



# Scouting East



*The Journal of East Belfast Scouting*

<http://www.eastbelfastdistrictscouts.org/>

No. 242

JUNE 2003

## From the Editor



As I prepare this issue, the programme of District activities is coming to an end and many of our Sections are winding down for the summer. And what a busy and successful year 2002-2003 was for Scouting in East Belfast, as was so clearly evident at the District AGM held at 99<sup>th</sup> HQ on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks to our guests, particularly Sir Robert Carswell and NI Commissioner, Philip Scott, for their words of commendation and encouragement to the District. The last twelve months have seen the successful transition to the new programme, introduction of Explorer Scouting, the first of our planned Parties in the Park, memorable Christingle and St. George's Day Services, and the return of both County Flags to East District. The sectional ADCs have ensured a busy schedule of activities across each of our sections, some with an element of competition, others purely for fun, while the badge report contained in this issue indicates a marked upturn in the number of badges gained this year. Time for everyone to pat themselves on the back and take a well deserved rest to recharge the batteries! Hopefully though, Scouting in East Belfast won't cease completely during July and August. 30<sup>th</sup> Pack and 10<sup>th</sup> Troop are both heading off to Edinburgh; several of our other Packs and Troops are also going to summer camps at various venues across the British Isles and I wish them all the best and hope to receive reports of these in due course. Maybe others will take advantage of the good weather to plan some outdoor Scouting activities or projects for their members during the holidays.

If you do happen to have some time on your hands though, why not have a rummage through the cupboards to see if you can find any old uniforms, badges, or programme materials to donate to the *Troop boxes for Malawi* appeal? The more observant amongst our readers will also notice the new District website address above. I plan to take advantage of the summer break to develop the site and would especially like to have games and activities, campfire songs etc. for inclusion in the programme resources database. So if your section has a favourite game or song, why not jot the details down and forward them to me for inclusion? I also hope to meet as soon as possible with reps from each Group and members of the District Team to update the information and photos on the site. No rest for the wicked then!! Best wishes for the summer and see you all in September,

*David*



## From the District Commissioner

My congratulations to the 30<sup>th</sup> Pack on winning this year's County Flag and indeed finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place also, with the 10<sup>th</sup> in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Well done to the team and to the Pack leaders on a super showing. What a pity we did not have more Packs from the District competing in the competition this year. Our congratulations also and best wishes for the future to Phil Osborne A.S.L 27<sup>th</sup> and Heather from East on their recent wedding.

The District St George's Day Parade and Service held at St Brendan's saw a reasonable District turnout with some 525 members and lay-members from every Group in the District enjoy our first "split" Service between Church and Parochial Hall. The Church Service went very well and the Deputy D.C assures me that the Service in the Parochial Hall went equally well. My thanks to all those people involved in any way especially the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network members and Leaders who did the readings and prayers. Just a pity yet again we had to substitute some of our young people at the very last minute for readers who did not turn up at the rehearsal. Our thanks to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Group and St Brendans Parish and particularly to the Rev Francey McCrea for all their work for this year's St George's Day. Well done to the District again this year in achieving some worthwhile publicity from the "Newsletter". The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Groups had their "Party in the Larkfield" and although bad weather hampered a possible turnout good District co-operation was seen at St Brendan's. This was a taster event for our Party on the Beersbridge in October and I hope that Groups not involved with the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Party will be involved in October. Again some very useful publicity appeared in the "Belfast News". All Groups and reps should note that a meeting of the "Action Team" will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.30 pm, District HQ Tamar Street. Can we ensure that EVERY Group sends a rep to this meeting and gets involved in the District party on the Beersbridge in October by doing their bit.

The District Executive have appointed Stephen Carroll to head a "fundraising" committee within East. Already the committee have put out Quiz sheets to each Group in the District and more fundraising events will follow. We desperately need to generate more funds within East to be able to produce "budgets" for the various Teams working on recruitment and publicity and everyone connected with Scouting in the District should be helping to play their small part in generating financial help. All money raised will help the District and YOUR Group.

I have temporarily "stood down" our A.D.C (Scouts) Stephen McCord due to personal reasons from now until September and have replaced him with William Moore S.L 73<sup>rd</sup> Troop and Chairman of the District Action Team. Stephen will be back in full swing in September and I appreciate William's help in standing in until September. William and Stephen Anderson (A.D.C Scouts) will be putting

together the plans for the District Troop weekend which will be held at Crawfordsburn on 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June. I hope that ALL the Troops in East will come along and enjoy a weekend of fun and activities. Our A.D.C (Training), Colin McLenaghan, will be running some skills training for any of the SLs who wish to learn or "brush-up" on camping skills.

