



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

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editor – Nigel Duffin – info@leanderseascouts.org.uk

Beavers look to the stars

In Beavers, we started the term learning about star constellations and the planets.



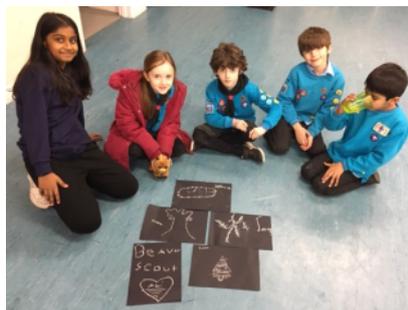
Unfortunately, every time we went outside to star spot, it was cloudy or rainy! Still, we used our phone apps to see where objects should have been and noticed the wonderful names given to constellations from mythology. We learnt about the ISS International Space Station and a bit of history of space flight and current missions which also were used in our games, ably organised by Young Leader Amelie.



The pièce de resistance was, of course, our junk ISS models!



For the second half of the term, we have been looking at 'friendship' and exploring what behaviours show us to be good friends. The lodges made up sketches to demonstrate friendship in our every day lives and we enacted a Friendship TV cookery programme (with all the ingredients of friendship being brought up to be mixed by the chef).



We then did some 'speed chatting' which they were remarkably good at.

In preparation for the better weather and a bit of camp fire cooking, we learned some kitchen knife skills in smaller groups and have planned team games to be run by our new DofE Young Leaders Daniel and Ed.



The Beavers have contributed ideas for our Beavers Choice evening in the Log Chew. As ever, thank you to our wonderful parents for joining in so brilliantly at sessions and for the continued enthusiasm of Helen, Jo and Susan as assistants.

Yogi (Cathy), Beaver Leader

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group
Headquarters: 92 Lower Ham Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5BB
www.leanderseascouts.org.uk — Registered Charity Number 290029



Scouts look forward to the Summer

After returning from half term in October the Scouts had an evening of fire-lighting to coincide (close enough) with Bonfire Night. We then moved on to our annual Troop split, where half the Troop went climbing at White Spider whilst the other half were at the HQ whipping up some gourmet delights on our Patrol cooking activity. The next week the groups swap over and another set of culinary delights are created and put before us to judge at the HQ. No cases of food poisoning were reported so I'd call that a success!



As Christmas approached we ran an evening of Shooting for all the Scouts followed next week by a Quiz night and then a double bowling session at the Rotunda to finish off before the Christmas break and rest!

In January we resumed our meetings with some pioneering practice, by building trebuchets and then seeing who could launch a projectile the furthest. Some of the trebuchets were so destructive that they destroyed themselves.



Map reading, knot tying, and obstacle course negotiation followed on the next three weeks to refresh the existing and further the Troop's basic Scouting skills.

In February the Scouts entered a team in the County cooking competition and did very well overall but were highly marked

for their dessert course. So, the smoke alarms didn't go off in vain back in November when we cooked at the HQ.

We ran a night exercise around Ham House to hone the navigational skills in preparation for the Scouts' entry in the upcoming County night exercise. Jim and I were manning an activity checkpoint for the exercise but sadly due to a 'slight' navigational error, we never actually got to see our own Scouts. Despite that, they all enjoyed the event and, as usual, were treated to a cooked breakfast by the leaders (mainly Neil) in the morning.

On the weekend of 22nd to 24th of March we held a Spring camp at Polyapes. The Scouts were taught axe and saw skills, shelter building and a refresher on fire-lighting. We ran a night hike on the Saturday night which was sorely needed to try and burn off the spit roasted chickens we had at lunch, on another one of Chris's legendary camp-fire cooking extravaganzas.



Suffice it to say, despite all the near constant camp activity we probably all gained weight due to the cooked breakfast, chickens, one pot burrito, pancakes and finally burgers that made up the weekend's menu. Now it's time to start thinking about Summer Camp and the activities (and food) that we can plan, to make it a successful as the Spring camp.

Russ

Exploring FOOD

Alex reports that the overwhelming interest of the Explorers is FOOD!!! Their ability to recite what they had for each meal a week later is amazing, but when it comes to a round turn two half hitches ... next week they won't remember!

On Friday the 22nd of March the Scouts and Explorers went to Polyapes for our spring camp. We were fortunate to have lovely weather over the weekend, starting our Saturday with a full English breakfast cooked on the fire. After that we did some axe work and built shelters. Lunch consisted of six chickens roasted over the fire, then we planned our walk round Oxshott for the evening.

Dinner consisted of one-pot burrito then we were set off, leaving site about 7 o'clock for a gentle three hour walk. Managing not to get lost, we made it back. Once everyone was back from the walk we had fireworks to finish the evening. Sunday morning, when everyone was awake, had some pancakes and sadly had to break camp and go home.

A good time was had by all. Thanks to the leaders for running it.

James Wallington



Coxswain's Corner

Interesting times – the last few months have seen a lot of activity looking after our building. I don't think anyone would have thought that the Group would still be enjoying an HQ without any heating since last December. Unfortunately our gas/heating inspection last year resulted in the system having to be turned off and we are still waiting for the replacement parts required! All the sections and our regular hirers just carried on bravely, a few fan heaters did help to make things bearable. High winds collapsed part of the fence on the Mews neighbours' side and needed emergency replacement, water run by off by the river side door has been reduced and actual access there now benefits from paving and drainage.

The old Scout/Cub office was proving to be no longer useful (how long since a leader sat in there working out their programme?). The room was gutted, good strong shelving installed and now there is plenty of storage room for every section's games, craft materials and all the essential bits and pieces needed for activities.

The Galley is due for an update, the water heater needs replacing and we do need a well laid out and efficient solution that suits the requirements of both sections and hirers.

Our biggest challenge is the outside space, where boats and trailers are stored. We would like to provide some activity space there for Beaver and Cubs that fits in with boat requirements. Our planning application (3 years with the Council) is not resolved, so we have to make alternative arrangements and hope to have a working party clearance session very soon.

Apart from these continuing challenges, spring is breaking, the water beckons and the season's activities will soon be in full swing.

Coxswain

Leander Guild

The Leander Guild is a group of ex-Leanders, who continue to support the Group, not only financially, but also in helping with maintenance and other jobs in the building. Most of them have very many years' connection with Leander and one Friday in every month they are to be found reminiscing over a lunch at HQ.

Their monthly newsletter is a treasure trove of stories of their exploits in youth – this picture from the newsletter shows Sandling (a boat which Leander owned at the time) on the mud in Havengore Creek in the mid 1950s.

As they so rightly say, this is what happens when you short-cut the withies. I don't think it is meant to be a comment on the state of the world today, but who knows?



Bag packing

A big thank you to all the Scouts, Cubs, and our one Beaver who came and helped shoppers pack their bags at Sainsbury's at the end of December. We raised an amazing £575!

This money will be put together with a legacy from an ex-Leander to go towards the refurbishment of the galley.

Many thanks to all the parents who stayed and helped supervise.

Neil

Help us buy new boats

If you shop online, please consider using Easyfundraising. It doesn't cost you anything, but Leander gets a small donation for every pound you spend online. So far we've raised over £1000 since we set this up!

It is really easy to get started and we use the money to

support Leander activities including trips away and boating.

Click to get started. Thank you !



www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/leanderssg/