



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

March 2011

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Join in the Big Adventure

As Leander moves in to the Spring and Summer term, the Group has gone, and is going, through changes for all. At the beginning of the year Richard Wallington took the full position of Beaver Scout Leader and Simon Biddulph became the Pack's Akela. The Scout Troop has also had a few changes with Robin Burr, the Troop's long standing Scout Leader, officially handing in his position and taking on a position within County. He is still running alternate Troop meeting with the team, but, with the next RN Inspection on the calendar for December this year, we need to find someone with an adventurous thirst for life who would be up for a fun-filled experience. If you think you can be Leander's next Scout Leader, please do not hesitate to contact me to find out more.

Another big change Leander is currently facing is the new subscriptions rates. With the subs moving from quarterly to monthly this should make things much easier and will help the Group to sort out the minor and major repairs to the Headquarters and to allow the sections to have the equipment they need on a weekly basis.

I would like to thank the Guild for inviting me to their annual meal at the Hotel Antoinette back in February. It was so nice to see so many friendly faces

from Leander's past and hear so many stories.

In June I would like to introduce the chance for every Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer and Leader to take part in the first of many Group Big Adventure Camps. This year I am arranging for Leander to spend a weekend at Polyapes Scout Campsite. But, for this weekend to work, I would also like to invite parents to join in the Big Adventure by joining the team to help the young people have fun, learn new skills and experience the fun and adventure of Scouting. This will also give the Beavers and Cubs a chance to spend one night and the Scouts and Explorers to spend two nights under canvas. Full details will be out over the Easter Holidays.

This year's St George's Day Parade falls on Sunday 1st May, and, with Prince William and Kate Middleton getting married on the Friday before, we are well aware that many families are taking the chance to spend a long weekend away from home. But if your son/daughter is available, please can we ask that they attend this year's parade to help Leander try to win the Bridger Trophy for the first time.

I would like to congratulate all of our members that have taken part in District and County competitions and badge events in

the past few months, to keep their Scouting Experience alive.

Lastly, Leander is again collecting Sainsbury's *Active Kids 2011* vouchers to obtain some new galley Equipment for the Beavers and Cubs to use. So, if you do shop in Sainsbury's, please help by posting your vouchers in *Active Kids* collection box.

Karen Loizou
Leander GSL

Summer Camp

Leander Summer Camp is from Saturday July 23rd to Friday 29th July. This year we will be going to Longridge Water Activities Centre on the River Thames at Marlow, a site we have camped and boated at regularly over the years.

There are plenty of on-site activities, with kayaking, canoeing, sailing, bell boats, and pulling, climbing wall and ropes course all available. We will also be taking some of our own boats, so that it will be a full week on the water. Price will be sent out when we have finalised activities.

Note that the camp will finish on the Friday, as we hope to get a crew to row back to Kingston and camp overnight as part of the Chief Scout's Gold Award – yes, it's a challenge, but it has been done regularly in the past.

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

Headquarters: 92 Lower Ham Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5BB

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Coxswain's Corner

It seems to have been a long Winter, but, with the clocks going forward, the Troop can look forward to getting back out on the water very soon. In fact, the older Scouts have just been out for a night row – with navigation lights and safety boat in attendance. The river at night is always a complete contrast to its state in the day – often very calm and peaceful, though there are skiffs, eights and kayaks to look out for as well.

What else have the older Scouts been doing? We try and make the programme as varied as possible, with a mix of new activities and old favourites.

A ready-steady-cook night produced some very nice and appetising meals – Scouts can cook rather well when they put their minds to it. A visit to Kingston Fire Station, as part of the Fire Safety Badge was really worthwhile, both Scouts and Leaders came away knowing a lot more about the causes of fire, fire safety and the Fire and Rescue Service than they did before.

The Global Challenge Badge has been completed, with everyone putting together an original poster campaign. There should also be no excuses now if

someone loses their Turk's head; after some intensive instruction, every Scout can now make their own.

