be back to Lesley Bixby thebixbys@talktalk.net by 15 October. The current grant is £250 and can be spent on outings/activities or equipment but the young person nominated for the award must have a say in what it is used for.

Nominations are accepted on a first come, first served basis and if too many are received, those unable to get in will be held over to the next round. We have 7 available at present.

Training

24 Sept	16	Introduction to residential experiences	09.45-13.00	1 st Hook
24 Sept	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	
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 1st Lower Morden, Bow Lane, Morden
WF Walton Firs, Cobham
4WP 4th Worcester Park

Application forms from
Mrs J Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue Email joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com or
download from the County web site www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform

First Aid: details from Janet Drinkall (jdrinkall@sky.com).

Safety/Safeguarding: details from Alison Edwards
Alison.Edwards@local.gov.uk

First Aid – Alison Edwards

There have been 2 courses set up for Leaders, Section Assistants and Young Leaders in the district this term. A third date will follow.

15 October 9-5 pm
19th Wimbledon HQ Oakwood Road, West Wimbledon, SW20 0SZ

30 October 9-5pm
3rd Mitcham HQ, Woodland Way Mitcham, CR4 2DZ

These courses are designed to cover either module 10 of the adult training scheme, the young leader scheme module or ongoing renewal training.

Places are limited for each course so if you wish to attend please book through me (Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk) no less than 2 weeks beforehand.'

Safety Training

There is also a training session set up for 6 October at 6/12th Mitcham, Glebe Court, Mitcham 8pm start. If you have not yet done this training could you please make an effort to book for this course. If you are not sure, then I can tell you if you have done it or not!

All of the above courses are free to attend but need to be booked through me. (Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)

Arrivals and departures- a message for GSLs and Group/Unit Administrators

As the new scouting year begins, this is a polite reminder on behalf of myself, Alison and Muriel Treagust regarding paperwork.

When the compass system was originally set up, I have no doubt that they envisaged a bright, shiny, paperless world with efficient electronic notifications when applications for membership were made. However alas since compass has come back on line this year it is clear that this dream doesn't quite fit the reality.

So, if you have an adult who wants to become a member of the scout movement as a leader, section assistant, occasional helper etc., Muriel and I need to know who they are and more importantly we need paperwork! This paperwork is important because whilst a number of you are doing grand work entering people onto compass (and for which we applaud you) what isn't happening is any form of automatic notification to Muriel as