



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2019

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Beavers get out and about



We started the summer term learning about knots and lashing and trying our hands at some small pioneering, challenging our motor skills and remembering how to make a shape with string and remember the knot. We designed camp blankets and practised putting up tents, lighting fires and cooking an egg inside a jacket potato (with mixed reviews from the Beavers!). Silly singing and moves around the camp fire was fun!

We tackled the Green Cross Code and had a rainy walk to Ham House (but remembered that Sea Scouts are waterproof, of course) and looked at plants, trees and insects as we wandered through grass, woodland and riverside.

We managed to get onto the water with our wonderful Leander leaders for which we are most grateful and in addition had a great weekend session Bell-Boating at Thames Young Mariners.



The term ended with a trip to Holly Lodge in Richmond Park for a bit of pond dipping and to learn about local birds.



A big thank you to all our enthusiastic parents who help us get out and about in the summer. We say a sad goodbye to assistant Susan (Calisto) who has been a wonderful addition to the team and are delighted to have Jennifer ('lorek' of *His Dark Materials*) joining us. We are still in need of one or two others to enable future activities. Have a great summer!

Yogi (Cathy) Beaver Leader

Fathers' Day

On Sunday 16th June, dads were invited to 'mess about on the river' with their Cub, Scout or Explorer. In fact, everyone was welcome, not just dads.

There were opportunities to kayak, canoe, row, and go out on our bellboat. Teas and cakes were available and the day finished with a barbecue. £258 was raised towards the refurbishment of the galley.



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Summer Camp in the New Forest



Once again Leander has enjoyed another brilliant summer camp, this year we visited Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre; deep in the heart of the New Forest, this woodland site provided plenty of shade during the heat and easy access to the beautiful country surrounding the site.

Russell's organisation and skilfully designed programme packed a huge range of activities into the week. Scouts, Explorers and Cubs – who camped nearby for a few days – were all able to go kayaking on the nearby Beaulieu river in perfect weather.



Learning to build shelters, firefighting, knife and axe instruction and backwoods cooking are all skills Scouts enjoy, plus there were many other activities, such as zip wire, shooting, archery, etc, provided by the site.



No Leander camp would be complete without Russell and Jim's famous night hike, enthusiastically completed by all the Scouts and Explorers, navigating a 15k route across country that really does require proper map reading and compass skills.



Chris provided the now famous camp feast for everyboy, twelve chickens spit-roasted over an open fire, accompanied by baked potatoes, roasted sweetcorn and salad – magnificent!



To finish off the camp, on the last day everyone went to the beach at Boscombe, a great day of sea swimming and beach games.

We luckily did not get the really extreme heat, just a few isolated showers and a spectacular lightning display one night to liven things up.



A terrific camp, it was a real community, the Scouts, Explorers and Leaders all got on really well with each other, Definitely Scouting at its best.

