



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

October 2006

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Congratulations from Karen

All sections are now well in to their Autumn terms and have been very busy and working hard to gain plenty of badges. Firstly, I would like to welcome Caro Kitching back into Cubs and to send our wishes to Amy Blackburn from the Beavers, but do not worry she will be back.

With the Colony and Pack full to the rafters, over the past few weeks I have been very honoured to do my first official investitures with both sections and to welcome eight Beavers and four Cubs into Leander and to wish them well and luck for the future with their time in Scouting.



Congratulations to all crews that took part in this year's Great River Race, and very well done Paul, Michael and Nick (Cub Leaders), with the help of two outside rowers and Aidan Hazard, to complete their first ever race with only one hour of training. Maybe next year we could have a complete boat of Leander leaders? Also a very big thank you to Keith, Nigel and Aidan

for doing the long tow back from Greenwich.

Well done to the five Cubs that attended this year's District Swimming Gala, finishing a very respectable 8th. Also a very big congratulations to **Alistair Exworthy** (Troop) winning Gold in the under-14 pistol at the National Air Rifle Competition.

With the Troop and Unit back from Summer Camp in Holland and all the boats nearly of the water, hopefully we can get the headquarters ship-shape and ready for our next RN Inspection, which is to be held next May. That is as well as the year-long celebration of Scouting being 100.

Karen



Redheads' Revenge gives a wide berth to a rather larger orange vessel

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Beavers are busy

Another busy term at Leander Beavers. We were sorry to lose some of our older Beavers but were lucky to welcome many more. Archie, Cameron, Issy, Lauren, Rhodri, Toby, and Tom were all invested on Monday 16th October. The pictures show them all very seriously making their Promise.

This term we have been working towards our IT Badges. We quickly discovered that the Beavers were very competent at all aspects of IT. They were able to send emails, they gained access to CBeebies websites to play games, they built towns with the Granny Murray website and even directed tube trains with Underground Archie. Good effort!

They kindly brought the fruits of their labours into Leander HQ and these are proudly displayed on the walls. Good effort! They thoroughly deserved to be presented with their Stage 1 Information Technology Badge.



The Beavers are Beavers by name and nature. At swimming they have been working on their Stage One Swimming Badge. Some are even contemplating Stage 2!

Next term we will work towards our Explore Badge, this will include a Night Walk. We have been warned by

the local vet to expect to see some of this newsletter's namesake, the water rat. We will have torches, and fortunately hope our high spirits and equally high noise levels will keep nocturnal rodents at bay. We will keep you posted.

Amy



Leander Leaders' crew passing the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich

Explorers get into the swing of things



The Summer holidays are meant to be a time to relax, but this year it was not the case, as it was Nawaka 2006. Six Explorers, Aidan and Karen, joined the Scouts in travelling over to Holland for a 10-day camp with other Sea Scouts from the Netherlands. It was a fun-packed and eventful ten days, despite the torrential weather, with the excess of the "Nawaka Bug", involving lots of sick.

In September, there was the annual Great River Race; in the Explorer boat this year was: Nick, Andy, Rhys, Ollie, Zoë and I, with Karen as our cox. It was a very windy day, but in spite of this we did very well, finishing dead on 4 hours. This year we were rowing for a purpose: to raise money for me, Zoë, Rhys and Ali to go to the 2007 centenary World Scout Jamboree,

and this has contributed to the funds considerably.

We have now perfected a programme for the next term and we will be looking forward to evenings involving swimming, giant twister and cooking. We have already had a go with a practice driving theory test, to get in good practice before the real thing.

Last week we had an entertaining few hours having a go at golf, at the Beverley Driving Range in New Malden; whilst Nick, Rhys and Aidan were rather the talented individu-

als, Vicci and I were still searching for our own technique, having to be taught, over and over, by our golfing enthusiast Sean. Nonetheless it was an enjoyable night, and Karen managed to amuse herself on behalf of her Explorers.

Coming up is Fireworks Night, and no doubt we will enjoy the spectacular display at Canbury Gardens as we do every year; there is also the District Swimming Gala on the 11th of November, and Remembrance Sunday on the 12th.

Mattie B

Explorer crew thinking hard about Greenwich



On the 18th September I did the Great River Race. We had to row 22 Miles. It was really fun but it was really tiring. The crew wasn't very good but we managed it in about 3 hours. We talked a lot and ate a lot. The worst thing was getting up early on the Saturday.

Alistair



An exciting, fun experience!



Nawaka was an exciting, fun experience where we learnt useful skills. It left a great impact on me and I will always remember it. It was a useful chance to learn some Dutch - 'Hei'.

Liane

Nawaka was a fun and exciting camp in Holland. Over 6,000 scouts came, all of them from different nationalities. The activities included kayaking and sailing and group activities.

Joe

Nawaka was a great experience as everyone had something to do. There was a large variety of activities including: water slide, activity day and parties every night. I personally did a varied amount of the activities provided; I didn't do the water slide as the line was too long, instead I went swimming in the large lake/reservoir that was in the centre of the huge camp site. I also made several friends during my delightful stay at the wonderful site of Nawaka. Anyway, the time that I spent at Nawaka was outstanding and I would highly recommend the site.

Adrian

Back in July we enjoyed our evenings on the River Thames, boating up and down, some of us were practising for the Great River Race, which was held in September. The Troop also had a great time whilst abroad in Holland camping in Nawaka. They came back very tired. The first day back at Scouts, to get ready for the Great River Race, we had to clean boats, which were covered in birds' poo! We also had to scrub and clean the tents which also had dried mud all over them.

Gemma

Nawaka was great because there was loads of water sports and other activities to do. The storm was psychedelic and our tents got flooded, but I still enjoyed it. Loads of people threw up including Ali!!!

Jaimy

It was wet and sunny, loads of new juices was incredible, the Dutch really knew how to party! I enjoyed the boating and swimming experience. Going into the Dutch towns were interesting yet strange. The fireworks of the last night were brilliant, especially with the lasers. I remember Jasper, he really helped me with my sailing and introduced me to the Lillieflats.

Ella

When the Troop came back from Nawaka they gained some badges which included their Nights Away. The Troop is also trying their best to as many different badges as possible, such as artist, writers and crafts. We are now looking forward to take part in various District completions, including chess competitions and the swimming gala.

