

# Wimbledon and Wandee



## Links

October 2017

Issue 136

Oct 4	Scout Quiz	St John Fisher Church Hall 7.45pm
4	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
7	District Skills Day	4 <sup>th</sup> Worcester Park
7	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
9	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Key Manager's meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	Explorer Scout Leader's meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
18	SAS Beetle Drive	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
21	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
26	No Store – half term	
Nov 12	Remembrance Day Parade	Wimbledon/Mitcham
12	Explorers' Dodge Ball	RPESU
14	Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
19	Scouts' Incident Hike	Wimbledon Common
28	SAS Quiz Night	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
29	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Dec 2	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
7	Last Thursday Store before Christmas	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm

## **District Commissioner**

We have heard from HQ that a few changes are being introduced for the 2018 Census which will also collect data relating to achievement of Top Awards by young people in Scouting.

With this in mind, I have no doubt that completing the new Census will be much easier for all those who use OSM and I'd remind all leaders that the District Exec has offered to refund the cost of Silver access to OSM for every Beaver, Cub and Scout section and all Explorer Units. Whilst there are great advantages for whole Groups to use the same system, I recognise some will not want to but would encourage all who wish to use it to try it out; we have many experienced OSM users who are happy to help people get started and tips and the District Skills Day is there to help too.

Lately I have noticed more and more press coverage highlighting initiatives of some schools to encourage children to reduce their screen time and use their time to engage with their community and environment. Some have introduced awards for those children who undertake a range of extracurricular activities from a list, it was no surprise to see that the list looked very much like an average programme for Scouts!

More recently the headmaster of Kings College in Wimbledon was quoted in the Evening Standard saying that "children have to be connected to the world beyond themselves, they have to do stuff... its important they are in teams or groups." Something that has been core to Scouting since it began. Sadly, he then went on to say "Things children used to do like Scouts and Guides have dropped away".

From the visits I've made and the interim figures I've seen the numbers of young girls and boys who want to be in Scouts is not dropping away, far from it, but clearly we need to get this message out to adults.

At our last RAG review the two greatest issues of concern were adult recruitment and promoting scouting in the local area and these will be the focus of the next few months. I will shortly be canvassing views on the use of Facebook, websites and Instagram to see what we should be doing as a District. And at the next Key Managers meeting we will be sharing ideas and experiences in recruiting adults to Scouting, if your Group needs to recruit more adults please make sure your group is represented.

Deborah

## **Rob's Ramblings – Rob Brumwell, District Chairman**

Over the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September a PR event was held at DHQ to showcase what Scouting has to offer to young people in the Borough.

This weekend proved very successful with over 150 visitors from near and far and a great interest shown by the visitors resulting in the leaders who helped gaining new members and details of other new potential members being passed to groups for them to follow up.

Thanks to Alan Green and Dave Christmas for their hard work over the preceding week in setting up the 'bases' despite my attempts to help (causing more hindrance than help) and during the weekend also the leaders and other supporters from 3rd Mitcham, 2nd Morden, 16<sup>th</sup> Morden, the Fleet612 Explorer Unit and SASU during the event. (If I missed anybody my apologies)

This event was carried out on a limited budget and it is a shame that it was not better supported by all levels in the District.

The coming weeks represent a busy time for the District Executive with budgets and the like coming under discussion and I will report further on these aspects as they progress.

## **Appointments and Warrant Reviews – Muriel Treagust**

Appointments agreed in September

Sam Root ABSL 9th Wimbledon

Sarah Moore ASL 16th Morden

Christopher Walden ASL 16th Morden

We appreciate them supporting our District

**Warrant Reviews** - I am still awaiting several Group's outstanding Warrant Reviews, please try and complete them asap.

## **District Directory**

A new version of the District Directory was circulated to GSLs & District Team members at the end of September for forwarding to Group & Unit members.

If you haven't yet received a copy & you want one, please give your GSL a nudge or request a copy at [www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/directory.htm](http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/directory.htm).

Please notify Paul Atkins if there are any inaccuracies – directories tend to be out of date before they are even published. Please check your own entry and ask Paul to amend it if necessary.

## **Nights Away Process Review**

HQ is inviting comments & feedback about your experiences of running Nights Away Events as part of a consultation on any possible updates to the process.

