



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

October 2009

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Autumn on the Water

After a very wet Summer camp, all sections of Leander started back in September with a bang.

First was the Great River Race. The Scout Troop and Explorer Unit did not take part this year, because the race was run back to front, starting at Greenwich and ending at Ham House. The remaining four crews did successfully take part.

Mutineers – Leander Dads

Hermes – Police Crew 1
(Ian Chappell):
4th Place (Service Class)

Hercules – Police Crew 2
(Wynne Jones):
2nd Place (Service Class)

Active – Leander Guild and Ladies:
6th Place (Scout Class)

Well done to all, finishing in a very fast time, and in very windy conditions.

Next was the Leander BB100. Once again the sun shone down on Leander in our centennial year to enable around a hundred (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders, Guild and Parents) the chance to have an afternoon having fun out on the water. I was very happy to see some of the Guild out in 'Active', showing that you never forget how to row. The day was finished off with a never-ending barbecue. Many thanks to Harry P, James K, Gemma M, Sam A from the Troop and Unit who helped me with cooking the food on the barbecue.

At the start of October, only the Explorer Unit attended the RN Football competition in Portsmouth. As a mixed team they successfully played their way into the main cup and to my surprise they ended up in the semi-finals. Sadly, but proudly, the Unit came 4th overall. Well done to all and thank you to John Burr to coming along to manage the team for the weekend.

On Sunday 18th October, three Scouts: Harry P, Chris G and Sam L took part in the Sea Scout 100 parade on the parade ground in front of HMS Victory, facing HMS Royal Ark, in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. During the parade they were inspected and spoken to by the Second Sea Lord of the Royal Navy. The three Scouts, along with Coxswain and I, then took a tour around HMS Victory and HMS Warrior.

Since starting back this term, Royal Kingston's District Commissioner, Bob Bushell, has been to the Cub Pack and the Scout Troop to make a number of presentations.

Tony Cockle:
Full Appointment – ACSL

Peter Blagdon:
Full Appointment – ASL



Nick Yelland: Wood Badge

Karen Loizou: Wood Badge

Finally this term Leander has gained a new leader for the Explorer Scout Unit. Alex Newman has taken over from me as the Explorer Scout Leader. He will take full control of the Unit from 1st January.

Karen

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Busy Beavers

Birthday parties were on the agenda at the beginning of this term. Our Scout Group was registered in 1909 and, on Saturday 19th September, many of us attended the Family Barbecue & Boating Fun Day at the HQ to celebrate 100 years of Scouting at Leander. The atmosphere was very relaxed, the sun shone, everyone who wanted to go in a boat did and there was plenty of food for everyone. All in all, a perfect day! Beavers has been a recognised section of Scouts since 1986 and, on Sunday 4th October, seven Leander Beavers went along to the District Party at 1st Hook to celebrate. Not only did the entertainer bring a smile to the faces of about 150 Beavers and their leaders but also to the Mayor of Kingston, Ian McDonald and local MP, Ed Davey.

This term we've played some new and very popular games including indoor hockey and spin the buoy as well as some old favourites. Most weeks we manage to have some quiet time with a short story – either a moral tale or related to the badge work. As part of the Friendship Challenge Award we had an evening with our friends at Petersham & Ham Beaver Colony when everyone rotated around four activity bases. Their rope trail and our chocolate covered bananas were a huge hit! For the Creative Badge we've made cookies and now are in the middle of tie-dying flannels – can't wait to see the final results.



We have six new Beavers, who have all decided to stay on and were invested before the half term break. At the end of the Summer term we said 'Goodbye' to Lucy, and now Ollie will be leaving us too. It is so helpful and such a great opportunity for young people to spend time with the Beavers as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The Beavers miss the young leaders when they have to move on but we are lucky to have Fern joining us after the school break.

After half term we'll be completing the badges with a trip to the local fire station and a visit from the neighbourhood police team. Hopefully swimming will return to the programme after a short blip. We are going to make the most of the government's freeswimming initiative, so make sure you've filled in the form and paid your £2.00 admin fee.

