

C O N T E N T S F O R

N O V E M B E R, 1963

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2.

EDITORIAL

It is difficult to know exactly what form of "Water Rat" would be most appreciated by it's readers, whether it should be largely straight reporting of events, or contain more supposedly hilarious articles, letters and other goodies. This edition follows the former plan, mainly because of the many achievements in 1963 that should be recorded in the limited number of pages and partly because of apathy among potential contributors.

For the first time for many years Mrs. Ebbage has not been able to type out and print the "Water Rat". This has shown us how much of the "Water Rat's" success in the past has depended on her help. We would like to thank her for this; and also Hilary of S.R.S. Victor and Mrs. Maund who helped to get this number under way.

During the summer months all sections of the Group had their time so fully booked with outside events that they were screaming for a normal weekend in which to hold a meeting. In the Troop especially, after four or five weeks without a Saturday meeting, the **system** begins to break down. In 1964 we will probably have to say "NO" to several activities on District or County level for the sake of keeping a semblance of efficiency within the Troop and Senior Troop Patrols.

It is apparent now, at all "Leander" functions, that we have very strong and energetic backing from the parents. This is invaluable to the Group, but it raises the point of whether the Scouts themselves are doing enough in the fund raising line. There is an old Chinese proverb that says "Coypus do not grow on trees", and perhaps a little effort in the right direction might give Scouting a bit more meaning for those to whom at present it comes served on a plate.

The Rover Crew is in action again. With Sandling to refit and their van to maintain they should be pretty busy this winter. It is hoped that when the time comes for the next complement of ex-Seniors to join them they will still be flourishing and that the crew will be able to build up its numbers. At the moment, each new group of Rover squires has to restart the Crew from scratch. However the strong Senior Troop should help in this.

Christmas is nearly upon us and so "Happy Christmas every one". All the following pages may not interest you but you will probably find something in this edition of "Leander's Log" worthy of a squint.

THE SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

3.

The six months which have elapsed since the last issue have been as crowded with activity as any in the Group's history. As has been stated on more than one previous occasion, the key to this is the tremendous keen-ness of the team of Scouters, backed up by an enthusiastic parents' committee. Unfortunately, since moving to West Molesey, Mrs. Grigg is unable to carry on as Assistant Cubmaster. On behalf of the Group I express our sincere thanks for her three years of invaluable service with the Cub Pack. We welcome in her place Mrs. Pat Newmarch to whom we wish great happiness in the work which she is undertaking. We also welcome Stephen Webb and Stuart Brown as Assistant Senior Scout Leader and Assistant Scoutmaster respectively. It is most encouraging to have them come forward to pass on what they learnt as Scouts to the rising generation.

Congratulations to Stephen Day, Chris Hunt, Peter Hunter and Keith Maund on gaining the Queen's Scout Badge and to Chris. and Keith on obtaining the Gold Award of the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme. There is abundant evidence that their example is being emulated by other members of the Group. By his selection as one of Surrey's representatives at the World Jamboree in Greece, Keith Maund brought further distinction to "Leanders". His account of what he saw and heard has given us all a greater understanding of the world-wide extent of Scouting and of its beneficial influence among the peoples of so many nations.

Probably the most momentous happening this year has been the acquiring of the Group Bus. This Commer 14-seater was obtained through the initiative of the Rover Crew and restored by them to a road-worthy condition through countless hours of very hard work in which they had the expert assistance of Mr. Grigg. This vehicle made its debut at the Garden Fete in June and since then has proved its worth in connection with transport to and from camp for both gear and boys. In particular it has rendered it possible to make much fuller use of "Sandling". In this respect we have also benefitted greatly from the new mooring at Gosport arranged through the Queen's Harbourmaster. "Sandling" is now able to put to sea at any state of the tide and to be clear of the harbour entrance in much shorter time than from the old mooring at Hardway.

The crowning event of the Summer was the National Sea Scout Regatta where, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Dow, the parents and members fed a countless multitude to the astonishment and gratification of all who participated.