This will be my last DC's report until September and I will take this opportunity to say a very big "THANK YOU" to all Leaders, Helpers, Commissioners and Lay Members for all the work put into Scouting in East Belfast during the year past. Have a restful summer, recharge the batteries and I will see you all back in September ready to make next year even better for the District. Have a great Summer Camp or Pack Holiday for those venturing away, and don't forget the P.C forms,

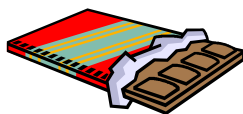
Ian



### 'Sweet Things- The Answers'



(1) Infants that wobble about- **Jelly Babies**; (2) Wise guys know it all- **Smarties**; (3) Where refined people live - **Quality Street**; (4) Fruit falling down, now by itself - **Pear / Lemon Drop**; (5) Sport for a prince - **Polo**; (6) Where there was a mutiny- **Bounty**; (7) Miscellaneous black and white -**Minstrels**; (8) Where 9, 10 and 11 come - **After Eight**; (9) In a middle position poetically- **Twix**; (10) Coat fasteners made with cocoa-**Buttons**; (11) Made from grapes in everyone's mouth- **Wine Gums**; (12) 100% precious metal -**All Gold**; (13) Used in hockey, but this one is made of granite -**Stick of Rock**; (14) A race of endurance - **Marathon**; (15) Allsorts and kinds blended together in a tub - **Dolly Mixtures**; (16) A royal producer of money- **Mint**; (17) Is this a road on the dale farm estate - **Milky Way**; (18) Fruit in a shell can give you a beating- **Walnut Whip**; (19) Take a break with this - **Kit Kat**; (20) Where the stars and planets are- **Galaxy**; (21) Not a part member of a teachers' union -**Whole Nut**; (22) They fall in winter, but are you white - **Snowflake**; (23) To move quickly around a dance - **Twirl**; (24) Sweet pastry for afternoon meal (Yorkshire)- **Tea cake**; (25) Every young lady would like two of these - **Cherry Lips**; (26) Used to quieten the never ending talker - **Gobstopper**; (27) What the male cow looks at the female with - **Bulls Eyes**; (28) Rubbish or nonsense - **Waffle**



Thanks to everyone who took part, *Alex*



## Letters



### John Marshall Gift of Friendship Sponsored Walk – Crawfordsburn / Bangor

On Saturday 12 April past we had plenty of ‘eager’ Beavers turn out in support of the above fundraiser for **Sargent Cancer Care for Children**, along with our Cubs and Scouts and their Leaders.

John who sadly died of Cancer at this time last year, aged 17, was heavily involved in Scouting life at the 4<sup>th</sup> and we would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all Groups who got involved and gave the event their support. Also to the District for it’s ongoing support of the venture by means of publications, banners, and the St George’s Day Service collection contribution.

Over 300 people went under the starters orders of Jeremy Davidson (Ulster & ‘Ireland A’ Rugby) and John’s sister Claire as the ribbon was cut to the attention of the gathered press. The 10K route took us from Crawfordsburn to Bangor and back again with the odd pitstop for water and ice-cream! So far the 4<sup>th</sup> Beavers have raised a total of £530.80 in sponsor money for **Sargent Cancer Care** and the forms are still coming in! Special thanks goes to Steven Marshall (4<sup>th</sup> Beavers) who raised £249.80 on his own form – well done.

Sargent have said that sponsor money continues to arrive at their office and a grand total for the whole event will hopefully be in print by next month’s issue. Keep watching this space! You can find out more about **Sargent Cancer Care for Children** by logging on to their website at [www.sargent.org](http://www.sargent.org) .

*Gareth McAuley, BSL 4<sup>th</sup>*



This summer marks the end of an era, with the retirement of Violet from the Scout HQ Office on 25<sup>th</sup> June. On a personal note, I would like to thank Violet for the all care and efficiency with which she has ensured over the years that my scribblings and indeed before that, those of my predecessor, Ernie, were prepared, packaged and dispatched to the masses. Her administrative support to us as Editors, but also in helping all of us as Leaders in East District with numerous enquiries and requests for all sorts of information and guidance, has been invaluable. I’m sure we’ll all miss her cheery voice at the end of the ‘phone. On behalf of all the Leaders and Scouts of East Belfast District, can I offer Violet our grateful thanks and our best wishes for a long and happy retirement,

*David*

Dear Scouters and Friends

### **THE 'PARTY IN THE LARK FIELD'**

On behalf of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scout Group, attached to St. Brendan's Church we would like to thank you for your contribution to the above mentioned occasion staged on Saturday, 26 April 2003.

