

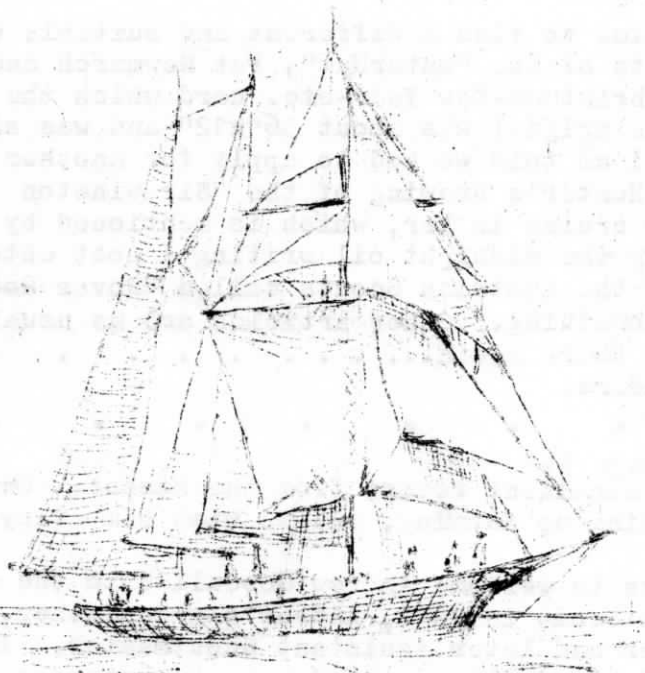
JANUARY, 1967

CONTENTS

\* \* \* \*

Editorial	2
Skipper's Scrawl	3
Rover Rote Radetzky	4
Cub Notes	6
The Troop	7
Parents' Corner	8
Venture Scouts	9
S.R.S Victor	10
Dates for your Diary	10
Letter from the Guild	11
Leander Round-Up	12

Frontispiece	D.G. Hunter
Illustration	Pat Newmarch



SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

\* \* \* \*

Edited by Nigel Duffin, 43, Birkenhead Avenue, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

EDITORIAL.

If this Editorial sounds a little "ad lib.", this is simply explained by the fact that it is! Christmas and the New Year have, I am afraid, made their mark in an unusually large spate of late or erratic contributions. This has resulted in even more last minute panic than usual, and, believe me, that's saying something. Having let off that rocket, I come to the contents of the present offering.

It becomes more difficult each time to find a different and suitable way of thanking those artistic stalwarts of the "WaterRat", Pat Newmarch and Mr. Hunter. Pat has reproduced a Christmas-New Year-etc. card which the Group sent to the Linz Scouts. The original was about 36"x12" and was signed by nearly everyone in the Group. I am told we had to apply for another overdraft to pay the postage! Mr Hunter's drawing of the "Sir Winston Churchill" is a reference to Abo's cruise in her, which is mentioned by Skipper. Pat has also been burning the midnight oil writing a most entertaining article about the visit of the Austrian Scouts called "~~Rover Rete~~ Rottor Raeds= Redetschxcky", or something. Other articles are as usual, except perhaps the Ranger one, but there again... . . . . .

A successful year to all our readers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Skipper's Scrawl (continued from page 3)

Winston Churchill and received an excellent report from the Master. On his return to New Zealand Chris is taking up farming, and we wish him every success.

It gives me very special pleasure to welcome Andrew Goodall into the Cub Scout Pack. When I first became a Scout in 1911, Andrew's grandfather, George (Senior) was a Patrol Leader and later Assistant Scoutmaster. In due course, Andrew's father, George (Junior) joined the Cubs. He became a Scout, then a Rover, and eventually Rover Scout Leader. He has been a member of the "Leander" Branch of the B.P. Guild of old Scouts since its formation and is at present the Hon. Treasurer. We are about to celebrate the 60th Jubilee Year of Scouting and there are no doubt many members of the Movement whose grandfathers were Scouts, but there must be very few instances where all three generations have been members of the same Group.

