



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

April 2022

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Scouts practise paddling

Following the Christmas break, Scouting activities resumed in early January with an evening of team building races and tasks. The next two meetings were dedicated to map reading and navigation practice, including a course in and around Richmond Park using a phone app.

I endeavour to incorporate at least one activity badge per term during our off-the-water time, but we actually managed to complete two this term. With help from some of the parents we completed the Emergency Aid stage 3 badge and later, we completed the Fire Safety badge. This means that not only will the Scouts understand the prevention of, correct actions to take and the correct extinguisher to use in the event of a fire, they will also be able to administer aid in the event of injury.

Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to run any air rifle shooting sessions but now with the restrictions being lifted we took the opportunity to give all the Scouts a short session of target shooting during the next meeting.

We decided that now we have a usable grass space at the front of the building we'd get each Patrol to pitch a hike tent on it. This was successful to a certain degree, but with six three-man tents on such a small area of grass, it did look a bit like one of the camp areas at Glastonbury!

During the term the Scouts took part in two off-site activities. One was the County night exercise, where teams from all over the County have to navigate a course in the Surrey hills south of Guildford and complete various tasks at each checkpoint. Our team set-off just before 9 pm and by the time it got to 1 pm when they still weren't back, Chris and I had decided that they could well be in Brighton by now. As it was, they got back to site and into bed just before 3pm! Despite their navigational vagaries, they still managed to come 18th out of 45 teams, which was a great effort and well deserved by them for sticking with it.

The second off-site activity was a kayaking session at Hampton open-air pool at the end of March. The session was attended by Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and enabled them to practise paddling techniques and rescue procedures in a safer environment than on the river. It's also a lot of fun! My thanks go to the kayaking team, JB, Andrew, Neil, Alex, and team for organising and running the session.

A brush-up on parts of a boat and nautical skills was the subject of one of our evenings during the term which was preparation for our final meeting of the term, when we were able to get back on the water again!



Russ



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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www.leanderseascouts.org.uk — Registered Charity Number 290029



Beavers getting out and about

At Beavers we welcome the lighter evenings and getting out and about more. In the Spring term we tackled some of the Skills Challenge badge; learned about healthy teeth and foods, tried some keep fit, yoga and line dancing, used matches to light a candle, learned basic knots and decorated a biscuit (food has to appear somewhere!).



We also did the new Money Skills badge, learning about history of barter and money, looking carefully at modern day coins and creating a 'saving' bank at home with record keeping.

We had two Log Chews where the Beavers discuss rules for good behaviour, what they have enjoyed in the past and what they would like to do in the future (although water skiing is sadly not possible!). They chose to have an Olympic Sports themed 'Beavers Own' meeting and ended the term with a hike to Ham House taking in the wonderful local area, noticing birds, insects and trees.



We have lots of new starters for the Summer term. One Beaver moved to the countryside, one to Australia for a year and others have moved up to Cubs to have more exciting adventures, creating spaces for our new families.

We look forward to visiting Holly Lodge nature and education centre in Richmond Park, working on teamwork and fitness, playing a Wide Game and going to Walton Firs for an activity 'Day Camp'. We plan to learn some camping skills and no doubt there will be a campfire and singing – how many humps does Alice have????

Many thanks to our wonderful Young Leaders who make sessions so much fun in their different ways over the term; Daniel, Joseph, Charlie, Louis, Sam, and welcome to Trudie and Katie who join us this Summer. Also thanks to our great assistants Baloo (Helen), Pangoro (Will), Barney (Sam) and the parents who join in so brilliantly on our rota.

I look forward to seeing you all on the River Cruise on 17th June and catching up with the families who have long since left Beavers.

*Yogi, Cathy Johnson,
Beaver Scout Leader*



Fond memories

Stan Vallis is a delightful 92-old former Leander Sea Scout who has been a member of the Leander Guild for many years. Despite his age and the onset of Alzheimer's, Stan has fond memories of his time with Leander.

It was therefore very fitting that Stan, together with his wife Stella and many family members, used our HQ building earlier in April as the venue for their family celebration day. Stan and Stella's daughter Heidi did a wonderful job of organising the event.

It was a great use of our HQ facilities and Heidi asked me to thank everyone at Leander for making it happen. My special thanks to Dick for opening up and making sure the day all went smoothly – he even arranged for the sun to shine! The family are making a generous donation too.

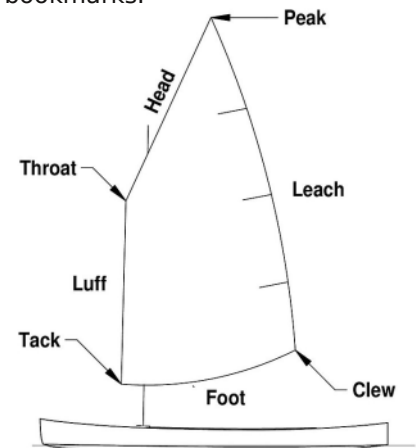
*Andrew
(Chair, Leander Sea Scouts)*

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How we were



The painting was by Bill Williamson, who was at one time Chair of the Executive Committee.

Leander had the use of five 'workshops', but the two on the left were rented.



Members of the Leander Guild were helping to salvage bits they thought might come in useful from the old Headquarters in the 1980s. They all look very sprightly!!

Derek, 'Snowy', 'Nobby' and Nigel taking the flagstaff down. Now to save the stanchions.



Have they carried out a risk assessment for this job? Where are the hard hats? high-vis jackets? 'Nobby' was a senior technical man with Taylor Woodrow, but should avoid stepping back. At least Nigel is wearing gloves. Note the chimneys of Kingston Power Station in the distance behind him.

River Cruise

Tickets are selling fast – so get yours now! This special event is for all Leander parents, carers, helpers, leaders, instructors, trustees and Guild members – in fact all friends of Leander are most welcome !

We set off from Turks Pier in Kingston at 8pm on Friday 17th June and will be back by around

11pm. There is a cash bar, an outdoor area and a well-ventilated indoor space too. Leander is part funding this hence the tickets cost a very reasonable £16 (+ £1.50 booking fee), available via the link below.

A huge thank you to Gulshat and Cathy for organising this !

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leander-evening-river-cruise-tickets-321028854947