As a great deal of effort was involved in the planning of this event it was heartening on Saturday to see so many willing hands playing their part in this special day. Without your invaluable input it would not have been the success it turned out to be.

Please extend our grateful thanks to each and every Member who took part.

If this is to become a future Annual Event our Group will play its part.

Yours in Scouting,

*R.R.LAMONT, GSL 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Dear Scouters and Friends,

### **ST. GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE**

It is with great pleasure on behalf of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scout Group, attached to St. Brendan's Church, Sydenham, Belfast that we convey our grateful thanks for all the invaluable help and assistance received in the organising of the above Service to mark St. George's Day.

We knew there would be large numbers of Scouts involved in the Parades both to and from the Church and seating of the personnel inside the Church. We were delighted with the overall turnout. None of this would have been possible without everyone pulling together and making it a huge success.

On occasions such as this Scouting comes into its own. It is good for our own Members to be a part of the overall Scouting Fraternity when the opportunity presents itself.

Please convey our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this Service.

Yours in Scouting,

*R.R.LAMONT, GSL 3<sup>rd</sup>*

## Badge Secretaries' Report 2003



Summary of badges gained in East District  
April 2002- March 2003

Group	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Total
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> St. Brendan's Church of Ireland	128	0	128
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b> Knock Presbyterian	35	5	40
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b> Dundonald Methodist	19	24	43
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> Sydenham Methodist	54	0	54
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> McMordie Scout Hall	79	0	79
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b> Knock Methodist	18	4	22
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b> St. Dorothea's Church of Ireland	84	19	103
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b> Tamar Street Scout Hall	29	0	29
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b> Gilnahirk Presbyterian	257	21	278
<b>33<sup>rd</sup></b> Stormont Presbyterian	71	20	91
<b>73<sup>rd</sup></b> St. Donard's Church of Ireland	15	2	17
<b>99<sup>th</sup></b> Belmont Presbyterian	165	6	171
<b>TOTAL</b>	954	101	1055

(Jenny and Nigel have recently swapped roles; due to Nigel's work commitments, Jenny is now officially the Honorary Badge Secretary, while Nigel will continue as Jenny's assistant during 2003-2004)

## ***Cub Scout Section***

East's Cubs earned an impressive total of 954 Activity Badges during the last year (representing an increase of over 220 on the previous year's total); of these, ~60% were accounted for by 3 of the 12 Packs in the District (3<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 99<sup>th</sup>). Due to the changeover to the new programme, the total included a variety of old and new activity badges, with 99<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Packs attempting 22 and 21 Activity Badges, respectively, from those available.

Badges such as Home Safety, Home Help and Scientist remained popular, while the new Emergency Aid and Adventure badges and the staged Nights Away badges were also popular choices. Opportunities provided at District level to complete badges such as the new staged swimming badges and the Cyclist badge boosted the overall total, and a similar opportunity to complete the Athletics Badge is to be arranged in the grounds of the Stormont Estate soon. A few of the Cubs also attempted some of the other new badges including Air Activities, Martial Arts and Equestrian although as yet none have attempted the Water Activities or new staged IT Badges. Some badges have inevitably disappeared with the introduction of the new programme, although parts of some of these, including Local Historian, Map Reader and Gardener have been incorporated into new activity badges or the challenge awards; the Cub Scout Leaders in East District were particularly sorry to see the demise of the Astronomer badge since 46 of our Cubs had earned this badge in 2002-2003. Perhaps we could lobby the NI Commissioner for Cub Scouts, Jean Stewart, to ask HQ to consider reintroducing this badge? I'm sure the staff from our own local Armagh Planetarium would be very supportive of such an approach.

Jenny is keen to re-establish the District Badge Exam Days and also to compile a new list of approved activity badge examiners. So if your Cubs have any ideas for badge courses that you would like Jenny to organise or could suggest someone who might be willing to serve as Examiner for one of the activity badges, why not contact Jenny during the summer break to see what can be arranged for the autumn? How about the staged IT badges since few Cubs have tried these to date?

## ***Scout Section***

East's Scouts gained 101 activity badges in 2002-2003 (a decrease of 50 on the previous year's total). 14 different badges were attempted although more than half of the total was accounted for by swimming badges. Several Scouts completed the new Watersports badge and the staged IT badge, although disappointingly few attempted the 'traditional Scouting skills badges' again this year. Perhaps we can look at this again for next year?

