



Scouting East



The Journal of East Belfast Scouting

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From the Editor



Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the first newsheet of 2022. I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable break over Christmas and New Year and that with further easing of restrictions as we pass the peak of the latest wave of the pandemic, our weekly programme will soon begin to resemble something approaching normality once more. A belated thank you to 99th Cubs for sending the Editor a colourful hand-made Christmas card. Many thanks to everyone for ensuring that the Census was returned efficiently on time and for your ongoing support in completion of mandatory training requirements. I had very useful separate meetings with the GSLs and ESLs recently on Zoom in addition to the January District Executive Meeting. At present we have decided not to hold large events such as the St George's Day Parade and Service before the summer, but plans are now in place for some activities for the Cub Scout and Explorer Sections and a number of Packs and Troops are planning camps this spring – please remember to submit NAN forms in good time to Alan Campbell and myself.

Our Badge Secretary Jenny is continuing to make slow but steady progress in her recovery but for now please contact me directly if you require any East Badges (my stock is down to just under 200 so if there is a large demand we will have to place another order soon). Can I encourage Sections to submit their annual tally of activity and challenge badges awarded during 1st April 2021-31st March 2022 to me by email by 30th April for inclusion in the annual report presented at the AGM. At present, the District Secretary, Appointments Subcommittee Chair and District Youth Commissioner roles are still vacant. If you or anyone you know would be interested in considering one of these roles or contributing to relaunching the District Scout Active Support Unit, please speak to Gareth or me.



I was delighted to learn that VP and former East Treasurer Suzi Jeffries and former DC Betty Robb have been awarded the *Silver Acorn* and *Bar to the Silver Acorn*, respectively, in the St George's Day 2022 Awards and to receive news of a successful outcome to several *Award for Merit* and *Chief Scout's Commendation* nominations, which I hope to award soon (keen to maintain the element of surprise for as long as possible!!). Thanks to all of this month's contributors, please keep the copy and photos coming in. Best wishes, *David*



QUB Medical School Community Outreach

East District again hosted eight QUB medical students in late January and early February this year as part of the third year students' community outreach programme which enables our Cub Scouts to complete Stage 3 of the Emergency Aid Badge. This year Ciara, Chloe, Matt and Michael visited 99th Belfast at Belmont Presbyterian on Wednesday evenings and Lara, Elizabete, Alex and Rian visited 27th Belfast at St Dorothea's on Thursday evenings.

Extra safety measures were in place to ensure face to face teaching could proceed despite the covid pandemic and all of the Cub Scouts were given their own individually wrapped first aid supplies, surgical masks and copious amounts of hand sanitiser. The course included primary survey, emergency phone calls, compression only CPR, recovery position and use of trainer epipens. The newly acquired choking vest and the foil blankets for treatment of shock and hypothermia were particular highlights this year and there was lots of opportunity for hands on practice, particularly of bandaging and slings. The trainee doctors worked lots of attention-grabbing demonstrations, first aid themed games and quizzes into their delivery and were very patient in explaining everything clearly and fielding random and at times bizarre questions from the Cub Scouts.

The Leaders and Young Leaders were also very keen to get involved, with several of the Belmont Explorers assisting Chloe with remote delivery demonstrations on zoom for a few Cubs who were isolating on the second night, and Oscar winning performances from Steve Hoskins and Matt Gordon who bravely let a succession of Cubs manhandle them into the recovery position and repeatedly wrap them up in bandages and slings.

Many thanks to QUB Medical School for continuing to provide this valuable opportunity to our District and to the trainees who were excellent ambassadors teaching important practical skills and also encouraging the Cubs to consider future careers in healthcare, even if the trainees themselves might now be thinking twice about specialising in Paediatrics!!!

David

A major incident is declared at St Dorothea's Field Hospital





As a result, ambulances are diverted to the Belmont A&E Unit.....





Crisis averted and normal service resumed!!

! MAJOR INCIDENT



News from 30th Pack

30th Cubs resumed in early January with a film and drama workshop run by one of our former Cub Scouts, Josh Lynas, now an independent award winning writer and director who '*produces compelling and engaging films locally in Northern Ireland, striving to bring stories to life with cinematic quality*'. With Josh's help and lots of their own imagination and enthusiasm, the Cubs scripted and starred in their own compelling movie; the basic plot they brought to life was that rival gangs, led by Donald Trump and Kim Jung-Un, were fighting (having a dance off including Gangnam style), but following high level peace negotiations decided to join forces to fight an imminent invading zombie apocalypse (the Cub Leaders) – I will leave the rest to your own imagination but many thanks to Josh for the cinematic quality he brought to this engaging film!! We had a grand premiere the following week, together with some board games (after editing the movie only lasted ~10 minutes) and generous supplies of popcorn provided by Bagherra's Mum, Lorna.