CUB NOTES

As I am writing these notes before a blazing fire, the rain is beating heavily against the windows, reminding me of another long-to-be-forgotten rainy day in July, when Leander Pack, accompanied by Akela, Rikki and Mitt, joined twelve thousand Surrey Cubs on Epsom Downs to greet the Chief Scout on his visit to Surrey. Although the Cubs stood for hours in an incessant downpour, their spirits were by no means damp, and the well-known "Cub Grin" was very much in evidence as they cheerfully squelched through rivers of mud admiring each other's green hair and navy blue knees where the dye from their caps and trousers had made its indelible mark!

Our Group Camp held at Buckmore Park, however, was an entirely different matter for we had glorious sunshine throughout the whole weekend, and the Cubs returned home with healthy tans and happy memories of fun and games, swimming, tree-climbing, camp fires and, last but not least, the excellent cooking supplied by Messrs. Grigg, Andrews and Leyshon. It was unfortunate that the date of the District Swimming Gala clashed with our camp and we were consequently unable to take part this year. At the Cub Sports, however, Leander Pack did extremely well and collected several prizes and certificates. At the Going-up Ceremony in September, five Cubs went up into the Troop: Jimmy Dorman, Andy Hunter, Geoffrey Newmarch, Michael Stanford and Michael Wilson. Since last Easter we

have welcomed seven New Chums: Barry Tibble, Robert Holman, Nicholas Pearce, Christopher Osborne, John Richardon, Garry Smith and Nigel Johnson. We were delighted when Mrs. Newmarch (Rikki) joined the ranks of Leander Scouters as Assistant Cubmaster. Having been well and truly "christened" at Epsom Downs and "initiated" at Buckmore Park, I expect she now feels seasoned enough to face any endurance test Leander may have to offer.

Since the family removed to Molesey, Bagheera (Mrs. Grigg) has found it virtually impossible to continue as A/C/M but we shall not be saying "Goodbye" to her as she will still be looking after the Badge arrangements for the Pack. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking



both Mr. and Mrs. Grigg for the help they have always given to the Pack as well as the Group. Thanks are also due to Mr. Andrews and Mr. Williamson, not forgetting our valiant Mitt, who are all working to raise the standard of swimming in the Pack by coaching the Cubs at 8 a.m. each Sunday morning at Kingston Swimming Bath. Before a Cub is allowed to go up into the Troop he must be able to swim at least two lengths, and there are several Cubs who will have to work very hard during the next year if they intend to reach this required standard by the time they are 11 years old. With the help of our excellent coaches, coupled with regular attendance, sheer dogged hard work and determination, this could be done, however, even at this late stage.

On behalf of the Pack and Pack Scouters I should like to thank all the Cub parents who have helped with our Group Fete, Regattas etc. The success of these events, and subsequent raising of our Funds, is due to their wonderful support and co-operation.

AKELA.

LEANDER B.P. GUILD IMAGE 1963-64

Larger waistlines are "in" this year. Whilst writing this I give exception, (and apologies) to the lean thoroughbreds of the Guild who look terribly fit and whose frames have not one spare ounce of flesh on them. The majority are, however, more rotund (they will never forgive me for this) giving a slightly false impression of wealth and prosperity. Seriously though I feel that we are approaching a more responsible age, except again perhaps for one or two tearaways, and we begin to raise quizzical eyebrows at the younger set with their "Beatle" haircuts and black mourning dress, (at least we think that's what it is) not to mention the Weirdies and the unwashed ones. We reach apparent responsibility slowly, and a subtle change comes over us all when families begin to appear and we dress reasonably normally. Occasionally nostalgia catches up on us - just like the last Guild meeting when, during gig training (translation:- Pub crawl) we happened to drop in to a local hostelry (sounds better than a pub!) where we partook of refreshments - plus jellied eels. When it was time to go, we all trooped out to the barmaids cry of "Goodnight Boys!" - Boys! - it made our evening. However, coming back to my original point. This feeling of responsibility as a Guild makes us feel very strongly about supporting Skipper, in his fight with the big battalions of developers and uncertain Councils, and we have pledged our full support to him. It is in this aspect that we hope we can be of most help, as we consider that the name of the Leander Sea Scout Group is synonymous with Leander B-P Guild.

"SNOWY" (Vice-Chairman B.P. Guild)

6.

