

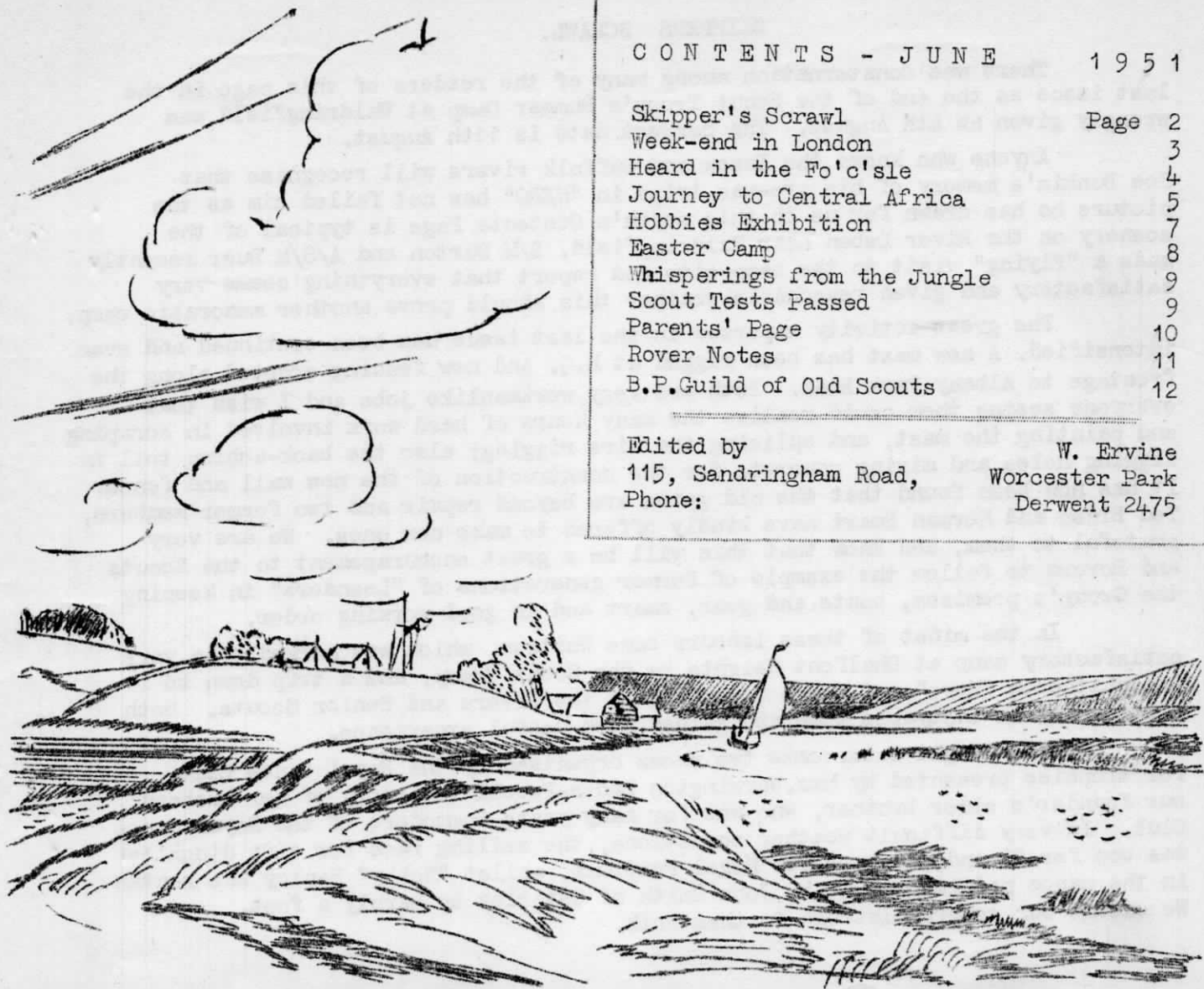
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SKIPPERS SCRAWL.

There was consternation among many of the readers of this page in the last issue as the end of the Scout Troop's Summer Camp at Waldringfield was wrongly given as 4th August. The correct date is 11th August.

Anyone who knows the Essex and Suffolk rivers will recognise that Joe Bunkin's memory of his pre-war trips in "HERO" has not failed him as the picture he has drawn for us on this month's Contents Page is typical of the scenery on the River Deben near Waldringfield. S/M Burton and A/S/M Buer recently made a "flying" visit to the camp-site and report that everything seems very satisfactory and given reasonable weather this should prove another memorable camp.

