



# The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2005

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## Skipper's Scrawl

Yet again we had an enjoyable Regatta, a day full of both competitive and fun races and I am pleased to say we won both the under-14 and Explorer overall trophies. My thanks go to all who helped both before and on the day. Whilst Warspite took care of the starting and umpiring and Roger Jones the pontoon and boat marshalling, we set up the towpath side and the control tent together with the refreshments. Particular thanks must go to John Clarke for buoying out the course, Debbie and her team for the refreshments, Mike and Les for competitor marshalling and finish judging, Gordon for his calligraphy, Nigel for his administrative and sound system skills and also to Frank Gaisford for allowing us to plug into his electricity and water supplies.

Mandy is preparing over the Summer to hand over the Beaver Colony to Amy Blackburn. I want to thank Mandy for the effective and exciting way in which she has led the Beavers over the last couple of years. We shall not be losing her efficient services to the Group, though, because she has agreed to take on the administration of Subs standing orders and Gift Aid reclamation – a most valuable contribution to Group finances. Amy will be organising her team in time for September, and I'm sure that all the parents will give her all the support they can.

As Summer Camp looms, we are also preparing for both the Great River

Race and RN inspection in September. First is the RN Inspection which is on Tuesday 6th September at 18.30 hrs. The inspection is the most important date in the Group calendar, since unless recognition is again approved we cannot continue to benefit from the help given to us by the Navy, both financial and in allowing the Troop and Explorer unit to use the facilities at Portsmouth.

All sections of the Group will take part this year and the programme is for a gig crew from the Troop to meet the Inspecting Officer at Kingston Bridge, and row him to the HQ, where he will carry out his inspection and see all the sections taking part in various activities. A full programme will be issued shortly but in the meantime please note the following muster times.

Troop and Explorers: 17.30hrs

Beavers and Cubs: 18.25hrs.

Please ensure you are all on parade promptly. As the inspection will be the first meeting after the Summer holidays, everyone has plenty of time to make sure their uniform is pressed and smart. In the meantime I hope you all enjoy your Summer breaks and look forward to seeing you all on the 6th September.

Keith

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday September 6 – RN Inspection

Sunday September 11 – HQ working party: \*Steele, Corlett, Mongan,

Monday September 12 – Leander Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ

Saturday September 17 – Great River Race

Sunday September 25 – HQ working party: \*Pearn, Biddulph, Hayes, Waller

October 7/9 – RN 6-a-side Football Competition at HMS Excellent, Plymouth

Sunday October 9 – HQ working party: \*Whitfield, Smith, Bowers-Clarke, Lawley-Gibbs, Newsome

Sunday October 23 – HQ working party: \*MacAllister, Webb, Talman

Saturday November 12 – District Scout and Explorer Swimming Gala

Sunday November 13 – HQ working party: \*Aviram, Walters, Howe, Kersey, Davies  
November 20 – District Chess Competition

Monday November 21 – Leander Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ

December 3/4 – District Night Hike

**2006!!** – May 20/21 – Group Camp, hopefully at Longridge

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## Beavers

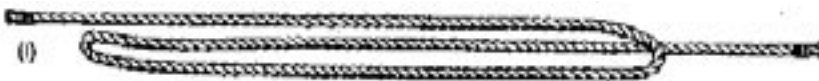
Some of the Beavers completed their Creative Badge. As before, when they have done this badge, a wide variety of talents were displayed: joke telling, magic tricks, poems they had written, illustrations they had drawn, musical performances on the keyboard and guitar. It is wonderful to see the Beavers' confidence in performing in front of the group.

Several more children achieved their swimming badge stage one, with Richard Garnish's help.

On 4th of July, we had an American evening with popcorn. The next week we had a summer garden party and were very lucky to have been entertained by one of the parents (Joseph Rean's dad) who did some juggling and showed us how easy it looked to ride a uni-cycle! Many of the children had a go on the uni-cycle (assisted of course). Our final event this term is a trip to Hollycombe Steam collection in Liphook, Hampshire with the district.

Jane and I are handing over to Amy Blackburn and her team of helpers in September. We really enjoyed running the Beavers for the last two years and will miss them.

Mandy



## Cubs on Road and River

Cubs had great fun on one of their occasional evenings on the River, learning how to canoe, and, no doubt, how to get wet!

They also look set to do some formation cycling – perhaps this is new in the Olympics for 2012.



Four new swimming badges



Beavers having a go on the uni-cycle – no wires, and you can't even see them being held up!



