

PETERSHAM AND HAM SEA SCOUTS NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 2

WELCOME to the second edition of your new P&H newsletter, where you can catch up on all the latest news from the troop.

And as you can see, a lot has been going on! With more and more children – and adults – joining the Scouting Movement, we are pleased to announce the creation of a new Saturday Beaver Group so more local children can enjoy the fun, companionship and learning that the movement brings.

And the lighter nights mean the rest of us have been busy too, from camps to raising cash for the 'New Phoenix' project.

This term we've received almost 20 articles to share what we've all been up to. But to borrow a phrase from Beaver Colony Leader Christine Taylor, 'That who gives his best gets the most out of it', so if you'd like to share your news for the next edition out in September, please email pandhnewsletter@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jane & Duncan Hamilton
Newsletter Editors

NEWS

The New Saturday Beaver Group by Christine Taylor

KEEP your head down – they can still see us! We crouch deeper behind the brambles, but there is no chance - the dragons have been following our trail through the forest and now they are almost at our hiding place. Five boys and girls are holding their breath and trying to duck behind shrubs and trees, trying to be as quiet as possible – and more than anything else, trying to not giggle!

Of course – the dragons are not real dragons! They are one of the three lodges of the new Saturday Beaver group. The boys and girls are hiding in the wood, having laid a trail for the dragons to follow – and the dragons have done a brilliant job in finding us. And it's not just Hide and Seek! Because we want to learn everything a real explorer needs to know, we have also learned:

- **How to draw a map**
- **And how to read one – with a treasure hunt right through Richmond Park.**
- **We have made pumpkin heads for Halloween and roasted the pumpkin seeds**
- **Made a fire and toasted marshmallows**
- **Built a swing**
- **Been out on the river Thames with the boats (twice!)**
- **Have learned a new song**
- **And just last week, made a compass with a few simple things – a needle, some water a cork and a magnet**



True – my own compass had an undeniable tendency to point slightly to the West, but as long as I happen to carry around a magnet, a needle and a cork, I will always find my way back from the wilderness.

But then, of course, the best thing is – we have made some great friends and our little Beaver colony is not quite so little anymore! Our Beavers have - whilst learning all the Scouting tricks – also learned (almost by accident) that they've got friends, who will help you when you get stuck. That some games you can't win by yourself. That who gives his best gets the most out of it. That you learn by doing – not by talking about it.



Introducing the Sea Wolves by Simon Biddulph



LAST term, Wednesday Cubs held a ballot to find a new name for the section. We had already decided that when cheering for our Cubs in competitions or trying to call them to order from a larger group then calling out: “Come On Petersham And Ham Wednesday Cubs!!!” or “Petersham and Ham Wednesday Cubs, Pay Attention” was a bit of a mouthful.

We wanted instead to have a name that would inspire a team and that was snappy and encapsulated Scouting.

Names were suggested over a period of some weeks and included Sea Dragons, River Cats, Sea Serpents, River Wolves and several Cat and Bear based maritime combinations. In the end the name that brought in the most votes was:

“The Petersham & Ham Seawolves”

The name is based on the fact that originally we were known as the Wolf Cubs in Scouting and we met and still meet in Packs and start each and every meeting with a Howl ceremony. This is combined with the fact that we are proudly Sea Scouts.

From Bubs to Cubs – The Beavers Swim Up by Nicole Umemoto

AT OUR last lodge meeting we were visited by Simon, the Seawolves CSL, who led a new ritual to welcome Beavers into Cubs. While the “Bubs” (as they’ve been dubbed during their transition) waited alongside Mark the Beaver Leader, their fellow Beavers formed two parallel lines to representing River Banks with a sheet held between the banks represented the river itself.

Mark then read out a farewell message to the departing Beavers and a Cub Scout from Seawolves Pack threw a rope under the river and hauled the Beavers, one by one up into Cubs.

As each ‘Bub’ appeared across as a Cub they assisted Sixer Violet Wingfield in hauling the remaining ‘Bubs’ across

This was followed by farewells from their Beaver Leader Mark Paxman and Assistant Leader Chris Wright It was a lovely event that was both fun and moving.

Beaver Message.

As a Beaver Scout my work is done, so look out Cub Scouts here I come.

Across the river now I swim, held by a rope to pull me in.

So help me Cub Scouts help me do, pull me across to be with you.

