



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

August 2022

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Coxwain's Corner

What a change it makes to have some decent weather in summer, recently perhaps a little too warm sometimes. This means the every section has been able to get out on the water regularly, it's really rewarding to see so many young people practising and acquiring the essential skills that the Group is able to provide – thanks to our brilliant team of instructors. The Cub, Scout and Explorer camps were an incredible success, a wonderful time enjoyed by those who went to Broadstone Warren or Butcher's Coppice Scout Campsites.

Apart from the usual high quality programmes designed by section leaders, over autumn and winter we will be getting to grips with the changes that Scout Association is introducing to the way Scouting is perceived and organised. This is very much work in progress and we await the details with interest. Some of the proposed changes may well be challenging, we are very well organised though, the Executive and Leaders work closely together ensuring that all decisions are made for the benefit of the Group and its members.

Our grand challenges is ensuring that we can engage more closely with parents and extend the opportunities for people to enjoy an involvement with Scouting. We all live in a complex world: balancing the demands of life, work and leisure can sometimes be difficult, as a voluntary movement we need more than just dedicated leaders to ensure that we deliver the Sea Scouting and water activities that Leander has always been famous for.

Robin



All aboard!

Leander Offshore Sailing Weekend

Fri 9 – Sun 11 September 2022

Join us for a weekend of sailing and living aboard ship.

We'll be sailing with the Discovery Sailing Project from their base near Southampton into the Solent and the Channel.

SCOUTS



EXPLORERS



Scouts

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

Headquarters: 92 Lower Ham Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5BB

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

Beavers have an active Summer

We have had an active summer term with a focus on being fit and healthy, outdoors where possible! We started the term with a visit to Holly Lodge educational nature reserve in Richmond Park which was lovely as usual. We explored the reserve with their volunteer guides and did some pond dipping to find diverse creatures. Benny the Beaver came along and enjoyed himself immensely.



We monitored our heart rate after obstacle races and slalom relays, looked at healthy eating and which foods are a 'treat'. We learned knots and the parts of a tent (and worked out how many Beavers you can cram into two sizes of tent).



Thanks to our amazing Young Leaders this term, Charlie, Sam, Trudie and Katie who join in with all our silliness and teach the Beavers in our badge sessions so brilliantly. Also to the leadership team, Helen, Will and Sam for their support, time and commitment and to the wonderful parents who participate in the parent rota regularly and manage to look happy about it! Having great support makes running Beavers a real delight.



We practised our fire lighting, being safe around fires and cooked chocolate bananas - yes they do go squishy and yes it is intentional :-)



We also had a Day Camp at Walton Firs and fitted in the maze, adventure course, skittles, low ropes and caving. There was marshmallow toasting of course and meeting other Scout and Guide groups. We especially liked one Scout Leader who was overwhelmed with excitement to meet 'Sea Beavers'!!

I wish all Leander members a lovely summer.



We learned campfire songs and tried to shout - not scream - "HAM AND EGGS". We played the disappearing post box wide game at Canbury Gardens with lots of parents to mark the perimeter. We were lucky to have an amazing evening with the Cub Leaders on the water, bell boating. Huge thanks to them for giving up additional time to get us on the river, meet the future Cub members and for making it so much fun.



Yogi, Cathy Johnson

Summer Cub Camp

Although we've had a few camps closer to home, this was the first time in three years the Cubs had managed to go on summer camp. The trailer was loaded, the Cubs were quietly sitting in the minibus (well perhaps not so quietly!) and we set off from Leander HQ on a July Friday afternoon heading South West.

After a slightly eventful journey (the minibus was in need of a good clean anyway...) we arrived at Butcher's Coppice Scout Campsite, near Bournemouth rather later than intended. The Cubs got their tents up quickly then straight to bed for their first night under canvas.



Saturday kicked off with a fantastic fried breakfast (thanks, Chris!) then it was straight back in the minibus for a trip to Corfe Castle. After a look around the dramatic ruins and a go at designing our own shields there was a brisk walk to the station to catch the steam train into Swanage.



We made the most of the sunny weather with a few hours on the beach for swimming, a water fight and burying Sagana in the sand.



Once we'd got the worst of the sand off, we paid a visit to Swanage Lifeboat Station for an interesting tour of their inshore and all weather lifeboats (and a bit of dressing up!).



The rest of the afternoon was spent on an amazing hike from Studland Bay back to Swanage past Old Harry's Rocks. We arrived back at Swanage feeling a bit tired, very hungry and definitely ready for fish and chips on the beach. Then it was back to the campsite for a camp fire, marshmallows and s'mores before bedtime.

After cramming so much into Saturday, we took things a bit easier on Sunday. After breakfast we struck camp and packed everything into the trailer while the Cubs were trying their best to get to the top of the climbing tower on the campsite.



