



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

December 2019

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Adventurous Autumn for the Troop

The Scouts' first meeting in November happened to fall on November the 5th, so what else could we do but fire-lighting? We had five groups who all successfully prepared their wood into separate sizes and managed to get their fires going without too much trouble, although a little huffing and puffing was required to help things along. We had marshmallows on sticks as an accompaniment and it was the first time to my knowledge that no-one got any stuck on themselves (or anyone else).



Traversing a minefield was the task for the next week, using tyres, poles and ropes to get their team across no-man's land and back. As is usual, many Scouts would have been minus a few limbs and senses had it been for real, but they enjoyed themselves none the less.

The following two weeks the Scouts split onto two groups with one going climbing at White-Spider in Tolworth and the other

cooking at the HQ. They then switch round the following week. It's my annual planning nightmare, hoping that everyone goes to the venue and activity that they are supposed to each week. Thankfully there were no cross-wires this year and the cooking standards were very high, with all the groups cooking different meals and no easy option of 'Spaghetti Bolognese'.



The PLs took control of the next week and ran a multi-subject Kahoot quiz, which they very successfully executed. The Leaders kept the microwave pinging and the popcorn flowing for the evening. My thanks go to the PLs and especially Daniel Pullen who was the main architect and planner of the evening.

Jim and I successfully ran two Air Rifle sessions on Saturday 2nd and Saturday 16th of November,

which owing to the lack of heating downstairs, was a bit chilly but good fun all the same. To follow this up we ran a shooting evening on the second to last Tuesday with all the Scouts rotating from games with the Explorers upstairs, then down to the rifle range (Boat Deck) to shoot a couple of targets each.



Our last Meeting of the term was a Movie night at the HQ with food and drink (and mess, to be sure), using the PC projector, screen and an amplified sound system to lend it authenticity. The movie to be watched was in negotiation by the Scouts between themselves ... at the time of writing no decision, so I'll probably have to decide for them in the end, 'The Shining' it is then!

Russ

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Sailing in the Solent



Some of the Scouts and Explorers went sailing in the Solent with Discovery Sailing Project for a weekend in October.



This activity was financially supported by a grant from the 'RN100' fund, celebrating 100 years of Sea Scouting. We are planning more coastal sailing in 2020, so listen out and sign up!

Tales from the Riverside



In mid-December we were gifted a sunken boat, a cabin cruiser with no name or identification. This had been moored without permission. The owners, presumably, had tried to push it back on to the water and the bilge keels caught on our fenders and the vessel sank.

It must have weighed a few tons plus water. We were considering how to move it for a week, probably waiting for a high spring tide to refloat it and get it away from our frontage.

Then, suddenly, on the 19th ... surprise, surprise, the large amount of water coming down the Thames took hold of the vessel and swept it downstream towards Teddington Lock.

An unexpected solution but sadly another hazard for river users.

Coxswain



Ahoy there!

When you have done your usual Christmas morning sail round the Isle of Wight, got your cruiser out of the water, scraped the bottom and done all the anti-fouling for next season, you will be ready to sit down for Christmas Dinner with your usual ration of grog.

What could complete the day better than a nautical quiz?? These sixteen images will sound like eight pairs.

Prize for the winning solution is a free swim across the River. Answers next time.

