



# The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2011

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## Success at the Regatta



'Cock of the River' – 1st place overall  
First place – under 12½ overall, under 14 overall

First place in the following events:  
Gabriel Downer (U12½ Kayak)  
Dominic Jackson (U14 stern sculling)  
under 14 double dinghy pulling

*You can see more photos, taken by Andrew Jackson, by going to the website (Regatta 2011 button).*

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## Busy Beavers

Leander Beavers have had a very busy Summer term. Activities have been focussed around the Safety and Adventure activity badges. We have been very fortunate to have a number of external speakers support the programme this term.

We had a visit from Laura and Lisa from the Tudor Safer Neighbourhood Team, talking about what to do when approached by a stranger, and Alison from the



Marine Police Unit talking about water safety.

Swimming followed the Cubs' move to Teddington pool and was very successful with many Beavers making good progress towards their stage 1 and stage 2 swimming badges.

The term has been supplemented by many weekend events, including camping at Polyapes in May, which enabled Jonathan Allan and Izzy Cox to get their Nights Away badge, the Cu-beaver Fun Day at Walton Firs in June, and Open Day at Kingston Police Station. In July, Leander Beavers achieved joint 4th place at the Royal Kingston District Sports Day. An excellent achievement, considering the amount of preparation and practice.

I think the highlights of the term were the safety superheroes and the Beavers folding and floating paper boats on the river, which was extremely popular. We also enjoyed a slightly damp adventure walk around Richmond Park

(thanks to Simon for leading this event in my absence).

The parent rota is working well, but we still need an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, so if you would like to support your Beaver Colony in an official capacity please let me know.

*Richard, Beaver Scout Leader*



*Jonathan Allen on his way to first place in the bean bag race*

## Coxswain's Corner

As is the custom, the Troop has been out on the water every meeting, with the Regatta Squad putting in some practice for various events. The Regatta weekend was very busy, with a lot of hard-fought races. Leander did quite well, but, as most Scouts now realise, the competitors are keener, and more skilled, and events are not the walkover they used to be. If you want to do well, get in some decent time with your crew and boat beforehand and enter with a positive attitude.

Anyway, it's good to spread the trophies around.

We have had a few selected Saturday meetings – people put their hand up and say they would like to attend, but when it comes to it, apart from a few regulars, they don't show. With three Leaders on hand, it's a waste of their time and skills when only three people turn up, so we need to seriously consider this option in the future. Saturday is a great time to get on the water; it's not limited by lack of light and the River has a different atmosphere then.

Summer camp is at Longridge Activity Centre, Marlow, so lots of kit to check and get ready. It'll be good fun; we will be surrounded by water, so fingers crossed for some decent weather.



*New Scouts invested by Karen*

## Shooting



*Toby Edwards-Rean and Sam Lear at the District's field target shooting day at Birchmere Scout Camp Site, Wisley.*

*Coxswain*



## Pack Pack Pack!!!

This Summer has mostly been about running around woods, falling in the river and making fires. What more could a Cub ask for!

We started with a trip to Walton Firs for a District Cub and Beaver Jambo. Seven Cubs and a Beaver met the coach in New Malden and were taken to a site packed with an unbelievable assortment of activities. Flight Simulators, Caving, Abseiling, Archery, Camp Food and much more. Our Cubs were excellent ambassadors for the group and we all went home tired but happy.

During regular HQ meetings, we had lessons on fire safety, and concentrated on how fires actually work and what they need to thrive. We talked about different types of wood fuel and some of the Cubs collected interesting types of wood over the half term break. We then split into Sixes, went outside and everybody had a go at lighting fires! Each Six ended up with a brilliant monster blaze and we experimented with camp cuisine on home-made frying pans made from foil and wire coat hangers. This was to prove to be very good practice!

We had previously been on a Pack outing in the area, discovering how maps work, and also visited Richmond Park on a Tracking Expedition. This is where your esteemed leader discovered how difficult it is to lay tracks backwards and still end up at the start position!