Our newest Beaver finds out what it means to be part of Leander

## Photos

I often have high resolution versions of the photos that are in *The Water Rat*. If you want to ask for one, please email me at [webmaster@leanderseascouts.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@leanderseascouts.co.uk).

## New to Leander

If your family is new to Leander, this *Water Rat* may be the first communication you've had from us, so *welcome!* I'm trying to get this sent out before I go on holiday, but will be writing or emailing before September with information about subscriptions, parents' working parties and how you can help the Group run smoothly.

Nigel

## Scouts on the Water



One of the new Coypu dinghies is rigged, with Ian in charge



Nick shows how it's done



Winners of the under-12 double dinghy pulling at the Regatta. Holding the trophy is harder than rowing!

## Explorers successful at Regatta

Explorers have spent a lot of the early Summer helping with the Troop meetings and practising for the Regatta.

We have had five joint meetings with Surbiton Sealions, while they are having difficulty with their accommodation and boating.

They have also been taking advantage of the good weather and on Sunday afternoons learning basic power boat skills: manoeuvring,, coming alongside, etc.

The Leander Explorer Unit was first overall in the National Regatta, so all that training paid off in the end!

By the time you read this, we should be at Summer Camp, this year at Cricket Camp, this year at Cricket Camp, the Itchen District Scouts site, near Southampton and on the River Hamble. There is about 30 acres of woodlands, clearings and fields in the Manor Farm Country Park, which extends for a further 400 acres.



The park is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

In October, we are hoping to attend the RN 6-a-side Football Competition at HMS Excellent, in Plymouth

Karen



Coming alongside - but hands off the gunwhales!

## Friends of Longridge



### The Future of Longridge

*For nearly fifty years the Longridge Scout Boating Centre has been a pre-eminent hub of water-related outdoor activities in the UK.*

With over 28,000 user days each year from Scouts, Guides and school groups, Longridge has a robust revenue stream and has introduced hundreds of thousands of young people to fun and skills from the riverbank at Marlow, in idyllic *Wind in the Willows* territory.

The ten acres of meadowland at Longridge are also at a prime location near the motorway system, which means that half the UK's population are within two hours' travel of this superb facility.

Since 1989 Longridge has been run for the Scout Movement by a local consortium from the Scout Counties of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. But following a campsites review the current trustees indicated in 2004 that they could no longer continue. However, they have enthusiastically welcomed the setting up of a nationally-based New Longridge Consortium to carry on the work of this centre of excellence.

*The New Longridge Consortium now urgently needs your support in raising the capital to purchase the freehold and secure a stable future for Longridge.*

The aim is to retain Longridge as a unique service where youngsters can camp and learn to canoe, sail, row – or even build a raft to sleep on.

Already recognised as a premier organisation by national governing bodies such as the British Canoe Union and the Royal Yachting Association, Longridge has ideal conditions for early training in the backwater behind Sheriff Island and more advanced trips and expeditions out on the open river.

The new Trustees, all staunchly committed to Longridge and with a range of coaching and management skills, have agreed an ambitious renovation scheme to take Longridge into its next fifty years and well beyond. Following negotiations with The Scout Association they will operate as an independent Longridge Scout Boating Centre Trust, under the umbrella of Scouting.

But to do this, the Trustees need to raise £1.5 million to purchase the freehold and to keep Longridge safe from other less welcome options.



### Can you help?

*Would you like to help young people develop independence, initiative, and team-work skills?*

Were you one of the many who developed your own water skills at Longridge? We need your support to keep Longridge safe forever, doing what it does best – helping young people to hone their water skills, experience the outdoors, and have a lot of fun.

- **Become a Friend of Longridge for £10, and get updates on the campaign.**
- **Pass copies of this leaflet to anyone you think might be able to help.**
- **Make an on-line contribution through our website.**

## Know your flags



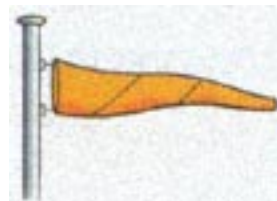
Red and yellow flags mark areas of water that are patrolled by life-guards. These are the safest places to swim.



When you see black and white chequered flags, it means an area of water has been marked for use by craft. For your own safety do not swim in these zones.



The red flag indicates danger. Never enter the water when a red flag is flying.



An orange windsock flying at the beach indicates that wind conditions are especially dangerous – so under no circumstances should you take an inflatable into the sea.

*Thanks to RNLi and Gordon Dodge for passing on the information.*

<http://www.friendsoflongridge.org.uk>