



# The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

March 2007

editor - Nigel Duffin - webmaster@leanderseascouts.co.uk

## Spring and Summer are coming

As Leander enters into longer and sunnier days, I have sadly had to accept the resignation of our very bubbly Beaver Leader, Amy Blackburn. I hope you will all join in with me in saying a very big THANK YOU for all of the hard work that she has put in to the Beavers over the past two years.

This then means we are requiring new leaders within the Beavers, but any help within any of the sections throughout Leander would be very much appreciated.

We had a visit from the Surrey Comet over the week begin 12th March. As Leander is registered as the oldest Group within the Royal Kingston District, we have been selected in chronological order to be the first to represent the District on celebrating the Centennial Year of Scouting



Over the last weekend of May this year, there will be a Centenary Camp being held at Polyapes Scout Campsite. We currently have 30 Cubs, Scouts,

Explorers and Leaders attending, but if any member of Leander still wishes to attend, please talk to your section leaders for further details. With regards to Beavers attending this weekend event, there will be an open Sunday where they will be able to come along and have a go at all activities available. Finally if your son or daughter is not able to stay over at any point during the camp, they are also very welcome to attend the open Sunday.

St George's Day is fast approaching this year, and I would like to see Leander with full attendance on parade. This would be a very good practice for us to show how smart we are, as within two weeks after the St George's Day Parade we are to have our RN Inspection. Leander has held this accolade for many years and I would like to see the tradition of Leander having Naval Recognition for many years to come.

Sunday 3rd June, Leander would like to invite ALL family, friends and associates of the group to Richmond Park for the Leander Picnic. Each section will be laying on fun activities for all to take part in or just for you to lay back and enjoy a nice day in the park. More details will be available soon.

Congratulations to the ESU for winning this year's Swimming Gala held at Cheam Leisure Centre and also a very big hand to three members of

the Troop on winning the County Night Hike up at Box Hill.

Finally a very big Thank You to the Leander Guild on redecorating the Main Deck of the HQ.

Karen

## Adult Awards

### RYA First Aid

Karen Rean, ABSL

Robin Burr, SL

Sorrell Hathaway, ASL

Liz Morrissey, Troop Assistant

Aidan Hazard, Troop Instructor & Quartermaster

Paul Kitching, ACSL

Nick Yelland, ACSL

### RYA VHF Maritime Radio Operator

Nigel Duffin, Chairman

Keith Maund, Exec. Member

Robin Burr, SL

Karen Loizou, AGSL & ESL

### ASL Warrant

Sorrell Hathaway, ASL

### Wood Badge

Robin Burr, SL

Karen Loizou, AGSL & ESL

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## Coxswain's Corner

It's been a fairly quiet but industrious time since Christmas; currently the whole Troop is working through the Emergency Aid badge. This is very worth while having, and, in addition, is one of the requirements that helps count towards our continued Royal Navy recognition - Inspection is shortly after Easter.

In preparation for the County Cooking Competition we always hold a Patrol cooking evening just before the event. (Unfortunately that County event has been postponed and most likely will not take place now this year). The standard of menus and culinary skills is always very high and there were some very well prepared and tasty meals produced. James Kimber's team excelled with their caramelised fruit dessert, an outstanding dish with real delicacy and unique flavour.



The County Night Exercise has just been held, with 19 teams of 4-6 Scouts navigating over Box Hill, White Hill and Headley Heath, hav-

ing to cover eight miles of heath and woodland, a tricky route that requires proper use of map and compass bearings. This is a very competitive event and - surprise, surprise - the Leander team won! Alastair, James and Huw, plus Elizabeth, from Berrylands Troop, completed the route in a very fast 2 hours 44 minutes. Very well done!

The District Air Rifle competition is coming up shortly and, with Alastair in the National Scout Shooting Squad, we hope to put a team in. As the weather warming up, getting back on the water is hopefully not too far away and we will all be happy getting the boats out.

Summer Camp will be at Youlbury Scout Camp Site in Oxfordshire, with load of activities and plenty to do.

Coxswain

## Cubs give thumbs up to Science



These photographs of the Cubs investigating electricity were taken by Thomas Yelland, a member of our Pack



## Beavers say hello!



## Leander Sea Scouts - HQ and Marquee Hire

In the past we have erected marquees for various occasions:

Fairs  
Charity Events  
Birthdays

and in all kinds of locations:

gardens  
fields  
parks



For further information please email – [karen.loizou@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.loizou@btinternet.com)

*If you need a marquee for your event, Leander can help you!!*

## Join the Mutineers



We are a mix of parents and leaders, still looking for new oarsmen. If you fancy a row up river in the evening, with the opportunity of visiting the odd

hostelry, why not give it a try? Usually Thursday nights and the odd Sunday morning. Contact: Robin Burr.

## Dates for your Diary

Monday April 16 – Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ

Thursday 19 April – St George's Day Rehearsal

Sunday 22 April – St George's Day Parade

Wednesday 2 May – RN Inspection

Saturday 12 May – District Beaver Scientific Afternoon, 1st Hook HQ

Sunday 13 May – District Cub five-a-side Football, Kingsmeadow

25 - 28 May – Centenary Camp, Polyapes

Sunday 3 June – Leander Picnic in Richmond Park

Monday 4 June – Leander AGM, 8pm HQ

Saturday 23 June – District Beaver Sports Morning

30 June/1 July – National Sea Scout Regatta

Saturday 7 July – District Cub Sports Day, Ember Court

Sunday 22 July – Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge, Canbury Gardens

28 July - 4 August – Troop & Unit Summer Camp

27 July - 10 August – World Jamboree

Wednesday 1 August – District Sunrise Ceremony, Kingston University



## Super Size Me

The last few months have been incredibly busy for the Explorer Unit, not only for the festive season, but also for the centenary year of Scouting.

In December we had the brilliant idea of making super size games that both the Unit and the Troop could take part in whilst away on camp. We decided to start with a giant twister board, big enough to fit the whole Unit at once. We are hoping to expand our games cupboard, by adding Monopoly and snakes and ladders to the collection.

To end 2006 we had our annual Christmas party. This time we decided to keep it close to home in the Scout Headquarters, and Karen cooked us a full Christmas dinner, which was hugely appreciated by all. We ended the night with a sad farewell to Matt, as he has now moved to Australia, and we wish him the best of luck with his new life down under.

We had a fantastic start to the centenary year in January, where the unit took part in a District swimming gala, leaving with a triumphant first place.



To kick off our centenary activities, the Unit created and took part in a 'Crazy Golf Challenge', where four courses were made up using materials around the hut, including tyres, rope, buckets and benches.

Another activity that we could add to our list was 'Borrowed Art', where we had to make a work of art using only the materials you could find. Here our true colours shone, when the two teams managed to come up with a three-wheeled car and a headless kayaker. Oh well, at least we tried!

A few weeks ago we tried something a little different: Matchstick Rockets. The theory is that once lit, a matchstick rocket then shoots forward, landing at least some way away from its starting point. After two hours of trying, only a few were victorious, but I have to say that the experience was fun and somewhat hilarious.

We have also been to Guildford Spectrum for a night on the rink, kindly chauffeured by Karen and Ben. There were only a few falls, mainly by me, deciding to fall flat on my face! We will continue to fill up our calendar with various activities throughout the rest of this year.

Fundraising for Comic Relief is also a big focus this month. We are planning various events including: a Bring and Buy sale, a 'Leander Tea Sale' and the most imaginative 'red pancakes' for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Meanwhile, Leander is waiting impatiently to get back out on the water where we truly belong, for yet another year of rowing, canoeing and kayaking.

Mattie B

