



Scouting East



The Journal of East Belfast Scouting

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From the Editor



I'd like to begin this month's issue by thanking Roy and Jenny for the invitation to join with many other Leaders, former Leaders and friends in East, alongside 3rd Group and the Guides who also meet in the Parish Church in marking their joint 50th Anniversary with a special Service of Thanksgiving at St. Brendan's on 26th October. The thoughtfully planned and inspirational service enabled us all to recall and celebrate special moments in the history of 3rd, and the contributions of many former Leaders over the years, some of whom were able to join us on the occasion; as we looked to the future of Scouting in Sydenham, all of us were given the opportunity to dedicate ourselves anew to our Scout promise. It was fitting too that we were able to honour Roy and Jenny's vast contribution to Scouting in the Sydenham area, and throughout our District, over many years and that their work should be recognised by the presentation of a beautiful Bible on behalf of the Rector and Parish of St. Brendan's, which I'm sure Roy and Jenny will cherish for many years to come.

At this time of year, as the nights draw in, and winter showers and icy winds are upon us, our thoughts turn to Christmas. Perhaps some of our Beaver Colonies will be making the trip to the 'Burn again this year to visit Santa in his 'cabin', and many of our Beavers and Cubs will hopefully be making plans to attend our District Christingle Service which will be held this year in Knocknagoney Parish Church. Amidst the last minute scramble for presents in crowded shops, the tinsel and the turkey, let's not forget to share with the children in our sections the true meaning of Christmas. Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men were people who listened to God and made Jesus the focus of their celebrations that first Christmas in Bethlehem. This holiday season, might we all strive to be more like them, putting God's Son, the most amazing gift of all, at the very centre of our celebrations and the centre of our lives.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

David



A Christmas message from the District Chaplain



The growing trend of shortening Christmas to Xmas is something that really bugs me. Let me explain:

‘X’ stands for the unknown. Sadly for many of the young people we work with He is just that – Unknown! At this time when many people’s thoughts are on parties, giving and receiving and the real meaning of Christmas is lost on them.

The same of course was true two thousand years ago, in the days of Caesar Augustus. He ordered a census to be taken in Palestine, so everyone went to his own town to be registered. That’s why Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem when the baby Jesus arrived.

The thoughts of returning to Bethlehem to register would have been on celebrating and meeting old friends. There would have been no thought for Christ who was to be born as the Prophets had said. Preoccupied with this and other business, the people missed the real meaning of the birth of Jesus.

A few years ago there was a cartoon in a daily newspaper. It showed two shoppers looking at a poster with the message: *Put Christ back into Christmas*

The caption under the cartoon read: *‘They are trying to put religion into everything these days.’*

That is how many react to the celebration of Christmas. The real meaning of what happened all those years ago means little or nothing to them; so Jesus is left out of the festivities. Putting Xmas for Christmas is, I believe, just another symptom of this.

But let’s not allow ourselves and the young people whose lives we influence to get caught in the thinking of today. Let’s not allow this special time of year to become Xmas – just another holiday. Instead, let’s make sure it really is **Christmas** – a celebration of the One who was born Saviour of the world, the One who was born to die for us.

Wishing all a joyous, Christ-centred Christmas and a peaceful New Year,

Francy, District Chaplain



From the District Commissioner

The finishing touches are being put to the District Beaver and Cub Christingle Service which this year will be hosted by Knocknagoney Parish Church. The ADCs and myself have met with the Rev David Brown and have been most impressed with his obvious enthusiasm for the Service and the hope that Scouting can be started in the Knocknagoney/Garnerville area. Arrangements are in hand to meet with members of the Select Vestry in the New Year to encourage Scouting within the area. The District Chaplin Francy McCrea will work with Knocknagoney to ensure a first class Christingle Service this year and I hope that the District will follow last year's Service at St. Patrick's with a large turnout at Knocknagoney.

Our ADC (Adult Training), Colin McClenaghan, organised a District "Child Protection" refresher course during the month and although this was attended by some 10 Leaders from the District further courses will be organised. It is in the best interests of all our Leaders to attend one of the Courses which will be advertised, especially new or young leaders or helpers who may not have attended any Child Protection training before. Colin will also be arranging a "first response" course and again I would encourage all leaders to attend.

