

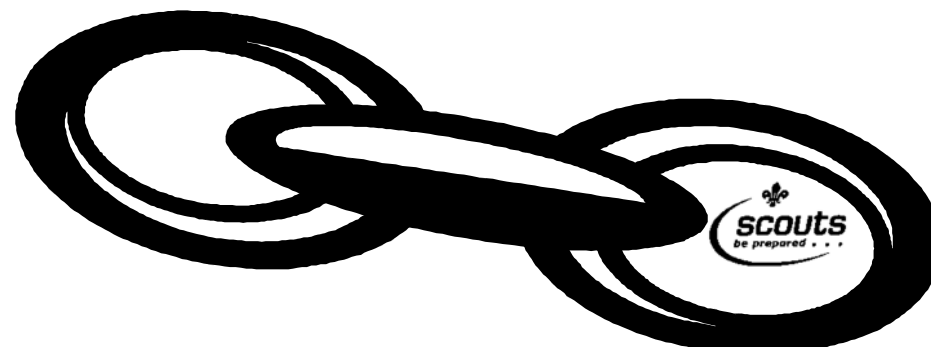
*Laugh your heart out
Dance in the rain
Cherish the moment
Ignore the pain
Live, laugh, love, forgive and forget
Life is too short to live with regret.*

I wish you all a wonderful summer, happy holidays and exciting camping experiences – whether you are off to Sweden for the Jamboree or spending a weekend ‘just down the road’.

There is no issue of Links in August.
Copy for the September edition should be with me by 1 September and issue day will be 8 September.

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Wimbledon and Wandle



Links

July 2011 - Issue no. 75

July 9	Sports Day	Wimbledon Park
13	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	Last night of Store for the summer	
23	SAS BBQ	Buckleigh Avenue
Sept 14	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
15	Store re-opens	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
17	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
20	SAS meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 7.30pm
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	Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
5	Troop quiz	Bow Lane 7.45pm

District Commissioner

The events that are taking place to celebrate the anniversaries of the founding of some of our groups bring in to stark relief the remarkable longevity of our Movement. The 9th Wimbledon recently hosted a dinner to mark their 80th anniversary; the 1st Merton Park recognised their centenary last weekend; the 3rd Mitcham are 90 years old and have their celebration mid-July; the 11th Mitcham are 85 this year.

When we plan for the future of our groups; when we try to recruit adult help or youth members; when we are sitting scratching our heads trying to put a programme in place, it's worth reflecting on both what has made Scouting so enduring and on what has made it able to bind young and old together with a common bond for so long.

It is then that we get to the core of what Scouting is about. It's about enjoying adventure in the great outdoors; about enjoying challenge; about learning self-reliance; about acquiring self-discipline; about giving service to others; about honour. In short, it's about making the world a better place (however clichéd that may sound). It's a wonderfully utopian endeavour that will only pall if we lose sight of B-P's unique vision, a vision that we need to keep at the forefront of our minds whatever role we play in this great Movement of ours (and particularly when the rain is pouring down mid way through summer camp!).

Talking of Summer Camp, may the sun always shine on yours!

Joe

Troop Scouters' Meeting

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Wednesday 28 September at 8pm at Morden Hall DHQ. Please ensure that your Troop is represented even if it is your normal meeting night. The main item on the agenda will be the 2012 events calendar and we really need to sort out the events that Troops will actually support, not what they think will look good on the diary.

Summer camps/events

As the rain gets warmer and thoughts turn to green fields, woodland clearings, mountain views and babbling brooks, summer camps appear on the horizon. These are the culmination of the Scout year so please enjoy them and see that the young people in your charge have an exciting and unforgettable experience that they can carry with them for the rest of their life.

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

We had a really enjoyable evening at 'Beating the Retreat'. Many thanks to David for organising.



Don't forget if you can help at the District Sports please give your name to David.

Our next event is the annual BBQ - once again being hosted by Jean and David Gould - on Saturday 23rd July, 7 p.m. at 48 Buckleigh Avenue. Cost is £7.00 a head; please bring your own drink. Please let Jean know, by Saturday 16th July, if you would like to attend 020 8395 1885.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to get a speaker for our meeting on 20th September, so we have decided to turn this into a social evening instead. Please come along at around 7.30 p.m. Nibbles will be provided but please bring your own liquid refreshment. If you can come please let Rob know on 020 8330 7466.

Scouts - Dave Bixby



Camping Assessment Weekend: This year the number of teams entering was less than half the number we have had in recent years. I am not sure why as it is an excellent tool for improving basic camping skills within Troops. We had a good number of experienced Leaders together with some newer ones who are expanding their experience, giving advice, support and encouragement whenever necessary.

I think one of the problems is that some Troops treat this as any other District activity as opposed to a camp ie they don't give it a thought until on or after the entry date. This is one of the District activities which does require some planning beforehand and should really be part of the normal Troop programme, if you have one, so that all your Scouts benefit. The weekend is not all work and no play and this year we laid on an aerial runway, climbing and archery to break up the washing up.

