



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

March 2012

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Leander All Change

Many of you will have seen that over this term the sections have not been able to use the dens to change in. This is because the Explorers have been doing a bit of redecoration. The Unit have been working very hard every Thursday evening washing, sanding and painting the walls. But to make the dens a little different from before, they have opted to inject a bit of colour! Each den has been painted to make the Cubs feel more at home, with each one having the colour of their Six as a feature wall. But the Beavers should not feel unloved – the Explorers are still working on what to do for them.

After the Easter break, we will be introducing two new Six colours to the Cubs. We have decided to say goodbye to Brown and White Six and hello to Orange and Purple.

Also after Easter we will be introducing a parent pickup point. The pickup point is for parents, Leaders and members to collect any notices they may have missed over the term. Also, the following info forms will be available.

- Leander Welcome Pack
- Uniform Diagram's
- CRB Forms
- Repeat CRB Forms
- Uniform Order Form
- Section Programmes

The pickup point will be situated at the far end of the Main Deck, by the windows.



Leander is yet again collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids

vouchers so we can obtain many nice new things for the Beavers and Cubs. So could I ask you all not to hand in your vouchers to the Schools, but to help Leander this year.

Leander is still growing and with four or five members moving up a

section it leaves space for more young people to join in the Scouting experience. For that, we do really need more adult volunteers to assist, so if you feel you can help, talk to any of the section leaders or contact me.

Lastly, well done and congrats to that have taken part all recent District and County competitions.

Karen

Fundraising

Money for nothing



Who says raising funds has to be difficult? A couple of weeks ago we got a cheque for £36 from EasyFundraising,

so a big thank you to the six people who have signed up with this. We can't help thinking how much more we would get if more of us signed up ... so come on, give it a go ... <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Summer teas

By popular request, we plan to re-launch the weekend tea/coffee/drinks/cakes sales by the river, and we want to run this on a day when we have some Scouts in boats on the river. We are planning

to run the first of these soon after Easter. To make this happen, we will need support from a few parents – to help serve, to make a cake, to encourage Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers to come down to help out on the day, etc. So please drop Fiona an email or give her a call if you can help (see below)

Fingers crossed

We are waiting to hear from National Lottery and Kingston Council on the funding applications we have submitted. We need money for replacing the boating equipment and for the building (roof repairs). We will keep you posted with any news.

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Pack Pack Pack!!

Spring Term is always a busy one and this year was no exception. Up to our full strength of 30 again, we went hiking, won quiz competitions, entered Arts and Crafts competitions, were made very welcome at the local Synagogue, raised the roof with a Concorde fund-raiser. Leander gained two NSRA range officers, pushed several Cubs into stage 2 & 3 swimming and collected litter from both Ham Common and the Riverside. We scooted into sixth place in the annual rally and most of the Pack gained the Air Activities badge, My Faith badge and either the Promise Challenge or The Global Challenge badges. Four Cubs are now a spit away from the coveted Chief Scouts Silver Award.

Quality Qualifiers



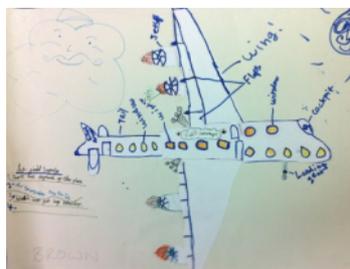
In January we held the Leander Pack heats for the quiz. This determined which Six would represent us in the District Quiz. White Six won it and, with a little help from Red and Yellow Sixes, they trotted off to 1st Hook in February for the District Quiz. Last year we came an exciting 4th. This year WE WON!! It was very close and very tough but the win meant we went forward to represent Royal Kingston in the County Finals. Each District had three teams entered and there were five districts involved. Kingston came 2nd overall with Leander coming in 4th. A really special achievement and well done to: Cameron Hair (Captain), Michael Kay, Sam Butler and Jamie Hancock of White Six, Ollie Morris of Yellow and Max Bidulph of Red Sixes.

Crafty Art

The District Scouts also organised an Arts & Crafts competition. Leander have entered before and it

has always been a good day out. This year we were a little short on members but entered a team of five. The activities were interesting and creative and, apart from the competition element, which didn't really affect us as we only had five Cubs, it was a good day out. Very well done to the team!

My Day in the Office



When our intrepid ACSL took off his Leander hoodie and revealed himself to be none other than the notorious Captain Reynolds, BA pilot, ex of the legendary Concorde, it was just too good an opportunity to resist. With the help of a screen a couple of lights and a little bit of sound, Leander HQ was transformed into a theatre for an evening of stories and reminiscences, as Captain Reynolds held forth about his time as a pilot on Concorde. The evening was a great success. The Cubs asked many excellent questions and the adult audience seemed to enjoy the whole evening. Wine and soft drinks sold well and the evening raised £187 for Leander.

0.177 – Licence to shoot



Together with Russell Constable from the Troop, I attended the NSRA range officers' course held at 1st Old Malden. We spent an informative couple of days there learning how to safely supervise young

people with air rifles. We both passed and are now certificated Range Officers. There has been a suggestion that a range may be fitted out on the Boat Deck in the future so, budding shots, watch this space.



