

C O N T E N T S

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EDITORIAL

Regretably, it has been over a year since the last Water Rat. As with so many other things, everyone has the best of intentions about producing it quarterly, but no-one quite gets round to it. I hope that by putting in black and white my intention to produce the next issue by July, I may feel under some moral obligation to do so when I return from the dreaded fens once more.

I was pleasantly surprised only a few days ago to find how much people look forward to receiving the Water Rat: someone complained that he had been struck off the mailing list! Well, of course, I had to admit that there hadn't been an issue since last Easter. If anyone else was thinking that they had been struck off, they are out of luck, and here's the evidence to prove it!

Pat Newmarch, our A.C.M., has written an excellent article about her Wood Badge Course at Gilwell. I am told she stayed up till 1 a.m. writing it, so I am sure any oddities should be excused. It is a pity more people cannot be coerced into writing articles of this nature; perhaps no-one ever does anything worth writing about, although I cannot really believe that.

It is also a pleasure to have one of Mr Hunter's sketches as a frontispiece again: this one is of a gig passing under Henley Bridge. (No doubt an allusion to the epic voyage of Hermes III; see page 6 for further gory details.)

Unfortunately, we have not been able to include an article from the Guild in this issue, as I had to finish the duplicating before returning to University. My apologies, and we will try to have a contribution in the next Water Rat. However, this has enabled the Group accounts to be presented for all to see. (Wise or unwise as this may be)

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped me by writing, drawing, typing, turning the handle, stapling, and so on, mostly at embarrassingly short notice.

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

3.

At the commencement of each new Scout Year it is customary to look back at the past twelve months, and to assess the progress made both by individual members and by the Group as a whole. In the latter connection we have reason to congratulate ourselves on completing the re-payment of the Bank Loan which we first embarked on eleven years ago. This enabled the Group to build up a "fleet" of boats which is the envy of every other Sea Scout Group. We are all enormously grateful to all those parents and others who have so generously supported the many money-raising ventures which have been organised to clear the debt and provide the day-to-day expenditure.

Too much looking back at past achievements can, however, be a waste of time except so far as it encourages us to further effort. Our concern must be with the future to ensure that adequate facilities continue to be available for members of the Group of all ages to undertake those adventures and other activities which provide the type of training which the Scout Movement has pioneered, and which is now being increasingly copied by others. Typical of these were the exploits at Easter of the Senior Troop in the Thames Estuary, and of the Scout Troop up-river. They will provide life-long memories for those taking part. Congratulations, in particular, to the gig crew under A/S/M Peter Hunter who pulled thirty-five miles from Marlow to Kingston in under twelve hours on Easter Monday.

In "Cub Jubilee Year" it is pleasant to recall that the Leander Pack was among the very first to be formed when our Founder started this branch of the Movement. It is especially gratifying that a Leander Cub was selected to lay the wreath on the Founder's Memorial in Westminster Abbey on the anniversary of his birthday. Although Leander's record compares favourably with other Groups, far too few of those who start as Cubs continue with their Scouting to become members of the Rover Crew, and eventually to join the B.P. Guild of Old Scouts. Talking to members of the Leander Branch of the Guild at their recent Annual Dinner, I was impressed by what they told me of how they valued their long active association with all branches of the Group, and one realises how much those boys miss, who drop out of the Group before "completing the course".

NOT SO MUCH A TRAINING PROGRAMME.....

Having been nobly escorted to Gilwell Park by "B" and Mr Akela and left by an arrow that said 'Cub Course Po 212. Report Here' with the words; "and the Best of British, Mate," rounded off by two loud guffaws; she realised with a horrible shock that herself had started on Part II of the Wood Badge.

This is the practical part, so Rikki feeling ever so slightly smug about having persevered with Part I, the theory, signs on and casually peruses the other 35 assorted uniforms. "Glad to see there's a few men about," she thought - well they're so useful for the carpentry bit. Found out afterwards there were 20 men to 16 girls", which is extremely unusual on what they laughingly term an 'indoor' course - did I hear someone say "trust her" ?

The course, headed by a training team consisting of the 'Akela' and various assistants Kipling didn't think of, was run on the lines of the Pack system, i.e. in groups of nine called 'sixes' (you can work that out) with duty rotas for all the chores. It was held as a separate unit away from the main house with its own group room, kitchen, dormitories, and the works.

6.30.a.m. is a marvellous time of the day to see nature in the raw, as it were, as Rikki can never see anything at 6.30.a.m. Obviously she was missing something, but she began to get the hang of leaving her wellingtons in the ablutions, and remembering to hide her hot-water bottle under the mattress before Akela did the inspection.