The Scout Movement has now had six months in which to digest the recommendations contained in the Report of the Chief Scout's Advance Party. A few changes have already been made and with the New Year many more will come into force. Some of the early ones are those most easily made and are not necessarily the most important, being largely changes in nomenclature. For example, the Wolf Cub Pack becomes the Cub Scout Pack, the Court of Honour will be known as the Patrol Leaders' Meeting, and the Local Association has been re-designated the District Scout Council. Other changes, mainly at District level, involve people such as Assistant District Commissioners, who will be concerned with advising on, and putting into effect the new training syllabuses which will in time affect the individual members of the three sections of the Movement, viz. Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Venture Scouts.

The biggest immediate change is the disappearance of the Rover branch under that name. Older members of the Movement up to the age of 20 will in future be catered for by the Venture Scout Troop thus involving an extension of the activities of this section with the likelihood of considerable advantage to its younger members. Those over the age of 20 will become members of the Service Crew and this will emphasise their true role as adult members of the Movement, pledged to give their assistance as instructors and in many other capacities over a wide field both within the Group or Scout District and to the community at large. In the past, those of our members who have been able to do so have not hesitated to apply for warrants as Assistant Leaders and thus have accepted responsibility for carrying on the tradition and reputation which the Group has earned for itself over the past half-century.

With the completion of his duties in London, Captain Mercer of the Royal New Zealand Navy has returned to New Zealand and the Group has had to say "Good-bye" to Chris. During the years that he has been a member, Chris has proved himself an outstanding Scout whom all those who had the privilege of knowing him will always remember for his sterling qualities. Whilst with the Group, he gained the Queen's Scout Badge and the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. He was also selected for a fortnight's cruise in the Sir

(continued at the bottom of page 2.

ROVER ROTTE RADETSKY - Seniors to you!

Anglo-Austrian exchanges of one sort or another have been to-ing and fro-ing between Linz and Leander for over two years, starting mildly with post-cards of Old Father Thames v. the Blue Danube, and gathering momentum in the form of eight lustry - in the nicest possible sense - Austrian Senior Scouts: Gerhard Stürmer, Michael Kocher, Michael and Christof Langhof, Willy Herenwarter, Franco Giradi, Kirt Mayer, and Peter Schaumberger.

Leander and 4th Worcester Park Group had invited them to stay for six weeks as part of their plans for World Friendship Year, arriving at Victoria on July 6th. Daisy and Nye deposited them at Roland House, Stepney, where they spent their first week with mainly straightforward tourist stuff, including queueing outside a B.B.C. Studio where they were asked to join the audience for a recorded radio show: "Crazy Beat" (very apt).

Then 4th Worcester Park took over for a couple of weeks - I'm pleased to say. Owing to typical British weather they abolished camping in the grounds and made their base between their Senior Den and the local! - English beer is stronger than Austrian beer: let's drink to that. They were entertained by Leatherhead Rotary Club to lunch which lead to many other interesting outings:- the Goblin factory, bowling, Hampton Court; one afternoon they spent in a member's garden playing croquet, tennis, cricket, and soccer - ALL AT ONCE. Franco, in his efforts to score a goal, went swimming in the fishpond. They were a little dazed by the proceedings at a low dive called the "Cellar Club" but livened up somewhat when they demonstrated their National Song: "Das Gelbe U-Boot".

Afterwards they shared a camp at Gilwell Park, where they enjoyed a trip to Cambridge and won their own "World Cup" in the eight-team knockout Soccer Competition. On July 30th they arrived at Leander H.Q. for coffee to meet the Seniors and Scouters and for the first time to split up to stay in various parents' homes - please may I digress for just a moment and take this opportunity to say sincerely "Thank you" to all Leander parents: I quote from Gerhard's letter - "It is impossible to say about all the wonderful days we spent with Leander. I'm sure my friends and I saw within ten days more of English life than other tourists do in some months, we found

real Scout friendship and shall never forget it. Thank you." - and I know they feel the same about Worcester Park too.

On Sunday after church they visited Harrison's Rocks where the Austrians showed some techniques in climbing; the following day the Seniors got their own back by taking them on the river for boating activities. Tuesday a tour of local points of interest, e.g. Marks and Spencers; Wednesday evening another set of unsuspecting parents "volunteered" to drive them to Windsor Castle.