If you have any comments to make, please submit them before 29<sup>th</sup> October by using the form here

[http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3846366/2017-Nights-Away-Review-Start-Up-Survey?dm\\_i=31ME,JTUV,3D55VP,22IE5,1](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3846366/2017-Nights-Away-Review-Start-Up-Survey?dm_i=31ME,JTUV,3D55VP,22IE5,1)

## **District Youth Commissioner**

Dan Fellowes has stepped down as our District Youth Commissioner. This was a new post and Dan has regretfully decided that changes within his family, a demanding job and his roles as ESL and with the Gang Show were more than enough.

Thanks go to him for the time he has spent in the role.

So . . . who next? We are looking for someone under the age of 25 who can spend time talking to our members. Their aim is to champion, encourage and lead the work to ensure that scouting in the District is shaped by young people in partnership with adults.

## **Mini Census**

At the time of writing most but not all the mini-census figures are in and, on the whole, they are quite encouraging with an increase in the number of both Beavers and Scouts. Thank you to everyone who got their figures in by the due date.

## **Membership fees**

As reported last month, the HQ membership fee will be £26.50 if paid promptly. The County levy has been set at £5 which, while higher than this year's figure is still less than it was in 2016.

## **Ribbon of Poppies**

Scouts and Guides the length and breadth of the UK have pledged to plant poppies to help create a carpet of the red flowers in time for the centenary of the end of World War One.

The idea is to create a carpet of crimson from Land's End to John O'Groats to remember all those killed or wounded in the war. It's really easy to take part as all you need is a packet of poppy seeds or some wild seeds scattered across your land or suitable (public) places (you may need to get permission).

Further details can be found on Facebook or on the following link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-40960256>

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden have pledged to take part – have you?

## **Training – Alison Edwards**

### **Scouting Essentials - 5 November 2017**

GLSW is changing the way wood badge training is presented and Wimbledon and Wandle will now deliver a course called Scouting Essentials, along with Royal Kingston and Richmond districts.

The next of these courses takes place in November in Richmond and is aimed at section leaders and assistant leaders undertaking their wood badge training, providing the key elements of administration, leadership, and the development of young people through effective programmes. It looks at the needs of young people in your section and how, through good admin and programmes, scouting can be undertaken in a safe and positive manner.

There is also an optional 'hands on' session on Compass and other online tools included in the day. The course is free to attend (you just need to bring your lunch) and provides networking opportunities to work with other leaders. Booking is done through the Eventbrite link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scouting-essentials-adult-leader-training-registration-34461576503>

Location-1st Whitton Scout HQ, Kerswell Hall, Wills Crescent, Hounslow, TW3 2JF

This has the advantage of enabling you to cover several of the key modules of leadership training in one day.

If you have any questions about content or format do email me.

### **Safety Training**

There will be a safety training session taking place this term for those needing to do their ongoing learning or indeed needing to get to grips with safety and risk assessment issues in scouting.

The training will be on 15 November at the 22nd Wimbledon HQ  
8pm start. Duration 90 minutes.

Free to attend and refreshments are provided. However, I would appreciate names in advance please.

### **First Aid**

There is a First Aid course available this term for anyone needing to do, redo or renew their first aid. The course is open to leaders, assistants, managers and young leaders working in groups and units and can be booked by emailing me. Courses run 9am-5pm and are free to attend but must be booked in advance due to numbers.

Spaces are available on the course below

22 October – 3rd Mitcham, Woodland Way Mitcham CR4 2DZ

The course taking place on

26 November – 22nd Wimbledon. Arthur Rd Motspur Park is now FULL

## County Training Dates

Date	No	Module name	Time	Venue
8 Oct	16	Introduction to Residential Experiences	09.45-13.00	LoMo
8 Oct	38a	Skills for Residential Experiences	13.45-16.30	LoMo
21-22 Oct	38b	Skills for Residential Experiences	weekend	Lo Mo
4 Nov	19	International	10.00-12.30	LoMo
4 Nov	17	Running Safe Activities	13.00-16.30	LoMo
19 Nov	12	Delivering and Planning a Programme	09.45-16.30	Coulsdon
3 Dec	15	Promoting Positive Behaviour	10.00-13.00	5 Sutton
3 Dec	13	Growing the Section	13.45-16.30	5 Sutton

For more information regarding venues and to book, please visit the GLSW website [http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/spage-adult\\_training-training\\_diary](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/spage-adult_training-training_diary)

## Explorer Belt

The 6th County Explorer Belt Expedition will take place in August next year, most probably in NW Spain (to be confirmed following a recce early in October).

Previously, County EB expeditions have been held in Lithuania, Italy, France, Sweden and Benelux. As on previous occasions we are running a programme of roadshow-style presentations in various parts of GLSW so that Explorers over 16 and Network members can find out what is involved and register for the award. Parents are also welcome to attend these presentations.

