



# Scouting East



*The Journal of East Belfast Scouting*

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## **From the Editor**



Already the clocks have gone back, the cold and dark winter nights have set in, and having just emptied their shelves of Hallowe'en merchandise, the shops are now full of reminders that the festive season is only a few weeks away. It would be all too easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas amongst the hustle and bustle of the preparations and the stresses of living in a modern society, constantly immersed as we are in consumerism and commercialism. How often do we agonise for weeks over what to buy friends and relatives, spending increasingly greater amounts of money on more extravagant presents to outdo those from the year before, when the reality is that most of us already have too much of most things already to really appreciate the gift, and often the present is taken back to the shop and exchanged or the money refunded after the holidays!

Surely as Leaders we should all be thinking now about what small part we can play to help our members to understand and experience the real meaning and true joy of Christmas? One way is to consider what we could do to help those less fortunate than ourselves to have a truly happy and memorable Christmas this year. Some Groups and Sections have traditionally arranged a Christmas Good-turn, by providing Christmas hampers for the elderly and those living alone or by carol singing in the local nursing home. Or how about helping one of the charities that serves Christmas dinners to the homeless or with street collections such as the one at Saint Anne's Cathedral? - after all the current Dean is a strong supporter of the Scout Movement. Perhaps the idea of a Christmas Good-turn is something that more of our Groups might take on board, or could we even organise and co-ordinate this as a District? 30<sup>th</sup> Pack are collecting toys and gifts to send out to schools and hospitals in Zambia in early December via the Container Ministry to arrive in time for Christmas, and I know that 9<sup>th</sup> have also been involved in a similar project. I have also been approached by a colleague in work asking if we would like to help to sponsor a project in Romania which is building chalet-style accommodation on the grounds of an orphanage to enable the children there to live in 'family units'; the charity is looking for sponsorship per brick, window, door etc in each chalet and also for shoeboxes filled with gifts especially at Christmas time. Perhaps some of our Groups might even be willing to undertake a sponsored event to support this activity? You may have other ideas of your own, but wouldn't it be great if we all did *something* to make a difference in the run up to Christmas this year? If you'd like more information about any of the suggestions above please let me know. Please also encourage your members to support the District Christingle Service, which this year will be hosted by 28<sup>th</sup> Group and held in Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland. Keep in touch,

*David*



## From the District Commissioner

I am sure that most of you in the District are now aware that Deirdre and Harry Kissock have retired as ADCs. Both have been in these positions for over ten years and it is with regret that I have accepted their resignations. Deirdre will continue in her new role as County Development Officer and both will remain involved with the 27<sup>th</sup> Group. I would like to thank both of them for their hard work within East District during their terms as ADCs and wish them well as they continue their Scouting within East.

I also have to announce the resignation of our ADC Adult Training, Paula Bryson, due to family commitments. Again my thanks to Paula for all her work in East and we hope to see her back involved as soon as possible. I am delighted to announce the appointment of Betty Robb (BSL 30<sup>th</sup>) as our new ADC Beavers and wish Betty well as she takes on this important role within the District.

As I announced at the District Scouters' Meeting, I do not have anyone in mind as yet for the Leader Training Position and would welcome any guidance from the District on this matter.

I hope to see our Explorer Units in East taking part in the official Northern Ireland launch on Saturday 16 November. I would remind all Groups that all 14-18 year olds should be registered with the District as Explorer Scouts and all 18-25 year olds registered as part of the District Network. It is important that every 14-18 year old is encouraged and has the facility to join an Explorer Unit.

As all Groups and Sections start to implement the new programme County are running 'Programme Implementation Meetings' at Ardnalvalley. These are for all Sections and the next will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 8 pm.

The Northern Ireland conference will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> –23<sup>rd</sup> February 2003 and the theme will be 'programme and programme support'.

It is my intention to set up a District Action Team - this has been discussed with the Group Scout Leaders in October and will involve one representative from each Group who will be asked as a team to carry on development work in the District, especially in the continuing development of 28<sup>th</sup> Group and Scouting below the Arches. It is important that the face of East Belfast Scouting is seen at the Christingle Service as we hope that this will be an encouragement to the area and the District intend to follow this up with publicity and other events in the area.

I recently attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary birthday party of the 99<sup>th</sup> Group at Crawfordsburn and spent a very enjoyable afternoon along with the Chief Commissioner, County Commissioner, District President and friends/parents of the 99<sup>th</sup> Group. One of the Group founders, Arthur Boucher, and a young Beaver Scout, Paul McCluskey, cut the anniversary cake and the proceedings were kept in full flow by GSL, Bruce McCormack.

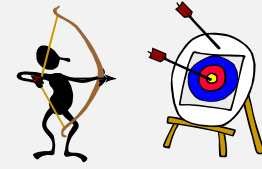
The failure of the recent District Fun Day was very evident at the feedback that I received at the recent District Scouters' Meeting and the continued problem of communication within the District. I realise that necessary information did not reach

the Groups as intended but will endeavour to ensure that this does not occur in any future events. I would ask that every Leader throughout the District plays their part in helping to ensure that as many boys and girls as possible attend future District events.

