

The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

March 2009

editor – Nigel Duffin – webmaster@leanderseascouts.co.uk

Leander Centennial Celebrations



Leander is now only a couple of weeks away from celebrating 100 years, and we are holding a reunion event 'Picture the Past' on Saturday 4th April. I am hoping many of you will be able to attend or pop in for a short time to salute the Group's wonderful achievement.

The reunion event will hopefully give past and present members of Leander and their families a chance to talk to people they have not seen for a while and take a nice look down memory lane. The event will be starting at 14.30 and will run until 19.00. At 16.00, there will be a toast and at 16.30 there will be a short slide show. Then at 18.00 we will release 100 balloons for each current member of the Group, and the first name label that is received back will receive a prize.

To celebrate our 100 years of Leander, we have a centennial badge and T-

shirt. The badge will be handed out to each Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer and Leader and should be sewn onto the uniform. It can only be worn for the next twelve months (April 2009 until April 2010). Please can I ask you NOT to glue this badge on to your son's or daughter's uniform.

Over the past month an email has been sent out offering ALL section members a chance to purchase a centennial T-shirt (£5 per shirt). The closing date for orders is Friday 27th March.

Since the last issue of the *Water Rat* in December, Leander as a whole has been very busy, attending many District and County Activities (see section report for more details).

In January this year Alistair Exworthy, Leander ESU member, was nominated for the Jack Petchy Award. His nomination was put in for his outstanding achievements in 10m pistol shooting and in helping the Royal Kingston District Shooting Team to win many trophies over the past twelve months. On Tuesday 10th March he was awarded with a £200 cheque to the Leander ESU. He has

chosen to give a £100 to the Group (towards a new gig oar) and the other £100 for the Unit to use.

Over the past few months two of our section leaders have been attending their module training to gain the Wood Badge. I would like to take this chance to thank them and to wish them good luck on gaining this award soon.

For Leander to continue its strong standing, we are very grateful for all of the parental help it gets, but if you feel you might be able to help out more, please talk to your section leaders or to myself. Why not take the plunge to wear a blue – WE NEED YOU !!!!

Karen Loizou
Leander Group Scout Leader



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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HQ telephone: 020 8549 6286 – www.leanderseascouts.co.uk



Cubs' successful scooter rally

Early in March, the Cubs had a very successful and fun scooter rally .

Two teams entered – Nicholas, Tom, Clare and Ellen were in one team and Toby, Archie, Rhodri, and James in the other team. Both teams did fantastically well, with the first team running in second, which was a huge performance given that Nick had to leave early. But most importantly, all had a great, if exhausting (I know, as I was coerced into entering a leaders race at the end and am only just recovering) time.

On a recent Wednesday, we had a belated Shove Tuesday celebration with

the Cubs cooking their own pancakes with candle power, to varying degrees of success, it has to be said!

The District 102 Silver Coin Challenge, which started in October 2008, comes to an end at the end of March. Cubs have been doing as many good turns as possible around the home for loose change and collecting it in a jam jar. At the St George's Day Service in April, half the money raised will be presented to the chosen charity on the day and the other half to a charity of the Cubs' choice.

*Paul Kitching
Nick Yelland*



Troop Challenge

Since Christmas we have been busy doing our Global Challenge Badge, which is taking longer than expected but should be completed by Easter.

Because of the unexpected snow we were unable to do our cooking evening, so unfortunately we couldn't send a team to the District Cooking Competition.

However, we have now successfully had an evening of cooking a three course meal, which was supposed to comprise of a Prawn Cocktail for starter, Sausage and Bean Casserole for a main dish and Chocolate Bananas for a dessert. All the Scouts did very well, even if some of the food didn't turn out looking how it should have.

The Scouts now have a couple of shooting evenings to look forward to, as I have managed to get Reg le Fevre from 1st Tolworth to take us in two small groups so that everyone is given a chance of having a go. In between the shooting weeks we will be having a swimming night. It is important for everyone to attend, as we will be picking a team for the District Swimming Gala, which is being held at the end of March. We will also be doing badges and, most importantly for our new Scouts, seeing how they swim before we start going out on the river, which is of course after Easter.

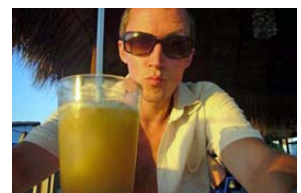
Liz Morrissey

Simon Clark

I want to invite you to my on-line travel website for my trip to C.America, not to make you jealous, but just share some random updates and entertainment during my travels I thought you may find interesting!

www.getjealous.com/sjclark

Chao – S



Leander HQ Party Venue



Looking to hold an under 10s birthday party, but do not wish to have birthday cake in the carpet?