Each day was one Pack Meeting after another with training in First Aid, Compass Knotting, Flags, Promise and Laws, Discipline, Method and Aims, Health, Handcraft, Artwork, Drama, Campfire Leading, Home and Road Safety, Nature, Camping, Yarn Spinning, Administration - you name it, we did it. Sometimes someone was heard to whisper a foreign word like "coffee" or even "lunch", but these were treated like some form of heresy.

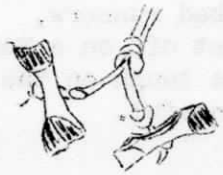
Lightly interspersed through the day were delightful little jobs to fit in, such as build a bird table and observe same, make a diary of the eating habits of the inhabitants. Having tried everything from burnt sausage soaked in tea to cornflakes and marmalade, we discovered happily - on

the last day - they liked bread ? Or, collect natural materials, make bows and arrows, helmets and shields from same, and tear like mad across three fields to be involed for the next hour in an away match between two blokes called Harold and William, whereupon Rikki had a touch of the Rule Britannia's and found she'd 'volunteered' to arrange the Bayeaux Tapestry in human form. The theme being an event of note on the course, naturally Rik took the Mik.

All of which brings me to the day the World Cup was stolen! Some enterprising soul in the outside world had apparently given the Training team the inspiration of a healthy outdoor expedition. Follow that trail, see you at base camp (dig that Scout jargon fellows), Rikki feels at last this is something she can do, when, Surprise! surprise! the sand she's following for 'Black' Six looks remarkably like 'Brown's' split peas - oh well, none of us is perfect. Next a 'Wide' Game in which the object of the exercise (the operative word) was first find your postman, get some Green Shield Stamps, round up Akela who'd got the Mail/Male, then focus on the Post Box. Well, the Australian they gave to the Blacks must have thought we were the original Aboriginies, and guess who got lost in the outback !

In the evenings there were lectures, discussion groups, campfires, and singsongs, acting, and a show-sropping Welsh 'Rugger Song' Choir. In between all this there was a list of individual pastimes some cynic/comedian named spare-time(?) activities. After Rikki had used her sixth match on her fourth fire, fervently wishing she'd remembered to pack her gas-poker, straining the Anglo-Liechtenstein relations to the full, she, the examiner, and a 100miles an hour gale managed a puff of smoke even Big Chief Whatsit start - Thank you Gilwell.

RIKKI



TROOP NEWS

All the Troop are far too busy earning vast sums of money for Bob-a-Job to have any time to write articles for the Water Rat, so a completely unbiassed account of the apathetic, scruffy, bone-idle Troop will be written by an A.S.M.

The first thing that springs to mind is Easter Camp, because I am still a shattered wreck after rowing what seems like hundred of miles. In reality it was seventy miles down the Thames from Wallingford to Kingston. We left Wallingford on Good Friday morning, and rowed 21 miles to Sonning, where we camped on the towpath after Beefy had spent an hour trying to start someone's single cylinder Stuart Turner engine. The next day we rowed to Longridge, where we spent Easter Sunday pottering about - that is all of us except Bug, who slaved all day over his Pioneer Badge, and finally completed it by paddling a raft across the river in the dark. On Easter Monday we rowed the 37 miles from Longridge to Kingston, except for seven miles from Penton Hook to Sunbury, when we were towed by a cruiser.

During the next six weeks each Patrol should be going to two weekend camps, so that when they are camping at the Sea Scout Meet at Chatham at Whitsun, their camping and cooking will be so efficient that they will have time to enjoy all the attractions laid on. Summer Camp still seems a long way ahead, but during the next three months it is hoped that first, as many Scouts as possible gain their Oarsman Badges, and second, that they then practice sailing both gigs and Coypus. We shall then be able to make some longer trips around the Solent and Southampton Water, from the compsite at the School of Navigation at Warsash.

There have not been many District activities lately in which the Troop have taken part - I can only remember the Cross-country and the football competitions and we came dismally in both. However in spite of being such bad runners, several P.L.'s and seconds thank they are good cyclists, and set off on a Youth Hostelling trip in the direction of the Isle of Wight. This is tough on the Y.H.A. but the Troop meetings that week should be unusually peaceful.

PETER

PARENTS' CORNER

7

If you are a new Leander Parent and feeling a bit strange, why not come along to our next meeting and make friends with other parents who are concerned with raising funds to ensure that all our sons have the best type of equipment to use for their Scouting. You will meet people in your own age group and some a bit older, we talk a lot but we can listen too, and if you have new and more modern ideas for raising funds, trot them out and we'll make them work with your help.