Ian



**East Belfast Fun Day, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September**



A lovely dry day on Saturday saw East Belfast District (or should I say the 10<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Groups) head to Crawfordsburn for a day of fun activities. I had 24 of the little darlings with me and we had an absolute ball: grass sledging, scavenger hunting, climbing the assault course and the Beaver Trail, with some craft activities thrown in. The underwhelming crowds meant that no-one had to wait too long in queues to take part in the activities and had lots more time to enjoy them. The Cubs and Scouts who attended tried their hand at wall climbing and archery during the day, which they all enjoyed. The most disappointing thing for us all, especially those who took the trouble to organise the day was the lack of support for their efforts. However, I would like to thank Deirdre and Harry for the day, which was thoroughly enjoyed by us, even down to the fact that certain Beaver Leaders also tried their hand at the grass sledging. Once down that hill was enough! A certain DC however declined all invitations to try by saying he had done it lots of times (I think he was talking about grass-sledging). Could anyone one there confirm this or are my suspicions that he was chicken right?

**Elizabeth Whitley, BSL 10<sup>th</sup>**

The East District Fellowship invite all  
Scouters in East to join with them in

**“A Walk Through Tollymore Forest ”**

on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2002  
meeting in the Car Park at 2.00 p.m.

Further details are available from Roy Lamont and George Jackson, or any Fellowship Member.



**East Belfast District  
Beaver and Cub Scout Christingle Service**



**Advanced Notice:**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm at Saint Patrick's C of I, Ballymacarratt  
*Please come along and lend your support to 28<sup>th</sup> Belfast Scout Group*

## 99<sup>TH</sup> BELFAST'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

99<sup>th</sup> Group held their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party at Crawfordsburn over a weekend in September. Nearly 200 boys, parents, friends and old boys attended along with Chief Commissioner Philip Scott, County Commissioner Maynard Porter, District Commissioner Ian Diamond and District President Phil Holland. They came along on Saturday afternoon for the official ceremony and the 'cutting of the cake'. The cake was cut by Arthur Boucher, one of the founding members of the group, and one of our young Beaver Scouts, Paul McCluskey. During the formal proceedings Joy Baird, AGSL, was presented with her long service award. The weather over the weekend was brilliant and this gave the boys the chance to try all the activities at Crawfordsburn. Thanks to Team 2 at Crawfordsburn for helping to organise the activities and running an excellent Campfire on Saturday evening (this is still being talked about by the Cubs!). Overall everyone had a great weekend and as a group we would recommend an event like this to any group celebrating an anniversary. Just remember it takes a long time to find and invite past members.



### **New babies in 99<sup>th</sup>!**

Congratulations to ACSL Stephen Carroll and his wife Seona on the birth of their son Joshua Connor on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Also congratulations to ACSL Emma McMeekin and her husband Stuart on the birth of their daughter Katie Hannah on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Suggestion for Christmas presents**

Do any leaders use Baker Ross for craft materials? They have an excellent ideas for crafts or Christmas presents for around 90 pence per boy. They can be found on the web –[www.bakerross.co.uk](http://www.bakerross.co.uk) or you can order a catalogue on 0870 241 1867.

Alex, CSL 99<sup>th</sup>



### **SCOUT DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL**



The inter troop volleyball competition was held at Avoniel Leisure Centre on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Five troops participated, namely 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 73<sup>rd</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup>. After a series of matches in which each team played one another, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 99<sup>th</sup> 'A' team played a very close final, with the 99<sup>th</sup> 'A' team triumphant. DC Ian Diamond presented the new Volleyball trophy to the winners and runners up medals to the gallant 7<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> Troop was 3rd. Thanks to 73<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> for their support. We look forward to the inter troop quiz at the beginning of December.

Stephen McCord & Stephen Anderson, ADCs Scouts



# AUCTION

*OF SMALL HOUSEHOLD GOODS*

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2002  
**STARTS 7 PM SHARP**

**VIEWING AND WHITE ELEPHANT STALL  
FRIDAY FROM 6 PM**



ADMISSION £1.00



**PROCEEDS IN AID OF 10<sup>TH</sup> BELFAST SCOUT GROUP**





## NEWS FROM 30<sup>TH</sup> PACK



30<sup>th</sup> Pack recently held an Italian Evening. Activities included a series of relays including a Venetian Water Taxi race, Gondola race, and a relay game in which the Cubs were different types of toppings for various varieties of pizza and had to jump onto giant pizza bases if they thought they were one of the ingredients needed! We also made skeleton pictures by gluing pasta shapes onto card, tied 'spaghetti' knots, built a leaning tower of Pisa out of junk-craft, held a Mafia v Cardinals game and a quiz which included a very tricky question where the sixes had to attach the correct names to different types of pasta- along with spaghetti and tagliatelle, we threw in a few red herrings such as Pavarotti, Ravannelli and Confetti with hilarious results. We rounded off a successful night by making our own home-made pizzas. If any of the other Packs would like to try some of these activities and would like a copy of our programme please let one of 30<sup>th</sup> Leaders know. The Pack has also recently completed the Scientist Badge and the Cubs are sporting the first of the new red and yellow badges on their uniforms (if any other Packs would like me to help run or examine their Cubs for the Scientist badge, I'd be happy to).