I was delighted to attend along with the Deputy DC and representatives from the ADCs and Groups in the District, the 3rd Group's 50th Anniversary Service at St Brendan's. The service, in conjunction with the St Brendan's Guide Unit's 50th was well run by our District Chaplin, Francy, and the supper and "craic" afterwards was first class. Our congratulations to the 3rd G.S.L Roy Lamont on the presentation of a gift from the Group and Parish and well done 3rd on a great evening.

I must clear up a misunderstanding within the District which has been brought to my attention by the District Team regarding our District Headquarters at Tamar Street. The "Bill Elliott Scout Hall" is the property of the District having been given to THE DISTRICT by the Carew Centre. This is our District Headquarters in which the newly formed 28th Group meet. Contrary to some belief it is NOT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 28TH GROUP which has been designated as the District Headquarters. The District HQ is for use by all of the District and I would encourage full use of the facility for meetings, activities, badge/training courses etc.

The District Action team will meet during the month and I hope that all Groups will appoint a representative to sit on the Team to carry on the excellent work of recruitment and publicity that we have achieved so far. It is tremendous to hear

from Groups such as the 10th who have had 4 new Cubs and a Beaver as a direct result of the "Party at Bloomfield" Surely a lot more Groups will benefit if we carry on with the recruitment.

It was a privilege for Alan and I to attend the presentation of the County Flags at the City Hall with the 30th and 10th, their Leaders and parents. Well done to the boys from both Teams and as a member of the 10th Group it was a special delight to be with the Scouts and Leaders of the 10th Troop. Our thanks to ACC, Paula Bryson, for all her work in arranging the Presentation and to the County Commissioner Maynard Porter for his attendance.

REMINDER

DISTRICT CHRISTINGLE SERVICE SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 7.00PM
KNOCKNAGONEY PARISH CHURCH. ALL WELCOME

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8TH MAY 2004-N.IRELAND EVENT TO SAY GOODBYE TO OUR CHIEF
SCOUT GEORGE PURDY.

20 MARCH 2004- ONE DAY N.IRLAND CONFERENCE-RAMADA HOTEL,
SHAWS BRIDGE

Ian



CYCLIST BADGE

On Thursday, 6 November and 13 November 2003 we held the Cyclist badge at St. Brendan's Hall, Larkfield Road, where we were able to achieve passing 51 activities badges. **WELL-DONE CUBS!**

I would like to thank all of the Cubs, Leaders and parents who participated in the event, also of course, Tracy Doherty, from the Road Traffic Education Branch. Tracy really was great and very friendly with all of the Cubs. Considering the size of our hall, somehow we managed to fit everyone in especially as on the two nights the weather was wet and windy. The Cubs were rewarded with a special gift to take home. Tracy has volunteered to help with the Road Safety badge on Wednesday, 21st January 2004, so please keep this night free. I will send further details nearer the time.

Again many thanks for all of your help.

Jenny Lamont, Badge Secretary



EAST BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUTS

Three competitions have been held recently in the District:- Volleyball, U15 Floorball and U12 Floorball.

Friday 10th October saw no less than eleven teams compete in the annual volleyball competition at Avoniel Leisure Centre – almost twice the entry from last year! The 4th, 7th, 10th, 27th, 30th, 73rd and the eventual winners, the 99th, were the participating troops. The 7th were the gallant runners-up!

Tuesday 21st October in the 73rd hall was the U15 Floorball competition. 4th, 27th, 73rd, and 99th troops attended. After some keenly contested games the 99th once again were triumphant.

Friday 24th October was the turn of the U12s to show off their floorball skills. The same troops participated and the 99th defeated the 73rd in the final.

I must say that all events were very enjoyable and played in a good spirit – but we really must do something about the 99th winning all the time!

Next competition:

Quiz:- Four Team Members – 73rd HQ, St Donard's Parish Church, Monday 01/12/2003, 7:30pm – 9:30pm.

Stephen Anderson, ADC (Scouts)



EAST BELFAST DISTRICT BADGES

Just a reminder that the East Belfast District Badges can now be purchased from my house, 10 Kingsway Gardens, Tel No: 02890 793591

or my e-mail address hazel.emily1@ntlworld.com for further information and please inform me if you would like any badge in particular organized.

Jenny Lamont, Badge Secretary

The Leaders of 3rd St. Brendan's Scout Group would like to express their grateful thanks on the occasion of their recent church service and get together.