Congratulations go to the 1st Morden for gaining the highest camping assessment and also for winning the cooking competition. Full results are on the District website. It should be noted that, although one team's members had only been up from the Cubs for a couple of weeks, every team gained at least a Bronze Award to wear on their uniforms.

My sincerest thanks to all the Leaders, helpers and instructors who put in so much effort to make the weekend a success.

Raft Race



70 Scouts, their Leaders and families, sun, water - it was another brilliant afternoon. The standard of raft building has improved immensely over the past few years and it was good to see that many of them were completing the course intact.

I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who contributed to make this a successful event: clearing the river of obstacles, providing tents or refreshments, transporting the equipment, ensuring that the Scouts were safe in the water or helping in other ways to make sure that everyone has a good time.

Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

I am probably writing this report a couple of weeks early. Whilst, it is now almost the end of June; I expect the next couple of weeks will see some positive news on a numbers of fronts:

Thanks to Keith Angliss our Accounts are now in order and being audited. Next week will see a decision made as to how we are going to present them for approval this year. Very few people turned out for the EGM last year and this year, I'd expect a lower turn out as the meeting is likely to take 5 minutes!

We have had an expression of interest in the District Treasurer vacancy and I plan to have fuller discussions next week. Keith has kindly agreed to ensure that 2011 Accounts will be available for next year's AGM. In conjunction with John Young, who continues to do all the day to day requirements, this will ensure our new Treasurer when appointed, will get the best possible support and handover.

I am chairing a meeting tonight with 20th and 23rd Mitcham to agree the future of the Reg Woolmer Hall and the equipment owned by 20th Mitcham.

Discussions with County as regards a common approach throughout the five Districts to fund Jamborees from 2015 will continue next month. Whilst I am on holiday for the meeting, I hope to persuade another member of the District Executive to be there and represent our position.

Notwithstanding the fantastic efforts of Dave and Lesley Bixby, LB Merton has refused our Appeal against their original decision to decline Planning Permission for a storage unit at Morden Hall DHQ. Not to be disheartened, Dave and I have outlined another plan that will be discussed at Executive Committee next week and hopefully will then lead to all the District's pioneering equipment being stored in one place and in a place where there are grounds available for it to be utilised! As part of this project Dave and Alan Green have offered to take on the job of clearing the "junk" from the grounds of DHQ over the summer.

On the subject of LB Merton, a further revision to Planning for the Rowan Site (ex 36th Mitcham) has been received. We are formulating a response to Council.

The DC and I have met with the District Band and are glad to see their numbers expanding and some positive plans for the future that will help further to raise the profile of Scouting throughout the Borough and beyond.

The Executive Committee will also be finalising plans with the organisers of next year's District Camp, so that our resources can be made available in the best way to help Camp 2012 be one that we will all remember with fondness and is a fitting contribution to spreading the Scouting Message across the Borough.

Have a good summer and be safe. It seems strange for me in my new "suited" role not to be going to camp in August, but then I do enjoy having the month "off"!

Nights Away Notifications - Paul Atkins

Your plans for summer camps & pack holidays will be well advanced by now so please ensure that your Nights Away Notification (NAN) form is completed. Why not do it today?

A NAN form is required to be submitted to DDC Paul Atkins at least 14 days before the start of the event. The easiest way to do this is go to the link on the web site <http://www.wimbledonandwandlescouts.org/nan.htm>, complete the form and click the Submit button at the bottom of it. You will receive an instant acknowledgement confirming the details you have supplied. The details are then automatically circulated to the relevant ADC, DC, LTM & GSL.

If you really prefer to put paper in the post, Form NAN is available on Scouts.org and from the Information Centre.

If you have any difficulties completing your NAN form, you can contact Paul on paul.atkins@btinternet.com

Section reports

Beaver Scouts - Andrew Hayward

Beaver Sports Day - Please contact me (either via email or phone) to confirm if your Colony is participating. A considerable number of Colonies have yet to reply and I need to ensure that bases are manned and enough certificates produced.

Scooter/Cycle Ride & RAF museum Trip - Letters advising details of these events will be with you shortly so you can hand out before the summer break. Again, your prompt response is welcomed.

Many thanks to the 2nd Morden, 5th Morden & 22nd Wimbledon for allowing me to visit them recently. I've been very impressed so far and I look forward to visiting more colonies in the autumn. I've also visited the Leaders from the former 5th Mitcham to thank them for all the hard work they have put in. It can't have been easy for them functioning as a stand-alone Colony for so long.

Have a great (and refreshing) summer break.

Cub Scouts - Michèle McNamara

Athletes Badge Testing - 89 Cubs and Leaders braved the drizzle on Friday evening June 24th at Sutton arena, to earn their athlete or athletes plus badge. A big thank you to all the Leaders who ran the bases and congratulations to all the Cubs taking part, I don't think any of them went home without earning at least one badge. 9 Packs took part out of 19 which isn't a wonderful percentage.

CSL Meeting - July 13th - At this meeting we traditionally set our calendar of events for the coming year, so if you want to have a input, please make sure your Pack is represented. If you are unable to attend, please let me know.

