

"A most important key to successful leadership is your ability to direct and challenge the very best that is in those whom you lead."



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Wimbledon and Wandle

Links

September 2011 - Issue no. 76

Sept 14	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Store opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
15	EGM	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	SASU meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
27	District Team meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
28	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
Oct 1	District Store open	Morden Hall Park 10am
5	Inter-Troop Quiz	1 st Lower Morden HQ 7.45pm
5	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
9	County Orienteering competition	Richmond Park
15	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
15	Cub/Scout Swimming Gala	Morden Park Baths
16	Practical Skills Day	4 th Worcester Park HQ
17	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
22-23	Scout Canal Boat Experience	Grand Union canal
27	Store closed for half term	

District Commissioner

To date this year Beavers from 10 Colonies, Cubs from 15 Packs, all Scouts and all Explorers have been given the opportunity to take part in a night's away activity: These have ranged from HQ sleepovers, weekend and summer camps, to expeditions to undertake crucial aid work in foreign parts and, of course, to participate in the recent Jamboree in Sweden. In all there were 15 summer camps this year, which means that virtually every scout in the District had the opportunity to have an extended period away. Not bad, by any standards! A big thank-you, then, to each and every Leader and adult who has given up precious holiday entitlement and weekends to ensure that our scouts benefit from these priceless opportunities, events that they will remember for a lifetime.

A big thank-you also, firstly to Peter Hutton and his team of leaders who put on a very enjoyable Sports Day that not only was blessed with good weather, but also with a wide range of participants and leaders who had a great time and secondly to Dave Bixby and his team for an equally enjoyable, and fiercely contested, Raft Day on the Wandle.

I hope that everyone has had the chance of a good break at some point over the summer, as we look forward to a new term of action-packed Scouting.

Joe

Chairman's Chatter

I finished my Report in July mentioning how based on experience of last year, I thought August would be a quiet month on the "Suit Front". Well, next year I'll keep my thoughts to myself "not likely" as anyone who knows me might reply!

I hope to see as many of you as possible; even briefly, on **Thursday 15th September 8pm at Morden Hall DHQ** to formally sign off our 2010 Audited Accounts. The Accounts will be posted on the web site as you read this Report, so please have a look beforehand and we will try and answer any questions you might have.

We have had two enquires to take on the role of District Treasurer and both come from the accountancy profession with a wealth of experience. It is my hope that we can arrange for a role share. Unfortunately due to Riots "Lock Down", a meeting scheduled for August has had to be rescheduled for later in September.

Red Book. If you can let us know if your Troop is planning to enter, it would help us to ensure that there are enough answer sheets printed but if you can't, don't worry. The entry fee is £3 per team and this will include refreshments.

County orienteering: I have forwarded an email from Robin Burr to your Troop/Group contact. Please get on to them if you haven't seen it.

Mini Census: please let me have your Scout numbers, as a total figure, by Sunday 25th September so that I can get them collated and sent to the ACC Scouts by the due date.

Incident hike - 20th November at Boidier Hurst: Now is the time to get the preparation for the Incident Hike into your programmes so that your Scouts have a decent chance of being successful. If you would like help or advice with this please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Programmes: Talking about programmes above reminds me to remind you that all Troops need to let me have copies of their programmes for the coming term. This forms part of your Group Development Plan. It also helps if we need to visit your Troop to deliver items as we will know where to find you.

Next meeting: Our next Troop Scouters' meeting is on Wednesday 28th September at Morden Hall DHQ. This is the meeting to set out the dates and schedule of events for 2012, if you want to have any! Given that we have the District Camp at the beginning of May and a four day Queen's Jubilee weekend at the beginning of June it could be a busy year. Please bring your diaries, send a representative (could even be your GSL) or let me have your comments before the meeting. Those who don't supply an input can't grumble afterwards.

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

A big thank you to all the SASU members who worked so hard on Sports Day - I am sure all your efforts were much appreciated.

Another thank you too, as usual, to Jean and David for the BBQ. Once again we had a lovely evening, food was great, weather stayed dry and the entertainment was an added bonus.

Don't forget our meeting at the Wandle DHQ on Tuesday, 20th September - 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. We have no speaker this time but thought we would turn it into a social evening amongst ourselves. Nibbles will be provided but please bring your own liquid bevy. Look forward to seeing you all then.



Message from Margaret Pooley

"To Wimbledon & Wandle Cub Scout Leaders:

Although I wrote via Michele to thank you all for the very generous gift of gardening vouchers given to me at the District A.G.M., in case some of you did not hear I thought I would put a note in Links. I have purchased a portable green house and a bird feeding post with the vouchers.

