



Wimbledon and Wandless

Links

February/March

Issue 139

Feb 9	Climbing taster session	3 rd Mitcham HQ 8pm
15	No Store (Half Term)	
22	SAS New Year Meal	Prince of Wales, Cheam
22	ESLs' meeting	RPESU HQ
23-25	County Young Leaders' weekend	4 th Worcester Park
25	Cubs' Chess competition	
25	Scouts' 5-a-side football	Powerleague, Wallington
28	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Mar 3-4	Red Flare	
3	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
7	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
9-11	County Mountain Leaders' weekend	Bethesda
16-18	Explorers' Awards practice expeditions	North and South Downs
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
21	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
22	Last Store before holidays	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
24	Scouts' Skills Day	22 nd Wimbledon HQ
Apr 6-8	Explorers' Awards qualifying expeditions	North Downs & New Forest
15	County Pioneering Day	Morden Hall DHQ
19	District Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
21	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
22	St George's Day Parade and Service	
28	Swimming Gala	Morden Park Baths

District Commissioner

Belated Happy New Year to one and all! As you can see from the Diary, there are many exciting opportunities for all our scouts over the coming months and given the number of Nights Away Notifications that have come in so far, 2018 looks like it's already shaping up to be a busy year!

It was a delight to see well over 200 Scouts and Explorers enjoying the fourth annual paintballing event.

What was particularly noticeable was the way in which scouts from throughout the District got on so well together; it was a classic example of the Scout family in action. It gave those scouts who were there a perspective wider than their own troop, or unit, and we saw scouts recognise friends in other Units which will undoubtedly help with linking. Add to that the teamwork and the obvious keen competitive spirit combined with good natured banter, it was, in every respect, a great day's scouting.

A big thank-you again to **Dave Bixby** for putting it together and to the many leaders and helpers who gave their scouts the opportunity to take part.

Thank you to all who managed to get the census figures completed in good time but most of all our thanks goes to **Muriel Treagust** for her hard work in chasing and checking those who needed it! Hopefully the financial support provided so everyone can access OSM has proven useful and eased the workload.

By the time this is published we should have some idea of the census figures and I'll pass them on for discussion as they are a key indicator of where we are getting things right and where we need to improve.

In May the National strategic plan for 2018 and beyond will be made available. We await the details, but we already know that it will continue to focus on increasing numbers, both overall and also numbers of girls in scouting. All groups should now have both boys and girls in each section.

We will continue being youth shaped so please make the most of Sarah our Youth Commissioner especially as you plan for You Shape month in February. We also know that the drive is improve our image with those who don't know us so over the next few months I'll be focussing on updating how we present ourselves to the public and communicate between ourselves. Facebook and refreshing the website are both planned and if anyone has ideas in this area or would like to be involved please let me know.

Deborah

Rob's ramblings

At our last District Executive meeting before Christmas we were able to agree in principle the financial plans for 2018 enabling us to continue to finance the coming year's budgets without raising a District levy, which I think not all Districts are able to achieve.

With careful husbandry of our resources we should be able to continue this in the coming years thanks to the foresight of a previous incumbent of this Chair. At the next meeting we hope to be able to clarify a few minor points in some of the section budgets and complete this important task.

Unfortunately, the County Executive decided to increase their levy substantially to cover an expected shortfall in funding for the next Jamboree. Whilst at County level we argued against this, it was agreed by the remaining members of the County Executive and a sum of £2.50 was added to the levy in respect of the Jamboree. In the circumstances your District Executive have agreed to absorb £1.50 of this increase to ease the pressure on groups.

I was able to join a group recently at a local pet super store when they were helping? to pack people's purchases. It was great to see people's generosity when they realised it was for 'scouts'. It appears we have a good name especially amongst the older generation, but I think it is important that we continue to ensure we are 'seen' at local events and as a District we will have to discuss how we can assist with this. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

Rob Brumwell

Appointments – Muriel Treagust

In December we approved 4 Appointments and our next appointment interviews will be held on 30th January.

Please remember that all Group Executive Members must complete Module 1 (E)

There are still Leader reviews outstanding and there will be a further number of new Reviews of Warrants coming out for this year.

Census 2018 – Muriel Treagust

Once I have completed the figures for this year's Census Return I will be sending out details of the amount due per Group and the date payable to District Treasurer.

