



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

March 2008

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Leander Getting Stronger

This term, I am happy to report Leander is finally getting back to its old ways. We have a Beaver Colony full to the gunwales, a Cub Pack getting stronger after a few shaky weeks without Caro at the helm and finally the Scout Troop with numbers increasing and holding fast.

But we do need everyone's help to keep Leander strong. Karen Rean has done a great job during her first year in charge of the Beavers, and I am pleased to announce the Simon Biddulph has now been given his Provisional Appointment to becoming the Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and they also have two Colony Assistants.

As announced back in December the Cub Pack were sadly losing Caro. For the Cub Pack and the four leaders to run at FULL strength they do require weekly parental help. That means they will have to implement a parent rota, if they are unable to find any other persons to help on a regular basis within the leadership team.

This also applies the Scout Troop. Robin (Coxswain) and Liz have been running the Troop for nearly three years, week in week out, without any help. If any parent from any section has any boating knowledge or qualifications or would be able to help on a regular basis, please contact me (Karen.loizou@btinternet.com) or the

section leaders to help Leander to get even stronger.

As you may have read in a Water Rat entry from me, Leander was to be celebrating its 100th Birthday this year. I can only apologise - this fact is true, but untrue! Yes, 2nd Kingston (Leander) started back in 1908 (which makes us 100), but sadly the powers that be could not come up with a date on when we first started, so the Executive Committee has decided that we are to Celebrate our 100th on the anniversary of when the Group was first registered, on 3rd April 1909. I am truly sorry for the misleading reports in previous issues of the Water Rat and we will be re-running the T-shirt competition.

Karen



Awards

- Simon Biddulph
ABSL Provisional Appointment
- Jonathan Burr (Troop Instructor)
RYA First Aid
- Nigel Duffin (Group Chairman)
RYA First Aid
- Nick Pratt (Explorer)
RYA First Aid
- Sam Whitfield (Unit Assistant)
RYA First Aid

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Busy Beavers

This term's programme has been action packed!

We've all been working towards our Global Challenge Award. The Scout Association has made some recent changes to the badges and zones with the aim of complementing the existing programme for the young people throughout the movement. Anyone wanting to know more about it can look at the following link: http://www.scouts.org.uk/magazine/dec_jan07/scout_magdecjan07/beaver.pdf

We've had lots of fun so far this year! In January we welcomed five new Beavers to Leander: Ciaran Murray, Felix Allnutt, Frances Washington, James Hayes and Samuel Hodgson.

The following week our first outside visitor, Raj Shingi, came in for an Enjoy-A-Ball session. Then we celebrated Chinese New Year with stories and games, prawn crackers and red packets filled with chocolate coins. Steve Midson and his wife, Jane, brought in their Midair Models, and after an evening of making and flying polystyrene aircraft all we had to do was chat about flying and fill in some worksheets to get the Air Activities Badge.

Talking of badges, Clare Jackson and Kirsty Frame are the first girls at Leander to have been awarded the Chief Scout Bronze Award. Clare went along to a Roller Skating event with her family at Tolworth Rec and enjoyed it so much they thought they'd go again for a disco session – available to the public on Saturday afternoons.

Kirsty brought in her dog Ziggy, and Toby brought in his rats as part of the Animal Friend Badge. So, as you can see, we're keeping the parents busy too, as they have to sew on all of the badge we keep earning.

The District team organised a Scientific Afternoon at 1st Hook which the Washingtons and the Edwards-Reans attended. Our base was 'Experiments



with Balloons', but you'll have to come along next year to find out more about it!!

The Exploring Afternoon was rather soggy but we did manage to get outside to explore the extensive grounds at Southwood Activity Centre. The Allnutt family really enjoyed themselves, as did Archie and Ralph Talman, Arjun Bhushan and Hannah & Toby E-R.

BREAKING NEWS – Simon Biddulph, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, has now received his provisional warrant, so you'll be seeing more of him in the future!!

*Karen Rean, Beaver Scout Leader.
(Where has the last year gone?
I only stepped in to help out for a term ...)*



Upcoming Events

On Sunday 30th March, Leader (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers & parents) have been invited to help CARA (Canbury and Riverside Association) with a Litter Pick along the bank side of the river outside the HQ and along the towpath to make the area is much cleaner. If you are able to help, please come armed with rubber gloves at 10.30am.

Sunday 27th April is the annual St George's Day Parade. It will be held over in Tolworth as it has been for the past few years. Information to follow.

Saturday 10th May, Leander has been invited by the Royal Kingston District to take part in a 10.1km walk. Once again ALL sections, parents – and this time family pets – are able to take part. Information to follow.

Friday 16th – Sunday 18th May, Leander Family Camp. The second deadline date for all consent slips and payments is now upon us, so could any families, Scouts or Explorers with any last minute interest in taking part in the weekend of fun please submit slip and payments by the 1st April. There is also now the option for you and your family to take part as day visitors. For further information, please talk to your section leaders.

Cubs do it themselves Explorers

Since Christmas the Cubs have spent time on four badges – DIY, Scientist, Sports Enthusiast and Chef.

We had a treasure hunt in Canbury gardens in the dark, won by Brown Six and a wide game (Smugglers) in Richmond Park in the dark – both proved very popular.



This term, the scouts were bravely put into the sole hands of the Explorers; we organised two meetings for them, jam packed with not only activities, but also some old traditions that seemed to have dissolved since we were there. They included running to the half mile tree and full uniform inspections, which we were only too happy to instigate! Even though it was a fun two weeks, it gave the whole Unit an insight into what the leaders go through weekly!

Last week of January we welcomed a number of scouts from P&H (Petersham & Ham Sea Scouts) for an evening, to play a number games and challenges and to help them

and their Leaders see how a Unit should work.

Since the beginning of February, we have been unnervingly productive in washing, scrubbing, sanding and polishing two of our gigs (Chief and Hero), in preparation for the water season. It's a tough job but we have made a lot of progress with them, and with the 1st May deadline fast approaching, we hope to be repainting and oiling them very soon.

For Easter Karen gave us an Easter egg hunt, testing our hunting skills to the max.

Mattie