After over 52 years in the Cub Scout Section I 'hung up my woggle' last December - this was also due to the 20th Mitcham Group having to close through lack of warranted leaders. I am still a Training Advisor and on the Appointments Committee for the District and help occasionally on training courses - so keep my hand in!

I have made an enormous amount of friends through Scouting and I thank you all for that friendship over the years. I look forward to seeing you at District events when I will be helping as a Scout Active Support Unit member.

y.i.s. Margaret"

Section Reports

Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara

I hope that all of you had a restful Summer and that those of you who went away had a good and safe time.

Our next CSL meeting is on 14th September at Morden Hall Park DHQ. Please make an effort to attend as we need to plan the handicraft day in November.

Hopefully you have now all planned your programmes for the coming term and I should be grateful if you could let me have a copy a.s.a.p.

Scouts - Dave Bixby

I hope you all had a good summer and if your Troop ran activities and camps, that they were successful with the Scouts having a wonderful time.

The first District Scout event of the term is the Quiz on Wednesday 5th October from 7.45 to 9.30pm at Bow Lane. This is a turn up and enter event, details in the



At an EGM of 23rd and 20th Groups it was agreed to merge the two Groups on the site of the former 20th Mitcham. Paperwork was submitted to Scout Headquarters in July and I assume the new registration is still being processed. Ultimately, the merged Group will be known as 23rd Mitcham and has taken on responsibility for repairs to the Reg Woolmer Hall and the assets of both Groups.

The County Executive has now agreed a common approach for future Jamborees and this means the District Executive is freed from future financial expectations in this regard. Candidates for 2015 will be selected 50% on District Basis; pro rata based on percentage membership of each individual District for total Scout and Explorer Section census numbers. The remaining 50% will be selected with no consideration as to which District they come from. Selection for all participants will be at a County organised weekend event, staffed by District personnel.

Alan Green and Dave Bixby have been doing some fantastic works at Morden Hall DHQ over the summer. I have to say, I didn't recognise the place this week in comparison to the end of July. Two sheds have been purchased and further reorganisation will allow us to achieve the dream of having all of the District's pioneering equipment in one place and this should make it far easier for training and pioneering events to be organised in the future.

Thanks to Dave Christmas for his help with a Risk Assessment at Morden Hall DHQ. It is important that as Key Managers and Trustees these **essential reviews are not overlooked**. I won't say when the last recorded visit was done!

Permission for overnight stays (in an emergency) at Morden Hall DHQ has been received from the National Trust and full details are elsewhere in "Links" and have been circulated to ADCs and DESC.

The Executive has agreed a basis to help support finances for the Band and 2012 District Camp, as both will help to show case what we as a Movement offer to young people in Merton.

I have had a meeting with local Residents Committee, Leader of the Council and Officers in relation to further revised plans for the Former Rowan School Site in Mitcham. I have a further meeting with Executive Member for Planning and Officers scheduled just before our EGM.

Hopefully all Group Chairs have received the Property Issues Guide published via Merton Volunteer Service that I circulated in early August and please also note the Guidance on Charity Management from Charities Commission circulated at the same time and on the web site.

Anyway, that's enough of my "quiet summer"!

Andy

District Headquarters - sleepovers

While we are allowed, under the terms of the lease of the Morden Hall DHQ, to camp in the grounds, strictly speaking we may not use the building to sleep in. However, the National Trust has agreed that we **"may use the Hut to comply with Scout Association rules for bedding down in cases of bad weather and other unforeseen circumstances"**.

This compromise means that sleepovers can be accommodated as long as the intention is to sleep in tents. The Hut can only be used for emergency purposes.

The grounds at DHQ are being cleared and a purpose built fire area will be constructed. Please help to keep it tidy by clearing your fires and returning any unburnt wood to the wood pile.

The District now has two extended mess tents (18 foot x 12 foot) that would be suitable for sleeping boys and girls separately. Contact Brian Whalebone, District Quartermaster.

Bookings for DHQ are made through Betty Cronk, Bookings Secretary.

Mini Census

Census date is 30 September. Your ADCs may be asking for your numbers a bit before that. All that is needed is one figure for the number of members you have - please co-operate and get yours in promptly.

Music Licences for Scout Headquarters

Do you hire out your HQ or hold parties of your own in it?

The Government announced changes last November in the need for a licence to play recorded music in any form, replacing the previous partial exemption. The licence applies to the building (not just the groups using the building) and charities have until **November this year** to get the licence in place. Please check the link for further details

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/about/press/press-release/press-release-2010/press-release-20101108.htm>

District Store

After a few muddled weeks while the Scout Shops at Lancing had a reorganisation, things appear to have settled down again now and orders should be though quickly.