It was really great to see so many from the District attending our celebration. Also we had quite a good turn out of older scouts and Leaders. It turned out that we had the first Cub Scout Leader and the first Scout Leader and one of the first Scouts attending.

We of course, do not forget that it was also the Guide's 50 years and was delighted that so many of their past members were able to attend.

Once again, many thanks for coming and for your support.

Roy Lamont, CSL/GSL 3rd Group



Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Tuesday 30th September saw the 10th Beaver Colony Visited by the County Commissioner, Maynard Porter. The purpose of this visit was to present 4 boys with their Bronze Chief Scout's Awards. These were the first for the colony, and we thought we'd make an event of it, but were surprised when Maynard told us that as far as he knew, 27th Colony and ourselves were amongst the first in Belfast County to complete this award. There were some very proud parents, Leaders and boys in the hall and we hope to be able to repeat the event again in the not too distant future. I hope to read in this newsheet soon of some more boys from other Colonies gaining this very important award.

Liz Whitley, BSL 10th Colony



East Belfast District Beaver Sports

The annual District Sports were held at 9th HQ, Sydenham Methodist Church, on 15th November, with 9 teams from 8 Colonies (4th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 27th, 28th, 30th and 33rd) represented, ensuring a good natured but hotly contested competition throughout the morning, especially in the three-legged race which went to a photo-finish for second place, and in the tug-of-war in which some of the heats almost entered the Guinness Book of Records for the longest 'tug' as rival teams dug in for eternity determined not to yield a millimetre. There was also much rivalry in the Leaders' obstacle race with Ian Fullerton from 9th romping home ahead of Chris Hardacre (10th) and a combined entry of Deputy DC, Alan, plus 'Giant Teddy Bear' representing 27th. Alan soon recovered his breath sufficiently to

judge the art competition which, as in previous years, attracted a very high standard making the judge's decision all the more difficult. Congratulations to the Beavers who took part, thanks to the Leaders and parents for bringing them, to 9th for the use of the Watson Hall and for supplying the juice and biscuits, and to DC, Ian, who presented the prizes. The final results were as follows:

Straight Run:

1st C. Morrow (30th) 2nd A. Thompson (33rd) 3rd C. Johnston (10th)

Egg and Spoon:

1st C. Heath (4th) 2nd L. Sunerton (9th) 3rd C. Mosgrove (10th)

Sack Race:

1st C. Campbell (27th) 2nd C. Johnston (10th) 3rd R. Gordon (7th)

3-Legged Race:

1 st	D. Stafford & L. Sunerton	9 th
2 nd =	G. Anderson & C. Morrow	30 th
2 nd =	I. Hawthorne & C. Hinds	30 th

Obstacle Race:

1st 10th B Team 2nd 10th A Team 3rd 4th Team

Leaders' Obstacle Race:

1st I. Fullerton (9th) 2nd C. Hardacre (10th) 3rd A. Campbell (27th)

Relay Race:

1 st	G. Anderson, C. Morrow, C. Maxwell, I Hawthorne	30 th
2 nd	S. Isaacs, C. Johnston, J. Muirhead, J. Hardacre	10 th
3 rd	C. Campbell, R. Campbell, R. Burns, B. Whiteside	27 th

Tug of War

1st 10th B Team 2nd 27th Team 3rd 4th Team

Overall Winner:

1st 10th B Team 2nd 30th Team 3rd 27th Team

Art Competition:

Overall Winner: J. Turner 30th Colony

Runners-Up: L. Bell (9th), A. Lawther (28th), R. Brent (27th)
(and 2 anonymous entries from 33rd)

Betty, Stephen and Liz, ADCs (Beavers)

Calling all East's Beavers and Cub Scouts!



Knock Players present
'Sleeping Beauty'

Thursday 8th January at Knock Presbyterian Church Hall

Tickets available from District Chairman, Billy Jenkins, or can be ordered via the
ADCs (Beavers) or ADCs (Cub Scouts)
Price £4 per person



Events in December

1st

District Scout Quiz Competition
73rd HQ, St. Donard's Parish Church
Contact: ADCs (Scouts)

7th

District Christingle Service
Knocknagoney Parish Church
Contact: Beaver and Cub Scout ADCs



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

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

not later than **6th December** for the January Issue please!