Training

Safeguarding training -13 March, 8pm – 9.30pm, Morden Hall DHQ

All welcome...Leaders, section assistants, occasional helpers, execs ... YLs. Please book in advance so I know how many packets of biscuits to buy !

Alison Edwards: email Alison.Edwards@local.gov.uk

County Training Diary:

10 February	Module 12	Programme Planning	1 st Lo Mo	09.45 – 16.30
24 March	Module 16	Intro to Residential Experiences	1 st Lo Mo	09.45 – 13.00
	Module 38a	Residential Experiences	1 st Lo Mo	13.45 – 16.30
31 March	Module 15	Promoting Positive Behaviour	1 st Hook	10.00 – 12.00
	Module 13	Growing the Section	1 st Hook	13.00 - 16.30
28-29 April	Module 38b	Residential experiences	Southwood	weekend
9 June	Module 17	Running Safe Activities	1 st Wall	10.00 - 12.30
	Module 19	International	1 st Wall	13.45 – 16.30
23 Sept	Module 12	Programme Planning	4 th Wor Park	09.45 – 16.30
6 October	Module 16	Intro to Residential Experiences	1 st Old Malden	14.00 – 16.30
13 October	Module 17	Running Safe Activities	1 st Lo Mo	10.00 – 12.30
	Module 19	International	1 st Lo Mo	13.45 – 16.30
18 Nov	Module 15	Promoting Positive Behaviour	8 th Cheam	10.00 – 12.00
	Module 13	Growing the Section	8 th Cheam	13.45 – 16.30
25 Nov	Module 12	Programme Planning	1 st Hook	09.45 - 16.30

1st Lo Mo = 1st Lower Morden

4th Wor Park = 4th Worcester Park

1st Wall = 1st Wallington

To book a place, please go to glsw.org.uk/adult-training. If you have any queries, please contact Joan Condon 020 8540 5115 joan.glswwtraining@btinternet.com

All courses are free except for the Residential Experiences Module 38.

Residential Experiences

Modules 38a and b – you must attend both

This is the only Residential Experiences course booked for 2018 so if you are hoping to get your Nights Away Permit this year, you should attend.

It is headed up by Dave Bixby (ADC Scouts) and Paul Atkins (DDC) with Trevor Thairs (Croydon) and Sue Smith (Royal Kingston)

Good Service Awards – Lesley Bixby

Is there someone in your Group who does over and above the requirements of their role?

How about your leaders who also find time to help other Sections or the District?

Do you have an exceptional Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer who always goes the extra mile to ensure that things run smoothly?

Anyone can nominate an adult for a good service award but there are certain criteria:

- They must have completed 5 years service or had a minimum of five years since their last award
- They must do something extra over and above their appointment and – if you are applying for any award apart from Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service – it must be more than they were doing when they received their last award.
- They must have a current DBS, a current wood badge (if appropriate) and all training must be up to date.

The County have set up an Awards Panel which I shall be chairing as well as representing Wimbledon and Wandle District. **All applications for awards should come to me** so I can check the details and deal with any queries before they go to the DC. My role, and that of the Panel, is purely administrative – I can make recommendations but the DC, CC and ultimately the National Awards Panel make the decisions.

The awards forms can be found on www.scouts.org.uk in the Members' Area under Awards and once completed should be emailed to me on thebixbys@talktalk.net

Gang Show

The Gang Show is taking place 14-17 February
at the Michael Frayn Theatre, Kingston upon Thames
Tickets are still available - www.ticketsource.co.uk/souwest-gang-show

Swimming Gala – Michèle McNamara

Apologies for the fact that March 10th has had to be cancelled for the proposed swimming gala due to a double booking by the pool. I have now managed to get a booking for April 28th, which I know is not ideal for a few people, but they are now booking on a quarterly basis so I have had to come up with a date quickly, before the swimming clubs book all the dates again.

If anyone is able to help with the gala this would be much appreciated especially since I know that two of my stalwart helpers are unable to come on that night.

Jack Petchey Awards – Lesley Bixby

It's nomination time again and details have been sent to GSLs. Please get your forms in to me as soon as possible – first come first served as always and we can submit nine names this time round.