David

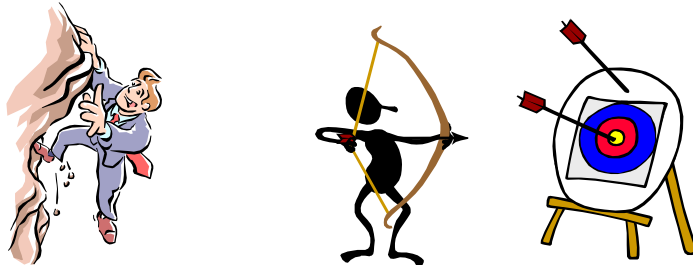


Attention all Explorer Scouts  
End of Year Belfast County Explorer BBQ



At Crawfordsburn Scout Centre  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m.

Cost only £3.00 per person



Activities will include:- abseiling, archery etc.

Interested, then please contact Dawn Andrews on 028 9756 1738

Before Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

*Ian McLachlan*

PS Next Meeting of East Belfast District Explorer Scout Committee will be held during the BBQ- please send along your two Unit representatives!

## **Congratulations....**

- To our hard working District Treasurer, Ann Hanna, on the much deserved award of the Medal of Merit, presented at the recent District AGM. Let's hope that Ann doesn't need to take her medal to the pawnbrokers to balance the District finances!
- To the Patrols from 10<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Troops, and the combined Patrol from 4<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Troop who finished 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Belfast County Flag Competition held at Crawfordsburn in May. Well done lads!
- To Julie McIntyre (99<sup>th</sup>) and Maureen Kirk (7<sup>th</sup>) who came first and second, respectively, in the Sweet Things Quiz. So we all know where to go if we need a chocolate fix!

## **Thanks....**

- To Billy Robb (husband of ADC Beavers, Betty), who has been working quietly behind the scenes at the Bill Elliott Scout Hall, undertaking much needed renovations to the hall.
- To Anne Jackson and Pamela Skillen who were presented with Thanks Badges at the District AGM by the Leaders of the 28<sup>th</sup> Group in recognition of all of their hard work in helping to restart the Group.



## ***And another thing....***

Wow! What an impressive 'State of the District' report DC Ian gave at the District AGM. And what a lot has happened in East District in the last twelve months!!! Was this the longest ever speech by a serving DC in the history of District AGMs? Well archivists at the *Guinness Book of Records* are currently studying this distinct possibility, and hope to validate Ian's entry in their forthcoming issue!! In the interests of conserving a little corner of the rain forest and to ensure that District Treasurer, Ann, doesn't need to re-mortgage her house to pay the photocopying bill (incidentally Ann verified from her vantage point at the top table that the speech did indeed stretch to *seventeen* pages), we have resisted the request from Pamela Skillen, who missed the speech, to reprint it in full in this issue!

Scouting East has learned on the grapevine that DIY Discount Store B&Q are apparently operating on a temporary basis out of McMordie Scout Hall while their own premises are renovated. How long then before we stumble across GSL John Corry and ACSLs Richard Clark and Jamie Stronge, in borrowed orange aprons and name badges, attempting to sell their own line in DIY bird box assembly kits and magazine racks to unsuspecting fellow Cub Scout Leaders??

## News Update: 4<sup>th</sup> East Belfast Troop and Knock Explorer Unit

After the concerns about the future of the Troop at the start of the year, the new Leadership team at Knock is settling in well, and starting to get to grips with the new Scout Section programme. Recruitment and retention are going well, with an average of 12 boys from the 4<sup>th</sup> at meetings. We are pleased to have the Patrol from the 24<sup>th</sup> Troop attending our meetings and taking part in our activities, and wish them all the best in their search for new Leaders.

We are running a balanced programme, with games involving both brains and brawn, and Scoutcraft training and testwork. Several of the Troop have recently completed their Hobbies and Interests badge, and it is hoped that most of the Troop will have completed the Outdoor Challenge before September. In the past couple of months, we have had a number of activities outside the scout hall: we had a joint activity, playing football with the Cubs and enjoyed a wide game at Cairn Wood. It has to be said that the PLs came out the best from that activity! Members of the Troop took part in a sponsored walk for Sargent Cancer Care for Children. We have also had a very successful Easter Camp at Saintfield Desmesne, introducing many of the Troop to the basics of scout campcraft. We are looking forward to sending a patrol to the County Flag competition and to taking part in the Summer Activity Camp at Crawfordsburn.

We are starting an Explorer Scout Unit for our over 14s. Members have been taking part in various District activities. Some of the Explorers went on an expedition in the Mourne over the Easter holidays, after undergoing basic expedition training on the North Down Coastal Path. They returned wet, tired, but happy, and should complete the expedition requirements for the Chief Scout's Platinum Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.