Well, why not consider hiring Leander HQ?

Contact Karen Loizou for further information

karen.loizou@btinternet.com

Busy Beavers

At Beavers, this term started with an evening of games, not only as a way of getting to know new Beavers, Felix Waller and Ben & Max Au-Yeung, but in order to keep on the move and warm up. We sadly said 'Goodbye' to Issy Blackburn (not before she was awarded the Chief Scout's Bronze Award) but have welcomed Oliver Bennett into the Colony.



As I write this report the sun is shining and it's hard to remember just how cold the past few months have been. For the first time in many years a Beaver meeting had to be cancelled because of the snow. Beavers who had spent the day outside in the snow were exhausted and those who had been at school were bursting to go out to play in the snow.

This term we have been concentrating on the Creative Challenge Award and, as you've come to expect, we've had a hectic time! We ran rather late the evening we optimistically tried to finish decorating our Chinese dragon



puppets in the main hall, have a discussion about Beaver activities (and read a story) in the board room and make pancakes in the kitchen. Thanks to all those who helped out and to those who waited patiently for the session to end.

What a creative Colony! Earlier this year Toby Britton earned a 'Well Done' certificate for making a knot board at home with his Dad which he brought in to show us. After learning about the Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday, the Beavers enthusiastically painted garden ornaments, potted bulbs and took part in an evening of Scottish Country Dancing (thanks to



Jim Cook & Judith Jones from the Surbiton Caledonian Society and Simon Biddulph for the sound system) which was a little confusing at first, lots of fun and very thirsty work!



At a District level we have had groups attend the Science Afternoon at 1st Hook and the Explore Afternoon at 6th Tolworth (Southwood.) Other trips have included an evening with one of the Kingston Scout Bands plus our usual swimming sessions at Teddington Pool. On Red Nose Day we went swimming and wore red clothes, red noses and red deeley boppers (not in the pool but on the poolside!) We collected £30.00 exactly for Comic Relief which is fantastic.

All sections are run by volunteers and from time to time we need assistance. Please do not feel embarrassed to step forward if you have a skill you'd like to share with us or even a suggestion for future activities. At Beavers we are really lucky to have two Young Leaders working with us as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and have regular adult helpers; however, the parent rota may be reinstated so that you can all get a little more involved!

*Karen Rean
Beaver Scout Leader*



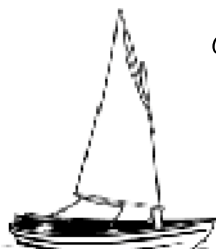
Coxswain's Corner

It's that time of year again, when everyone in the Troop is getting keen to be back out on the water. Hopefully, that will all be happening at Easter, but at the moment the water is still pretty cold after this year's 'proper' Winter. A few weeks ago, we accomplished our annual mission – bringing *Ebbage II* off the water, although that was somewhat later than we would have liked. Many thanks to Chris and James Ford who provided the tow for the trailer and helped bring the boat in – an interesting exercise as the stream was very strong. Hopefully, all the bits of finishing that need doing can be accomplished this time, but all our boats need a good checkover before they go out again. As we do look after them, the maintenance is usually pretty straightforward.

A team from the Troop has just taken part in the County Night Incident Exercise, based at Polyapes Scout Camp Site, where they navigated around the woods and heath in the area, with incidents to complete at each checkpoint, and then camped overnight. With over 40 teams taking part, the Leander team came 6th, an excellent result, so very well done Sam Lear, Dominic Jackson, Joe and Charie Ward.



With shooting, swimming, the District Swimming Gala and the chance of a night row taking us up to Easter, the Troop is thriving and doing what Scouts do best – being active.



Coxswain

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2009

*Leander (Kingston) Sea Scouts
would like to invite you and your family
to our
Centennial Celebrations*

Picture the Past

(Please bring any photos or Leander memorabilia)

*At: Leander HQ
(Lower Ham Road, Kingston)*

Date: Saturday 4th April

Time: 2.30pm till 7pm

RSVP:

webmaster@leanderseascouts.co.uk

or

Liz Morrissey - 07773 411 025

(Event co-ordinator)

Centenary Events

We are celebrating our CENTENARY YEAR and the first event will be held on Saturday 4th April at the Headquarters from 2.30pm. Everyone will receive an invitation for this, so please try and come along. It will be a very special day and we hope to have lots of 'old' and 'new' faces there, plus lots of memorabilia of past and present times in Leander.

The toast and cutting of the cake will take place at 4.00pm so PLEASE put this date in your diary and come along to help us CELEBRATE.

Further events will take place throughout the year so WATCH THIS SPACE

Liz Morrissey.