If you hope to go somewhere expensive, have lots of members involved or are keen to make a big purchase, you can ask to spend the money from two awards on the same thing in one round.

Sorry – Jack Petchey awards cannot be used to support the Jamboree.

County Pioneering Day 15 April

Morden Hall DHQ will be hosting the County Pioneering Day. All levels of pioneering will be available for you to take part in from 'marshmallows and spaghetti' to building a major project. Details will be published soon but if you would like more information please contact Chris Dean tinkerscorner@aol.com

Is the date in your diary?

Badges – Lesley Bixby

A variety of changes to the requirements for badges were announced in Scouting + recently. There will also be some new badges available – Beaver Book Reader, Beaver Builder and Cub Gardener - which I will order as soon as they are available. The old Scout Snow Sports is now a staged badge which I will get in if anyone wants them.

Section Reports

Beavers – John Tweedley



For those who I did not see at the January meal, a Happy New Year to you.

We had another very good evening at the Harvester, The George Inn last Wednesday 17th, and I think everyone enjoyed their meal, thanks to Peter Wright who came with a 20% discount voucher for all the meals.

All leaders should have had the info on the International Badge day and the Beaver Invitation paperwork, to be held on the 25th February 2018 at Bow Lane. Please get your numbers in to Linda Vaudrey on time as this will help with the catering.

Please can we have the support that we had last year as there are 8 bases to be covered at least two people are required and on some bases three. These can be Leaders, Young leaders, Explorers and or Parents, plus someone to take the groups around the bases.

Can you please make sure your Beavers bring their money with them on the day, or if possible collect the money in advance and pay cash to Linda or Jean on the day.

May I remind you that it is for the over 7's as we cannot accommodate all the District Beavers in Bow Lane for this activity.

We also have our Bike & Scooter ride / Cyclist badge on the 25th March. Letters will go out next month.

At the next Beaver Leaders Meeting in March I will need suggestions for one or two District Beaver outings to be held during the year. Please ask your Beavers and Leaders if they have any preferences where they would like to go or visit. If you cannot attend the meeting e-mail me your information, although it would be nice to see some new faces at the meeting.

Lastly a moan, I only receive 5 termly colony programmes out of 17 colonies so please let me have them, as it will give me some bed time reading!

Cub Scouts – Michèle McNamara



Badge Day - On Sunday 28th January 137 cubs attended badge day, to earn their communicators badge. Thanks to all the leaders who gave up their time to provide the many varied bases that were enjoyed by the cubs.

Chess Competition – This is planned for 25th February at the 19th Oakwood H.Q. Teams of 4 cubs each, cost £2.00 per team, full details will be sent out shortly. If you are unable to make up a team of 4 let me know and it's possible you could join together with another pack in a similar position.

CSL Meeting –the next meeting is due to be held on 7th March at Morden Park HQ please remember to have a pack report ready to send to Graham Fairclough within

1 week of the meeting so that it can be included with the minutes. If you are unable to attend, please let me know a.s.a.p.

Programmes – I have had programmes from just 7 packs so far, as we are nearly into February you should have planned your term's programme by now, please send me a copy a.s.a.p.

Scouts – Dave Bixby



Paintball: This year we had 215 people sign up for our annual paintball day and, despite the drizzle, everyone seemed to have a great time. The guys at Campaign really look after us very well.

Thanks to everyone who supported the jamboree cake stand that raised over £260 towards the fund raising targets of the 5 scouts and explorers that took part in the sale.

We did have a few issues with groups getting their forms in late and not keeping me up to date with subsequent changes. Submitting our forms early in the week really does help Campaign plan and saves a good hour and a half when we arrive so we can get off to a quick start.

Overall winners on the day were Merton Park but that is not really the object of the day which is a Scout /Explorer link activity.

Football Sunday 25th February at Croydon Power league: Please ensure that your entries are with me, including the entry fee, by 11 February at the very latest.

If anyone connected with your Troop is able and willing to help referee on the day, please let me know asap as it is always a struggle to get enough people.

Please also bring the "polite notice" to the attention of your teams and supporters so that everyone enjoys the day.

Some might say that football is far more important than life or death, but it is not at our event.