The great activity reported in the last issue has been continued and even intensified. A new mast has been rigged at H.Q. and new fencing erected along the frontage to Albany Park Road. Both are very workmanlike jobs and I wish that everyone seeing them could realise the many hours of hard work involved in scraping and painting the mast, and splicing the wire rigging; also the back-aching toil in digging holes and mixing concrete for the construction of the new wall and fence. It has now been found that the old gates are beyond repair and two former members, Ted Biden and Norman Smart have kindly offered to make new ones. We are very grateful to them, and know that this will be a great encouragement to the Scouts and Rovers to follow the example of former generations of "Leanders" in keeping the Group's premises, boats and gear, smart and in good working order.

In the midst of these labours came Whitsun, which was marked by a very satisfactory camp at Chalfont Heights by the Scout Troop, and a trip down to Greenhithe in "Hero" and three dinghies, by the Rovers and Senior Scouts. Both parties had an enjoyable time and gained much useful experience.

A fortnight later came two races organised by the Royal Canoe Club, for trophies presented by Mrs. Warrington Baden-Powell in memory of her husband, our Founder's elder brother, who was for many years Commodore of the Royal Canoe Club. In very difficult weather conditions, the sailing race for 12ft dinghies, was won for "Leanders" by Rover Nigel Pentiman, whilst "Nobby" Hanley was beaten in the canoe paddling event by John Smith of Osterley by barely a foot. We extend our congratulations to them both.

At Easter an adventurous week-end trip was made by Nobby Hanley, David Blundell, Don Frost, Nigel Fentiman and Charlie Bishop. The river was in full flood and good time was made to Brentford where a tow was obtained from a tug and the whole trip was made in the record time of 2 hours.

In the afternoon it was decided to row down the river to the Tower of London. Here, Nobby was specially interested in the famous Ravens, and of course a visit was paid to the "Bloody Tower". Just before reaching the Tower the old Kingston river launch "England" was discovered now converted into a guard ship for the 2nd City of London Sea Scouts. A visit was paid to them and as the "Discovery" is now closed for the Festival of Britain, arrangements were made for week-end moorings alongside, and before leaving, a gift of two dozen "Buckshee" plates was collected.

The next morning was spent in sailing and instruction, and the return journey was commenced at 2.30 p.m. By 3.30 the Houses of Parliament were reached and then Nobby remembered that he had left his rucksack with all his togs on board "Discovery", so it became necessary to pull into a landing stage whilst the "Galloot" phoned Discovery and made arrangements for his father to collect them the next day. It was pouring with rain and course was set for Battersea Bridge, but owing to the flood water overcoming the Neap Tide very little progress was made. Presently a police launch came along and were requested for a tow, but they "took the mickey" out of the crew by allowing them by sheer hard pulling to catch up to them, when they would then shoot off laughing, but eventually they tired of their fun and towed the gig as far as Barnes Bridge where they handed over to another police launch who took over the tow, and Kew Bridge was reached at 5.30 p.m.

After battling against the heavy stream, Richmond Bridge was finally made at 8 p.m. and the flood water here was so strong that after pulling for ten minutes no progress whatever was made, so the boat was left at Richmond and collected the following Saturday, when rain, hail, snow and sunshine was experienced. Who would sell a farm and go to sea?

HEARD IN THE FO'C'SLE.

A recent caller has been GERRY NEWMAN, who, readers will recall, obtained his Master Mariner's Certificate last year. He has now taken on a FIRST MATE, having been married at Easter time. Congratulations Gerry!

* * * *

We are expecting a visit shortly from ARTHUR HALL, who has just returned from "Down Under". We understand that during his stay in Australia he had some very tough hikes with various Rover Crews from the Brisbane area.

* * * *

We are sorry to learn that ARTHUR DAVIS is in hospital in Malaya, and send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Arthur would be glad to have letters from his friends in the Crew. Time can seem very long in Hospital, especially so far from home.

* * * *

We wish GORDON BIDEN the best of luck in his new job as foreman for a firm at Norwich. He has visited Martham on a number of occasions and informs us that "Doreen" and "Audrey" were both married recently. Members of the Group who camped at Martham in 1946 will remember these two young ladies' prowess at rounders.

* * * *

WASTE PAPER.

Now that waste paper has become valuable salvage once again, the Group is making the most of this as a source of income, and the use to which this money is being put is well illustrated by the following notice posted up on the Main Deck. It reads:

"This is what YOUR newspaper has brought in the past months".

