



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2013

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National Sea Scout Regatta



The under 12½ gig crew only came together at the very last moment and rowed really well to come 2nd overall. Congratulations to Joe, Victoria, Jemima, Ollie and Max. Jemima also won the under 12½ kayak. Great performances from all our under 12½ team meant that we were overall winners in this category.

In the under 14 category, the gig crew were overall winners, with Gabriel, Cameron, Clare, Sammy and Edward. Also, Gabriel was 2nd in the kayak and Clare 2nd in sculling over the stern. These achievements meant that we were overall under 14 winners.



Our Explorers are few in number, but did well in the under 18 category, even though some of them are only 14. Sam won the sculling over the stern and Jo came 2nd in dinghy pulling.

Russell



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Bench for Bruno



This is a picture of the bench which we are going to put on the balcony as a memorial to Bruno. At present it is on the Isle of Skye, where ex-Leander Mark Partridge has been making it.



Mark apologises for the cheesy grin and writes about his time in Leander and memories of Bruno:

I started at Leander as a Cub in 1967, joined the Scout Troop – Beaver Patrol – in 1971 and was a Venture Scout from 1977 until 1981, after which I went on to work for the London Sailing Project for a couple of years. I think Leander was one the biggest formative influences in my life and I still use the things I learnt there in my work, not just the knots and splices (I remember Mitt pointing out the pattern behind Turk's Head construction, which is something I still use in carving Celtic knotwork) but also the ways of looking at life.

Bruno played a large part in transforming me from an 'orrible little 'Erbert into a reasonably useful human being and I owe him a great deal. I am sure there are a lot of other people out there who would say the same. It is great to know that Leander is still going strong.

The bench should be delivered by Mark's brother Dominic later in August and Mark may be able to join us for the 'official unveiling'.

GSL at the wheel

Leander has now come to the end of a nice warm Summer term, with the Troop having a very successful summer camp down in Dorset. This year's camp was arranged by the new team, with Robin and myself tagging along for support.

Well done to six of our Cubs for taking part in this year's Cub Sports Day; hopefully next year we may have a complete team to try and knock a few of the normal winning groups off the top spot.

The Scouts are slowly getting stronger on the water again, winning the overall trophies for the under 12 and under 14½ class at this year's National Sea Scout Regatta. Sadly, the Unit were only able to enter the under 18 class as many of them had school or other sport commitments.

In September, the Leander leadership team is to meet up to discuss and to set the Leander Vision 2013/14 plan for the coming year. This should allow parents to see what Leander are up to, via the new annual calendar out over Christmas.

Do not forget, if you are looking for a venue to hire for a kids' party, why not contact Leander and receive Group member hiring rates.

Some of the Scouts and Explorers will be starting back a little earlier than others, as they will be competing in the Great River Race on Saturday 7th September.

Happy Holidays to all and do not forget the 4 S's!

Karen L-S

Cotswold



Cotswold Outdoor in Kingston has a new Store Manager, Tracy Covus, who is keen to get involved in the local community and wants to remind us about the discount offered to Scouts.

This is 15% on production of valid identification (20% discount for leaders), not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.

You can also order online and then pick up in store, or there is free delivery over £30.



If you order online, you can raise up to 3.5% for Leander with easyFundraising. Our 14 registered supporters have raised over £200 through this scheme. Register now at www.easyfundraising.org.uk, and nominate 'Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group' as your charity to support.

Fun at Cub Sports



Sunny Summer Camp



A Raft – the Building (featuring Aidan at work)

This year, nearly thirty Scouts and Explorers attended the Summer Camp at Buddens, July 21st-29th. Complications with school holiday dates meant that there was a bit of coming and going. Buddens is the Dorset Scout campsite about 12 miles West of Poole. It is large, 95

acres, with heath, woodland and a small lake.

Two Coybus and four canoes were towed down by Simon and used on the lake. Other activities which took place on the site were air rifle shooting, archery, raft building and dragon boating.



There was also plenty of time to practise useful Scouting skills, such as fire-lighting, cooking, backwoods cooking, use of axes and knives.



On a visit to Bovington Tank Museum, there was a ride on a tracked vehicle – not exactly a tank, but perhaps Leander's reputation had gone in advance. Everyone went on a day hike of about seven miles in Wareham Forest, organised by Russell and Jim – the notable achievement seems to be that Aidan got lost!

Even more exciting than that may have been the three hour storm on the Monday night, with thunder, fork and sheet lightning which lit up the whole field – one way of reading after lights-out.

Russell



A Raft – the Launching



A Raft – the End?