Thursday was perhaps the most absorbing to our Seniors as they spent the day as guests of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth, being escorted round two of the latest destroyers in the fleet, visiting "H.M.S. Victory", and going on a trip round the harbour to see many more ships of the British Navy.

From August 8th-10th they stayed at Warsash with our Troop's Summer Camp. During that time they sailed a gig to the Isle of Wight, apparently the best sailing they had ever done.

They returned on Wednesday night to a farewell party at the lowest dive of all - they could tell this because they were only allowed in through the back bedroom window.

PAT NEWMARCH (with a shove from Archie and Gerhard, and Victor of the 4th)



CUB NOTES

The year 1966 has been twelve months of excitement, hard work, and enjoyable occasions. These last four months of Cub Jubilee Year have been crammed with noteworthy events, not the least of which was the October Pack meeting when the Borough Commissioner presented Rikki with her well-deserved Wood Badge at a very impressive ceremony in which all the Cubs were invited to take part. For a different reason this night was for me too quite a memorable occasion for it was my last Pack meeting as Akela of Leander. It had become increasingly clear that my District duties would almost certainly clash with Leander Pack events, so Rikki and I decided to swop roles with the result that Rikki is now AKELA and I am now RAKSHA, her assistant. (The transition, incidentally, passed so smoothly that at the Hallowe'en Party a few weeks later the Cubs could not tell which "witch" was which!)

Leander Cubs and Scouters have taken part in and thoroughly enjoyed every Group, District, County, and National event throughout the year - District Cub Camp; football and swimming events; District Thanksgiving and Cub Carol Services; the District Christmas Party, where we sampled "all the fun of the fair", not to mention the food and the Jubilee Birthday Cake; the National Good Turn for "Guide Dogs for the Blind", in which we played an active part as well as achieving the £80 mark for our own silver paper collection towards the end of the year. Leander cubs also helped Mrs Brookes, Mrs Copland, and Mrs Walters to make our own Jubilee Birthday Cakes - at least they all had a stir! We made "Gonks" for sale at the Group Lazaar; potted Hyacinth bulbs, and made and painted papier mache bowls in preparation for our Christmas Good Turn.

In short, Cub Jubilee Year has clearly been a year of great happiness, fun and enjoyment. It has also been a year in which we have in small ways been able to help others less fortunate than ourselves. Such small acts of charity, however, bring forth their own quiet feeling of sadness and humility and with it a deep sense of inadequacy. We felt this especially at Christmas when we visited the houses of elderly, bedridden pensioners who live entirely alone. Our fleeting visits and our small gifts gave so much pleasure that we wished we had done more. Perhaps in 1967 we can!

RAKSHA.

At 10 o'clock on Saturday 1st October the 5th National Sea Scout Regatta started. In the afternoon the Leander gig pulling crew competed successfully in their heat and went on to win the quarterfinals. But in the semi-finals on the next day their luck changed and they were beaten. However, win or lose, Jonathan, the cox, was still thrown head first into the river. The Seniors were more fortunate and won their gig pulling event.

The following week there were big cleaning-up jobs, such as checking the gear which was used, replacing things that had disappeared, and generally clearing up Headquarters. In the Troop meetings which followed, there were small groups discussing Christmas parties, and it was decided that there would be a party for everyone and a Girl Guide Company was invited. This was all carefully planned by our four electronic brains!

The party was held at Headquarters, and all started as planned, but unfortunately finished rather a mess. A few people stayed behind to clear up what was left. During the party, as it was Blondy's birthday, he was thrown into the icy-cold river. But most other people enjoyed the party.

A party was also held on the 30th December for those with the Second Class Badge.

On January 5th, six boys assembled at H.Q. for the night hike Peter and Mitt had arranged for us. Beef drove the van and dropped us about 5 miles South of Shere. We had to proceed East to a place called Leith Hill. The two teams didn't like the idea of walking through woods and shrubland, so we decided to walk the long way round to Leith Hill, on the roads. The two teams were:- Bug, Gordon, and myself; David Lawrence, David Williams, and Alan. David's team went up to the main A 25 where they managed to get a lift (how, I don't know) to Walton where they proceeded South to Leith Hill. Our team didn't walk as far as the A 25, but only up to Albury Heath. There we proceeded S.E. along tracks to Leith Hill. We arrived at the van at 3.15 a.m.; and David's team soon after us. At the van we woke up Beef, who didn't like the idea. He then drove us to H.Q. at full speed, where we slept in what we had on as we were so numb and tired. DAVID & STEFAN.