Summer Camps/Pack Holidays - I hope that those of you who are going away over the summer break have a good and safe time. Don't forget to get your NAN forms in to Paul Atkins in plenty of time; some of them have been a bit last minute lately. For those Packs taking a break from meetings during the summer, I hope the Leaders have a restful break.



Training - Alison Edwards

Firstly I would like to say thank you for the phenomenal turnout at June's safeguarding awareness training. 79 people turned up - of whom 70 were from Wimbledon and Wandle. The SAS and band were there in force and several groups managed to send all their Leaders to the event.

We will start the 'autumn gigs' in September. We shall still be running a course in each District this autumn and then will see what demand is like for next year. You can attend any one of the 5 courses run by the County, not just the one in your District so if another date or venue suits you better, then that is fine. All the organisers need to know is numbers (for tea and coffee purposes and because some venues are smaller).

All Leaders, managers, supporters, assistants, helpers and exec members are most welcome!

The dates for this autumn are

19 September	Kingston Venue TBA
20 October	Croydon. Pinewood campsite
12 November	Richmond. 1 st Whitton
23 November	Bow Lane
1 or 5 December	Sutton - venue TBA.

I shall put out a 'request' for names with key managers in early October but if you want to book up now, please contact me Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk or 8646 7927.

Leader Training is picking up a little and we have awarded a few more woodbadges this year. But our total for 2011 is still in single figures, so if you are a Leader in Training, please make an effort to attend modules if you are asked and make contact with your TA asap. Most of the courses are run at Morden Hall DHQ (not Bow Lane). If you need further information on these modules please contact Joan Condon.

Young Leaders

Every Young Leader must be given an Orange card before they start working with a Section. This point is highlighted on the Safeguarding course but is not happening in a number of Groups. They are available from the Info Centre and Dave Bixby keeps a small supply.

Training Dates

12 Jul	7.45-10.15	19	International
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.

Three Peaks Challenge - Peter Hutton

Thanks for those of you who sponsored my attempt at the 3 Peaks Challenge. To remind you what this involves, you have to walk up and down the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales all in 24 hours. I am delighted to say I achieved it in 22 hours and 21 minutes!

We set off from the base of Ben Nevis at 4.35 pm on June 10 encountering a bit of hail and snow near the summit. We finished that peak 4 hours thirty minutes later. Then it was off to Scafell Pike. We started the walk in the car park at Wasdale Head at 3.25am, just as it was starting to get light, although torches were helpful for the first 20 minutes. We reached the summit after 1hr 48 minutes where it was particularly chilly with a light breeze. No time to hang around, we descended briskly arriving back at the car park at 6.47am. Then on to Snowdon. We set off from Pen y Pass at the base of the mountain at 11.28am reaching the summit at 1.30pm. Being midsummer, the place was absolutely teeming. We arrived back at the car park between 2.56 and 3.40pm, all comfortably within the Challenge time period.

Having been a member of a party that had previously attempted and failed the Challenge, I felt a great sense of achievement. The first experience fed into our planning in the second attempt, but there was certainly no guarantee we would succeed.

You all need to be fit and capable of keeping up a good pace on the mountains, and it helps to be fortunate with the weather and traffic conditions and you need a separate driver who knows what he is doing. And it is not cheap. Our fuel bill was over £350 - the petrol Renault Espace with roof box is not the most economic of vehicles!

Although it was not a formal scout event, four of the walkers were ex-13th Scouts now involved with the Group. Jon Horsford is our Group Chairman, Dan Sanders an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and Chris Warren a Group Supporter with the Scouts.

So far I have raised over £2000 for Little Havens Children's Hospice. If you have not, and would like to, sponsor me for completing the Challenge then you still have until August 10 to donate on-line! Google 'Peter Hutton three peaks challenge' and follow the link to justgiving.com.

Needless to say, if anyone is thinking of taking on the Challenge themselves, I would be happy to discuss our experiences.

District Store

New: The Little Book of Beaver Scouts is packed full of activities and facts. The contents include the history of Beavers and games, quizzes, crosswords and spot the difference. Our price: £2.79

The Store reopens after the summer break on the 15th September. The Store will be open on the following Saturdays between 10am and 12 noon:

July 2 & 16th
September 17
October 1st & 15th
November 5th & 19
December 3rd & 17th

Photographic competition

Are you a keen photographer? Do you know of someone who is?



Wimbledon Guild is launching its first charity calendar. People who live, work or go to school in Merton are invited to enter a competition to have their photo included. Details from aholland@wimbledonguild.co.uk.

Volunteers sought aged 14+

Explorer Scouts: Merton libraries are looking for young volunteers for their Summer Reading Challenge Champion. If you have some free time during the summer break, becoming a Reading Challenge Champion is a great opportunity to make new friends, build confidence and gain valuable skills for future employment.

As a Champion you will assist with the promotion of the challenge, help register children, and explain the process to parents and children. You will help children to find or select books and encourage them to discuss what they have read, as well as give out rewards.

For more information please contact 020 8545 4625 or visit your local library.