OUT AND ABOUT

Isle of Arran Camp by Karin Noble

NINE Scouts, Ingrid and Karin spent a week on the Isle of Arran staying at Corrie Village Hall, all geared up for a week of hiking. Their most strenuous seven-hour hike was on the second day up to Goat Fell over the Corrie Ridge. Blue skies and warm sunshine accompanied them to the top from where they watched the ferry coming in from Ardrossan.

Scouts organised themselves into two patrols for the chores. Duties included sweeping, emptying bins, stuffing wet boots with newspaper to dry them out, washing up and drying. Nobody much liked checking the toilets but there were no complaints when it came to cooking breakfast or dinner. It’s tough, if you have to do your duty even if you do not like it.

During a two-day hike independent of Leaders they spent a night away in Lochranza Village Hall, where each patrol cooked for themselves. This hike would qualify them for their Expedition Challenge badge.

The advantage of Corrie Hall is that we are self contained; no other people to worry about. There is good heating, showers and a large kitchen.

Beds do not exist but after a day out in the open air, sleeping on a mat on the wooden floor is not a problem!

For transport we have in the past hired a local mini bus. This year we used the Stagecoach buses. They run co-ordinating their timetable with the arrival and departure of the ferry.

Karin loves Arran so much that she is keen to take Scouts there to experience this beautiful island with its tranquility and magnificent sea views and mountain scenery. She takes them prepared to meet all the challenges they may present. It is always a great relief when they are returned to their families all in one piece.

Maybe next year Saturday Scouts will be tempted to go on the trip as well as Phoenix I and II Troops.

Cubs and Beavers visit the Poppy Factory by Nicole Umemoto



DO YOU ever wonder where all those poppies come from that we pin onto our lapels each year for Remembrance Day? During the last October half term break, P&H Cubs and their Beaver siblings had the opportunity to find out, through a visit to the famous Poppy Factory on Petersham Road. Upon arrival the Scouts were shown a moving informational video explaining the origins of the poppy as a symbol for remembering those lost in war. They were then treated to a fantastic tour of the factory where they were able to watch war veterans creating various poppies and wreaths each serving different purposes, such as those that are traditionally laid by members of the royal family.

They also got an up-close look at machines used to fabricate the poppy-making materials, including the leaves and petals. The highlight of the visit was when they divided into two groups, each competing to make the most number of poppies themselves. It was a trip that was both fun and educational, and one that they will not soon forget.

RSPCA Visit to Thursday Beavers by Isabel Wright, Beaver Scout

WE HAD a special visitor join our last meeting before Easter, called Dave Fox who is a Chief Inspector with the RSPCA.

Dave came to talk to us about what he does.

He had lots of balloons representing animals and he showed us that even good people can struggle with too many animals, and this was one area where the RSPCA can help them.

We noticed that Dave's uniform was similar to a Police Officer and Dave told us that it is the Police that look like RSPCA Officers, as the RSPCA has been around longer than the Police!

Dave gave us all magazines and animal key rings. I got a pig, which is my favourite animal.

After Dave left, we said goodbye to many of our friends who swam up to Cubs.

Thursday Beavers show they're not Bird Brains by Mark Paxman

THE Thursday Beavers visited Petersham Nursery where they busied themselves making bird boxes. So thrilled with their results they took them to school the following morning to their 'Show and Tell' session.





PACK PACK PACK - Petersham & Ham Wednesday Cubs **by Simon Biddulph**

SO WE reach the end of my first term at P&H. Phew! Thank you Maggie, Richard, Nicole and Morgan for the warm and enthusiastic welcome. I was made to feel very welcome and then met the small pack. Now there may have only been thirteen of them but there was enough energy there for thirty. Very impressive.

And we began...

We swam and gained badges (Lewis's first!), and splashed a lot. We visited a Synagogue and learned about Jewish culture, icons and what a Rabbi was. We went back to HQ and read out prayers 'To The Tune Of Another'.

We played wide games in Richmond Park wildly waving broken glow sticks about.

Then back to HQ to sing Hymns, yes, '**To The Tune Of Another**'.

Then, well then we lit fires.

We like fires.

On these fires we cooked eggy potatoes, eggy oranges, trout in a paper, bread on a stick and lots and lots of marshmallows. The smell was pungent, the food was great!

The weekend after that brought the Cardboard Camp where we hiked to Twickers, made a camp out of cardboard and lit more fires.

(We still like fires).

A gentleman from SPEAR came to talk to us all about the homeless and the Cubs asked succinct and searching questions. After that the whole camp went for a hike through Richmond Park and looked at St Paul's at night.

Our next meeting was held in Kingston where we had a Mystery History Tour to discover our local history. The night was cold the walking was brisk but the tour was searching and history was learned.

