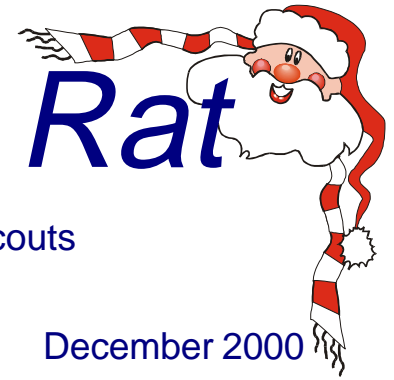


The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts



December 2000

Skippers Scrawl

It is with sadness that I first report on the death of two 'old' Leanders.

Phil Day died in October after a short illness. Phil, at 91, was our oldest member, having joined the Group as a cub in 1921. He was strongly involved in the Group Rover Crew and also assisted with cubs and always maintained a keen interest in what was going on today.

Keith Quinnen, a keen member of the Guild and long time supporter and fund-raiser for Leander, also passed away this month and will be sadly missed by those older Leanders that knew him. Although not necessarily known to many present parents or our younger members, Keith played a large part in raising funds for the Group and was awarded the *Thanks Badge* for his continuing support. Much of our present headquarters and equipment are due to his remarkable fund raising abilities. He took it on himself to organise charity dinners, boxing evenings and other events in aid of Leander and over the last 15 years has raised in the order of £20,000 for our funds. Some thoughts on Keith from Nigel Fentiman, one of his fellow Guild members, appear later. Our thoughts are with both families at this time.

As we approach the year 2001 a programme review implementation is under way. There are to be changes in the section age ranges, programmes and uniforms. These changes are being made after extensive consultation and, just to

show that everyone has had a say, the proposals for complete changes in the Sea Scout uniform were largely dismissed by the Sea Scouts themselves!

Broadly, the new section ages will be:

Beaver Scouts	6 – 8 years
Cub Scouts	8 – 10½
Scouts	10½ – 14
Explorer Scouts	14 – 18
Scout Network	18 – 25

Beaver uniform will change to a turquoise crew-neck sweatshirt and Group scarf. Cubs will have a dark green crew-neck sweatshirt and Group scarf. Sea Scouts maintain a navy jersey and Group scarf. Explorer Scouts, Scout Network and adults will have a light blue long sleeved shirt with choice of scarf or tie (still to be decided since the decision will be a Group one) and 'smart blue trousers' (is that possible for Scouts?). Current headwear is being maintained. For all sections we are being given the optional extra of Navy blue activity trousers.

The introduction of these changes will be a gradual process over the next two years with the new uniforms and programmes being fully implemented by December 2003. There will be several meetings over the next few months to determine how and when Leander plan to introduce the changes to the sections and uniforms and I will hopefully be arranging a Parents'

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Evening some time in March/April to present and discuss them fully. There is a little more information later in this *Water Rat*.

The new uniforms will not be available until summer 2001 so, please, if your son or daughter changes sections in the mean time, do not dispose of their old uniforms so we can minimise expense to new people joining!

As Beaver parents will know, Catie ran her last Beaver evening last Monday and we thank her for her hard work and enthusiasm over the last couple of years. Hopefully after a little rest Tim might be able to persuade her to help with Cubs?

We also welcome Mandy Coniff who has offered her services as an Assistant Cub Leader. This means that with a female leader in all sections we are now able to start taking girls into the Beavers and Cubs, so make sure that sisters' names are on Nigel's waiting list.

Keith Maund

Dates for your Diary

January 9 – Scouts restart
January 10 – Cubs restart
January 14 – HQ Working Party: Pearn*,
Pratt, Rowland
January 15 – Beavers restart
January 15 – Executive Committee, 8p.m.
January 28 – HQ Working Party: Seeley*,
Snow, Sollis, Thomas, Wallace
February 11 – HQ Working Party: Walters*,
Whitaker, Whitfield
February 25 – HQ Working Party:
Wingrove*, Woods, Yagnick, Young
March 11 – *Water Rat* copy date
March 11 – Working Party *Aviran, Barley,
Blackhurst, Bolster, Bowers-Clark
March 19 – Executive Committee, 8p.m.
May 13 – *Water Rat* copy date
June 18 – Executive Committee, 8p.m.
June 30/July 1 – Regatta
July 15 – *Water Rat* copy date

Cubs take cover in mud!

