



# The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

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## HQ refit

The HQ has been in dry dock this Summer for some long awaited refitting!

Some of the roof skylights have started to leak over the last few years, leaving puddles of water on the floor. We had the worst of these replaced in early 2011, and, helped by a grant of £10000 from the Lottery, were able to have the remaining nine replaced in July. It was more economical to have all



done at once and this would not have been possible without the grant. You can see *before* (right) and *after* (left).

Here is a species probably not seen at Leander in its 103-year history – a hot water tap in the toilets!



This amazing mod-con is now fitted to all the basins, making life more comfortable for visitors and residents alike. Hardy seafarers who feel offended by unnecessary cosseting in the heads may decline to push the red button!

Russell has recommissioned the heating for the coming Winter season by fitting a new flexible coupling between the boiler and the ducting in the roof space. Worth a pot-holing badge, I think!



## Mutineers

The Mutineers are in need!

The Mutineers, parents and Leaders row regularly when possible, with The Great River Race as our main event every year. With work commitments, we are short of crew, so, if you fancy rowing a traditional 20ft gig, get in touch. There is a social side as well, with visits to check on riverside hostelries as part of the strict training regime!

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# Coxswain's Corner



Every Summer, Leander's big event is the National Sea Scout Pulling and Canoeing Regatta, held on the Thames just downstream from Hampton Court. With the adverse river conditions earlier this year, we lost quite quite a few boating meetings and consequently practice for the crews was somewhat limited.

However, everyone competing put in a very good effort; with such a young Troop, physical size does matter and a bigger crew will usually have an advantage. We did win a number of events, but now that other crews seem to have upped their game, trophies were spread around the competing groups.

Summer camp was held at Downe Scout Activity Centre in Kent. We had great weather for the week and just a sprinkle of rain dampened the tents on the last morning. (Wet canvas has been the norm for every camp for years!). The 17 Scouts, divided into three patrols, prepared and cooked all their own meals, thoroughly enjoyed the many activities on site, all very well organised, plus each patrol had a series of challenges to complete in the week. Our traditional cross-country day hike was on the hottest day, tempered by plenty of shady woodland paths.

Because of the Olympic cycle race around Kingston, we came back a day earlier than usual,

I'm sure everyone appreciated the opportunity to enjoy what was a fantastic event.



What does the Autumn bring for Leander? Cubs joining the Troop, an opportunity for a last bit of Tuesday boating, before the nights draw in and, of course, The Great River Race, taking place on the 15th of September.



Our new safety boat has been in use, you can't miss it, bright red and shiny. This will give us very flexible cover on the water and is ideal for our purposes. It was very popular with the youngsters on the Open Day in mid-July, with trips round the island in great demand.



Hope you are all enjoying the summer break.

Coxswain



# Pack! Pack! Pack!

With the weather doing its thing this term, our program has been completely torn apart. Fire lighting, racing at the Hawker Centre and Geo-Caching have all had to be abandoned. However we replaced all these activities with interesting alternatives and still managed to complete the modules required for our badges.

## Bloody Bandages

As part of our on-going training and refresher activities we were very lucky to have the help of Sara Boss and her dummy torsos. Cubs were shown/reminded about DRAB and how to attend to wounds. Much Kensington Gore was splashed about and beautifully dressed. Thank you to the Edwards-Rean family for the Gore and Joe at St John Ambulance for the box of out of date bandages!

Well done to Oliver Bennett for winning the Eye Pad prize for the neatest dressing.

## Sunny Strolls

As well as the weather mucking up the schedule, we lost our slot at Teddington Pool due to an admin error at the pool. This turned out to be fortunate, as it happened to be the only really nice evening we have had so far. We took the opportunity to hike to Teddington Lock searching for suitable campfire fuel and investigate shelter-making environments for the future.

## Kayaking and Rafting



In what is becoming a tradition, most of the Pack had a go at raft building and almost all had an evening of kayaking at Thames Young Mariners. We got away with the weather with only a few

showers, which really only bothered the leaders, who were not on the water!

## District Sleep-Over

Why is the word sleep used here? I don't get it. 240 Cubs = NO sleep!

Seriously though, Leander had a contingent of 22 Cubs and leaders. As a Pack they were extremely good role models to the rest of the District. Despite a very difficult and overcrowded sleeping area, they just got on with things with no moaning. I was very proud of every one of them.

## Fond Farewells

The Troop have press-ganged six of the Pack this term, and we wish the best future to:

Michael Kay, Joseph Mulcock, Sam Butler, James Allen and Max & Ben Au-Yeung. Remember to always DO YOUR BEST!

## Wet Welcomes

Next term we welcome EIGHT Beavers and a new Cub into the pack. Most of them attended our trial day, which we were very lucky to have Robin and Russell from the Troop take the Pack and Beaver guests out rowing. So a Huge Howl for Drice Hellal, Johnathon Allan, Tess Lewisjohn, Harry Edwards, Louis Vincent, Harry Lear, Joshua Dugdale, Oliver Constable and finally, even though he has actually been with us several weeks now, Jack Gallagher.

*Simon Biddulph, Nick Yelland,  
Peg Morris, Tim Pullen  
and Will Hancock*