LA CRUISE DE LES SENIEURS

After the usual last minute, frantic rushing about we eventually set off for Cowes at about 10 o'clock on Sunday 25th August, in 'Oxo'. We had all become members of the Ocean Youth Club earlier in the year, and we were going to sail in one of the Club's boats, 'Duet', which is a twenty-two ton gaff rigged yawl stationed at Cowes. We arrived at Cowes about mid-day and had lunch in a local cafe. In the evening we went to the Ocean Youth Club boat yard, where we learnt that the previous week's trip in Duet had been a little rough, and most of the bedding was soaking. Because of this we spent the night in bunks in one of their buildings. The following day we moved across to Duet and were shown round. The boat consists of a fo'c's'le up forward, a miniature galley, half of which was taken up by the mast in the centre, the main saloon with the table and food lockers and the after cabin. The rest of Monday was spent clearing up the boat and generally getting it ready for sailing. On Tuesday, so the Jo', the skipper, could see how well we could sail, we went for a sail in the Solent and then returned to Cowes for the night. Wednesday we set off for Cherbourg in the Morning. The trip across was a bit rough especially at first, and many of us were either sick or flat out on the deck. There is very little to say about the journey across because all you could see was sea! It was early evening when we sighted France, and by late evening we were entering Cherbourg harbour. Thursday morning, in true French tradition, we had croissants for breakfast. Later, in the afternoon, when we walked through the town, it seemed as if we had been plunged into a land of corrugated iron cars all driving on the wrong side of the road. At least, it is certainly true that 1 in 3 cars in France is a Citroën, and it is difficult to get used to looking towards the left when crossing the road. We managed to get by with our Meagre French and never went anywhere that said "English spoken here", for half the fun is being able to make rude comments about people who cannot understand you. That evening we had tea in a delightful little cafe where we sampled some mussels among other things. We also found a sort of French "Millets" where many of us bought the "French Fisherman type hats" which have now become so popular with many of the Seniors. The next day, as we missed the weather forecast, we did not sail but had another day ashore. We stocked up with our bonded stores (i.e. duty-free goods which are not allowed to be consumed in French waters). Saturday morning we set off for Cowes. The trip was quite hectic and it was late by the time we entered the Solent. Later the tide turned against us and we had to motor into Cowes.

NATIONAL SEA SCOUT REGATTA - 1963

We are not yet able to decide whether it was for the cooking provided by Leander parents and friends or the facilities of Teddington Reach, provided by the Royal Canoe Club and Tamesis Sailing Club, that induced the organisers of the National Sea Scout Regatta to bring the regatta back to Leander again this year, but whatever the reason, back they came. It was a terrific weekend. Mrs. D. Dow and her team worked absolute wonders with the catering - we understand from some of our visitors that they thought "the grub was really smashin'!" The weather was kinder to us this year and, backed by the experience of the previous year's Regatta, the programme proceeded smoothly. "B", wearing a snazzy plastic armband was Boatmaster and, under his guidance, the very large fleet was assembled, moored and stored. 'Fred Foster', the London River Scheme Flag Ship, arrived with dinghies on the deck and Commander Cobham trailed his gig up from Porchester for the biggest muster of Home Counties Gigs ever seen. Bob Dodge and P.L.C. (P. Lomas-Clarke) are experts at refitting pintles and carrying out running repairs. Competition was very keen and Leander had a successful day on the Saturday, finishing up by winning the Swimming Gala which was organised and run by the Leander B.P. Guild in their usual efficient way. Sunday was perfect and we were soon in the midst of the finals. For the Troop, Fag (S. Lenthall) triumphantly coxed the "under 15" Gig crew to victory, thus retaining the Chief Scout's Trophy: Alan Martin was narrowly beaten in the "under 15" Dinghy Pulling and Micheal Frith reached the finals of the "under 15" Canoeing. For the Seniors, Nutty (H. Rickard) came very close to repeating his last year's success in Dinghy Pulling but this time in the Senior Class. Mitt (Nigel Duffin) and P.L.C. (Paul Lomas-Clarke) reached the Final of the Senior Dinghy Sailing, while the Senior Gig Crew coxed by D. Grigg fought out one of the fiercest contests of the Regatta, to be narrowly beaten into second place in the Senior Gig Finals by Southborough. As to the Gig Sailing, we did hear a suggestion that we might be borrowing a crew from S.R.S. Victor for next year's race. Skipper entertained the V.I.Ps to lunch in the Royal Canoe Club on the Sunday and then in the evening the whole Group did a magnificent job of clearing up so that the tow path lawns beyond the Half Mile Tree really were cleaner after the Sea Scouts had left.