It has been a busy two months since our last report, with lots of energy expended.

The night hike seemed to be a great success with 18+ clean boys handed over by parents and returned by leaders in a filthy condition. We set out in three groups all armed with torches and a pleasant stroll along the river bank and nearby common land soon turned into a game of ambushing each other in the dark (the cubs even managed to keep quiet for a minute or two in the process) and then diving for cover in the mud. Next time I'll wear wellies and we'll send out a reminder for the boys to wear 'old clothes'.

We have now finished the Road Safety badge work, concluding with a poster competition. The boys' creativity was most impressive and a prize will be awarded at the start of next term – Akela is currently pondering over the entries from the comfort of his pool lounge in the Canaries! – and a lot of badges will have to be sewn on.

The Communication Badge was a great success with the Cubs required to identify addresses from phone books, decipher code and then write secret messages in a code of their own devising.

They proved to be quite adept at decoding, completing their tasks very quickly.

We finished the term with a party (complete with the obligatory chocolate cakes and pop) with the best game (in the leaders view) being 'balloon whacker' which involved tying a balloon to each cub's leg and issuing them with a rolled up newspaper, the winner being the last one with an intact balloon! Great fun to watch, but take my advice – don't let them play this one at home.

We start again on January 10th, joined by Mandy Coniff (mother of Alex in Cubs), who has bravely agreed to become a Cub leader.

A Merry Christmas to you all and our best wishes for the New Year.



Baloo

Coxswains Corner

This has been a very interesting time, watching the height of the river outside the Headquarters; the road has been flooded many times and during the big storm, the water just got up to the shutters. We shifted all the tents and camp equipment into the boats as a precaution, but so far we escaped any problems.

All the Scouts have been busy getting on with badge work, with Scout Awards, Pathfinder, Seaman and Leading Seaman being awarded. Jack and Tom Young completed their small bore rifle course, so both are now qualified NSRA Master Shots and have gained their Marksman badge. Congratulations Jack and Tom. (The next course will be after Christmas – well worth doing.) Both Karen and Coxswain have completed their NSRA Range Officer courses and can supervise at accredited shooting ranges.

The District Gala ran very efficiently at New Malden; although we had a very small turnout, we were joint second with 7th Malden. The District Night Hike was postponed until next year, that weekend the weather was truly dreadful. Remembrance Day was once again well supported by PLs and APLs, with Leander carrying out duties at the memorial and in church – it provides a very good opportunity for us to be seen looking smart at an important public occasion.

Our big event was the Royal Navy Recognised Unit six-a-side Football Competition at HMS Excellent, Portsmouth. We put in a Senior Team who got through to the semi-finals and just lost – it was an extremely close match, ending up with a penalty shootout and the dreaded golden goal. Oliver Seeley unfortunately was injured in the first match and and, if he had been fit, the result could well have been different. Robby Mitchell came along as sub, but then played all the matches and was very good indeed. Well done, Robby.

At the District Air Rifle Competition, Jack and Tom Young gave Leander 3rd place – a good result (Coxswain couldn't get there in time to shoot).

We have invested Jed Wingrove and Alon Aviron, who came up from Cubs and Nathan McGuinness, who transferred from 14th Richmond Sea Scouts. There a few more girls and Cubs to come after Christmas, so our numbers are very healthy indeed.

I would like to mention the changes that have been put in place running the Troop. The Scout records are all computerised, the PLs are now recording badge and achievement details weekly, Troop events are all well in hand. All these are Karen's initiatives; she has done a fantastic job with what can be a real chore if it is allowed to slip. Increasingly, Karen is being involved with County activities, which keeps Leander in the right places and also enable us to participate in those activities by getting the information at the right time.

Whether we like it or not, we have to network these days, letting people know what we are doing, always keeping the right profile. Karen has made a real difference to this aspect and I would just like to record my thanks for all the time she has spent on Leander business.

Do have a very nice break and please note the first Scout meeting of the New Year is on 9th January 2001

Coxswain



My Best Man – A few Random Thoughts on Keith Quinnen

I first met Keith in July 1945 when I joined 'Leander'. At that time Keith had been a member of the Troop for almost a year, having joined in August 1944. As we were not in the same patrol, I in the Herons and Keith (I believe) in the Seagulls, early memories were just of general activities within the Troop.