PARENTS' CORNER.

Since the last issue of the "Water Rat" we have had our final event of 1966 - the Leander Christmas Fayre. This was again held in the Tudor Hall and I think the results prove that the hall is ideal for this Bazaar - it was certainly well packed for most of the afternoon, and everyone concerned, both workers and spenders, seemed to enjoy themselves.

On this occasion the Troop delivered over 1000 copies of a publicity leaflet to houses in the locality, and we were extremely grateful to see among the visitors some people not concerned with Leander. Coffee was on sale during the morning while the stalls were being prepared and this attracted some "spending strangers", many of whom returned in the afternoon. The total profit was over £100, an increase of 25% on last year. Many thanks to all concerned.

One point that emerges, however, is that we do need a great deal more help on stalls - which is emphasised by the following figures: Basically the bazaar consisted of 15 stalls, games, etc., which were manned as follows:-

Cub parents	1	stall(s)
Scout parents	4	"
Senior parents	3	"
Rover/Scouter parents	3	"
Parents of ex-Leanders	2	"
Sea Rangers	1	"
Mrs Ebbage	1	"

In three cases one family looked after two stalls each, two games were not manned, and one for only part of the afternoon. It is obvious that more help is needed from the parents of Cubs and Scouts who form the major sections of the Group. We also sadly missed the B.P. Guild's usual help in running games such as darts etc. I hope that we can look forward to some enthusiastic new helpers in 1967.

N.B: Make a note in that new diary of 27th January - an Open Coffee Evening at Headquarters when Leander Film Productions Inc. will screen their latest epic.

JACK CRUMP.



## VENTURE SCOUTS.

Christmas marked the end of a full year, and we have done many interesting things since the last "Water Rat". To celebrate Christmas there was a special meal one Sunday and we visited London. The meal was cooked by Daisy and was a great success. We had several kinds of wine, a turkey, and a haggis. When we went to town we visited the Cutty Sark, Petticoat Lane, and in the evening saw "Khartoum", in glorious Cinerama.

After the Summer Holidays we ran a sailing course for the local Senior Sections which we hope taught many land-based Scouts to understand more about boats and sailing. For the final part of the course we took a gig and a dinghy to the Solent, and anyone who had completed the course was able to come. It rained for a lot of the time but we enjoyed the challenge of something different.

A month ago we held a combined meeting with the Rangers. In the evening we lit a campfire and sang songs round it. During the campfire we presented Mark Bewsher with a token of our gratitude towards him as he has now left us to become Assistant District Commissioner for Venture Scouts. We all wish him luck.

We visited the Westerly factory a short time ago, where their boats were seen in various stages of construction. We were most interested in the Wayfarer as this is the type of boat with which we hope to replace Sandling.

There was a Fireman Badge course at the Fire Station a few weeks ago, and everyone taking the test qualified. This badge is a step towards the Queen's Scout and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

We have arranged our future programme so that almost every meeting is spent refitting Sandling. In this way we hope to get a little more money for her and so get a replacement faster.

John Evans leaves on the 9th to join the "Senior Service" as an artificer. Archie (Richard Andrews) joins the good ship "British Osprey" on the 12th. We are told that he is going straight to sea because of his "good background". He will be learning navigation as a Deck Officer. We wish them both luck and hope they enjoy their new careers.

JOHN ROBERTS.

S.R.S. VICTOR.

There is no need to relate the past activities of Victor over 1966, as I am sure they are common knowledge.

The New Year began with the Crew representing itself at the Boat Show, Scout and Guide Stand. Those who spend the Summer months watching the Crew's escapades from the Chart Room roof may be interested to know that certain members of the Crew showed their skills in canoeing to the public, not to mention demonstrations in mouth-to-mouth resuscitation!