*William Gowdy, ASL 4<sup>th</sup>*



### East Belfast District Unihoc Report



This year we were pleased to have 14 teams entered which made it tight for time, we may have to make other arrangements for next year, but let's see if it is possible to get all colonies to attend next year; the competition was close right to the very end with the final between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> with the 27<sup>th</sup> the winners. Both teams represented East District in the county finals, where the 27<sup>th</sup> finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Many thanks from your ADCs to all the boys and Leaders for participating, without you there would be no competition. Thank you all,

*Stephen Hand, ADC (Beavers)*



## 30<sup>th</sup> Commando Survival Training Weekend



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 18:00 hours and 20 members of the elite 30<sup>th</sup> Commando were dispatched on survival training in the heart of rural Fermanagh. Following some stiff one-one martial arts combat on the judo mats at the Lakeland Forum, we eventually overcame our Drill Instructors and pinning them to the floor, secured the Forum and made our way back to our camouflaged Personnel Transporter in the car park. Under cover of darkness, we moved in on our next objective, the secret HQ of the infamous FDS (Fermanagh District Scouts), hidden deep in a forest on the banks of the Cladagh River. Finding the cabin deserted, we quickly captured their HQ and established base camp.

Next morning, unusually for 30<sup>th</sup> Commando, we slept late when the Camp Cook (a.k.a Akela) failed for the first time in living memory to trigger the fire alarm while he was burning the French Toast! After breakfast, we pressed forward to Corralea Activity Centre, encountering little resistance as we made our way along deserted country lanes until we reached the outskirts of Belcoo. From then on, despite being spooked by signs such as 'Dead Man's Land' and 'Death Ridge' and under surveillance from crazy cowboys and Indians in authentic costume who emerged from time to time onto the path in front of us, we pressed on to our objective, whereupon most of our squadron were taken prisoner by 'Mad Marius' and his mercenaries, bundled into vehicles, and transported several miles to an underground base at a secret location. For the next few hours, what followed was like a re-enactment of the movie, *The Great Escape*, as clad in boiler suits and gloves and armed only with miners' helmets and torches, we slithered and squelched as we crawled on all fours in the mud, squeezing through increasingly narrow underground tunnels before Platoon Commanders, 'Dangerous Donna' and 'Daring Dave' eventually saw light ahead in the gloom and we emerged through a narrow opening onto the hillside, miles from civilisation.

Making our way back to Corralea once more, we learned that Colonel Jan and our remaining forces had overcome the Cowboys and Indians, and set up a field kitchen. Scoffing our rations of sandwiches, soup and crisps we stopped only for a quick game of football, before dividing into two units, one group taking to amphibious landing craft to secure a deserted harbour post on a nearby island while the other scaled an abandoned lookout tower (Akela and Alyn crawling their way up the rock face with all the finesse of a pair of demented spiders, before landing swiftly back on the ground again with a bump!). Our mission at Corralea successfully completed, we returned once more to base camp.

Next morning after kit inspection and Cubs' Own, we honed our fire-lighting and backwoods cooking skills under the direction of Sergeant Major Davy 'Can't Cook, Shouldn't Be Allowed To Cook' Hawthorne, who impressed us all with his 'potato, leek, beef and onion' soup, managing to melt only a few pot handles and one plastic fork in the process!

Finally we rounded off the weekend with a visit to the Marble Arch Caves (feeling just ever so slightly sorry for the one young couple who were the only others there, having unwittingly booked for the same tour as the Cubs!) Just time for an ice-cream and to quickly buy (and in the case of Tom and Ryan, just as quickly loose again!!) some Mothers' Day presents, before rejoining our transport for the journey back to Belfast.

Many thanks to Fermanagh District Scouts for the use of Cladagh Glen Scout Centre and to the staff at Corralea Activity Centre, and also to Davy, Alyn and Adam, and to Pamela and Jamie (10<sup>th</sup>) who all actually *volunteered* to join us (fools!!) at camp,

*David, Donna and Jan, 30<sup>th</sup> Pack*

### Events in June

2 <sup>nd</sup> :	District Action Team Meeting District HQ, Tamar Street Contact: William Moore (SL, 73 <sup>rd</sup> )
13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	East Belfast District Troop Weekend Camp Crawfordsburn Scout Centre Contact: William Moore or Stephen Anderson (73 <sup>rd</sup> )



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



Email: [d.bell@qub.ac.uk](mailto:d.bell@qub.ac.uk) or [eastbelfast@yahoo.com](mailto:eastbelfast@yahoo.com)  
not later than **6<sup>th</sup> August** for the September Issue please!



*Even the Editor deserves a summer holiday!!*

