



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

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Beavers' Personal Challenges

We have welcomed some new Beavers this Autumn who are settling in well and joining in brilliantly with our experienced eager Beavers. There is something about Friday nights that makes them a bit over-excited, so we are trying a children's meditation on arrival to get the session under way more calmly!

This term we have been setting goals for the Personal Challenge badge, so there should be a lot of well fed pets and tidied bedrooms this Autumn! We have been learning about emergency aid, how to call 999 to get help and how to reassure someone at the scene of an accident.

For the Global Challenge badge, Beavers are keeping a recycling diary, we have learnt about Fairtrade and tried some Fairtrade chocolate and we will be learning about endangered animals. We will also think about why clean water is important and make a water filter.

At the Log Chew, the Beavers said they wanted to toast marshmallows again and try some martial arts and self defence, which we have managed to put into the programme for this term.

Many Beaver families came along to the Family Boating Day, which was a great experience, thank you to all that made the day possible!

We attended the District Beaver Party at 1st Hook Scout HQ which was good fun with laughs, magic and dancing. It was great to join in with so many other Beaver Colonies.



We are looking forwards to a Christmas craft session at Wendy's Workshop again this year and the Houlden Family have very kindly taken on the Christmas party organisation which sounds like it will be great fun!

As ever, thanks to our enthusiastic and helpful parents and very important Explorer Scout helpers, without whom Beavers couldn't manage such an active programme.



Cathy

Remembrance



For many years, Leander has been invited by the Mayor's office to take part in the Royal Borough's Day of Remembrance.

Leander and 3rd Kingston, along with the Kingston & Malden Scout & Guide Band represent the Royal Kingston Scout District.

Leander Scout PLs & APLs, Explorers and Leaders will be attending this year on 13th November. This is one of the duties that we ask Leander's senior members to undertake each year.

As well as laying the Royal Kingston Scout District Wreath, we assist by distributing service sheets to the public, setting up All Saints church and help run the Church collection.

Whilst in attendance we pay our respects to the fallen at 11.00am at the War Memorial near Bentalls, then we move in to the Church and attend the service. Leander does not take part in the March Past, but their uniforms will be spotless, all badges are sewn on, shoes polished, caps clean!

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Scouts take the wheels off

As we return after the holidays, the evenings are drawing in and Summer Camp seems like a distant but fond memory. The physical scars have healed but I'm not so sure about the psychological ones!

For our first meeting we took the opportunity to go out on the water for one last time before the lack of daylight catches up with us and we have to call time on our nautical activities until next Spring.

Next was a meeting which was loosely run by the PLs and entailed several flavours of Wide Game in and around Canbury Gardens. A refresher on knots, where and why you would use them was the theme of our next meeting, followed by the ever favourite 'Over the wall'. (Just ask a Scout!)

The following meeting we tried to put into practice some of the knots learnt and made emergency shelters from rope, sticks and tarps, which the Scouts then had to cram into for several minutes without it falling down. Varying degrees of success were observed during this time. The evening was

finished off with a patrol knot race just to see how much they actually had learnt. Again my previous statement concerning degrees of success can be applied!

The next two meetings were dedicated to the Scouts gaining their Mechanics badge. They were taught the basic functions of an engine. Where the various components were and how to replace parts and probably of most importance, how to change a wheel. Dave and I brought our cars into the boat deck and each Scout in pairs, had to actually change a wheel from start to finish. Hopefully this might save them several hours wait for the AA in the future.

For the last meeting before the half term break Jim ran an International Trade game, where the Scouts learnt the rough basis of trade between nations and the inequalities it encompasses. How rich and highly educated countries can gain unfair advantages over poorer but resource rich countries. This was all done in a light-hearted way but hopefully a degree of understanding was reached.

Russ

Coxswain's Corner

We have been so lucky with the weather this Autumn – all the sections have been able to enjoy their outdoor activities. As always, the programmes are full of activities and challenges.

Every few years we hold a family boating day, at which all Leander families can go out in the boats and enjoy themselves. This year's event in mid September, was a great success: all our boats were busy all afternoon and refreshments were available for everyone ... thanks to the Beaver parents for undertaking that. Thanks also to all the Leaders who were available to take people out and provide valuable assistance.

A real milestone! After three weekend working parties, the



dull grey breezeblock changing rooms on the Boat Deck are now light and airy with a tasteful apple green finish – great work by parents! (That's not all, the concrete paths outside have been pressure washed, now moss free, and the nettles in the yard have been well and truly blitzed – more parent power).

Robin.

Laying-up

Leander now has a new tradition, the Annual Laying Up Supper. Started last year, as an inspired idea from Fiona and Andrew Jackson, this takes place after all the boats are brought in off the water. It's a thank you to all those who helped with boats and boating, the River Race and all things nautical.

A splendid evening, with great company and excellent food – thanks again to the Jackson's culinary skills.

Robin

Family Camp

The Group is proposing to hold a Family camp next Spring – all members welcome.

Date to be confirmed shortly.



Fuze Logic

Bernie Atkinson, from Fuze Logic, has been doing Leander a great favour recently. He is carrying out a number of repairs and improvements to our electrical system for cost of parts only. So far, he has replaced several faulty light fittings. We are hoping that he will soon be able to replace old, sticking switches, fit motion sensitive lights on the staircases and fit an external socket.

FuzeLogic is a local business providing electrical installation and maintenance services. They take on a range of work from small domestic work to complete rewiring projects.

If you need electrical work done, they will ensure that the project runs smoothly!
www.fuzelogic.co.uk

Great River Race



The Great River Race is London's River Marathon – 21.6 Miles from London Docklands to Ham. This spectacular boat race up the River Thames, was on Saturday 3rd September this year.

Leander boats assemble at Millwall.

The Mutineers, in fine tone after a regime of weekly beer training, rowed in *Gordon Talbot*, finishing in just under 3½ hours.

They were first in the Home Counties gig class, which had over a dozen boats.



The Leander Guild and Leander Mums, rowing in wooden gig *Alert*, were not far behind.

The white flag is not 'surrender', but it was one of the hardest River Races, with a fresh westerly wind against the tide.

One of the Explorer crews, led by Karen, was in *Hero*, finishing in just over 4 hours.

There seems to be some uncertainty about where they are heading, unless they are longing for home!



The second Explorer crew, led by Alex, was in *Chief*.

They are enjoying themselves as well, but the headwind and the choppy water through London made this a hard row. It is a marvellous achievement for anyone to take part in and complete this row. Well done to all the crews!