If any Leaders would like further stocks of the Store leaflet giving location and opening times, please contact Brian on b.whalebone@btinternet.com or on 07775 654164.

Training Dates

24 Sep	9.30-1.30	12	Providing a Balanced Programme - Bow Lane
01 Oct	10am-1pm	16	Nights Away - Bow Lane
01 Oct	2pm-4.30	38	Nights Away Residential "A" (must attend "B") Bow Lane
15/16 Oct	Residential	38	Nights Away Residential "B" (must attend A) Bears Wood
23 Oct	10.00-11.15	08	Skills of Leadership
23 Oct	11.30-12.30	09	Working with Adults
23 Oct	1.30-2.30	14	Young People today
23 Oct	2.45-4.30	15	Challenging Behaviour
20 Nov	10am-12	19	International
20 Nov	1pm-4pm	17	Activities outdoors
26 Nov	10am-1pm	13	Growing the Movement (Section Leaders)
26 Nov	10am-4.30	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)

Unless it states otherwise in the Training Dates, the training modules are held at Morden Hall DHQ and are limited to 20 participants.

Contact Alison Edwards or Joan Condon for more information.

First Aid courses are booked through Janet Drinkall, telephone 020 8669 4774, email janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk.

Practical Skills Day - 16 October

Don't miss the practical skills day which is being run on 16th October at the 4th Worcester Park HQ.

Subjects will include Backwoods Cooking, Lamps & Stoves, Running a camp fire, Fire Lighting, Pioneering, Map & Compass, Beaver Stuff, Tent Pitching, Knots, Axes & Saws and Scoutbase.

Contact **Alison Edwards** for further details.

Discounts for Scouts and Leaders

Cotswold Outdoor have been in touch to remind us that all Scouts now receive a 15% discount in store and all Leaders now receive a 20% discount on personal kit. Scouts are also active on their community page. Check out <http://community.cotswoldoutdoor.com/stores/kingston-upon-thames/> for more details.

If you would like any more information about how Cotswold can help your Scout troop please contact Charles Perrett, Regional Local Marketing Co-ordinator on 0208 549 9500 or 0740 1299 963.

Spare tent poles

Did all your tent poles survive summer camp intact? If you had a problem with any metal poles for standard frame tents there is a selection available that were found at DHQ. Contact Brian to talk about your needs.

District Sports

Sports Day feels like a distant memory now but a big thank you must go to Peter Hutton and his team for again ensuring that we had a very successful event.

Full results are on the website but congratulations must go to the 5th Morden Group who came 1st in the Cub Trophy and Cub tug of war, equal first in the Scout Trophy and won the Group Team Trophy and to the 13th Wimbledon who were equal 1st in the Scout Trophy and the 2nd Morden who won the Scout tug of war.

Thanks also go to Dave Bixby and Alan Green for building a monkey bridge to keep those spectating or waiting for their next event amused and to the 23rd Mitcham for their wonderful food.

It's just a shame that more Sections don't take part . . .

Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Expedition

Training 23rd - 28th October 2011

This event is open to Explorers who have reached their 16th birthday and Network members and will take place in the Peak District over October half-term. It will cost £75 and this will cover transport, all meals, accommodation at the base camp and materials etc.

There is a pre meeting on Sunday 25th September and this is also the closing date for applications to take part.

Contact Chris Dean (DCC Programme) for more information tinkerscorner@aol.com

Badges



The new Diamond Jubilee badge can be ordered through Lesley (thebixbys@talktalk.net). It is a big badge 7cm x 4cm, costs £1 and can be worn on the uniform with immediate effect.

Swimming Gala - 15 October, Morden Baths 17.30 - 21.30

All the information has been sent out to Cub Scout Leaders & Scout Leaders but if you haven't received yours yet please let Michèle McNamara know.

Michèle is also in need of volunteers to help on the night so please contact her if you are available that evening.

Details will be published on the District website.

CRBs

A much harder line is being taken by Scout Headquarters regarding those people who help within the Movement and do not have a current CRB. If your CRB lapsed 6 months ago and has not been renewed, or you have never had one, please sort it out quickly or your appointment **will be cancelled**.

Joe, Joan Burgess and the appointments team will be working very hard over the next few months to ensure that everyone is up to date but if you know you have a form waiting to be filled in, please get it done immediately.

Group Accounts

POR Rule 3.48h states: "The Group must ensure that signed copies of the annual report and accounts are sent to the District Treasurer within the 14 days following the Group's Annual General Meeting at which the annual report and accounts were received and considered."

Have you sent yours in yet?