Skills day Saturday 24th March at 22nd Wimbledon HQ: This is a drop in event for Scouts and Leaders. Scouts can come and go during the day but will need to participate in a minimum number of bases to qualify for the Wimbledon and Wandle "Scouting Skills" patch that can be worn on their uniforms. New leaders can qualify to get their skills training module signed off.

County Introduction to Pioneering Course W & W Morden Hall DHQ:

Sunday 15th April. All levels. Details to follow.

Rafting: after the difficulties I had preparing the equipment for the rafting event last year, I regret that we cannot lend out staves etc for the two weeks before this event this year so, if you want to programme pioneering into the summer term, could you please arrange to do it during May and the early part of June.

Module 38 Currently the only module 38 scheduled for 2018 will take place on the following dates:

38a 24th March at 1st Lower Morden HQ, Bow Lane, Morden

38b at Southwood, Near Tolworth 28-29 April. You must attend both parts.

I know there are several new Leaders with troops who want to get a Night's Away permit so please bring this to their notice.

Our next Scout Section Leaders meeting is on **Monday 5th February** during which Tim and Oli Foster will give a session on the use of our trackers for any section that might want to consider borrowing them.

Our May meeting is on Tuesday 15th May.

Both meetings are at 8pm in Morden Hall DHQ

Explorer Scouts – Neil McLauchlan

EXPLORERS 

I trust everyone had a great break and that programmes are going well? Did everyone enjoy the Paintball? Thanks again to Dave Bixby for running such a great opportunity for us all!

Important News!! We would like to welcome a new DESC for our District. Jorge Romualdo met some leaders at the Christmas Dinner (in January) and will be coming to see all the units in action this term. We will be in touch for suitable dates for this. Welcome Jorge.

Accounts: Will every unit ensure that they have their accounts completed and with Rebecca by the end of January. This means emailing your complete Q4 spreadsheet for the whole of 2017. Then dropping into her all of your statements for the year, together with receipts etc.

Unit Programmes: Will every unit ensure that they have emailed me their programmes for the Spring term by the end of January.

Important dates coming up:

Thursday 22nd February: Explorer Scout Leaders & Helpers Meeting. Raynes Park Hut 8.00pm. Will every unit please ensure that they have leaders at this meeting as we will be discussing the year's activities. If it is your meeting night, then please consider asking other leaders to run your meeting that night or even change your meeting night for that week!

Saturday 3rd - Sunday 4th March: Operation Red Flare. Entries must be in by the end of January. Get in quick to ensure that you get a place.

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th March: Award Hikes Practice Weekend (From the Friday evening for QSDA/DofE Silver). North Downs & South Downs, details already circulated

Saturday 7th – Sunday 8th April: Award Hikes Practice Weekend (From the Friday for QSDA/DofE Silver). North Downs & New Forest, details already circulated

Sunday 22nd April: St George's Day Parade. District parade, details to follow but usual format.

Friday evening 4th – Monday 7th May: District Mountain Weekend. To the Peak District this year. Full details to follow.

See you all on the 22nd February if not before!

Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey



We hope you all had a good Christmas and managing to keep warm.

You will have already received notification of dates for the year. However, here are a few reminders for forthcoming events.

Thursday 22nd February New Year Meal at the Prince of Wales, Cheam. If you have not already done so, please let Jean Brumwell have your menu choices by 1st February.

We have been asked to help with Operation Redflare on Sunday 4th March, by serving bacon butties at breakfast time. If you can help, please contact Robert a.s.a.p.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6th March, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. start.

Reminder that St George's Day Parade will be on 22nd April; our usual help will be required.

The Morden Evening Townswomen's Guild is again holding a Quiz Night and Fish and Chip supper, on 24th March, at the Methodist Church Hall, Martin Way, Morden. If you are interested in coming please let Jean Brumwell know. The cost of the evening will be £10 a head.

Just a quick thank you to the helpers at the Carol Service at the beginning of December. I hear it was a very busy evening.

Also I hope you all enjoyed the Mexican Train evening recently. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but I know this event is always good fun.

“Hiking is something that I really, really like to do. It's distracting, you're in nature, and you get a nice workout that way. I would tell everyone to hike as much as they can - you just feel so much better when you get outdoors.”

Odette Annable

Copy date:

There will not be an edition of Links
in March

The next copy date is
Thursday 22nd March 2018