All that remained was to celebrate the arrival of the holidays which we did on a nice spring evening at HQ with Pizza, Pop and Games.

We Will Do Our Best!

MONEY RAISING MARVELS

Bundles (of cash) in the Jumble by Annabel Barnett and Karin Noble

ONE man's cast offs are certainly another's treasure as we raised a magnificent £790.43 at the jumble sale at Greycourt School on March 8.

Well done to all who contributed to the success of this sale by helping to set it all up, make cakes, donate jumble, sell the goods and clear up at the end! All our hard work has been rewarded.

It may only be a drop in the ocean towards the £600,000 we have to raise towards the 'New Phoenix', our new Scout hut building project, but it is not just about raising money. The Jumble Sale is a community service and a way of creating awareness that Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts have an active membership – and it can be fun for the participants as well!

Thank you to all involved.





BEAVERS' GOT TALENT! By Andy Thomas

TO SHOW they are all good sports, the Monday Beavers decided to host a talent show to raise money for Sport Relief. After many hours of rehearsals, a splendid event unlikely to be forgotten in a hurry was about to commence! Excitement was at fever pitch when the audience were finally settled in their seats. The show opened with the now world famous 'Meatball' song as performed by the Shaw family. Beavers including Miles Barnett and Alec Hamilton wrote and performed their own play Pizza Boy versus Ice Cream Boy, while there was even a special circus complete with animal onesie costumes. Every act was measured on the purpose built clap-o-meter and the Beavers rounded off the show with a stand-up comedy and jokes section. All in all I would say the show was enjoyed by both participants and audience alike, so roll on next year...And we raised a fantastic £34.83 for the charity.

SPECIAL SCOUTS, CUBS AND BEAVERS

Toad by Hazel Hayes

SHAKESPEARE may have claimed all the world's a stage but for one Scout, Charlie Hayes, being on stage is something really special.

On January 9th, some of the Scouts visited the Rose Theatre Kingston to see Charlie in the lead role of Dan Bird's play 'Toad' based on Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows.

Charlie gave a confident and amusing performance – and playwright Dan Bird himself was also in the audience on the same night.

After the play some of the Scouts were thrilled to go onto the stage to see the hidden crash mat that Charlie had landed on.



CHIEF SCOUT'S BRONZE AWARDS by Nicole Umemoto



CONGRATULATIONS to Ryan Wingfield and Ben Luca Atassi-Quinton from the Thursday Beavers colony for being presented with their Chief Scout's Bronze awards.

This award was gained by completing all of their six challenge awards before moving up to Cubs. Their badges were presented to them by their leaders during a small ceremony attended by their Beaver mates and proud mums.

Would you like to gain your Chief Scout's Bronze Award? More information can be found at the following link on the Scouts website:

<http://members.scouts.org.uk/support-resources/2532/chief-scouts-bronze-award>



OUR LOCAL AREA

RICHMOND BRIDGE ROWING CLUB by Chris Phillips

PEOPLE always ask us “Are Beavers and Cubs allowed to go boating?” The answer is “Yes” immediately followed by the proviso “If we have enough competent adults to look after them”.

Richmond Bridge Rowing Club offers ideal opportunities for parents to try out rowing, practice and become those “competent adults” who can apply for adventurous activity permits to be allowed to look after our uniformed membership.

I started my rowing career many years ago when my own children were Scouts at Petersham and Ham and I was a parent just helping out with the boating – and I have Karin to thank for encouraging me!

How can I get involved?

If you are a parent or person over 18 involved with the troop and are interested in getting involved, please mail our membership secretary, Steve Fox. You can reach him on <http://richmondbridgeboatclub.org/contact-us/>

How much does it cost?

Normally newcomers can have two “Taster” sessions for free, before we ask them to join (£150) and then they get access to the “Learn-to-Row” training courses that I run.

What else do you do?

There can be special practice sessions arranged for parents who are available during weekdays daytime. The club also have a Ladies team meeting one day a week and Coxes training courses as well.

What about the children?

We are currently looking at scheduling some one-off training sessions for the troop, as long as we can get enough adult helpers from the troop. Like I said Karin is reason I’m into rowing, and I’d be very grateful for the chance to give something back!