The venues are as follows -

Wednesday 11 October Croydon (7th/12th Croydon Scout HQ)

Tuesday 17 October Kingston (1st Hook HQ)

Thursday 19 October Richmond (1st Whitton HQ)

All presentations start at 8 pm and will last no more than 1½ hours, allowing for questions.

All prospective participants can attend any of the above presentations. Please circulate this information to all Networks and Units via your DSNC's and DESC's. Further information about the 3 locations will be posted on the County website in due course. All prospective participants should be aware that there will be a compulsory training weekend at Southwood on November 17-19.

Requirements for the Explorer Belt can be found on the National website, but if you have questions please contact me.

Many thanks. Chris Dean Deputy CC (Programme)GLSW [tinkerscorner@aol.com](mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com)

## Section Reports

### Beavers – John Tweedley



By the time you read this we would have had our fun day at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden H.Q. at the time of writing we have in the region 84 Beavers attending the fun day.

I would like to give thanks to all the Leaders who have helped including Dave Bixby for putting up a pioneering project for the Beavers to try, and the SAS who have come down to help, and any other members / Leaders I have left out.

For those who did not make our Leader's meeting the other week please read the minutes and let me know your views on the ideas that were put forward. It would be advantageous if more Beaver leaders or A.B.S.L.s came to our leaders' meetings as many minds make good ideas for us to give the Beavers within our District. I would like to give our Beavers the best opportunity for scouting skills and knowledge, and to make their time in the Beavers the most enjoyable they can have. I know it is not till next year but I would also like to know your ideas about 1 or 2 District outings for the Beavers in 2018.

I hope to start visiting colonies again from October, so do not be surprised if I turn up on your colony meeting night.

I seem to only receive about 1/3 of the colonies programmes, please send me your programmes if you have not already done so, so that I know what is happening in your colony and if I do turn up to your meeting you are there and not on an outing somewhere as this has happened in the past.

### Cubs – Michèle McNamara

**CSL Meeting** – The next meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> at Wandle DHQ, please make an effort to send a representative from your pack.



**Paintballing** – Thank you to all the leaders and adults who came along for the day with their cubs, they all seemed to have a great time. We had 141 cubs attend at the final count and may I say thank you to them and you for being so well behaved. Thankfully we had good weather, not quite as hot as last time but pleasant and dry.

**Skills Day** – this is to be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at Worcester Park, we have had a very poor response from the cub leaders to the request for help at this event, if you haven't yet volunteered your services for even part of the day please consider doing so and let myself or Alison Edwards know a.s.a.p.

**Scooterthon** – We hope to hold this event on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please do ask your cubs if they would like to participate in this event, don't just assume they are not interested and if you can't make it yourself perhaps a parent who has the relevant DBS clearance could come along and help your pack?

**Programmes** – I have now received a number of programmes, 9 to be precise, out of 18 packs which means that I have no idea what 50% of the cub packs are actually doing this term. If yours still isn't with me please send it to me a.s.a.p. It makes it easier to plan a visit if we know the pack is actually going to be in their HQ on any particular date.

### **Scouts – Dave Bixby**



**First aid** – Further to my recent email regarding slightly out of date bandages, I still have some self conforming bandages, plasters and triangular bandages plus a few bits and pieces that are sealed and officially date expired in Oct 2016.

If you could make use of any for practise or whatever just get in touch.

**Assessment for Nights Away Permits** - The responsibility for assessing for nights away permits rests with the relevant section ADC. Module 38 a/b takes place Oct 8 & 21/22. This will not give you a permit but will give you a good grounding in all the admin. Required to run a nights away event.

If you want to be assessed for a permit just get in touch. I won't chase people. Doing it for yourself is part of the process. Alternatively, you could sign up to help on our camping assessment week-end 19/20 May 2018 and get assessed then.

**Incident hike** - Don't forget that entries for the Incident hike on the 19 November on Wimbledon Common have to be with me by the 5<sup>th</sup> November at the very latest. Telling Tim in passing doesn't count. Do try to have your troop represented to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting even if you can't muster a full team. Joint teams are fine.

**Scout / Explorer paintball day 20 January 2018** - This will take place at campaign, Cobham as in previous years and the cost is also the same at £30 per person for a full day, 500 pellets plus lunch. If this cost is a problem please get in touch with me asap. The declaration forms have been sent out by email and these, together with a deposit of £10 per person need to be back to me by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017.

Stating "scout" in the name box is not acceptable!