Later that month we had a space-themed evening. Games included 'Can't Cross the Galaxy without...', Ships and Subs with novel actions (such as Beam me Up, ET phone home, Darth Vader, Daleks, Cling-ons and Alien Monsters), Planet Fruit Salad, and Asteroid and Space Invader Dodgeball. We also made space ships from junk craft, before finishing with a Crystal Maze challenge, with most competitors landing on squares only to be exterminated by Daleks, eaten by aliens, falling down black holes or transported to a galaxy far, far away in Dr Who's tardis before they had safely crossed to the other side- all accompanied by appropriately scary sound effects on Haithi's phone. The question square often only delayed their inevitable demise by a few seconds but great fun was had by all.

In February, we were visited by Joe Loughlin from the *Gathering Drum* for a drumming workshop which blended traditional African drums with steel drums for a Caribbean calypso medley, insuring a lively din. We also welcomed back the *QUB Fencing Club* to train up a new generation of little Zorros before unleashing them on the streets of Gilnahirk. Once again the Leaders had the opportunity to don the latest body armour and head gear to defend themselves from Cubs brandishing foil sabres while striking their most intimidating poses.

On our last night before February half-term we had a Scottish evening, complete with (in no particular order but adding to the overall effect) Lambeg drummers, Highland dancers, a bagpipe player, our Scottish Explorer Leader, David Duncan, some haggis, and Haithi (Carlos) in a kilt. Many thanks to the Ulster-Scots Society for arranging the evening, and to Carlos for his rousing address to the ill-fated haggis, Donna who trapped and cooked it and AGSL Davy who ate most of it!!, washed down with Irn Bru and a Tunnock's teacake.

David, CSL 30th







News from 99th Pack

99th Cubs recently enjoyed a pre-half-term Junk Art Modelling Night- both Leaders and Cubs brought along a variety of recyclable junk – plastic bottles, egg boxes, cardboard boxes large and small, and armed only with imagination, glue, sticky tape and scissors, used under the watchful eyes of the Leaders, the Cubs produced some remarkable creations! Some were quite happy to work on their own and simply call on a leader to cut or stick when required; others enjoyed working with pals to produce a single item, but then faced the problem of who would have the first go at taking the masterpiece home. The possibility of adding paint had been mentioned as something that would add to the realism of some of the projects but mercifully the Leaders’ good sense prevailed and the hall floor was saved from an unnecessary paint job! Exhibits of particular note were Robbie’s ‘Square Faced Shark’, Shane’s Rocket, Will’s Dragster Car, Scott’s Spaceman Jet Pack and Tyler’s Robot! Finlay, James and Alexander co-operated on a rocket of their own but the most remarkable inventiveness was shown by Joey with his Galaxy Making Factory (it did look just like a box with parts of a Galaxy label attached but clearly there was more going on in that box than met the eye!) Full marks for imagination Joey!!

Bruce, CSL 99th





SCOUTS

News from 30th Troop

The 30th Scouts Gilnahirk got back together after the Christmas break, starting with a quiz of the Year. The topics from 2021 included Fortnight, football, the human body and general knowledge. The competition was tight and the final quick fire round went right down to the wire, determining the winners.... Scouts not Leaders. Stephen and Simon did try, they formed their own team only to come last. More encyclopaedias required lads! With the weather kind to us all during January we were able to go to Gilnahirk Park for some dry wide games and at the end of the month we hired a five-a-side pitch at Newforge Sports Complex for a mini football league. Well done the 30th for a great start to the year!

Stevie Whyte, SL 30th



Events in March

21st: East District Executive Committee 8pm
Either at McMordie Hall or on Zoom (TBC)
Contact: Gareth McAuley, District Chairman

26th: East District Cub Scout Orienteering Competition
Orangefield Park from 2.00-3.30pm
Contact: David Bell (30th) or Gareth McAuley (4th)



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



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Not later than **21st March** for the March issue please!