Leander Cubs often visit local organisations and religious centres – we like to get out and about! Invariably, the places we visit are friendly and helpful and we always learn from the experience. However, the Kingston Synagogue was the most helpful and friendly of all the places we have visited. They were patient and supportive, informative and interesting. We all thank them.

A bally jolly Rally



Last year we had a disaster during the Scooter Rally when the designated scooter lost a wheel. This year we had more luck and fought on to gain joint fourth place out of fifteen. Well done to Georgia, Georgina, Izzy, Hannah, Max B and Ollie W! A special well done goes to Dominic Washington, Ollie's Dad, who came a close second in the Leaders race!



Fond Farewells

I want to say farewell to those Cubs who have been 'press-ganged' into the Troop: Ben Longhurst, James Hayes, Sam Hodgson, Sam Turner and Georgia Strickland. You have all been great participants and ambassadors and I hope you enjoy Scouts as much as you did Cubs. You Did Your Best and we will miss you.

And Finally...

A Wholesome Howl will be given next term when we welcome James Wallington, Sam Stewart, Tom Williams and Kitty Finnie up from Beavers, and Eleanor Pullen, who will be joining Leander for the first time.

You will be joining us in time for an exciting Summer which will be filled with Fitness Challenges, 5-a-side football competitions and hopefully getting wet! We also all get to dress up smartly and march on St Georges Day.

Simon, Nick, Rick & Peg



Explorers paint the town red



Well, actually Explorers paint the dens ... Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, and Purple.

The Unit, as its Winter project, has been revamping the dens, giving them a Changing-Rooms-style makeover, with new flooring, colour coded wall paint and new storage.

The bold colours match the new Cub Six colours. White and brown weren't thought to be great, so the Cub leaders have chosen to step

into the new season wearing stunning purple and orange!!

Perhaps they are available for contract work? Or perhaps not!



Busy Beavers

Leander Beavers have had a busy start to 2012. In January we welcomed two new Beavers into the Colony. This term we have been working towards the Outdoor Challenge badge and Animal Friend badge.

The year started off with attending a pantomime performance of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, an event organised by the District Team.

Later in January we visited *Pets at Home* in New Malden, where the Beavers came face to face with all manner of creatures, from rabbits to fish to snakes, and learnt how to look after them.

For the outdoor challenge, Beavers have been learning knots, what to take on an expedition to various places and completed a treasure hunt/quiz trail in Canbury Gardens.

In February four Beavers gained their Experiment activity badge by attending the District science event at 1st Hook. Well done to Sam Longhurst, Sam Brickwood, Euan Janes and Harriet Williams.

Five beavers attended the District Explorer event at Southwood activity centre in March, where they spent a very sunny afternoon learning about many famous explorers and completing other activities to earn their Explorer badge. Well done to Oliver Constable, Conor Strickland, Ed Orrell, Sam Brickwood and Felix Stone.



Swimming continued at Teddington pool with many Beavers successfully completing their stage 1 and stage 2 swimming badges.

*Richard
Beaver Scout Leader*

Coxswain's Corner



This seems to have been a very busy term, with virtually a full house ever meeting. Winter is always a bit frustrating, as boating is not possible and it can be a bit dry constantly going through the technical elements of all things nautical.

However, the Scouts have been involved in a variety of challenging activities. Five of our newer members signed on for the NSRA beginners air rifle course, with all gaining their marksman badge and recently Leander put a team into the District Air Rifle Competition, gaining one silver and two bronze medals and winning the best Troop and best Group shields. Well done Cameron Spurling, Toby Rean, Victoria Breach and Iona Biddulph.

A rather messy but very creative design night saw the design of boats and campsites reaching new heights – no shortage of talent here!

Our usual inter-Patrol cooking competition turned the Main Deck into one Ready-Steady-Cook show, with some very well-prepared dishes on offer. The next week Iona Biddulph, Victoria Breach, Edward Paterson and Cameron Spurling took part in the County Cooking Competition at 1st Hook, with a very good 10th= place out of 20 teams – the scores were very close, it's a high standard for this event.



Last weekend the Greater London South West County Scout Night Exercise took place at Polyapes Scout Camp Site, Stoke D'Abernan. 43 teams of Scouts, from Croydon, Kingston, Richmond, Sutton, Wimbledon and Wandle, had to navigate a route across country by night using map references and compass bearings, visiting a series of check points at which a variety of challenges had to be completed. The Leander Team stormed round the course, they were 2nd fastest and gained an excellent 4th= place, with very few point separating the first four teams.

A really excellent result in what is a very competitive event. Well done team, Iona Biddulph, Victoria Breach, David Mason, Jonathan Bennett, Edward Paterson, Bertie Cardillo-Zallo and Arthur Morris (Team Leader).



We have also been swimming, ensuring that all Scouts have now accomplished levels 3 and 4 of the staged swimmer's badge – that level of proficiency means our water activities are underpinned by a high level of swimming ability. Unfortunately, swimming is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain, as many local pools are only interested in maximising income, will not allocate lanes any more and perceive groups such as ours as a nuisance.

Finally, with the remarkable weather we have been having, the Troop has been out for a couple of night rows – always very exciting, so after Easter, the real boating can start again.

Coxswain



Summer Camp



Leander Summer Camp this year is at Downe Scout Activity Centre, Orpington, BR6 7LJ, from Saturday 21st - Friday 27th July