R.S.L.

PARENTS' CORNER

Since the last issue there have been several meetings resulting in (a) the record sum of £130 being raised at the Fete on 28th June. (b) Coffee evenings which contributed to the cost of sending two Kingston Scouts to the Jamboree in Greece. (c) Provision of refreshments at the Regattas on the river and at "Operation Touchdown". (d) a successful Social Evening on the 13th September with Mr. Andrews as M.C. and (e) Catering at the National Sea Scout Regatta on the 28th and 29th September.

Social Evening This was held at the Tudor Hall on 13th September, to welcome Keith Maund back from the Jamboree and to give him an opportunity of telling us about his trip. Keith gave a most interesting talk and we all had the chance to see his many photographs and trophies which he had brought back with him. We were glad to see a number of his friends from the Senior Troop and the Sea Rangers present. Our guests included Mr. and Mrs. R.G. Busbridge, Miss Little and Miss Over who, though not actually associated with the Group, help us in many ways. Another highlight of the evening was the showing of the colour film of the 196 Fete; it gave a number of the parents an opportunity of seeing themselves as others see them. The film of the 1962 Cub camp was well received and it gave some of the parents an advantage in seeing their sons in action. Apart from the Pack Scouters, who have sons in the Group, we were delighted to see some of the Dads keeping the pot boiling. We are grateful to Mr. Wilson for taking and showing the films. Thanks Badges were presented by G/S/M Ebbage to Mrs. Phill Day, Mr. J. Andrews and to Mr. M. Duffin for their services to the Group over many years. All three have done excellent work for Leander and the award is richly deserved.

National Sea Scout Regatta To a Sea Scout this may mean sailing, paddling or pulling, but to us it means bulk buying, cooking, baking, slicing, serving and a seemingly never-ending washing and drying of crockery and cutlery. Our thanks are due to the parent whose initiative spared us the effort of peeling 2½ cwt of potatoes. Some of the major items on our shopping list, apart from the potatoes were 140 loaves, 200 rolls, 40 lbs butter, 160 pints of milk, 55 lbs roast beef, 75 lbs steak & kidney, 160 lbs sausages, 60 lbs sugar, 63 lbs tinned peas, 96 lbs tinned beans & spaghetti, 48 lbs carrots, 25 lbs bacon, 300 eggs, 80 lbs fruit salad, etc., Parents and friends cooked the roast beef and steak and kidney at their homes as well as baking apple pies, tarts and cakes. It was possible for us to provide hot meals at Leander Headquarters for 290 persons for lunch and tea each day, a continuous cafeteria service in a marquee on the embankment ½ mile away and, in addition, we laid on a lunch at the Royal Canoe Club on Trowlock Island for 40 V.I.Ps on the Sunday.

Success was summed up by the spontaneous appreciation of the Scouts, who called for three cheers for the "Leander" ladies who had given them such good meals during their stay in Kingston. It is doubtful whether the National Sea Scout Regatta would have returned to Kingston this year, if the organisers had not been confident that you were capable of providing hot meals and snacks at a reasonable cost. There must be many suitable stretches of water in and around Great Britain where the National Regatta could be held and if the Regatta returns to Kingston in 1964, you can rest assured that your work this year will have been a major factor in prompting this decision.

THE SENIOR TROOP LOG

The Senior Scout Troop seems at present to be going from strength to strength. During the summer we have spent a few week-ends on Sandling and had a great attack on Badge work. We now have four Queen Scout Badges and two Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards to our credit. One of the gigs has been taken by Oxo to Burnham on Crouch, and so we have been able to gain more experience of estuary sailing. After going down river at Easter and on Sandling at Whitsun, this has led to enlarged charge certificates and finally to a week's cruise of Duct, one of the Ocean Youth Club vessels. In the District Adventure Competition we managed 1st place, although in the County Survival Competition we only came 15th (We're Seamen really). Leander Seniors were prominent in the National Sea Scout Regatta, but unfortunately we were just beaten in the finals of our events. In September, we lost Keith Maund, Chris Hunt, Brian Martin and Graham (Noggin) Hockham to the Rovers but to balance this we now have David Grigg, Graham Westlake and Hugh Rickard up from the Troop. (A row to "Discovery" at the Embankment soon sobered that lot up!). At the Kingston River Carnival the Troop changed into whites to become a water-borne cricket team, runs being scored by swimming between two rafts. In preparation for next summer's extended cruises the Seniors plan, this winter and spring, to do as much gig sailing in the Thames estuary as possible. We are also busy devising a method of raising the Troop Funds in order to buy the much needed sailing and camping gear. Progress in the last year has been phenomenal, thanks to our competent S/S/L, but in 1964 it seems the Seniors will really be "looking wide".

