



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2010

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A busy and successful season

Over the past few months all section of Leander have been busy. The Beavers have been coming 4th in the District Beaver Sports, the Cubs have won a boat trip thanks to their entry in the Thames Watch project and the Scouts and Explorers have been racing their hearts out in the National Sea Scout Regatta.

Not only have our members been working hard gaining many badges and achieving challenge awards, but also thank you to the Leander parents for donating many bottles to help raise funds to

keep Leander going. I am pleased to announce that thanks to all your donations, we were able to raise over £200 on our Tombola at the Kingston Rotary Club Dragon Boat event on Sunday 18th July.

As we now enter into our Summer break, many crews will still be training over August to compete in this year's Great River Race, being held on Saturday 25th September from Greenwich to Richmond, Ham House.

Most of you will remember last September when Leander held

BBQ100. As this event was such a great success, with members old and new along with their families having fun on the water, we have agreed to run this event again. This time we shall be holding the Leander Family Day on Saturday 2nd October. If you and your family would like to join us on this event, more information will follow over the Summer.

Lastly, I hope you all have a great Summer break, and see you all in September.

Karen



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Busy Beavers



Beavers making their promise to be invested

This is my last piece for The Water Rat and as you got "2 for the price of 1" in the last issue, I'll do my best to be brief.

The Summer term started with the St George's Day Parade, for which we learnt the National Anthem, and a District Beaver Sleepover at our local Scout Campsite 'Polyapes', which, for those of you who have not yet been there, is just the other side of Esher, in Stoke D'Abernon (Cobham). We only attended one District event this term which was the Beavers' Sports Day, this year held at a primary school in Worcester Park. We entered a team of eight Leander Beavers who did us proud!

This term we welcomed six new Beavers: Harry Lear, Kitty Finnie, Ollie Morris, Jamie Hancock, Joshua Dugdale and Louis Vincent, who was Invested in open air in true Baden-Powell style. We've said 'Goodbye' to the following Beavers this year as they've 'moved on to Cubs': James Hayes, Felix Allnutt, Ciaran Murray, Sam Hodgson,

Sam Turner, Ben Dibley, Georgia Strickland, Joseph Mulcock, Michael Kay, Sam Butler and Hannah Edwards Rean, who deserves the long-service medal. Hannah's time as a Leander Beaver is on a par with that of Issy Blackburn's - my predecessor's daughter!

So, in a nut shell, this term we've been swimming twice, completed the IT Badge (stage 1), thanks to Simon bringing in lots of computers for the Beavers to use & setting tasks for them to complete online; and the Fitness Challenge Award, thanks to Richard running an evening of mini-circuit training and another letting the Beavers make their own fruit kebabs! We've also walked along the river hoping to see some wildlife (particularly the feathered kind) and made Father's Day cards with a difference (most were skeletons with a big heart) which tied in with badge work monitoring heartbeats, both before & after exercise.

I do hope that all the Beavers who have been at Leander while I was the Beaver Scout Leader have had lots of fun and made friends, whilst gaining an arm full of badges!

Thank you for all your gifts and well wishes. I have enjoyed the last few years in Beavers and hope to see you all again soon, maybe at Cubs or Scouts. Please support your new Leaders by giving up your time to help regularly.

*Karen Rean
Beaver Scout Leader*



Beavers 'swimming up' to the Cub Pack

Coxswain's Corner



Once again, we come to the end of term having had a very successful Summer out on the water. I think it's true to say, that, although we do have more Scouts, we have had more intensive boating this year. The three Picos we acquired have proved to be incredibly popular, enabling all those keen on sailing to get more experience – we've even had some good sailing winds as well.

Bringing back the occasional Saturday meetings has been good, something we will try and keep going now there is some support. It does make a difference, of course, when the water is warm and all the Scouts want to stay in the River as long as possible!



The slight downside has been the unforeseen problems with the Home Counties gigs, which are all suffering from dried out seals between the woodwork and the fibreglass, making them rather porous. Obviously, the boats will have to be fixed in the Summer break, as they are all required for the Great River Race.

Our National Sea Scout Regatta results were very pleasing. Although there are sometimes a few grumbles about practising, all the crews worked very hard and did extremely well.



Our thanks to Russell Constable, a past Leander member, who has been through all our sailing kit, and has regularly provided some essential instruction and skills for Scouts keen to try the activity. A lot of the Scouts didn't realise that the Coypus can sail very well and are ideal teaching boats.



Also, Andrew Jackson has done great work in making kayaking really exciting for everyone.



With Summer Camp in the New Forest coming up, we are looking forward to a week of completely different activities – yes, we will be open canoeing on the Beaulieu River as well as mountain biking and getting back to basics at camp.

Hope you all have a very pleasant summer break – the first Scout meeting back will be on Tuesday 7th September.

Coxswain



Figure Eight Knot

50 years ago remembered!



Stephen ('Shrimp') Webb e-mailed after reading the archive Water Rat article in May:

Interesting to see what I was doing 50 years ago.

Nothing much has changed – on Monday last I sailed to Faversham from Upnor via the Swale, got caught in a bit of a blow in the evening and retreated to Queenborough. On Tuesday I had a very brisk sail back to Upnor with following winds most of the way!

My current mooring is exactly where Arethusa used to be moored. I remember the Everard boat Astrality – we dried our socks on the hot air vents in the cabin.

Cheers, Shrimp

50 years ago

Group accounts for the year 1959/60 show that the total amount of subs collected was £65 8s 3d. Cubs paid 3d (1¼p) per week, Scouts 6d (2½p), Seniors (age 15-18) and Rovers (18+) 9d per week. Funds were raised from Bob-a-Job week (£52), Bazaar (£55), Jumble Sale (£51), Catering (£46). The Garden Fete in the Summer of 1959 came at the end of a week of heavy rain storms, two of which were of the day of the event, and only raised £32. A fibreglass gig was purchased for £310, and the excess of expenditure over income was £266.