Our Chairman is Bill Williamson, he has a son in the Scout Troop; our Secretary is Jack Crump who has a son in the Senior Troop; it is purely accidental that our Treasurer, Herbert Duffin, is also the Group Treasurer, he has two sons, both of whom are Assistant Scoutmasters, in the Scout Troop.

As you would expect the Mums are in the majority, their sons make up the Pack, Scout and Senior Troops, the Rover Crew, several Assistant Scout-masters, and even the Senior Scout Leader. One of our present members is now an enthusiastic Pack Officer and has just recently completed a course at Gilwell. Our Akela, who attends our meetings whenever she can, has a son in the Scout Troop. Perhaps one of these days one of the Dads will come forward and run the Rover Crew which has been without a Leader for some time.

Several of the Mums were former Guides and Rangers, and some of the Dads have been known to run a Pack, a Scout Troop, and a Rover Crew in their younger days - non-Sea Scout, of course. In the course of many years we've learned something about Sea Scouting, and over the past years we've provided a lot of the money which has bought new camping and sailing gear. There is a lot still to be renewed, the Headquarters has to be made wind and water-tight. Sometime in the future a new Headquarters will be required, and how well this will be furnished and equipped may depend on your efforts now. Even though your son may not benefit from your work, you'll get a lot of satisfaction in knowing that some day a lot of boys will use the gear you have helped to provide; and like all boys they'll have a whale of a time and never give a thought to where it all came from. Such is life, would we have it any different? I don't think we would.

DUGGIE DOW

CUB NOTES

This year, being Cub Jubilee Year, has been, and will continue to be even more eventful than usual. The highspot, as far as Leander Pack is concerned, was on Saturday, 19th February, when Neil Parry, Sixer of Grey Six, represented the Wolf Cubs of the United Kingdom in laying the Cub Wreath at the Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations in Westminster Abbey. H.R.H. Princess Margaret and the Chief Scout took part in the Services, which was most moving and impressive. This was the first time ever that a Cub Wreath had been laid at this Annual Service, so Neil really made history: the reason for this year's unique occasion was to commemorate Cub Jubilee Year. The Abbey was filled to capacity with Scouts and Guides from all over the world and at the end of the Service Princess Margaret laid the first wreath on the Founder's Memorial Stone, followed by the Scout and Guide representative and Neil who laid the Cub Wreath on behalf of the Cub Section. Neil afterwards received a letter from Boy Scout Headquarters congratulating him on his dignity and bearing.

The following week was a busy one for Leander, particularly for Rikki, who organised and did the lion's share of the work involved in creating the window display in Bentalls to commemorate Cub Jubilee Year.

During Thursday evening of that week unexpected visitors to Leander H.Q. were startled to hear bloodcurdling cries coming from within. Even being told that this was Pack Night did not entirely satisfy their morbid curiosity, for they decided to investigate further. The sight which met their eyes, as they cautiously opened the door to the normally nautical Main Deck, did nothing to dispel their nervous apprehension, for the room appeared to have been invaded by a tribe of Ashanti warriors, brandishing gleaming spears as they danced menacingly around four fiendish-looking witchdoctors, who chanted tribal incantations at their tormentors. The visitors unfortunately fled before we could explain that this was merely part of a Pack Meeting on the Life of B.P.

Next week, the Main Deck floor was littered with bandaged limbs and bodies! Not, in fact, the result of the previous week's tribal warfare, but the culmination of weeks of hard work on the First Aid Badge. We were very fortunate in

having enlisted the help of our very good "Red Cross" friend, Mrs Davidson, who braved fog, floods, and snow in order to instruct the boys in First Aid. On the last week of the course, Mrs (Len) Knight - also of the Red Cross - came down to examine the boys for their Badge. As a result, nine Cubs have now received the First Aid Badge.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, Keego, Graham Bulleid still continue to do noble work each Sunday with Cub Swimming instruction, with the result that most of the Pack are now swimmers, and Teaching Bath instruction is now able to be given to boys on the Waiting List who will thus be swimming by the time they are old enough to come into the Pack. Thanks are also due to Mrs Lawrence, our Badge Organiser, who also helps in many other ways, and to Keith Lawrence for his help with the football team.

