



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

March 2010

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Growth and movement in all sections at Leander

Since the December issue of the Water Rat, we have had some musical chairs with sections and leaders.

We have made some big changes within the Troop. As you will have read in my last report, the Beaver Colony and Cub Pack are full to the gunwales, so, once they get to the Scout Troop with the bigger and diverse age range, we have had to split the section in two.

As many of you know and may have seen, 30+ Cubs on the main deck is very busy and noisy. Imagine the same with the Scout Troop, but all at different stages of nautical and Scout training. So, from now, the Troop still meets on a Tuesday evening, but at separate times during the Autumn and Winter terms. The 10½-12½ year olds meet between 7.00-8.30pm, and with an overlap of 30 minutes with the rest of the Troop (up to the age of 14½), and the senior half meet between 8.00-9.30pm.

After the Easter break both sides of the Troop will be joining together again and will meet at the normal summer Troop meeting time (7.15pm till 9.15pm) as they will be back on the water.

After Easter, Karen Rean, our current Beaver Scout Leader, will be helping out at the Cub Pack, and will be handing over the reins to our new Beaver Scout Leader and Assistant Beaver

Scout Leader, Richard & Jennifer Wallington, with Simon Biddulph staying with the section until Christmas.

For the Cub Pack, there may be one or two new faces joining the Leadership team after Easter, but this is to be confirmed.

With the Troop being split into two for about six months of the year, the senior half have the main Troop section Leaders (Robin Burr, Liz Morrissey, Peter Blagdon and John Burr). The junior half has a new team headed by myself and the Troop Occasional Help team (Rhys Steele, Will Hancock, Mark Valentine and Ety Downer).

The Colony, Pack and Troop also have Explorers attending meetings to help gain their Service module for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for either 3, 6 or 12 months.

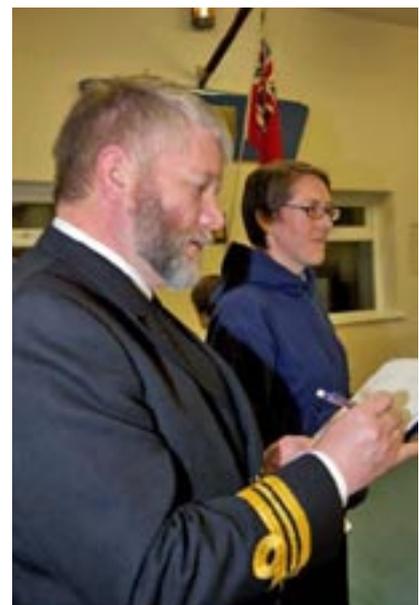
That only leaves the Explorers. I have now stepped down from Explorer Scout Leader to Assistant, with Alex taking charge as from January. The Unit is also pleased to welcome Lucy Burrow (an ex-Guider) into Leander, and hopes she enjoys working with the crazy gang.

I am very pleased to announce that Leander has successfully retained Royal Navy Recognition status. We have now been part of the RN Recognition Scheme for 64 years, and, as every inspection takes place, the more

off-the-wall we have to be. The only wish we all now have, is that the next inspection will be water based.

As we reach the end of our 100th year of Leander, I ask that all members remove the anniversary badge from their uniforms after 19th April (the day after St George's Day parade), as we are now no longer permitted to wear it. If you are unsure what to do with it and any other badges you may have around, why not make a camp blanket.

*Karen Loizou
Leander Group Scout Leader*



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Royal Navy Inspection

Extracts from the report of the Inspecting Officer, Lt Cdr D T Griffiths:

The Inspection commenced when the Inspecting Officer was piped into the HQ building. Regrettably the River Thames was in spate and thus the intention for the Explorers to pull the Inspecting Officer to the HQ could not be safely realised.

After Colours, the Group split into the activity sessions. A group of Cubs were learning about map reading before they joined in with the Scout activities. The Scouts undertook a series of bases organised on similar terms to speed dating and called 'Speed Scouting'. The younger scouts were paired up and, accompanied by a Cub, circulated around the following bases: knotting, RN ship recognition, resuscitation, phonetic alphabet, life jackets, kayaking and line throwing. Each of these activities lasted 5 minutes and were enthusiastically and effectively run by the PLs and older Scouts. The Explorers were involved in boat maintenance, having been denied the opportunity to go afloat.



On completion of the activities the Group fell in for inspection. All were smartly turned out and had clearly made considerable efforts on their appearance for which they are commended. When spoken to they answered clearly, describing a full, active and enjoyable programme which is well balanced between land and water based activities.

The Troop has grown significantly in the last 12 months and particularly since last September.

It was good to see the increase in Challenge badges earned within the Group and especially to note the two Chief Scouts Gold awards recently presented.

The Explorers are thriving and have recently gained a new, highly qualified, Leader which should permit them a wider range of activities leading to RYA and BCD qualifications.

They once again proved that, for the 64th year, they meet the standards required for RN Recognition and are congratulated on being fine ambassadors for the RN in this locality.



District Beavers Explore Afternoon



Scouts on the 'London Eye' at Christmas

Night Exercise

Congratulations to our intrepid team of Scouts who, in mid-March, completed the County Night Exercise. With 42 teams from across the county taking part, they gained an excellent 7th place. This was a difficult event, requiring precise compass bearings across the thick woodland and heathland on Box Hill and Headly Heath – tricky in daytime and even more demanding at night.

Very well done, Ilsa Paterson, Eleanor and Thomas Washington, Gabriel Downer, Cameron Winston and team leader Jack Kitchen.

Activities Dates

Apr 15 – St George's Day Rehearsal
(Our Lady Immaculate Church
- Tolworth)

Apr 18 – St George's Day Parade

Apr 23rd/25th – Beaver Scout
Sleepover

May 9th – Cub Scout Five-a-Side
Football

May 22nd – All Section Weyside
Wander (Leander Fundraiser)

Jun 12th – Beaver Scout Sports

Jun 19th/20th – Cub Scout Giant
Sleepover

Jun 27th – Cub Scout Sports

Jul 3rd/4th – National Sea Scout &
Explorer Regatta

Jul 10th/11th – Scout/Explorer
Archery Comp