Recently a Leander team took part in the County Night Exercise, navigating a 5.5 mile course at night across the thickly wooded Surrey Hills around Bentley Copse Scout Campsite near Shere. With 37 teams participating, this is a tricky exercise in daylight, even more so at night, so very well

done Clare Jackson, Isla and Edward Paterson, Toby Losely-Anning, Mathew Lawn, Arthur Morris and Gabriel Downer for completing the course in very reasonable time.

(Hopefully this event made up for the District event that was cancelled because of the extreme weather before last Christmas).

Coxswain



Mutineers

Once again the Mutineers will be out regularly – a bunch of hardy parents and Leaders who just like pulling in the wooden gigs and checking the quality of ales on offer along the River. We are always looking for fresh crew; if you fancy a row (you don't have to have done any before), come and have a go. Our big event in the year is the Great River Race, from just above Greenwich to Ham House, a totally rewarding and a brilliant event.

Just call or text – 07932 152 866

Coxswain

Shooting

A Cub, a Scout and an Explorer from Leander took part in the recent Kingston District Scouts Shooting Competition.

Toby Edwards Rean competed in the under-12 rifle section and is working towards the Master at Arms activity badge.

Joseph Edwards Rean won the bronze medals for both rifle and pistol in the under-14 section.

Sam Lear won the bronze medal for pistol and silver for rifle in the under-18 section.

Well done!

Marathon

Daniel Edwards has a Scout and two Cubs at Leander. He has a place to run in the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday 17th April. He aims to run the 26.2 miles in 3 hours 30 mins (or just under).

Please help him reach (or exceed) his target of raising £2,000 for Oxfam by donating any amount you feel able to at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DanielEdwards1>

He has promised, as an old Scout, to "Do My Best!"



Pack Pack Pack!!!

Leander Cubs had a BUSY term. So take a deep breath.....

We welcomed Felix Waller, Cameron Hair and Max Biddulph, who swam up from Beavers, and one brand new Cub in Harry Todd. We are also being assisted by Huw Carey as part of his Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

After the first introductory meeting, we started out with a night hike in Richmond Park, including an 'Orienteered' treasure hunt. The Pack followed that by getting stuck into badge work concentrating on the Emergency Aid Badge.

The District and County quiz took place in February and Leander held an elimination round to see who would represent us at 1st Hook in the District Finals.

Red and Green Six tied for first place so we entered a rainbow six consisting of James Hayes, Iona & Max Biddulph, Toby & Hannah Edwards Rean and Ben Au-Yeung. The competition was closely fought and Leander eventually came in a proud 4th overall.

Seven Cubs represented Leander at the District Arts and Crafts competition. They did amazingly well and improved on the previous 10th place and came in 5th overall.

Back at HQ we continued with the practical side of the Emer-



gency Aid Badge. Sara Boss trained the Cubs in First Aid with liberal use of Kensington Gore and many out of date bandages (kindly contributed by Joe O'Shea of Kingston St John Ambulance).

We thought that we could handle additional badge work this term so we made a start on the Home Safety Activity and Community Challenge Award with a visit to Kingston Mosque. All bar one of the Cubs attended and were great ambassadors for Leander.

The very competitive District Scooter Rally was a great day and, once we had sorted out the roles, we had pit-stops down to about 15 seconds (not quite up to formula-1 standards, but not bad).

All was going well and we were working our way up the table

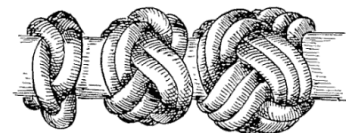
when disaster struck and we lost a front-wheel (sorry Iona). This necessitated a switch to the backup machine but in the ensuing admin chaos of trying to rename the team mid-race, I think the administrators lost a few of our laps and our final position did not represent the true result (I'm starting to sound like Arsene Wenger.....).

However, everyone enjoyed themselves and we can look forward to next year! Well done to Georgia Strickland, Cameron Hair, Max Biddulph, Georgina Yelland, Toby Britton, Felix Waller.

Still to come is the District Science Badge day, plus wide games in Canbury Park and a games evening at HQ.

St Georges Day should be a nice break really.

Simon, Nick, Jim and Rick



AGM

The Group Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 16th May, at 8.00pm in the Headquarters.

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