The Pack Programme for the rest of Cub Year is very full. We have collected £35 to date for our Guide Dog for the Blind. We have already sent the Jubilee Birthday Card to Linz II, the Austrian Cub Pack, with which we are corresponding. We are making a Jubilee Year Log Book; we are sending a contribution to the Pestalozzi Children's Village, proceeds from the sale of their 'ladybird' badges, for our Pack Good Turn; and we are taking part in the Cub "Zoo Quiz". There is to be a special Pack Meeting on "Journey into Space" and a District Cub Camp at Whitsun, followed by a Cub Show later on in the year.

AKELA



SENIOR SCOUT SUPPLEMENT

Last Summer Camp took place on the Isle of Arran and included rock-climbing and sailing as main items. Our next Summer Camp has been organised and will be in France near La Rochelle on the West Coast; we are hoping to spend most of our time on a nearby island (Ile d'Oleron). We have had the offer of borrowing some boats from a French Sea Scout Group, which will provide a more varied programme. Underwater swimming is another idea which we hope will materialise and although rock-climbing is hardly possible in the area, hiking is ideal.

Easter Camp, which is on the point of happening, is to be at Greenhithe; two Coybus will be involved and we hope to sail these back to Kingston. We will camp in the grounds of "Worcester" Training Ship. The boats will be going on a trailer, to be towed there by Nye's Land Rover and also collected, if it occurs that it is not possible to sail them back to H.Q.

Recent Senior activities have included such things as orienteering, which involves walking - at a great rate - between various points around the countryside (or more exactly Richmond Park), finding pieces of useless information and reporting the findings back to the base - inside a certain length of time.

We also had a survival course one Sunday afternoon, which involved preparing and cooking raw pigeon on an island in the river. Another Sunday was used in a trip around the Docks and Petticoat Lane, an interesting combination which made a good day's trip. A Venturer Badge incident hike, which involved traversing "uncrossable" country on the East side of Box Hill, was very exhilarating, as well as being wet and cold and for arranging this as well as the Boatswain's Mate Badge, we would like to thank Mr. Hughes.

Our main regret of the Winter's activities is the temporary loss of Mark Bewsher (assistant leader) to Boston U.S.A.

Recently, lettered ball point pens have been sold as a money-making device to help buy equipment for Summer Camp; they are available at a very low cost from any Senior.

JOHN LOMAS-CLARKE

S.R.S. VICTOR

Headquarters, Thursday evening, 7th April, saw the departure to Coventry of 12 Sea Rangers and a Muffin! You have never seen anything like it, we had a 13 seater Dormobile and enough luggage for 500 people. I wont quote the comments made by Leander Personnel.

We arrived at the Rainsley household at 12.30 where we were attacked by a mad dog and given hot soup (the soup was most welcome). Then we trundled of to 79th Coventry Sea Scout headquarters, where the scouts had been kind enough to lend us the Rover Den and Scout Hut. (They were very helpful scouts, not like some).

On Friday we went to Kenilworth Castle, which we enjoyed. Saturday afternoon we went to Stratford and saw Anne Hathaway's Cottage and the House where Shakespeare was born. In the evening we went to the Theatre and saw Henry IV (we wish we hadn't).

Sunday morning all of us attended a Service at the Cathedral and afterwards went round it. It is a gorgeous Cathedral, I think we were all surprised, it was so modern and unusual it was beautiful. When we had seen round the new Cathedral we went round the old and the Scouts took us up the old Tower, they told us it wasn't very high but most of us don't know whether it was or not we had our eyes closed all the time.

After dinner we went along the canal and tried to hire a cruiser but they took one look at us lot and decided it would be wiser not to hire us one.

As we are going to send one of these Water Rats to Coventry we would like to thank the Sea Scouts for letting us use their Headquarters and for being so kind and helpful and also Mrs. Rainsley and Family for helping us with the food and letting us invade them so late on the Thursday evening.

HILARY

"MR. SANDLING" SPEAKS

As those of you who have ventured into the back garden will know, "Sandling", the Group's 6-ton cutter has come to rest this Winter on Mother Earth; a not unfamiliar sight during the sailing season either. The intention is for her to be made fit for sea again and then sold. Many of you may think this is a pity, but I think it is necessary. Eleven or so years ago there were few members of the Group with sea-going experience and when Sandling was bought she was (and still is) the ideal craft in which to gain that experience. But now, a little more than pottering around the Solent is needed to satisfy the nautical needs of most of the senior members of the Group.