One saw per patrol - 66 lbs. Varnish for 4 dinghies - 480 lbs. Poles for pioneering - 144 lbs. Paint for 7-footer - 90 lbs. Two anchor warps - 135 lbs. ALL CUBS, SCOUTS, SENIOR SCOUTS and ROVERS are asked to collect clean newspaper and bring it to H.Q. regularly so that we may undertake some very necessary repairs.

PARENTS: Please encourage your boys to keep it up!

JOURNEY TO CENTRAL AFRICA.

by F.C. Goodger.

Leaving London Airport on a dull October day, the Constellation aircraft carrying some 40 passengers and a crew of 8, soon cleared the low clouds and was flying in brilliant sunshine. Thereafter we saw no signs of land or sea until some six hours later we crossed the North African coast at Tunis and landed at Tripoli. After an hour's stay there for dinner, the aircraft was on its way to Khartoum, a journey of about six hours. A further stay of an hour and, just as dawn was breaking over the desert, we took off on the next stage of the flight. Four or five hours later the Great Rift Valley with its extinct volcanoes came into sight and in a matter of minutes the aircraft had touched down at Nairobi, less than 24 hours after leaving London.

A nightstop in Nairobi enabled one to see how it had grown after nine years and to meet old friends there. The next morning we were off at daybreak, this time in a Viking Aircraft. Flying close to the snowclad Mt. Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Africa) we landed for a short time at Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika. Thence the course was set in rather rough weather for Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia where we arrived in the early afternoon.

Salisbury is an attractive city of wide avenues, modern buildings and houses standing in gardens abounding with tropical flowers. It is not surprising that many who spent war service there have returned to settle in Southern Rhodesia, for it is a progressive country still in the pioneer stage in some ways, but sufficiently advanced to offer comfortable living conditions (if you can find a house!) in a climate which compares with the best English summer.

Nyasaland being more remote has not progressed so much. Blantyre, its largest town, is small by English standards while up country no town seems to consist of more than one main road. In addition there are many African

villages and settlements centred around the various missionary stations. The northern part in which I spent some weeks is mainly high downland country, remote, thinly populated and little developed. On the eastern side the land sloped down to picturesque bays on the shores of Lake Nyasa. Roads are often little more than tracks zigzagging over the hills and valleys. Under such conditions, travel can be quite adventurous, especially in wet weather when one may have to dig the car out of the mud, or repair one of the river bridges which often consist of a few tree trunks lashed together. The single railway line covers only the southern part of the country, and to get north one has to travel by car or aircraft. Air travel is by small aircraft, as landing grounds are often primitive - one I landed on served as the local golf course as well, I was told!

The return journey to Nairobi was through Northern Rhodesia (which looked particularly fresh and green then) and Central Tanganyika. From Khartoum we crossed the North African coast at Bengazhi (at 20,000 ft. however, it was impossible to spot that "Leander" Rover who is doing his National Service there!) Coming into Rome we were able to see Mt. Etna which was then in eruption. An unexpected nightstop at Rome gave us time to see some of its famous monuments and buildings, including St. Peter's. Leaving Rome about 9.30 in the morning we were soon flying over the Alps in brilliant sunshine and two hours or so later we were flying over the Thames at Chertsey as we came into Heathrow and a good English snowstorm.

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STOP PRESS.

In the Kingston Association Camping Competition, held on 9th and 10th June, the four patrols from "Leanders" gained the following places. Seals - 1st; Herons - 4th; Beavers - 5th; Sea Gulls - 8th. Congratulations to John Evans and his patrol on winning the privilege of representing Kingston in the Surrey County Camping Competition at Walton Firs on 30th June. May they repeat the success scored by "Leanders" last year at Merstham.

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HOBBIES EXHIBITION.

A hobbies Exhibition was arranged in April at the Coronation Hall, Kingston, by the Rotary Club, with, to quote the official handbook, "The object of encouraging the people who like to do things for themselves". There were 29 stalls incorporating stamp collecting, photography, radio, cinematography, marionettes, aquariums, rabbits, poultry and mice, cigarette cards, scouting - land and sea, model aircraft, engineering and sailing boats, hand loom weaving, sculpture and art, and bee keeping. So those wishing to start a hobby, found plenty to chose from, whilst those already interested in a particular subject were enabled to see first class specimens, and to obtain expert advice.