Headquarters Membership fee for 2012

The Headquarters membership fee will be £21 per person with a 50p discount for prompt payment making the net fee £20.50. The County and District levies will be announced once their budgets have been set in the autumn.

Jamboree Report - David Williams

Harold Wilson once said that a week is a long time in politics but three weeks is a long, but enjoyable, time in Scouting.

At 3am on a warm July morning 54 members of the 5 Districts, two Girl Guide groups and 8 Leaders patiently waited in Richmond for our coach to pick us up to take us to Heathrow. It was the beginning of our journey to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree. Our first stop was to Denmark to take part in the UK Contingent's pre-Jamboree party. We toured Copenhagen, rode on speedboats and took part in several trips around the capital. The party was a raucous and noisy one. Our hosts were Max and OB of Hollyoaks fame and we were treated to the sounds of, amongst others, Alphabeat and the Kings Ov Leon (sic). After three days, we set off to the Jamboree Site in Sweden.

We arrived on a lovely hot day and busied ourselves in pitching tents and constructing our London Bridge Gateway. We were thankful for that first day of good weather as the rain came the next day. Several Leaders from other countries passing our site commented that we should be used to the rain being from the UK! The rain did not dampen our spirits and when the clouds parted after two days and the sun shone through, a Mexican wave-like cheer rushed across the whole Jamboree site - we were all united in joy at the arrival of the sun!

The Explorers joined Scouts from all round the World in an impressive opening ceremony that was loud and colourful. Over the following days, they took part in activities in various "Zones" around the Jamboree Site such as Earth, Quest and Dream where they learned about conservation, the effects on the environment of pollution and over-industrialisation. On "Cultural Day", a day that each country puts on activities at their campsite, we ran a series of fun games at our site that included hook a duck, cricket and egg and spoon races. We had also cooked several sponge cakes and scones that proved very popular with all nations. The other countries had also put on marvellous displays of their country's culture and food. It was an amazing day that showed us all that Scouting was universal and that friendship and co-operation had no frontiers or borders. It did not matter who you were or where you were from or what was going on in the World, everyone was so helpful and welcoming. The "Jamboree Bubble" was a great place to be.

Before we knew it, the Jamboree closing ceremony was upon us. The King and Queen of Sweden were there joining in with the songs and Mexican waves. The evening ended in an amazing explosion of light and colour in one of the best firework displays that I have seen in a long while. We said our Goodbyes and headed off to Part 3 of the experience, Home Hospitality.

One Unit headed off to Poland and my Unit boarded an overnight ferry to Finland. Most of the participants were placed in homes with other young Poles and Fins

dotted about towns in Poland and Finland. I, along with another Leader and 18 participants, headed off to a campsite in the Finland forest. We stayed in a lovely site that had its own lake with canoes, two log cabins and indoor and outdoor saunas - even better it had flushing toilets! We were thoroughly spoiled by the Finnish hosts who prepared all our meals for us and took us on a bike trip and a tour of the local town. It was great to be looked after and to rest after the whirlwind of the Jamboree. We could have stayed there for weeks but it was time to come home, so three weeks after we left, we were on the plane back to England.

The participants were a credit to their District, County and Country. They excelled themselves in taking part in all things Jamboree and made many new friends. It was hard to believe that these were the same Scouts and Explorers that we met for the first time over 18 months ago.

Our Jamboree was over and 40,000 Scouts and Leaders from all over the World had the time of their lives.

David Williams (ABSL and ASL 1st Lower Morden)
Assistant Unit Leader - Metropolitan Unit

1st Morden Scouts join in the Jamboree event - Lee Robinson

On Sunday 7th August the 1st Morden Scout Group briefly hosted a patrol from the Caribbean as part of their journey home from the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

After being picked up from Heathrow at 12:30pm on Sunday, the group were taken on a whistle stop tour of London which was cut short due parts of London being shut for the triathlon. After a stop in to see the Wimbledon tennis grounds the Scouts were taken to see the Wimbledon windmill and were told about how Baden Powell had written some of Scouting for Boys in the mill house.

After the tour everyone returned to our headquarters where they met the other Leaders from the 1st Morden and Explorers from both the Mitcham and Morden units. The scouts spoke about their experience in Sweden and Kevin the leader told us about the differences between Scouting in Europe and the Caribbean.

We exchanged badges, scarves and even some 1st Morden mugs before we all sat down to enjoy a BBQ and some Caribbean side dishes which both Kevin and all the Scouts were extremely grateful for.

After a few hours sleep and an early breakfast a very tired patrol of Scouts and an even more tired leader got in the minibus for the journey to Gatwick. After a brief goodbye the group left for the last but one leg of their journey home.