



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

May 2009

editor - Nigel Duffin - webmaster@leanderseascouts.co.uk

Looking forward to the next 100 years

Saturday 4th April was a day full of sunshine, memories, old faces and plenty of cake. For me personally, it was a day I shall never forget, and I was very honoured to be part of it. So many ex and current members of Leander attended *Picture the Past*, our centennial event. It was especially nice to see Bruno back in the HQ and still in fighting form. I hope all that attended had a great time. I am aware that a few were unhappy to not see any of the boats out on the water, but you will get your chance to in September at our Boating & BBQ day.

I would like to say a big thank you Liz Morrissey (Chief's daughter) for all of her hard work and dedication to the event. Also Thank You to all those who donated cakes and to the parental help in the Galley making tea.

To get your chance to go out in the boats, please keep an eye out for

July's *Water Rat* where you will find further information regarding our Boating & BBQ day on Saturday 19th September.

On Monday 11th May, after 41 years in the Treasurer's chair, George Goodall finally stepped down. We wish him all of the best - he will be sorely missed by the Executive team.

As you may know, Scouting has a New Chief Scout. On Monday 18th May, Bear Grylls was announced and, as of the 1st July, will take over from Peter Duncan. One of his main aims is to get many more adults in to Scouting. We wish him all of the best with this.

With the retirement of our Treasurer George Goodall, I would like to welcome Paul Kitching into the hot seat. As many of you know, Paul has been a big part of Leander for many years as an Assistant Cub Leader. With

his switch over to the Executive Team, he has now relinquished his position within the Cub Pack. With this change, the Cub Pack is now needing one or two new adults to join the team. So, if you are interested, please drop in

and have a chat to Nick Yelland or contact myself and we will be happy to explain all.

At present, Leander's Beaver Colony and Cub Pack are full, and the Scout Troop is at the point of bringing back its fifth patrol, Kingfishers. The Troop also needs extra adult help to join the team. So if you have any water skills/ qualifications and love the outdoor life, please contact Robin Burr.

On Saturday 13th June, Leander will be at The Ham Fair. We have not attended this event for a few years, but we feel it is time to make an appearance. This year we will be selling Strawberries & Cream and running two Tombolas. The fair is held on Ham Common starting at 11am till 4pm. So, if you are free, why not come along, have a look around and help run the stall.

Since April, all sections are now able to wear the Leander Summer Uniform. If you do not have a Leander T-shirt, please talk to your section leader and they will be happy to help. T-shirts are available in various sizes and are £7.00 each.

Once again, if you enjoy the outdoor life and are able to help Leander in any way, please contact any of the leadership team or myself.

Karen Loizou
Leander Group Scout Leader



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Coxswain's Corner

If you want to know how cold the River Thames is, just ask some of the Scouts who have been kayaking recently – it's going to take some time to warm up after that cold Winter we have just had. At least the Troop is out on the water at every meeting, with new Scouts learning the basic boating skills – it's quite nice to see last year's novices now becoming skilled and capable.

We have had a recent surge in membership; that means we may have to bring back the fifth patrol, Kingfishers, which was last active some years ago. With new recruits coming in from outside Scouting, it will be quite a challenge teaching them the Leander way, but we do have a strong team of Leaders and willing Explorers to assist in the task.

As always at this time, the National Sea Scout Pulling and Kayaking Regatta is not far away, so our usual practice and selection of crews will be under way very soon.

The Home Counties gigs have all got covers now, so hopefully those horrible geese will go somewhere else and do their nasty business. Unfortunately, our downstream mooring buoy has mysteriously disappeared, so until that is replaced, we can't moor the gigs out in the river.

We have a large group of Scouts, Explorers and Leaders who will be going to the National Sea Scout Centenary Jamboree at the National Water Activities Centre, Holme Pierpoint, Nottingham. That should be a good event with week-long water

activities for probably a thousand or so Sea Scouts.

We are also planning to bring back some Saturday meetings, which will give people more time out on the water and the opportunity for sailing. Here's to a warm Summer!

Coxswain

Ladies' Rowing



Are you interested in joining the Leander Ladies' Rowing Team? We meet on Wednesday evenings, from 6:15 to 8:00 & train with members of the Leander Guild.

Last year we took part in the Great River Race which is a 22 mile river marathon. It was a lot of fun & a great achievement.

This year the event takes place on Saturday 5th September and runs upstream (with the tide) from London Docklands to Ham, Richmond.

Contact Karen Rean ASAP
kr8886@yahoo.co.uk

Leander HQ Party Venue



Looking to hold an under 10s birthday party, but do not wish to have birthday cake in the carpet?