A.O.B.

Tenderfoot "Mummy, can I have a fibre-glass H.Q. for Christmas".
Christmas day this year will be on December 25th.

SUMMER CAMP, 1963

At 8 o'clock on the 10th August the lorry, loaded with kit, rubbish (such as "hot water machines"), boats and boys left Kingston. This departure was the culmination of 2 weeks of alternate work and skive on the part of the four Patrol-Leaders, Muff and Bruno and any other "odd bods" that managed to get themselves lumbered. The lorry arrived with its rather mixed load at one of the pastures, meadows, (call it what you like) of Wall Farm, Holbrook, around 2 o'clock. After the boats, which consisted of 2 H.C.B.O.A. modified "Coypus", had been deposited at "Holbrook Creek", camp was set up and we had rather a late tea about 6 p.m. During the camp three attempts were made at taking "Coypus" to Harwich. All but one failed. Coypus were taken sailing three times. I believe; the last of these ended in a coypu very nearly floating down to Harwich under it's own steam! J.L.-C., Archie (Richard Andrews) and Alan Martin did the greater part of the Explorer Badge from Holbrook, and their yarns about their experiences were greatly enjoyed by all. All three Patrols made a sally on Ipswich, two to Clacton and one to Folkestone. On Sunday the van sailed up to the camp with its hardy crew of visitors who were skippered by 'Mac' (Ian Dow) at the helm. However, when the van returned after a wet windy but nevertheless enjoyable day, it's crew was not quite so hardy, for it had been supplemented by a certain "Daisy" (Stephen Day) who, the night before, had seemingly thought he was on 'Duet' in a quartering sea and had subsequently been a trifle queasy (to recoin a phrase). He was, in fact, so "queasy" that (so Big Ears of the "Lash-Up" told me) the trusty skipper of the hardy ship "Oxo" sincerely pondered the possibilities of lashing Daisy to the roof. As one Patrol had been dissolved during the weekend, the second week at camp became quieter and more relaxed until one evening the "hard-nuts" of the Troop developed an affinity for both "Cross-Country Running" and Holbrook Creek. The ultimate result was a running session of about an hour in all that ended with a lengthy discussion on fitness, length of stride, etc. etc. The weather during the camp tended to be rather wet and blustery but everyone enjoyed themselves, thanks largely to the two chief organisers "Muff" (P. Puffin) and Bruno who, I am sure, needs no introduction. Thus it would be justifiable to say that a good time was had by all.

'STRONGHOLD' - (or - 'WE'VE GOT IT') - A SHORT FARCE

To protect their(?) gear from the masses, the Senior's Half-deck now boasts 30 combination locks, seven 10" thick steel doors and 1,723 feet of anchor chain. Worse still, to get to the sugar tin one needs passes, passwords, 57 keys, celluloid strips, crow bars.....