Camping was next and we had a great Cub turn out for the Big Adventure Camp at Polyapes.

Thirteen Cubs attended, with a brave few turning up on the Friday to help set up. I think it best not to mention the rain....

Saturday and Sunday were clear and bright for the most part and we practised tracking, played wide games in the woods and just about everybody built more fires and burned marshmallows on them. We expanded our camp cuisine to trout cooked in wet newspapers. Delicious!!

Songs were sung and a little sleep was slept. We all went home happy but tired.

Since then we have been kayaking and raft building at Thames Young Mariners which has been great fun and we got our heads down for our penultimate meeting at HQ to catch up on our badge work. The final meeting was a picnic in Richmond Park.

We will be very sad to say goodbye to Benjamin Tahsin, Mathew Cramp, Daniel Sykes and Jemma Sparks who have been press-ganged into the Scouts but are thrilled to invite Dylan Hunter, Ralph Talman and Elliott Boss to swim up from the Beavers.

Leander Cubs are sad to report that Nick Yelland has had a nasty accident, which has left him pretty incapacitated for the next few months at least.

Nick severely damaged his knee ligaments during a seemingly innocuous tackle playing football a couple of weeks ago.

From all at Leander – GET WELL SOON.

## Letter to the Editor

*One of our Leander Guild writes in response to Russell's Then and Now, in the last issue.*

*I would guess Russell was too young to know about the politics of Leander at that time!*

Dear Nigel,

I think we must put the record straight May issue 2011, Russell is under the impression that the HQ was rebuilt for us by the developer of Albany Mews, Oh I wish it were true!

Very briefly, in this short letter I can't give the complete history. After the fire, a sub-committee of the group Executive Committee was formed under my chairmanship. The first task was to raise money for the rebuild.

Many letters were written to anyone we thought could help. We leafleted the town asking for one pound. We borrowed money from the sports council. A charity that supports Scouting donated a considerable sum. Scout Headquarters helped, plus the insurance money. Under the banner of the Leander Guild, money was raised by concerts organized by Keith Quinnen.

A Leander designed the building and dealt with planning matters. Gordon Biden was the project manager and part builder. George Goodall kept the accounts. We drew on the skills of Leander Guild members and others, only relying on contractors for jobs we couldn't do ourselves. Leanders rebuilt quite a lot of the Headquarters ourselves.

*Yours in Sea Scouting  
Nigel Fentiman  
past Chairman, Leander E.C.*



# The Big Adventure Camp

This Big Adventure Camp is all about doing some basic Scouting. So, we have to cook our own food on an open fire. First, let's get some firewood.



Now that's not how we were told to do it! And maybe it's a bit ambitious for kindling, so let's try something a bit more manageable.



Lighting a fire seems like a lot more hard work than turning on the oven. You'd think, if the motto was *Be Prepared*, we'd have been prepared with a take-away.



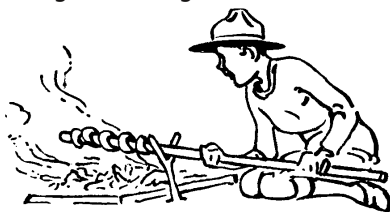
And why is the unhelpful Scout Leader standing in the background with hands on hips??



Well, maybe that wasn't so difficult after all. Look, Mum, no firefighters! So, if there's a power cut, I'll see we can get the Sunday roast done at home.



I'm not so sure about this. It may look like a sausage, but it's not got a lot more in it than flour and water. What use is that for a growing boy, I ask you? Anyway, let's get cooking.



Someone really should tell him you need glowing embers, not a raging inferno. I bet he'll wake up in the middle of the night with stomach cramps.

Oh, hang on a moment! If you splurge enough jam on it, it tastes alright, really. Ah, with even more jam, you can't taste the burnt bits at all. Or the raw bits.



We're telling you, this is the Jamie Oliver gourmet option. Just turn that fire up to gas mark 11.



While they've been messing about with fires, we've been creating a piece of installation art. We're really proud it's been shortlisted for the Turner Prize next year. Now wash your hands, please!