



# The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

March 2013

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## Beavers

In January we welcomed six new Beavers into the Colony.

This term we have been working towards the Creative challenge badge and Imagination activity badge. We have learnt about magnets, enjoyed making (and eating) pancakes with a variety of toppings and chocolate crispy cakes and have imagined what the future will be like.

During one session we enjoyed learning some very funny poems by Kenn Nesbitt about older brothers being like werewolves and teachers taking ipods. I was very impressed at the Beavers' creativity and imagination as they designed a range of bridges for people.

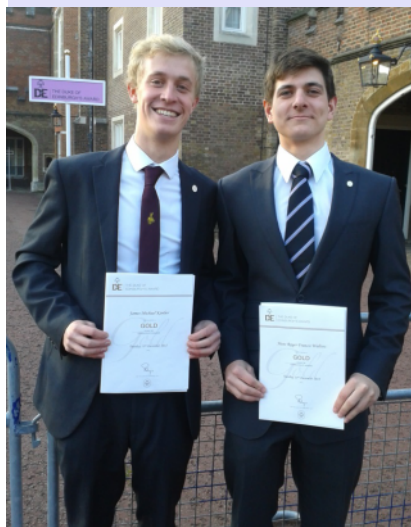
We have learnt about the Scouting values – Integrity, Respect, Care, Co-operation and Belief and thought about what they mean to us.

In February six Beavers gained their Experiment activity badge by attending the District science event at 1st Hook. Well done to Issac Fewtrell, Josiah Sparks, Daniel Pullen, Oscar Annett, James Mclauchlan and Daniel Wallington.

Swimming has continued at Teddington pool, with several Beavers successfully completing their stage 1 and stage 2 swimming badges.

*Richard  
Beaver Scout Leader*

## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards



*James Kimber (left) and Huw Walters*

Huw and I received our Gold DofE awards in the Christmas holidays from none other than Prince Edward, as well as the presentation being awarded by Alex Jones (from the One Show apparently...). The presentation took place at St James' Palace just off The Mall, and was a culmination of what had been around two years' work, having to complete a twelve-month volunteering section, a further twelve months completing a physical activity, six months of a specialist skill, a four-day expedition and a week-long residential.



My volunteering section involved helping out as a sports assistant at Grey Court School's PE department, running sports days and training sessions on a weekly basis. My physical activity was playing tennis, whilst I used my six months specialist skill in Leander completing boat maintenance (with a little help from Karen). Huw and I then completed our expedition in the Isle of Skye in the summer of 2011, fighting off midges and terrible weather, as well as scaling kilometre-high peaks.

Finally, through the help of Leander again, I was able to complete my week-long residential with Alistair Exworthy at Dartmouth Royal Naval College. This was a truly unique experience which involved a week of various boating and land activities designed to develop leadership skills with other members of Cadet forces, as well as gaining an ILM leadership qualification.

All in all – a brilliant and enriching experience which involved a variety of challenges, and finally, two years late, I may be able to receive my Queen Scout Award.

*James*

## Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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## Night Exercise

This event at Boidier Hurst on 16th/17th March was, once again, another great County Scout event, even though the weather was atrocious, the paths and tracks were running with water and, for those camping on site, the frequent bursts of heavy rain made for a very cold and muddy camp.

I would just like to congratulate EVERY Scout who took part in this epic, you are all real heros, battling through some of the worst conditions possible.

Leander did well with teams coming in 8th and 18th, out of 39 teams taking part. Everyone was very well behaved, a real credit to the Troop. The team leaders, Edward and Joe, did a great job, all the teams got back in one piece. Well done everyone who took part.

This event requires a huge amount of preparation and behind the scenes work, it is vital that every detail is thoroughly checked so that those taking part can enjoy a properly planned and safe experience.

Many thanks to all those who made this possible, to the Leaders who spent long cold hours on checkpoints, ensuring the safe passage of all the teams along the route and to the mobile marshals who looked out for lost walkers and ferried some very tired teams back to base.

As always the scores were very close, so congratulations to the winning team, 22nd Wimbledon, with 7th Hampton A and 3rd Hampton Hill in joint second place.

Next year we are hoping to use a completely new and different area of countryside, ensuring that the County Night Exercise continues to offer all Scouts a top quality, thoroughly challenging event.

*Coxswain*

## Seamanship

The Troop has been working on seamanship this term – navigation, buoyage, lights, knotting, parts of a boat.

A night orienteering exercise in Canbury Gardens in January turned out – true to form this year – to be in the snow.

Making pioneering projects, Scouts have been practising their lashings and some were even persuaded to trust the fellow Patrol members and be carried round the Main Deck on a square-lashed seat.

A fire-lighting relay race did not seem to result in a 999 call.



It is not clear whether Leander's versions of well-known sports will make it into the next Olympics – probably not!

## Redecoration

Advantage is being taken of the two-week Easter break to make good the plasterwork round the skylights which were replaced last year and to redecorate the Main Deck.

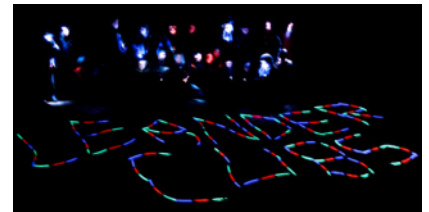


## Pack Pack Pack!

The Pack staged a Shadow Puppet competition for their Entertainment badge.



The puppets were superb and the adaptations of the stories brilliant...and quite gruesome!



They also went on a chilly night hike in January and found a good use for a pile of glow-sticks on Ham Wasteground.

*Simon Biddulph, CSL*

## Bruno

Those who knew Peter Burton (Bruno) will be sad to hear that he died of pneumonia, in hospital, on 27th March.

Bruno joined Leander as a boy, was appointed Assistant Scout Master in 1941, Scout Master in 1950, and Group Scout Leader in 1968. For services to Scouting, he was awarded the Silver Acorn in 1979 and Silver Wolf in 1987.