THE 1963 JAMBOREE IN GREECE

On the 29th July, a party of 40 Boy Scouts from Surrey, Kent and Huntingdonshire met at the BOAC Terminal at 8.30 a.m. From here, we went with the Kent Troop to London Airport where we boarded a plane to Athens. The food on board was superb, and one could have their desire as far as drinks were concerned. We arrived at Athens airport in the sizzling heat (95°F) and were met by "Rikk" Fletcher, an old D/S/M of Kingston. He showed us to our coach and we set off for Marathon. The Greeks drove hard and furiously, with their hands continuously on the horn, and so it only took us just under an hour to travel the 35 miles to the site. This site was very hard, and the ground very barren. I wish I had taken a Lilo, since I seemed to be the only Scout without one! Our personal kit did not arrive until $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours after us, and so we could not get to sleep until past midnight. Our kit had been delivered by mistake to another sub camp, and we had to carry it a good mile. Every morning we were awoken by the Jamboree song over the loud speakers!, this was at 6.30! When the opening day came it took 2 hrs to get the 14,000 Scouts into the arena, and we were rather tired of waiting, but after this was over, we all settled into the Jamboree way of life. Every day, we went swimming, and the camp wide game helped the different Nationalities to mix together a lot more, since the object was to make a group of 11 Scouts from different countries. International camp fires and Scouts Owns also helped us all to get acquainted with each other. Arena displays were very popular, and ours was entitled "Britain gave the world". This contained everything from Stevenson's Rocket and Television to Public School Boys and a pennyfarthing. On Sea Scouts Day there were sailing and pulling races and a demonstration of Air Sea Rescue. I managed to take some of our boys sailing, but naturally, in the true Leander "Nye" tradition, we ran aground.

After the Jamboree, we set off for a four-day tour of the Greek Islands. Since our ship was 12 hours late in docking, we had to miss out one of the Islands, and another, since to the Greeks, 4 days means $4\frac{1}{2}$ days. Still after a breakdown in the middle of the Med. (a boiler blew up) we arrived at Tinos and changed ships for Mykenos. We spent 2 days here, and stayed in a school. From here we visited Delos, the Island of ruins. Needless to say, many of the Scouts were sea sick when travelling. We then went back to Pyreus and then Athens where we had a midnight swim, departing for London at 2.30 a.m. A wonderful time was had by all, and our Scouting education greatly advanced.

Keith Maund

THE TROOP ACTIVITIES

The first event since the last issue of the "Water Rat" was the Easter Camp at Buckmore Park. This camp was for boys who had passed their Second Class. The Whitsun Camp was held at Gilwell and was very much enjoyed by all who went to it. This was closely followed by the Group Swimming Gala and the Garden Fete. The next sortie for the Troop was "Operation Touchdown", the visit of the Chief Scout to Surrey. This started as far as the Scouts were concerned on Saturday afternoon at Walton Firs, where the Chief Scout made a short speech and then inspected many of the District's camp-sites. On the Sunday he inspected a Guard of Honour at the Queen's Promenade, Kingston, and then came down the river past a long string of boats and landed close to Leander Headquarters. Near the end of July a Group Camp was held at Buckmore Park. This was the first Group Camp for a long time and was attended by Cubs, Scouts, and Seniors. The Troop Summer Camp was held this year at Holbrook which is by the River Stour and, although rather wet and windy, the fortnight was packed with the usual boating and pioneering activities. The last major event of the year was the National Sea Scout Regatta which was held at Leander Headquarters near the end of September. A fuller account of the Troop's part in this is given elsewhere. Yes, a full year, but even now we are lucky to get two consecutive meetings at H.Q. without having to be in the public eye somewhere else.

SOCIAL

For some unknown reason the Group decided to hold a Social on Friday 13th September, to celebrate the return of Keith from the Jamboree in Greece. Why they wanted to celebrate Keith's return remains a mystery to those who know him well; but it makes a good excuse for a social. The main attraction was Keith's talk on the Jamboree, this went down well despite a few typical Senior Scout phrases. On show were the photographs Keith took whilst out in Greece and many interesting objects he brought back with him. Keith was also presented with his Duke of Edinburgh Award Badge. Everyone joined in the dancing and games with enthusiasm and much excitement was caused by the Key on a String game; many of the parents found themselves in a "Ticklish" situation. Two young ladies gave a demonstration of the Limbo which was very good and naturally everyone had to have a go. Two teams, one girls and the other boys, had a competition to find the Limbo Champion, which was won by a gentleman. After the exertion of the dancing there was a film show on the Garden Fete which was very interesting and amusing, although some of the younger people present took advantage of the fact that the lights were dimmed and couldn't really say whether the film was good or not. The Parents Association made a marvellous job

of the buffet. Instead of the usual cheese sandwiches, they provided an appetising and imaginative array of food, plus the well loved "cup of tea", better than the tea dished out at Leander, which was appreciated by everyone, especially the Scouts. A pleasant and energetic evening was spent by all and if the Scouts can think of another excuse for a social they should hold one.