As many of you will know, after Easter 2010, I shall be moving on to a new role in Leander, so we will be looking for a new Beaver Leader. If you are enthusiastic and want the best for your children, this could be the place for you! I have certainly found the job lots of fun and really worthwhile. Full training is given, so why not speak to Karen Loizou?

*Karen Rean
Beaver Scout Leader*

Cubs building high

The term started with 'getting to know you' games in Canbury gardens. Five new Cubs were invested – Ben Longhurst, Toby Britton, Thomas Dougdale, Jonathan Bennett and Max Klein-Leon. This makes us absolutely full at present.

A 'building and team-work' event, shown in the photos, went well but there were some distinctly non-team-work acts of sabotage that had to be sorted out! As well as building high, we also made paper helicopters.

Cubs artistic skills, along with their ability to get incredibly messy were demonstrated in carving potatoes and then used them for printing. Hopefully not too messy were the Christmas cards made for entry in the Mayor's competition.

We came a creditable 8th (mid-table) in the District Swimming Gala – well done to Arjun, Thomas W. Charlie and Elliot, Jonathan B, Kirsty, Claire and Iona

Nick



Coxswain's Corner

It has been an interesting Autumn for the Troop, now that our numbers have grown quite significantly. With thirty in the Troop, meetings are very busy. The good news is that, with more girls joining, we can get back to a better balance of boys and girls.

Unfortunately, we couldn't put a Scout team into the Royal Navy six-a-side Football Tournament, as we didn't have enough players available in the right age group. Next year we should be OK.

MAD weekend took place early in the month, with some of our Scouts taking part in the District's multi-activity weekend at Polyapes camp site. Cooking, five-a-side football, archery, air rifle, cyclocross and a night hike were all on offer – and the weather was great.

Liz has organised horse riding sessions for a few weeks, so that we could put on different programme activities for those who were waiting their turn. We have just had a creative night, in which patrols designed and made a ship of their choice, using card, paper and glue. By the end of the evening a variety of craft had been constructed, from a Viking longship to a battleship, destroyer and kayak, complete with paddler!

As part of Sea Scouting's 100 year Centenary, Leander attended an impressive gathering of Sea Scouts at HM Naval Base, Portsmouth. Harry Pope, Chris Granger, Sam Lear, Karen and myself were part of the parade held right beside HMS Victory. With HMS Ark Royal moored beside the dock, under a clear blue sky, we were reviewed by the Second Sea Lord, Commander in Chief, Naval Home Command.

After this impressive ceremony, we visited HMS Victory and HMS Warrior, two ships of immense historical importance and well worth seeing.

Remembrance Sunday will soon be with us, where Leander will once again be assisting at the event in Kingston Market Place and in the Parish Church afterwards.

We are also planning to start an Emergency Aid course before Christmas, so that all Scouts can gain this essential qualification, which is also a key requirement towards our RN Recognition.

Coxswain.

Bags of enthusiasm

The Canbury and Riverside Association (CARA) met up in September for a litter pick.

CARA has a keen interest in promoting green issues in and around North Kingston and often works to tidy up the parts of the riverside which do not benefit from regular maintenance.

More than 30 people of all ages, including a councillor, the safer neighbourhood team, Leander Sea Scouts, the Albany Sailing Club canoeists and Quadron – the council's parks management group – turned out to tidy between Canbury Gardens and Teddington Lock.

In three hours, 25 bags of rubbish were collected including a tyre, roadwork signs, a cushion, a sign, a cat-flap, plywood, a 'For Sale' sign, a broom, a bucket and a chair.

On top of this, more than 50 carrier bags, four bags of cans, five of plastic bottles and two of glass bottles were also recovered.

You can visit the CARA website for more information about their activities: <http://e-voice.org.uk/cara/>



Leander Centenary Celebrations



Great River Race – Guild and Mutineers