It was in our middle teens that the 'Bachelors Club', as we styled ourselves, always seemed to do things together. Apart from our Scouting Saturday afternoons and later Rovering on Sunday morning, we shopped for clothes at a certain men's wear shop in Fife Road – nice line in drape cream jackets and brown trousers was all the rage.

Saturday consisted of a swim; coffee in Lyons; a look in Cuffs; Bentalls record department to see if Petula Clark was there; on to French's for a few cockles or whelks and finally to the Crown for lunchtime drinks. Returning home to prepare for Saturday Night at the Coronation Hall (No.1 Swimming Bath in the Summer). Finally to Paul's restaurant for a late meal.

The Kingston Empire was visited when a big band, such as Eric Winston or Billy Cotton were on the bill. We even went to a BBC broadcast to hear Geraldo with Petula Clark as the singer (even though she wouldn't speak to us in Bentalls record department).

Keith was always involved in any fund raising we did, and at the time running dances was our forté. In the early days we had to check out the bands. I remember going to a flat in Villiers Road with Keith to hear what we would get for our money. Then I think Bob Galliomore came on the scene. We had some of our dances in a hall in Surbiton but later, we always used St Peter's Hall, Keith in



charge of the money and me as M.C. Over his life time Keith was a major fund raiser for Leander, helped by the young ladies at his gentleman's evenings.

Then came National Service, so the Bachelors Club got a bit depleted as most of the lads went into the service at 18.

Keith needed specs for distance sight, but he was a bit vain about them. He was always good at figures (Maths type) but he missed out on the female figures if they were more than a yard or two away.

With National Service, we did not see so much of each other, but we kept in touch with letters and when home on leave.

About this time our thoughts turned towards girls, which in those days ended up in marriage. This brings me to my title 'My Best Man', because Keith was my best man at my wedding to Dorothy. Now, Keith was always late, so much so that it was common practice to tell Keith that the meeting time was 30 minutes before we intended to meet, in the hope that he would arrive on time, but he would still be late. He did make it on time for our wedding, just, as our mutual tailor only finished his suit trousers that morning.

When it came to Keith and Joyce's wedding we gave him a super stag night, but he did drink a little too much (with encouragement from us). A few of us took him home and put him to bed with a bucket handy by his bedside. We heard that in the morning he had to visit his barber for a pick me up, (why his barber I don't know). I recall he looked a bit peaky at his wedding. His new Father-in-law was not best pleased with his friends. Keith was not much of a practical man, so when

he and Joyce set up home in Motspur Park, a few of us helped him with the decorating.

Keith was insurance man, and, with endurance plus the insurance man's plastic smile, he sold us policies. This was the way he earned his living. As I can vouch, he always made sure he only sold a policy that gave good value to the policyholder.

I've known Keith since I was 13 years old, I can't put a date on when we became friends but I can say he has been a good Leander and a friend. I shall miss him.

Nigel Fentiman
(written for the Leander Guild Newsletter)

Beavers on a muddy walk!

Another action packed half term for the Beavers. We've been on a very muddy night walk along the river with torches, made shadow puppets and prepared some fantastic posters as a farewell gift to Catie who has sadly left us after nearly two years. We've also said goodbye to Nicholas Paterson who is moving on to Cubs next term.



We've had two more sessions at the Malden Centre and congratulations are due to Adrian Barley and James Kimber who were successful in completing their first swimming badge.

We've been very lucky this term to have the regular assistance of sixth former James Hunter. The Beavers really appreciate having someone to help who is not as ancient as their parents!

There will be lots more activities planned for the new year. We meet again on January 15th. In the meantime, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Ros, Tony and Keith

Sunday Working Parties

Parents' working parties on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month are very successful in keeping up with regular cleaning and maintenance of the HQ. This relieves our Section Leaders of these chores. All Leander families (except leaders) are divided into groups of four or five and one parent from each family is asked to come along from 10:00 to 12:00, arranging swaps if necessary. The new rota, beginning in March is below.

Please would the **first named* on the list arrange to collect a key from Mike Freeman (020 8549 8634).