We then said goodbye to Butcher's Coppice and headed along the coast to Milford where we had lunch and went crabbing. The crabs were biting (nipping?) so the cry of "Bucket! BUCKET!!" went up every few minutes as the Cubs tried to lure the crabs from their lines into the bucket without dropping them.



After much excitement and releasing our crabs to go scurrying back to the sea it was back aboard the minibus for the last time as we headed home. A few hours later we pulled up at Leander HQ with a minibus full of tired but happy Cubs. Thanks to our ever helpful parents, the minibus was unloaded, swept out and kit put away in no time.

With enormous thanks to our Leaders Rachel, Will and Chris who helped make this camp possible and to all our Cubs for making it a great weekend!



Tim, Cub Scout Leader

Scouts

After the Easter break was over and all the chocolate had been eaten, Scout meetings resumed in early April. The Summer term is our 'On the water' term but we also snuck in a couple of camps as well.



The first weekend after we started back, we had a weekend camp at Polyapes attended by the Scouts and Explorers. We crammed a lot into the camp with all the usual activities of fire-lighting, wood chopping and sawing, shelter building, hiking, wide games and, of course, Chris's famous chicken roasted over the fire.



On Tuesday evening meetings we have a mix of kayaking, canoeing and rowing, plus I also run practical nautical skills training, to try and get all the Scouts up to their level three Nautical skills badge before the evenings draw in again.

During the term we ran several Kayaking sessions on Saturday's at the HQ, as well as two fast water sessions at Shepperton weir, organised for us by Shepperton Canoe club.



The last meeting of the term was a mini-water Olympics, consisting of tug-of-war rowing, canoe and paddle board races with ever increasing numbers, until the inevitable capsize happens! It was such a warm evening that I just told the Scouts to jump in the river before we even started the races, followed by me jumping in as well.



tomahawk throwing.



After three days we switch over to Leader-led activities which started with the dreaded 'twenty-mile hike'! (eleven miles really).

We ran wood chopping, sawing, fire-lighting and backwoods cooking sessions at our site, plus took a day off-site to go kayaking on Ardingley reservoir. For our final full day we went off to play Crazy golf at a Farm based activity park where the course was creatively called 'Cow Putt'.



And so on Saturday morning, we packed everything away and returned to Kingston, with several more cuts and bruises to add to the list, plus many more great Summer Camp memories.



Russ

River Cruise

It was a beautiful summer evening to be on the river after Covid related postponements and a great mix of leaders, parents and supporters. I loved being able to have a relaxed chat with people instead of hasty hellos when dashing in and out of meetings.



It was also a great opportunity to catch up with people from other Sections who we don't often see. I would love more Group-wide social events in future!

Cathy



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group is registered with *easyfundraising*, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use *easyfundraising* to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations make a BIG difference to us – so far we've raised over £1,150, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

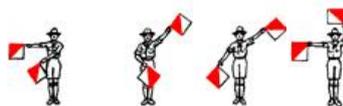
You can find our *easyfundraising* page here:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/leanderssg/

AGM

SAVE THE DATE !

The date of the 2022 Leander Sea Scouts Annual General Meeting has been confirmed as Monday 24th October, 7.30 pm. All are welcome, so come along and share a drink and some nibbles with the team !



If you don't currently help out at Leander, please read this.

We're really proud of the fantastic opportunities we provide – our amazing team of volunteers give their time freely so that your kids can learn new skills and build important friendships. But Leander only works if we all do our share. And at the moment, we need more people to get involved. From September onwards, here is the help we will need :

- **Explorers :**
Assistant Section Leader,
Water Activities helper
- **Scouts :**
Winter/Summer
activities helpers
- **Executive :**
Fundraising,
Parents Representatives /
Trustees, Administration,
HQ management,
HQ maintenance.

So if you can spare a few hours per week and want to make a difference to young people's futures and your local community, please click here.

forms.office.com/r/AHseMbqEtH



We're getting a Defibrillator - and we'd really like your help !

An automated external defibrillator (or AED) is a small device which can help people in the unlikely event of them having a sudden heart problem. If effective CPR and a defibrillator can be applied within the first 3-5 minutes, the chances of survival can increase from 6% to 74%. Having the defibrillator installed at Leander will mean that it can be deployed by our Leaders and trained first aiders if needed.

If you can help by donating, please give generously using the link below. The Executive Committee has approved this and will contribute on top of the donations received so that we can install this as soon as we can.

www.aeddonate.org.uk/projects/leanderseascouts/

thank you !

Andrew

Hand-me-down

Recycle and hand me down activity wear for Leander Sea Scout Group.

Walking, camping and water activity wear. Post photo with description, size and a deadline.

Open this link to join the WhatsApp Group:

chat.whatsapp.com/JeApyxpjcb0DOM5LuEfbdl

Parent-led.
Thanks to all taking part!

Lorna Davies