In the centre of the hall was a miniature motor car track, on which model petrol driven cars whizzed round at between 60 and 70 miles per hour. These cars were started by placing the fly-wheels on the tyre of an upturned bicycle, and George Hopkins of the "Leanders" was thoroughly enjoying himself acting as chief starting mechanic turning the pedals of the bicycle.

The Kingston Scouts Association was represented by the 11th Kingston Troop and the "Leander" Sea Scouts. The 11th Kingston's display consisted of knots, nature study, pioneering, bridge building, camp equipment, and book-binding. The "Leanders", in addition to exhibiting the 7ft fully rigged "Sharpie" which was built at a Scout Exhibition at the London Scottish Drill Hall in 1946 by Ron Jault, Arthur Hall and George Goodall, were busily constructing a 10ft "Yachting World Cadet" Sailing Dinghy, which is a useful type of boat, as it is a standard design to which some 500 boats have been built. Open races for crews under 18 years are held at most Sailing Regattas, and having a boat of this class will enable "Leander" Scouts to compete in regattas when at Camp.

Several of the old original Kingston Scouts visited the exhibition and many acquaintanships were renewed, and all agreed that the exhibition was of a very high standard, interesting and instructive.

EASTER CAMP.

In spite of the weather, an Easter camp was held by the Scout Troop at Chalfont St. Peter's, near Uxbridge. At noon on Friday, John Evans, Chas. Huckson, "Sticky" Garnish, "Happy" Milne and Derek Huckson set off on their bicycles from Kingston, and arrived at the campsite about four o'clock. That is all except "Happy", who, after doing about two thirds of the journey, began to lag behind, and finally came on at his leisure. "Hoppy", "Frankenstein" and "Dreamer" met at "Dreamer's" house at 5.30 p.m. and reached camp at 8 p.m.

The camp was under the charge of S/M. Burton and A/S/M. Buer, and was divided into two sections, one part named "Warren", being occupied by the Patrol Leaders, and the other part, about 300 yards away, with a wood in between, was "Magog", and occupied by the Seconds.

In the close vicinity other Troops were camping, and raids were made on one another during the holiday, "Leanders" capturing from one troop their Scull & Crossbones flag. Frank Moody was unwise enough to let drop that it was his birthday, and so was promptly ducked in the Blackpool. He very sportingly retaliated by providing a slap up tea of tinned peaches, plums, grapes and gooseberries. Good old "Frankenstein".

The camp broke up early on Monday morning, and after tidying up and thanking the Warden, course was set for home, but just after passing London Airport, "Hoppy" collected a puncture, but the gang finally arrived back at Kingston tired, happy and hungry, and all voted it a jolly good camp. When questioned about the weather Hoppy said "It was very good, it only snowed once".

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YOU MUST NOT MISS IT! LEANDERS "AT HOME" DAY at Headquarters, on Saturday
23rd June, 1951, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ALL PARENTS of CUBS, SCOUTS and ROVERS, also OLD SCOUTS AND OTHER FRIENDS
CORDIALLY INVITED. COME AND ENJOY YOURSELVES!

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WHISPERINGS FROM THE JUNGLE.

I have only been back with the Pack for three weeks and the first whisper I want to put on record is to offer my personal thanks and those of the Pack also, to the Akela of the Dr. Barnardo's Home and her helpers for the fine way she has kept things going during my illness.

Next I want to welcome our new friend Brian Wilson, whose help is, I know, going to prove invaluable.

And now I must congratulate Keith Plummer on earning his First Star, Well done, Keith! also the boys who have received their 1st and 2nd years Service Stars.

Then a special word of welcome to William Callow and Raymond Huckson who have just been enrolled.

I am going to conclude with just a tiny whisper about the future. There may be a long week-end camp at "Polyapes", for Cubs of suitable age and knowledge, sometime during August. This is just to give you something to talk about among yourselves.

Good Hunting,

AKELA.

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SCOUT TESTS PASSED DURING APRIL AND MAY.

TENDERFOOT TESTS COMPLETED: J. Balcomb, Bates, R. Bennett.

2nd CLASS TEST: Fennell (5) Waddell (4) Stevenson (4) Butcher (4)
Braye (4) Potts (3) B. Garnish (3) Balcomb (1)

1st CLASS TESTS: Hopkins (2) R. Garnish (2)

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PARENTS' PAGE.