LIFE AFTER SCOUTS

FROM SEA SCOUTS TO SANDHURST by Kathy Skelding

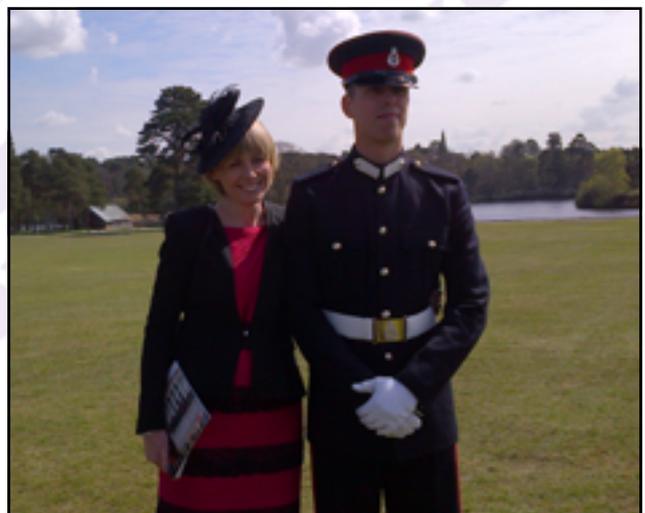
WE ALL know being a Scout is brilliant fun – but did you also know it can give you special skills to set you up for the rest of your life?

One former P&H member has gone on to great things and has recently passed out as an Officer at the acclaimed Sandhurst Military School.

While at P&H, Thomas Skelding was well known for his love of outdoor activities, and even ranked Mountain Climbing as his favourite hobby.

Now as an Army Officer he will be guiding his own men as Second Lieutenant Skelding.

“Congratulations from all of the troop!”.





P&H NOTICES

Dates for your diary

PLEASE make a note of these important dates!

Saturday May 10 to Sunday May 11 May - Cub Camp for all our Cubs together with Ham Cubs and Muslim Cubs from Hampton and Feltham. Details will be distributed later. It is now time to let your Leaders know that you are interested.

Saturday 10 May - Richmond Fair

Saturday 14 June - Ham Fair

Sunday 27 July - Teddington River Festival 11am to 5pm

CAN YOU HELP? We intend to run tombolas for all three events and need donations. Items can be anything from small bars of chocolate, packets of sweets, pencils, pocket money toys, cans, biscuits, bottles, unwanted gifts etc. Items can be stored in Karin's garage and please contact annabel_barnett@hotmail.com if you can donate or bring your contributions to your section meetings. Thank you

Sunday May 18 - We wish to formally announce our AGM which will be held at our HQ on Sunday 18 May from 14.00 to 14.30. There will be family games and family boating from 14.30 to 16.30. We welcome contributions of cakes for Sunday Tea.

Saturday May 24 - Twickenham Regatta from 7am to 7pm. We will be selling refreshments from our HQ to the competitors, parents serving on a rota system. We would like contributions of cake from families. They are always much more popular than shop bought ones. Please contact annabel_barnett@hotmail.com if you can help or donate cakes.

Saturday June 28 - Richmond Regatta – As above, we need cakes and helpers! There is a £5 per hour payment.

Friday July 4 to Sunday July 6 - Borough Camp at Walton Firs for both Cubs and Scouts and Explorer. Beavers can visit but not camp.

Saturday 13 to Sunday 14 September – Family Camp in our field. This is a camp for our uniformed membership to camp with their parents. Use of own tents or borrow from Scouts, central cooking. Last year at the Family Camp we had almost 100 participants.

Saturday September 27 - Great River Race, 21 miles from Greenwich to Ham

Saturday December 6 - Chatham Dockyard. We would like to take everybody on this trip; Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers. What we need is an organiser to arrange coach transport and tickets, so can you volunteer?

Richard Bywaters, our Boating Instructor would also like to join us with this RNLI fundraising team.

Any Leaders and Parents who would like to be in the P&H crews please let your interest be known by sending an email to karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk Please do it now as crew training will start from the middle of May to the end of July.

SCOUTS SMALL ADS

Need some help, or got a service to offer? Help others in our community for free in our Scouts Small Ads. Please send your contributions to pandhnewsletter@gmail.com for the next edition in the Autumn Term.

1. Wanted! Liaison Officer between Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts and KISH the Kindergarten using the Scout Hut during weekdays. It involves communicating with Katharina, the Manager about any problems arising. Examples are: Arranging the plumber to fix the heating system or leaking taps, sort the fire alarm, pass on complaints about lack of clearing up and sweeping by Scout evening groups

2. Wanted! A Parent who could fix a bolt to the uniform cupboard – also need a cleat fixing to a piece of wood to use as a training gadget for Scouts.

Please email karinnoble@blueyonder.co.uk if you can help out.