On January 7th we held our annual Christmas-New Year dinner. We hope it was a success: it appeared to be enjoyed by most of those who attended. Daisy showed us his skill at balancing on a piece of paper with a Sea Ranger tucked underneath his arm (it looked suspiciously like Hilary), whilst Mole learnt the disadvantage of not having a steady hand, though at that point in the evening it wasn't surprising. Many thanks to Wendy, Marion, and Margaret for the meal, and to Sandra for her artistic menus, also to Pat for lending us her recording from the Austrian Scouts.

A Happy New Year to all from S.R.S. Victor.

EDDY.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

January 27th	Parents' Open Coffee Evening.
February 18th	Scout Cross-Country.
March 25-27th	Easter Weekend
April 8th	JUMBLE SALE at St. Luke's Social Centre.
May 20th	Group Swimming Gala.

We would like to take this opportunity of giving advance warning of the Troop Summer Camp on 12th - 26th August. Venue is as yet unknown. It is strongly recommended that everyone should go abroad for this fortnight!

A LETTER from the GUILD.

11.

46, Hardman Road,  
Kingston.

Dear Editor,

It is a long time since a report from the Guild appeared in the "Water Rat"; the reason is not one of not being asked. But what is there to write about that will be of interest to your readers? As everyone knows, the Leander branch consists of former members of the Scout Movement, most of whom have been in the Group during the past 50 years, the larger proportion from 1939 onwards. Regular meetings have been held monthly since this branch was formed in April 1957, and the management committee has also met every month at one or other of the committee members' homes. An A.G.M. is held in April, and new committee members take office to keep the branch going. A monthly news-sheet is published to keep members up to date, and is sent to all parts of the country. At present there are 42 members living as far apart as Lands End to Coventry, via Reading, Camberley, Redhill, Clapham Junction, etc.

A lot of the younger Group members ask often: "Well, what does the Guild do?" Well, apart from the regular monthly meetings, which are of a social nature, the regular weekly service for the handicapped, Group and National Swimming Galas, the District Guild Borough Committee (which is aiming to promote Guild Branches in the Royal Borough), we tend and care for our wives, who have provided us with 46 children between them (ages from a few months to eleven years) and with what other time we have left we clean the car and paint the house, praying for the day when the boys will be old enough to join the Cub Scouts and start the whole thing off again.

The aim of the "Leander" B.P. Scout Guild is to keep alive the spirit of friendship of former members of the Group, and this, I feel, is just what we are doing. We have an ever open door. If any member or former member would like to join our happy gang, just get in touch with me at KIN 0386, and I'll be only too pleased to give you any more details you require.

Yours in Scouting, GORDON K. BIDEN Hon. Secretary.

LEANDER ROUND-UP.

Mac and Keith have asked me to thank all those parents and friends who helped with the sale of Christmas Cards this year. Although a parcel lost in the post caused a certain amount of last-minute panic, over \$50 has now been added to Group funds as a result of this year's effort.

Keith and Hilary, and Wendy and David have chosen a most appropriate date for their respective weddings: April 1st. Seriously, though, we wish them all the best of luck. (Hilary will certainly need it!)

This Summer, the Venture Scouts hope to sail a fibreglass gig from London to Calais with a Royal Navy escort. This crossing is being organised on a National basis.

Most of the Scout Patrols have had outings to the Boat Show. The Seagulls entered the raft-building contest on the Scout and Guide stand and beat the existing record by a minute. Unfortunately, the record was again broken, so they did not have the opportunity of competing in the final.

Read ". . g . a . s " in the ". . sh . . " !

The Venture Scouts have now almost completed their plush new abode (formerly the Office). It has fitted carpets, curtains, is tastefully decorated in two-tone blue, etc., etc.

The "Lash-Up", the Troop's more informal (!) magazine, has been resurrected by Mac. He hopes to produce one every two months. The first issue under the new "regime" has been a bumper 4½ page edition.

There seems to have been a boom in "Leander" used car sales recently. A wide variety of models is on the market but prospective buyers are advised to take sedatives before embarking on a test drive.

An Australian Scouter, Adrian Martin, is now taking an interest in the Troop while he is working in this country. We are very glad for the help he is able to give on Saturdays and for his fresh ideas.

Definitely not in this week's "fab forty" is the recording being sent by the Venture Scouts to their Austrian counterparts in Linz in reply to the Austrians' New Year tape. This was the one containing the now notorious "Gelbe U-Boot".