The new vessel suggested is the Westerly 25, with a fibreglass hull, twin keels, and four berths in one cabin (her only defect I feel, but this can be overcome). With this sort of craft, which can be trailed so as to make the Winter refit possible at H.Q. every year, one can go much farther afield: Wooton Creek could become Cherbourg, the pub at Wooton the bonded warehouse, and so on. A vessel such as this is a necessity in order to maintain the interest of the senior members as well as providing a means by which they can get their excitement and adventure in an acceptable way.

But these are castles in the air at the moment. There is still a lot of work to be done on Sandling and everyone must pull his weight. Money is another factor, but a good start has been made here. Many sympathisers (in more ways than one) have kindly organised coffee evenings, but more support for these is always welcome. The Rovers have started collecting newspapers and magazines which could be very profitable, but could you please sort your paper into newspaper, and into stapled paper, and coloured magazines.

Some of you may think we are overreaching ourselves, but everything is possible providing everyone can realise this.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1966

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Subscriptions:- | | Association dues | 36. 0. 0 |
| Cubs | 23.17. 6 | Bank charges | 22.15. 4 |
| Scouts | 33.13. 6 | Insurance: Fire | 8. 3. 8 |
| Seniors | 37.13. 0 | Van | 14. 0. 7 |
| Rovers | <u>11.11. 3</u> | Boats | <u>78.16. 0</u> |
| Donations | 30. 1. 3 | Boat & van registration | 32.14. 2 |
| Bob-a-Job | 66.13. 3 | Boat maintenance & gear | 127. 3. 5 |
| Other work done | 2. 0. 6 | Rent | 10. 0. 0 |
| Bazaar | 110. 8. 0 | Rates | 19. 4. 9 |
| Garden Fete | 119. 2. 4 | Water Rate | 4.17. 2 |
| Jumble Sale | 40.15. 1 | Electricity & gas | 74. 9. 4 |
| Canoe storage | 9.10. 0 | Books, charts, postage, etc | 20. 5. 6 |
| Catering | 278. 2. 1 | Badges | 11.17. 1 |
| Sale of surplus gear | 8.11. 0 | Camping & instruct. gear | 10. 1.11 |
| Use of premises & gear | 69. 1. 0 | Maintenance of premises | 66. 8. 5 |
| Sale of wool | 3. 5. 7 | Purchase of duplicator | 15. 0. 0 |
| Profit on pens | 13. 9 | "Water Rat" (less sales) | 6.13. 6 |
| | | Camp & travel expenses | 12.11. 3 |
| | | Subscriptions & donations | 6.13. 0 |
| | | First aid supplies | 2.18. 1 |
| | | Social & hospitality | 29. 6. 8 |
| | | | <u>609.19.10</u> |
| | | Excess of Inc. over Exp. | <u>234.19. 3</u> |
| | <u>844.19. 1</u> | | <u>844.19. 1</u> |
| Cash in hand 1st April '65 | 43.16. 3 | Overdraft 1st April '65 | 200. 0. 0 |
| Excess of Inc. over Exp. | <u>234.19. 3</u> | Cash in hand 31st Mar. '66 | <u>78.15. 6</u> |
| | <u>278.15. 6</u> | | <u>278.15. 6</u> |

(SUBJECT TO AUDIT)

14.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| April 25th | Local Association A.G.M. 8 p.m. at the Guildhall |
| April 29th | Leander A.G.M. and Social 7.30 p.m. at the Tudor Hall |
| May 7th | Cub outing to the London Zoo |
| May 21st | Group Swimming Gala |
| May 28th/30th | Sea Scout Meet at Chatham & District Cub Camp at Polyapes |
| June 4th | Special Pack Meeting at H.Q.: "Journey into Space" |
| June 18th | Group Garden Fete |
| June 24th | Admiralty Inspection |
| July 16th | District Swimming Gala |
| August 6th/20th | Troop Summer Camp at Warsash |
| Aug 21st/Sept 3rd | Senior Troop Expedition - Ile d'Oleron. |

LEANDER ROUND-UP

Our congratulations to Mac and Carolé who were married in January, also to Stuart and Margaret, to be married in time for the Regatta!

We note with regret the passing of a fine old true-blue friend, OXO 531, called away to the scrapyard in March, after several years' faithful service to the Group.

As a replacement for the above we welcome, very appropriately, a green Thames 15 cwt, and look forward to many happy repairing years.

Thanks to the help of Mrs Leyshon, the Cubmaster, the Group has now bought an excellent rotary duplicator, on which this magazine was produced.

Any-one with six tons of newspaper (or even less) in his garden shed should contact Daisy, who will arrange a speedy reading.

The galley has now taken on a new lease of life after an assault by Rosemary and Barbara of the Sea Rangers. Wimpeys, look out!