



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group Annual Report 2020

At the end of March this year, along with every other UK youth organisation, Leander ceased to function as a thriving Sea Scout Group. The HQ was locked and silent, no activity of any kind took place and that has been the situation until the last few weeks. More news on that later in the report.

Fortunately, 2019 witnessed the Group doing what it does best, keeping our young people fully engaged in activities of every kind, learning new skills and enjoying the best that Scouting can offer.

The Beavers, as always, have been busy with lots of activities, lighting fires, visiting the fire station, going to Barnfield Stables, learning crafts skills, going bell boating and getting valuable experience out on the water in our small boats.

Adventurous meetings and activities are the mainstay of the Cub programme, whether it is cycling along the Thames Path to the Houses of Parliament, or winning both the District Swimming Gala and the District Scooter race. The Cubs have continued their rolling water activities programme, supported by leaders and instructors, that included bell boating, paddling, pulling and jumping into the water at every opportunity.

Summer camp was a great week at Ferney Crofts Scout campsite in the New Forest, with Scouts, Cubs and Explorers enjoying great weather, loads of on site activities plus the opportunity to paddle along the Beaulieu River and have an epic night hike across the beautiful heaths and woodlands surrounding the site.

It is pleasing to note that Explorer numbers have been gradually increasing from the low level they had dropped to in the last few years; a strong Explorer section makes a huge difference to Leander's profile.

Where do we stand now? The lockdown ceased all Scouting activities and meetings and stopped our hire income completely. The Scout Association adopted the NYA (National Youth Agency) traffic light system that provides a strictly phased return to meetings and activities taking place again. Currently, with appropriate social distancing and sanitation arrangements in place, we have been able to resume outdoor activities in small groups and shortly, small group activities indoors. This has meant some of our keen Cubs, Scout and Explorers have been able to enjoy kayaking sessions at weekends and Beavers should also be back to meeting very soon. In addition we are receiving some much appreciated income, the HQ is now available again for hire and bookings are developing nicely.

As always, a huge thank you to all Leaders, instructors and helpers who together continue our tradition of providing first class water activities and Scouting experience for all our young people.

Robin Burr
GSL, Leander (Kingston) Sea Scouts