The United Nations had announced 1959-1960 as World Refugee Year (the last refugee camps in Europe were not closed until the end of 1960), The Troop delivered leaflets during one Tuesday meeting and went out collecting clothes each night in one week to take them to the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) to be sent to refugees.

An Easter Camp was held for Patrol Leaders at Longridge, which was attended by Malcolm, Noggin, Daisy and Keith (Maund). Keith says: '... we invaded the site's boats and did just about everything we shouldn't have done in them. Returning to camp, we consumed the remainder of the 7lbs of fruit cake during our tea.'



The Gasmen came to call

For some time, we have been discussing in the Executive Committee the apparent inability of our gas supply to feed the boiler and cookers in the coldest weather. We suspected the supply pipe was not of adequate size and got quotes of up to £11,000 for replacing it with a larger diameter one. However none of the builders would guarantee that they would fix the problem, and, if tested and found to be inadequate, we would be turned off!

Fortunately for us, Richard, our BSL, was able to persuade his

father-in-law Selwyn Lloyd, who was a gas engineer, to come and give us his opinion. His opinion, after careful testing, was that we had a low pressure at the inlet pipe to our meter; it was an emergency and the gas board was required to rectify it at their expense.

Space in this issue does not begin to allow the full saga to be related, but suffice it to say that we now have a full supply pressure and are fully signed off to use all our appliances.

So, blow thou Winter wind!!



**Come and have some fun at
Leander's first ever**

Reindeer Race Night

with special guest – singer/songwriter

Aaron Norton

**Saturday 13th November 2010
Further details to follow in September.**



Cubs – outdoors, adventure and fitness

Our focus for the last couple of months has been the outdoors, adventure and fitness.

ThamesWatch is a wildlife campaign that has been running for the last two years, the main aim of which is to get out and about, explore the Thames and experience the vast array of wildlife it has to offer. Cubs had a good evening out on the riverbank in May, collecting stats on flora and fauna ... and we WON their competition! The prize is a free trip along the river on a boat similar to Turks launches, so watch out for further details in the Autumn ...

For two weeks we alternated one half of the Pack playing games in Canbury Gardens while the other half went boating with Karen and Lucy.

In June we spent a lovely evening up at Thames Young Mariners raft building. Unfortunately it wasn't as amusing to watch this year, as the rafts were better constructed – none fell apart! A great time was had by all, though.

We spent an evening up at the Hawker Centre, running timed and distance races, high jump, long jump, shuttle run and others in order to try and pass the Athlete Activity badge. The requirements are quite demanding, so not all Cubs will pass this time, but at least they had fun trying!



At the beginning of July, we went kayaking at Albany Base. Cubs had a great time on the river dodging the larger boats from the sailing club. But all enjoyed themselves and they all made it back safe and sound, if not totally dry.

John ran two more Athlete Badge sessions at the Hawker Centre, wearing out the Cubs! We had the Cubs running the 1000m and most completed it, some with very respectable times. We thought we had dodged the showers —..... but we hadn't and suffered a heavy downpour on the way back! Though I think it was welcome after all their exertion! Tony finished with a focussed session on 'what it



takes to succeed' to calm, rapt attention from the Cubs ... unheard of !!!!

For the final session of the year we were in Richmond Park for wide games and picnics!

Nick



Overall Regatta Winners

Just after the May half term we announced to the Troop and Unit which members had been selected to take part in this year's Regatta. There were a few new names on the list this year, and seeing as it was only their first season on the river, the hunch paid off.

The crews grew stronger over the four weeks leading up to the first weekend in July and the gig along with individual event practices were getting smother and faster.

On the eve of the Regatta at around 19.00 and with the help of a few Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and Guild members two Coy pups, four Coy pus, and two Home Counties Gigs were lowered into the river awaiting their tow by Warspite up to Ditton Reach.

On the Saturday at around 11.30 the first of Leander's Scouts arrived at the Regatta venue, across the water from Hampton Court Palace. On the first day the Scouts raced their way into the semi-finals that would be run on the Sunday, when they were to be joined by the Explorers for a full day of racing. By the time everyone had gone home it was nice to know Leander had opened its trophy account, thanks to Harry winning the under-14 Sculling over the Stern with some ease.



At 08.45 all of the Explorer crew had arrived and kicked off the day with a win and a second place in the Sculling over the Stern finals.

During the morning, the under-16s crashed out of the gig event



in the first round, but the under-18s continued where the Scouts had left off the day before. At 11.30 the Scouts started to arrive and, with the Explorer races being ahead of time, started to race soon after 12.30. As the afternoon moved on, the Troop and Unit crept into most of the finals. With some highs and lows we managed to win a few and come second in a few.



Once all of the racing was complete and all 15 represented Scout Groups mustered, receiving certificates, trophies and having their photo taken with Sea Scout Inspecting Officer Lt Cdr David Griffiths. Leander waited to hear if they were overall winners. ... Well, see the results! ...

Congratulation to all that took part in this year's regatta, but a big thank you to all of the parents, families and friends that supported and shouted over the weekend.

Under 12½
1st Kayak
2nd Coxed Pair
2nd Gig
1st Overall

Under 14
2nd Kayak
1st Sculling
1st Gig
1st Overall

Under 16
1st Single Dinghy
2nd Sculling
2nd Overall

Under 18
2nd Kayak
1st Single Dinghy
1st Sculling
2nd Gig
1st Overall

Leander overall winners:
'Cock of the River'!

