



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

December 2010

editor – Nigel Duffin – webmaster@leanderseascouts.co.uk

Creative Beavers

The busy Autumn term has been focussed on the Air Activities badge and Creative Challenge badge. Simultaneously we have been running a refresher of the Global Challenge badge for Beavers who joined after March.

In early November, we covered the history of Bonfire Night, Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot, learning the rhyme:

'Remember, remember,
the fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
We see no reason why
Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!'



In late November we held a multi-activity evening supporting the Creative Challenge badge covering all aspects of how things work. This included discovering magnetic fields with the help of iron filings, making a battery to light an LED from lemons and seeing how plants transport water from their roots to their leaves by pulling up water through xylem. This was uncovered by placing celery in a jug of red food dye.

Thanks to Simon for his marvellous multi-lemon battery

and for invaluable assistance from Graham Cox, Keith Pope and Steve Allen in manning the various stations.

Finishing off the creative challenge activities, Beavers decorated biscuits (although I do not think much evidence of this made it home) and created their own personal Christmas cards with photographs of themselves in festive headgear.

Progress in the staged Swimming badges has continued with several Beavers completing the Stage 1 assessment during our Tuesday night session at New Malden pool or independently with external swimming instructors. This is a great preparation for

the many river-based activities as they move through Cubs and Scouts.

Also this term has seen an expansion to our repertoire of games with Bomb, the buoy game and sharks & seaweed becoming firm favourites. No doubt these will continue in the New Year.

Many thanks to Simon and Peg for their continuing support during the term and as Simon has now officially 'swum-up' to Cubs we are in need of an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, so if you would like to support your beaver colony in an official capacity please let me know.

Richard (BSL)



Beavers examining the internal structure of celery to observe the transport of water

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

Headquarters: 92 Lower Ham Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5BB

www.leanderseascouts.co.uk



Coxswain's Corner

Not the last Coxswain's Corner – still in post!

For the last year we have been running the Scout Troop divided into two sections – how has it worked out? I think we can say that it has been a great success. Both the younger and older Scouts really benefit from a programme which is delivered to smaller numbers. This provides a much more focussed and personal experience, dramatically reducing the mucking about and showing off which often happens when trying to run different age related activities for the whole troop at the same time. (This is not a problem when the whole Troop is out on the water, as boating is the focus for everyone).

The older Scouts have enjoyed a variety of activities, a patrol cooking night, based on a ready, steady, cook format, produced some well prepared

and very tasty meals. As always, when they get stuck in, Scouts can cook really well.

The Environmental Challenge badge has now been completed, and as part of the Fire Safety badge a very informative night was spent at Kingston Fire Station, where the duty watch provided a very comprehensive guide to all aspects of fire and how to deal with them.

Keeping up the Leander tradition of everyone having good swimming skills, a night at the Malden Centre enabled all the Scouts to gain level 5 of the swimmer's badge, an excellent achievement.

At the Autumn District Air Rifle Competition Joseph Rean is continuing to shoot very well. A District Archery Club has now also started, Wednesday evenings at 1st Hook HQ, open to all Scouts. There's another skill to think about.

Unfortunately, the last bout of snow and ice meant a cancelled meeting and we were not able to do the assessment for the Emergency Aid badge, which hopefully will now be done early in the New Year. The District Night Hike also fell victim to the weather as the weekend of the 4th/5th December was bitterly cold and the local roads were very icy.

On the lighter side, a mini minefield and assault course night proved very popular, Scouts do love a good game.

It's a team effort running meetings, they often require a lot of planning and organisation, and I would like to say thanks to Llz, Russell and Aidan for their invaluable input and assistance.

Keep warm and have an enjoyable Christmas.

Coxswain

X-factor Cubs

We started the second half of the term finishing off the Global Challenge badge and playing wide-games with torches in Canbury Gardens. The usual chaos ensued but they all had a great time in the dark.

After that, Rick ran the first-half of his Music badge Stage 1 with singing and keyboards.

The Cub Leaders had an evening off when Lucy Kitchen ran the night as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. The Cubs seemed to be better at the origami than the leaders... I'm sure they must have done it at school or something!

We then had Simon and Jim running the IT badge over two weeks, where they learned about graphs, files and Word Docs. They then helped design a newspaper front-page, describing Cubs of the past, present and future, and presented it in fancy-dress.

Rick completed the last badge session of the year. Part 2 of his music badge involved an inspired 'X-factor' type event where all the Cubs tried to impress the tough judges – the 'Cockle clan'. Much fun was had by all, though a special mention goes to Jonathan Bennett for his very impressive Jimmy Page impression on the acoustic guitar.

Finally we had the social event of the year in the Cubs Christmas party. Crisps, cakes, biscuits, games, balloons music and fireworks, though probably more of the former! A pretty lively term.

Last words go to Scott and Christian Cockle, Harry Vincent and Archie Talman who have now moved on to Scouts. We wish them all the best for the future.

Finally I'd like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year, from myself and the other Cub leaders! See you next year.

Nick