MONDAY APRIL 30th, 1951, was a red-letter day for "Leanders". What a pity it was that all the parents of the boys in the "Leander" Group, could not attend the Annual General Meeting of the Kingston-upon-Thames Local Boy Scout Association. The Secretary's report of the year's working contained several references to "Leanders" prowess in phases of scouting, and parents would undoubtedly have been proud to think that their sons had contributed to those chronicled successes. These were not attributable directly to individual merit, but to the team spirit which pervades the Group.

The officers, as much as the boys, are to be congratulated, for after all without keen and able leadership and an ability to pass on the knowledge achieved in years of Scouting, boys enthusiasm lacks cohesion.

The finance scheme launched at the Social, met with encouraging support and approximately half of the required annual income was promised.

The enclosure of the forms in the last issue of the "Water Rat" to enable others who were not at the Social, to join in the scheme, did not meet with the response we had hoped. Parents! to use the Scout motto "Be Prepared." If you are not a subscribing member of the "Leander" Association, you may expect to have a caller in the not too distant future, when it is hoped you too will join in.

The Group Committee has been hard at work lately and arrangements have been made for an "At Home" Day for parents and friends at the H.Q. on Saturday, 23rd June. The tenants of 41, Albany Park Road, have consented to our using the garden adjoining the H.Q. again this year. Some ingenious side-shows have been contrived and Mr. Moodey has again kindly agreed to run motor-boat trips. Given fine weather this should be a most enjoyable occasion for everyone concerned.

"ARBITER".

ROVER NOTES.

Very steady progress is being made by the Crew. Whitsun saw the greater part of the Crew away down river with the Seniors, where an enjoyable time was had at the Sea Scout Meet at Greenhithe. Previous to this "Hero" was given a coat of paint and her rigging overhauled. Before Whitsun the Crew built a partition across the Rover Den, thus making a Ward Room and an Instruction Room. Members also gave assistance on the construction of the Y.W.Cadet for the Hobbies Exhibition.

Barker Cup activities are very much to the fore as last year. We had a visit from the Molesey Rover Crew in March, and we are expecting a visit from the Kingston Hill Crew (just recently revived) and also a visit from a Teddington Crew. The Barker Competition events we have entered since the last issue have been Cross Country, First Aid and Hiking. For Cross Country we entered two teams but, alas - we had our two best men, one in either team, giving a position of 9th. Ray Quartermain, feeling rather hot on the way round, decided to jump into a pond, and had a short swim, this was on 1st April too! First Aid team consisted of G.Goodall, A.Hollis and C.Bishop. They managed 5th place. It was a very close competition, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th places being separated by no more than 6 marks. Better luck next year! The Hike Competition was entered by G.Goodall and M.Buer. They were dumped somewhere in Hampshire and told to camp until midnight. They were then given a compass direction to follow, and find a village named Colmore. They started off trying to do it "as the crow flies". After 2½ hours of prickles, barbed wire, ditches, brambles, bogs, ponds, mud and pouring rain, they decided to stick to roads and paths. The objective was found after 9 hours having walked something like 15-20 miles.

Last week the Mast was scraped, painted and rigged, and now looks very "tiddley". Now then you "old boys", what about painting the Chartroom to match.

STOP PRESS.

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Congratulations to JANET EDWARDS, daughter of "Teddards", on becoming the Southern Counties Junior Champion, Surrey Womens Champion and Record Holder, and Surrey Girls Record Holder, for backstroke swimming.

B.P. GUILD OF OLD SCOUTS.

To all ex-members of the "Leander" Sea Scout Group.

We are endeavouring to form a really first class Old Scouts Branch. No doubt you have had some good times in the Troop and learned a lot you wouldn't have done otherwise. We think that you would still like to associate yourself with the Troop, if so, please make a note that we will meet, until the end of the year, on the 1st Thursday in every month! There will be nothing binding on you except occasionally to help the Group when your time permits.

You will understand that we MUST be self-supporting, so a Subscription of 10/- per annum is required. If you live out of the area, and would still like to be one of us, you can be for a small sum of 5/- per annum, so that if you are anywhere near when there is a do on you will be "as welcome as the flowers in May".

Keep a good watch in the "Water Rat" so that we may keep you all informed of the doings of the Old Scouts Branch.

Will you all please forward your Subscriptions to the Hon. Secretary's address:

Jack Douthwaite,
28, Mount Pleasant Road,
New Malden.

I am hoping that you will all return to the "Fold" to keep alive the spirit of the one and only Chief, B.-P.

Yours,

JACK.