Submitting the forms in advance assists the venue in planning staff requirements and saves everyone queuing up to sign in on the day.

All the dates agreed at our recent meeting, minutes have been circulated, have been booked and confirmed.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** at Morden Hall DHQ 8.00pm.



## Explorers – Neil McLauchlan

EXPLORERS 

I hope that everyone is enjoying being back to a normal routine after the summer.

There are two very important dates this term:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October: **Explorer Scout Leaders & Helpers Meeting**. DHQ 7:30pm. Will every unit please ensure that they have leaders at this meeting as we will be planning next 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!

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November: **Remembrance Day Parades**. Wimbledon & Mitcham venues as usual. Followed by the District Dodgeball Competition at the Raynes Park ESU HQ (19<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon).

Will everyone please bring a packed lunch to eat after the parade and then after a suitable time we will have our Dodgeball Competition. I expect to meet at Raynes Park from @ 12:30pm and finish by 5pm.

**Christmas Meal:** We will be choosing a venue and date for this at the leaders meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

2018: We already have dates for next year for the very popular Paintball Day with the Scouts and Red Flare. These have been circulated and will also be discussed at the leaders meeting.

See you all on the **17<sup>th</sup> October** if not before!

## Network – Josh Carter

network 

As we settle down into a new term for Scouts and Explorers the Network section had its first meet and greet.

A small group of keen young members met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September it was a very rewarding meeting as many ideas for future meetings and gathering were made for the future programme. In the coming months, we hope to hold another meet and greet in October/November to coincide with reading week for those at University to be followed by a bigger social event in December before Christmas to start getting more members involved.

In the coming weeks and months, I will be trying to attend explorer meetings to begin the process of telling those who are coming of age that their time in scouting does not have to come to an end when they turn 18, as they can continue having fun and being involved in Scouting through the Network section without the commitment of having to be a leader!!

I have also been given the responsibility of the role of mentor for those who wish to complete the Queen Scout Award so I will be encouraging more to register for the award and I will also be trying to meet up with those who have already registered to see how I and the District can support them in their quest to achieve the award.

## Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey



Firstly, thank you to everyone who did a stint at the weekend of 9/10<sup>th</sup> September to assist in the Wandle Weekend. A special thank you goes to those who spent the week beforehand getting ready for this event. Your efforts were much appreciated.

The social evening, held on 13<sup>th</sup> September was also enjoyed by all who attended.

Although I am having to submit this report before the event, thank you, in anticipation, to those SASU members who helped at the Beaver Fun Day on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Again your assistance is invaluable.

Don't forget the Beetle Drive and Fish 'n Chip supper will be held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 p.m. at the Morden Hall H.Q. Please let me have your fish order by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

A reminder too about our Quiz Night, to be held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November. Please let Robert know if you would like to attend.

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## CIRCUS ACTIVITY BADGE

Shooting Stars Circus Skills are working in our area on the following dates.

October 2nd - 6th, 16th - 27th

November 6th - 24th

December 4th - 15th

They offer Beavers, Cubs & Scout units the chance to enjoy the fun and excitement of a circus skills evening at a special discounted rate and come highly recommended. Whether you want to work on the Circus Activity Badge or just have a fun and creative evening, they can offer a brilliant workshop with a highly experienced instructor at the rate of:

£150.00 for a 1 - 2 hour session with one group

£240.00 for a 2 - 3 hour session with two groups (£120.00 per group)

£300.00 for a 3 - 5 hour session with three groups £100.00 per group £300.00 for an all day workshop (usually Saturday or Sunday 10.00 - 16.00)

They bring all the equipment you need with them.

# We want you in our Gang!

**Are you:**

- **Interested in taking part in a theatre show, in Kingston-upon-Thames?**
- **A member of Scouting or Guiding in South West London?**  
That covers the Scouting and Guiding Districts of Richmond, Kingston, Wimbledon & Wandle, Sutton and Croydon
- **Aged 9 years or older, on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017?**
- **Available the Show Week, 13-17th February 2018?**
- **Plus, has a passion for singing, dancing and acting?**

**If you said YES to all of the above,  
Souwest Gangshow is for you!**

**Go to our website [www.souwest.net](http://www.souwest.net)  
to register yourself & come along  
to one of our Join the Gang Days, to join our show.**

*We look forward to seeing you there*

## [www.souwest.net](http://www.souwest.net)



Gangshow



@souwestgangshow

*“When life throws you a rainy day . . .  
Play in the puddles.”*

Pooh Bear



Copy date for the October Links  
**26 October 2017**

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