



# The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

May 2018

editor – Nigel Duffin – [info@leanderseascouts.org.uk](mailto:info@leanderseascouts.org.uk)

## Scouts' nautical programme

Upon the resumption of our meetings after the Easter break the Scout Troop were swiftly back into the nautical programme and back on the water for nautical skills training, rowing and kayaking. We also had to finalise our preparation for the RN Inspection on the second meeting back. The inspection itself went very well, with a mixed on-water program that was well received by the inspecting Royal Navy Officer. All uniform was clean and shiny and the whole inspection went off without a hitch. Hopefully, that will see us through for another two to three years until the next one.



Half of the Troop also joined the Cubs on a weekend camp in a somewhat damp field, that turned into a site that any hippopotamus would be more than happy to frequent! I'm sure this will be covered in more depth by Tim P in his report.



The subsequent meetings up until the half-term break have consisted of a concerted effort by the kayak/canoe instructors to further the Scouts' qualifications in the Paddle Power programme. The Scouts have also been learning basic nautical skills such as depth sounding, anchoring, rowing without a rudder, man overboard drills and sculling over the stern.



We are now well under way with our Summer Camp preparations. This year it will be at Cricket Activity Centre on the Hamble river near Southampton. Let's hope it's somewhat drier than the Spring camp!

Russ

## Father's Day Boating

Come along and join your Cub, Scout or Explorer for a family paddle on Father's Day (mums very much welcome too!), Sunday June 17th from 2.00pm. More details to come soon.

Neil

## You can help!

We are looking for someone to manage the Group's uniform stock, to make sure it is able to supply the needs of all the sections. Also, one or two more parents to become trustees and members of the Executive Committee.

Either of these opportunities would give a satisfying and not very time-consuming way to be part of the Group.

## AGM

The Group Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 9th July, at 7.30pm in the Headquarters.

The annual report and accounts will be presented, with opportunity for questions. Officers and members of the Group Executive Committee for the coming year will be elected.

The meeting is expected to last about an hour and refreshments will be served.



# Beavers are out and about



We are having an active summer term in Beavers while we work on the camp craft and outdoor challenge badges, with a bit of photography badge work thrown in, which the Beavers can complete at home if they wish.



We have made animals and characters out of natural materials and started to learn some basic knots and lashing; there has been a bit of learning on the job for our great Young Leaders Ollie, William and Ben so they can pass their new found



skills on to the Beavers! We have covered some basic first aid and will be putting up tents and doing some essential fire lighting (and toasting something sweet of course) in the coming weeks.



On 28 April, a group of us went to Walton Firs for a 'day camp', where we did bows and arrows, the adventure course and the maze. We managed to squeeze in a bit of fire lighting and free time with games. It was a good day with just a little drizzle and the sandy soil meant a dry comfortable day – see the Cub report for their slightly different experience on the same weekend!

A select group of us were also able to attend the District Beaver Sleepover at Polyapes. We enjoyed setting up the beds, exploring the site, playing a wide game and having a camp fire on the Friday night.

On Saturday there was a great number of challenging and interesting activities on offer and yet more broken out when it started to rain on Saturday afternoon. Things on offer included an outdoor blindfolded string trail, indoor caving, assault course, making bird



feeders, cooking marshmallows .... plus sewing, Lego, knots and washing up! We all went home tired and well fed Saturday evening.

We were lucky to have a session Bell Boating with our friends at Thames Young Mariners, was an excellent evening where the Beavers learnt some paddle skills, played some games and did a bit of fun racing.

We are planning a summer family picnic, a walk to Ham House with photography and bug hunting, some silly sports and some 'time on the water' with our excellent Group boating instructors. Thanks to my wonderful Assistants, Young Leaders and all our parents for joining in and being supportive as usual, making our out and about summer activities possible.

*Yogi (Cathy Johnson), Beaver Scout Leader*

*Leander Beaver Assistants:  
Baloo, Helen Farrell  
Paddington, Joanna Gaskell  
Callisto, Susan Blackburn*



# The Spring Camp that no words can describe!



## Royal Navy Inspection



## Leander Paddlers

The weather has been great for getting out on water, and for cooling off in the water. The weekend training sessions have been very popular and we have already got several Scouts through their Paddlepower Passport Awards and Scout stage 2 badges. Well done to the Scouts who have achieved this!



We are very grateful to the Gosling Foundation who gave us funds to buy two brand new canoes. They have also very generously given us funds for leader training too. We now have a really good fleet of new boats that will bring adventure and enjoyment for many years to come.

*Happy paddling! – Neil*