March 11 – *Aviran, Barley, Blackhurst, Bolster, Bowers-Clark

March 25 – *Bradbury, Brady, Brennan, Carter, Ford

April 8 – *Freeman, Foster, Goodall, Hazard, Healy

April 22 – *Hudson, Kearns, King, Liefkes, Lightfoot

May 13 – *Livesey, Manson, McGuiness, McKenzie, Mellett, Mitchell

May 27 is Bank Holiday weekend

June 10 – *Paintin, Pearn, Pratt, Seeley, Snow

June 24 – *Sollis, Thomas, Wallace, Walters, Whitaker

July 8 – *Whitfield, Wingrove, Woods, Yagnick, Young

If you have sent me an email address, you should have received your Water Rat only electronically this month. This has saved us £18. *Thank you.*

Any problems, email me at:
nigel@duffin.demon.co.uk

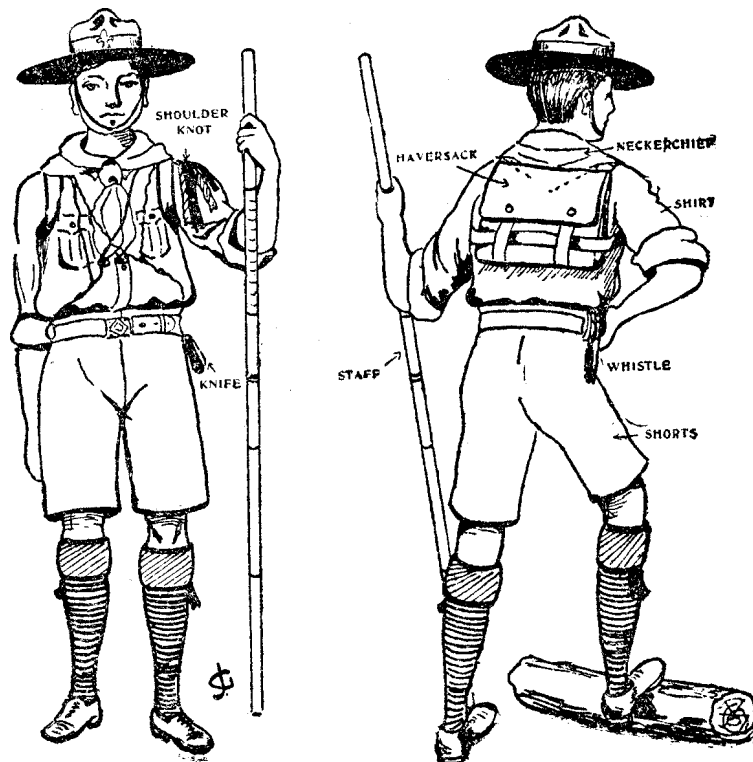
Preparing for Change

Scouting has been enjoyed for nearly a hundred years. Over time it has constantly adapted and altered to meet the changing needs of young people throughout the United Kingdom.

From Wolf Cubs to Cub Scouts, Rover Scouts to Venture Scouts, wide-brimmed hats and shorts to green shirts and mushroom flares, the first female Leaders to a coeducational movement, Scouting has undergone some pretty dramatic changes in that time, each one making it more relevant and more dynamic.

Here we are in the new millennium – preparing to change once again to make sure Scouting is ready to meet the challenges of young people at the beginning of the 21st century.

The Programme Reviews Group was set up in 1995 to review the totality of the youth programme. It consisted of adults working at Scout Group, District and County/Area level from around the UK and was given one simple but wide-ranging brief: to review the Association's current age 6-20 programme and to make recommendations to ensure that the youth programme achieves the Aim of the Association by the year 2000. In May of this year Programme review did exactly that – it made recommendations to the Committee of the Council for change to Scouting in the UK.



Scout Uniform,
90 years ago?

There will be five sections, based on the age ranges as outlined in the *Skipper's Scrawl*: Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Scout Network.

The Ventures as a section will disappear [*shame*], with members, depending on age, split between two new sections.

The Explorer Scouts, the first new section, will be the responsibility of the District, although the section will continue to be part of the Group and its activities will be closely integrated with the Group. This section will target the age ranges which have the greatest drift away from Scouting, with a specific programmes and responsibilities.

The Scout Network [*wonderfully evocative title*] will be the responsibility of the County, although activities will be Group-related. It will enable older Scouts to retain their links and membership with a Group during and after University/College courses and to complete the Queens Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's Award. It will also help develop a new Leader base for people who at present have to leave the movement at 20.

The new sections will be up and running by February 2002. There will also be new uniforms (Sea Scouts will retain the current uniform) and enormous changes to the Scout, Explorer and Scout Network programmes and to badges/awards and achievements.

2001 will be certainly be a very busy year!