Well, why not consider hiring Leander HQ?

Contact Karen Loizou for further information

karen.loizou@btinternet.com

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Busy Beavers



The Summer term started with a select few attending Leander's 100th Birthday Tea Party at our HQ. They were able to chat with current and retired Scouts, look at memorabilia, let off helium filled balloons and eat cake ... lots of cake!

We had a good attendance at the St George's Day Parade and everyone looked very smart. Thank you for supporting the event, especially Ben Longhurst for carrying the Leander flag and Hannah Edwards Rean who carried the flag of St George.



Back at the HQ we welcomed four new Beavers into our Colony and, on Monday 18th May, Cameron Hair, Harry Britton, Ralph Talman and Samuel Turner were Invested.

We're aiming to complete the Outdoor Challenge Award and Health & Fitness Activity Badge this term so have been lucky with the weather. That was just as well as we didn't have a contingency plan! So far we've been birdwatching on the banks of the River Thames and enjoyed a circular walk in Richmond Park – particularly spending 15 minutes in the playground at Petersham!

A visit to our friends at Petersham & Ham Sea Scouts for an evening of games is planned as well as a treasure hunt in Canbury Gardens. Beavers can't sleep in tents (unless they're with their parents) but there's

no reason why they shouldn't learn how to put them up or how to tie knots. They'll also be learning how important it is to wash their hands, especially when they have to prepare a healthy picnic at the end of term.

The big District event of the year is at Polyapes on Saturday 20th June. Come and try your hand at archery or crazy golf, bloody bandages or backwoods cooking, or even inflatable laser tag or crossing a monkey bridge. There's something for everyone ... If you haven't booked your place for the 'Summer Sparks' it's not too late ... simply contact me ASAP. All sections welcome!



It is not possible to run a section single handed, so thanks to all the Beavers for coming back week after week, the parents for supporting us in all we do, Simon Biddulph for being a great assistant, Des Kay for mucking in as our parent helper and Lucy and Ollie, our two Young Leaders, for contributing to our meetings.

*Karen Rean
Beaver Scout Leader*



Chief Scout Bear Grylls – A lifetime of adventure



Bear Grylls will be the UK's youngest Chief Scout, aged 34. Whether it is crossing oceans in an open boat, scaling Mount Everest or flying a powered paraglider to 29,000ft in the Himalayas, Bear knows a thing or two about adventure.

As an ex Special Forces soldier, he is not only known around the world as the host of the hit TV series *Born Survivor* and *Man Vs Wild*, he is also an inspirational speaker, best selling author of nine books and a fervent supporter of young people getting out there to experience adventure for themselves.

Bear got his taste for the outdoors as a Scout, whilst a young boy. He was taught to climb by his late father on the sea cliffs of the Isle of Wight, and this interest rapidly developed when he left school.

His military service saw him trained in combat survival, parachuting, demolitions, trauma medics and mountain warfare as a trooper with 21 SAS.

During one parachute jump he sustained a massive injury breaking his back in three places. After intense military rehabilitation, he made a full recovery and went on to become one of the youngest climbers ever to reach the summit of Everest and has led numerous other expeditions around the world.



'Honoured to be offered this position'

When invited to take on this role with the UK's largest co-educational youth movement Bear said 'I feel so honoured to be offered this position, and have always held such admiration for Scouts and all they do around the world. The Scouting Movement is a massive force for good, touching many, many young lives. Above all, it gives millions of kids the chance to live and learn about the wild and to experience real adventure. My hope is to help Scouts of all ages, including adults, to reach their full potential, to follow their dreams and to enjoy the camaraderie that the Scouts is famous for.

'In particular I want to continue the inspirational work that the current Chief Scout Peter Duncan has begun by showing the public how Scouting continues to open young people's eyes to a world of extraordinary promise and possibilities.'

This is not Bear's first volunteer role. He is also an ambassador for the Prince's Trust and is Vice President of the Journey of a Lifetime Trust, which helps young people from troubled backgrounds experience the 'journey of a lifetime'.

Bear also balances his demanding life with a young family. Married to Shara, he has three sons all aged under six.

A global ambassador for a global movement

Scouting is a global movement and Bear has travelled extensively to every continent in the world. Known and respected in many countries outside the UK he is truly a global ambassador for a global movement. His languages include Spanish and French, and he has a deep respect for diverse faiths and cultures.



'I can't wait to meet as many of the UK's Scouts as I can,' says Bear. 'Supporting and representing our members is a huge privilege, and I want all Scouts to know I am here for them and willing to listen and help where I can.'



For more information on Bear Grylls visit his website: beargrylls.com