CHIEF SCOUT'S VISIT

It was decided that the Chief Scout should come to Surrey to see as many Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rovers as he could during the weekend 6th/7th July, 1963. Each Section was to arrange special camps and rallies for the Chief: the Air Scouts were to look after his helicopter landings and take-offs, and we, the Sea Scouts, were to carry him in triumph down the river as a grand finale to the weekend. In addition, the Chief was to be entertained at Kingston Guildhall at a Reception for the Lay Members of the County. This was another big gala occasion where Leander found itself having to be in two places at once. Akela, assisted by Rikki and Mitt, took the Pack to Epsom Race Course by coach, to stand in the pouring rain, to give their greeting to the Chief, who was forced to travel by car, the rain and low mist having grounded the helicopter which was to have taken him from place to place. Bruno and the Troop went to Walton Firs on the Saturday afternoon whilst the Seniors were hard at work receiving and mooring the County's craft for the Sea Scout Review. On Sunday morning the weather relented: the sun came out and while Mums frantically repaired the ravages of the previous day we put the final touches to the tidying up of Headquarters. After lunch the other Sea Scout Groups arrived at H.Q. where the Sea Rangers of S.R.S. Victor had a "Make-do-and-mend" Centre, and Mrs. Dow and her helpers yet again supplied refreshments.

At six o'clock the Chief Scout inspected the Sea Scout Guard of Honour at the Queen's Promenade steps. The Group was represented by Peter Burton, Nigel Duffin and Richard Andrews. The Chief Scouts, escorted by the Mayor of Kingston, was then taken down the river in Sea Scout motor boats to inspect the Sea Scouts of the County afloat in review order off Canbury Gardens. After the receive the motor boats came close alongside the H.Q. and landed the Chief at the Half Mile Tree, where he inspected his last Surrey Guard of Honour - Queen's Scouts and holders of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

R.S.L.

S.R.S. VICTOR

During the "Summer" months the young ladies of S.R.S. Victor have been active on, in and out of the water. We have competed in the "Senior Branch" Competition for North Surrey, rowed an Australian Cadet to Hampton Court (we let her row herself back) and picnicked on "Ducks' Ait" near Taggs Island. We have built a monkey-bridge with assistance from 1K.H. Rover Crew and crossed it (also with assistance from 1.K.H. Rover Crew). Combined meetings have been held with the Seniors, which have been most successful although a trifle damp for some people. "Willit" has had some redecoration and is now able to be sailed. Our gig, Victor, has been on the river for the first time in living memory (well almost) after being "Fibre-glassed" and we are building a double canoe. Members of the Crew have helped at the County Sea Scout Meet, Woodlarks, Leander Fete, "Operation Touchdown" and local Guide Company camps. Several Rangers help regularly with Guides, Cubs and Brownies. A test camp was held at Hapwood on August Bank Holiday and Wendy hopes to obtain a Campers Licence from this. We should like to thank Keith for the use of his canoe, and Daisy for painting "WILLIT" on "WILLIT". We think they'll soon qualify for a star (awarded for 75% attendance at Ranger meetings.)

THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY CAMPING COMPETITION

The series of camps began at Polyapes on the 7th September, three Leander Patrols being entered - Herons, Storks and Beavers. The Competition started at 3 o'clock. After inspection by the judges, it followed normal routine of a camp fire on Saturday night, inspection and Scouts' Own on Sunday morning, followed by spare time activities. At 4.30 on Sunday we gathered around the Warden's hut to hear the judge confirm the only possible result - "1st Beavers (Leander) 2nd Herons (Leander) 3rd Storks (Leander)". This meant to the Beavers another camp in a fortnight's time - the County Competition at Walton Firs. On the great day, 21st September, Archie chose to have a bout of migraine an hour or two before the start of the Competition, but by 3 o'clock had fortunately recovered to lead the Patrol in setting up camp. In the afternoon we were kept busy estimating and collecting and pressing leaves, while at 8.30 p.m. the camp fire was held, although unfortunately they didn't allow us to perform our stunt. At 4.15 on Sunday we broke camp, were inspected, and finally assembled for the result: - First 1st Cuddington second Leander. We revenged this defeat by beating 1st Cuddington at the National Sea Scout Regatta the next weekend. We also won the Polyapes District Camping Competition between Malden, Esher, Norbiton and Kingston.