



# The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

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## CARA Litter Pick

On 6th May, Scouts and parents helped with the CARA Litter Pick.



CARA, Canbury And Riverside Association, aims to protect and enhance amenities along the river, from Canbury Place to the Hawker Leisure Centre.



Leander is a member of CARA. We also like to keep the river bank tidy and being on the water means that we can reach the parts that other pickers cannot! It is a valuable service we can do for the local community.



## Keen Paddlers



From the start of the boating season this year we have made a big effort to do more kayak/canoe training. The aim is for the Scouts to achieve their British Canoeing Paddlepower awards and Scout Paddle Sports badges.



We have arranged several Sunday training sessions, which have been well attended by our keen paddlers. It has been great to see their enthusiasm! Huge progress has been made, and many are now well advanced in their Paddlepower awards and Scout badges. Well done! Beyond training, these sessions have been a lot of fun.



Leander is very grateful for grants to replace some of our old kayaks for Scouts and Explorers. We were able to get five new Dagger GT kayaks. These have been hugely popular.



Of course, now every Scout wants to use them when we go out on the river. The Scouts may need to do some fundraising to buy some more!

On Father's Day we had another great afternoon on the river, with six dads also joining in. It was one of the hottest days of the year, and we had a good time at the end cooling off, capsizing and jumping in the river. Hope we can do something similar again soon.

Neil

## Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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# Beavers have a great Summer



We have had a great Summer term working towards our My Adventure and Camp Craft badges. Russell, the Scout Leader, kindly came and did some pioneering with us and helped us put up different tents on Canbury Gardens, which was great fun.



We walked to Ham House trying to identify trees and insects and met the Petersham and Ham Beaver Sea Scouts doing a similar walk!



We also had silly sports in Richmond Park and managed to squeeze in a bit of chocolate eating somehow after an invisible sack race and lessons in deportment (you had to be there).

We learned about the Green Cross Code, tied knots, built fires and toasted marshmallows with



Robin and had a fantastic evening on the river with Robin, Russell and Tim. Our great thanks to them for giving up additional 'spare' time to help and enthuse the Beaver section.

Some Beavers were lucky enough to come with me on the District Beaver Sleepover at Polyapes. We arrived on the Friday and left late Saturday afternoon. It was great fun, very busy and superbly organised, ending with a full roast dinner before we departed.



I had Scout Network members and Chris, one of our Cub Leaders, helping me with my string trail activity. This became an extravaganza thanks to their enthusiasm and was one of many great things on offer on the Saturday.

Keep an eye on your email for future opportunities.

We were delighted to join in with the Group family activity day at Walton Firs and got to see a Cub Camp in action! What great things the Beavers can look



forward to when they go up to Cubs. We finish our term with a visit to Holly Lodge in Richmond Park who will do some nature activities and show us a bit of the nature reserve.



As usual, thanks to our great parents on the rota which is essential to running a meeting and additional support to get us out and about locally for the summer activities.

We are in urgent need of an Assistant leader and will need to restrict future activities if one is not found, so I urge people to speak to me and find out more. It is a rewarding and fun way to spend a Friday afternoon.

We look forward to coming back in the Autumn with a visit to the Fire Station, a focus on the My World badge and a Christmas party, which is booked in!

*Cathy (Beaver Leader)*

## Family Activity Day



At the end of May, a Family Activity Day was held at Walton Firs Activity Centre, Cobham.



For the younger members of the Group, there were lots of things to do. From archery, air rifle and push ball to caving and climbing.



It didn't matter what age they were, they had a go at everything. In particular, caving and climbing seemed to be the favourites.

With Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders helping to run activities



and keep an eye on the proceedings, the event ran very smoothly. The Cubs were also camping there that weekend and took full advantage of the activities.



After a very energetic morning, everyone enjoyed a grand picnic lunch, the ground was dry, the weather was great, all in all a very nice day for the Group, which, no doubt, we will put on again in the near future.

*Coxswain*

## Cubs camping ...



## ... and boating