*David, CSL 30<sup>th</sup>*



## NEWS FROM 33<sup>RD</sup> SCOUT TROOP



The 33<sup>rd</sup> Scout Troop has suffered from the new regime, with many of our senior scouts leaving for the newly formed Explorer Scouts. The Troop has 18 boys, with Explorers at about 25.

Colin Kirkwood has stood down as Scout Leader, with Ben Clark taking over, supported by Colin, David McFarland and Gavin Rainey as ASLs.

11 scouts, and 4 explorers camped at Crawfordsburn over the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October. This was a useful introduction to basic camping and camp-fire cooking, and a great time was had by all, particularly our two senior leaders, Colin and GSL Greer Henderson, who went home rather than risk an overnight under the stars. Despite a deluge on the Friday, not a drop of rain was to fall. With the Warden's Team laying on wall climbing and archery, it was a tired Troop who returned home on Sunday afternoon.

David McFarland, ASL 33<sup>rd</sup>

### **Chief Scout's Award & Queen's Scout Award Ceremony**

#### **Advanced Notice:**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2003 at Craigavon Civic Centre

*Can all SLs, VSLs, ESLs please ensure that our young people are given every opportunity to attend this presentation*

Ian

## THE END OF 33<sup>RD</sup> VENTURE SCOUTS

The end of the venture scout unit as we know it has arrived. Explorer Scouts (for ages 14-18) and Scouting Network (for ages 18-25) are replacing Venture Scouts.

Looking back at Stormont Venture Scout Unit, we all should feel very proud of what our young people have achieved over the years.

John Ashenhurst restarted the Unit back in 1994, asking me to assist. In 1998 due to family and work commitments, John retired as leader and swapped roles.

Since 1994 we have travelled the world! Our trips have taken us to Jersey, England, Kenya, USA (Maine/Boston), Switzerland and Scotland, not forgetting the day activities and weekends in Fermanagh and the Mourne.

Through these various trips and activities (and a lot of hard work!), 15 Venture Scouts have achieved the highest award in Scouting – the Queen's Scout Award. The role of honour from 1996 – 2002 is:



### Roll of Honour 1996-2002

- *Andrew Cousins*
- *Ben Clark*
- *Michelle McIlveen*
- *Rachel McKane*
- *Christian Clark*
- *Fiona Boyd*
- *Michael Hunter*
- *Erin Clark*
- *Clare Archibald*
- *Sarah Johnston*
- *Andrew Robinson*
- *Gillian Downey*
- *Rachel Compton*
- *Andrew Thompson*
- *Gavin Rainey*

As recognition for their achievements the Venture Scouts are invited to an award ceremony either in Belfast City Hall or Craigavon Civic Centre, and also to Windsor Castle, London. At Windsor the Venture Scouts parade and are inspected by a member of Royalty. This year, being the Golden Jubilee, the Queen and Prince Philip inspected all Queen Scouts from across the globe. Sarah Johnston and Andrew Robinson had the honour of being at Windsor this year and I am sure it was a very memorable occasion for them and their families.

Thank you to all 33<sup>rd</sup> Venture Scouts who have come and gone over the years. Their enthusiasm, personal achievements and sense of adventure has made the unit thrive, so much so that our numbers this year have peaked to 20.

I would also like to thank John Ashenhurst for all his guidance and support over the years, particularly in the early days. I wish him well as he develops the new Scouting Network.

Lastly, if you like the outdoor life and have a sense of adventure, please let me know, your assistance will be appreciated (over 21 male or female).

*Ian McLachlan, Explorer Scout Leader*

### **Events in November**

16 <sup>th</sup>	NI Explorer Scout Launch Contact: Ian McLachlan
18 <sup>th</sup>	East District Cub Scout 5-a-side Football 9 <sup>th</sup> HQ Sydenham Methodist Church Contact: John Corry or Suzi Jeffries
19 <sup>th</sup>	New Programme Implementation Workshop Contact: Paula Bryson
24 <sup>th</sup>	District Fellowship Tollymore Walk Contact: Roy Lamont or George Jackson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Slot Car Competiton: Belfast Heats Contact: Steve Hoskins or Sinclair Trotter
??	Belfast County Cub Scout Alexander Swimming Competition Contact: Steve Hoskins (time & venue to be confirmed)



**News & Views, Letters & Comments,  
Reports & Announcements to the Editor:**



e.mail: d.bell @ qub.ac.uk or eastbelfast @ yahoo.com

not later than **6<sup>th</sup> November** for the December Issue please!