



# Scouting East



*The Journal of East Belfast Scouting*

No. 428

JANUARY 2023

## From the Editor



A very belated Happy New Year! I hope that you have returned refreshed after Christmas? Many thanks to all those who contributed to the January issue. Welcome to Jeanette who has penned her first column as our new DC: there are lots of meetings planned for the month ahead which will hopefully provide an opportunity for everyone to meet Jeanette as she settles into the District.

As we start the New Year, it is great to celebrate a variety of good news. Congratulations to Colin McShane ASL 10<sup>th</sup> on a much deserved Award for Merit and also to 30<sup>th</sup> Troop on winning the County Dodgeball Competition and progressing to the NI Finals where they were runners-up. A special mention to Stephen Gordon SL 9<sup>th</sup> Belfast and his wife Rachel on the safe arrival of a baby girl in December. Andrew Totten is also stepping down as GSL 10<sup>th</sup> – congratulations on his new appointments as Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Irish Regiment and Visiting Researcher at Durham University – and thanks to Andrew for his service during his stint as GSL, hopefully he will be a regular visitor to the District and continue to welcome us all to his cottage in Ballymartin. A word of thanks also to James Camlin for all he has done for 7<sup>th</sup> Group and East District over many years as he retires this month as Akela, and hands over the baton to Kyle McKee - James isn't leaving us just yet as he is staying on as ACSL at 7<sup>th</sup> so hopefully we will all still meet up regularly with him at District events. It was great too to have some more QUB medical students out and about within the District in January delivering the Emergency Aid Stage 3 badge for our Cubs.

Don't forget that the 2023 Census needs to be completed urgently if you have not already done so as the official deadline was 31<sup>st</sup> January. Our Treasurer Andrew will send out capitation invoices in the next few weeks once the census is finalised so please start collecting in the money now if you haven't already so that the District can pay promptly and avail of the early payment rebate. The Beavers have their District Unihoc and Art Competitions coming up in February – thanks to Suzanne and Alix for all of the information about this– please do support them – and maybe some of the Beaver Leaders would send me a report and a few photos for the February issue? Many thanks and best wishes, *David*



## DC's Column



I am delighted to be writing to you as your new District Commissioner!! I am excited to be working with you all to develop Scouting in East Belfast.

I would just like to take a moment to say thank you to the many Leaders who have worked very hard to maintain the District in the absence of a DC. I would especially like to thank David Bell and Gareth McAuley for their mentorship of the District; I have heard many reports about the fantastic job they have both done in order to keep things running as well as they have been.

For me it has been a rollercoaster so far, I have nights sketched into my calendar for various meetings and visits to see as many of you as I possibly can. Thank goodness for Google calendar, I really would be lost without it! I would like to take this opportunity to say that the 10<sup>th</sup> have kindly agreed to host a District Scouters meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm, I hope to see you there.

So what is my vision for East? I hope to facilitate Scouts for anyone in the District who wants to be part of our fantastic organisation. The best way for me to do this is to encourage and develop the Leaders who are in each Group on a weekly basis. You are the front face of Scouting, you are teaching your young people what scouts is through your actions and words and for this I cannot thank you enough. I am passionate about making every person in Scouts feel valued. Everyone has something that they are gifted at, and all those talents when put together can achieve amazing things. I am really looking forward to the coming months, and seeing the amazing work that you are doing on the ground.

Finally, I just want to say I am here to help and support you and will endeavour to do my best to assist you with anything you may need me for. I am only on the end of an email or phone if you need anything at all.

*Jeanette, DC*



## BEAVER UNIHOC and ART COMPETITION

Saturday 11th February 2023 from 1.30pm—3.30pm

Knock Presbyterian Church



### BEAVER UNIHOC

Teams of 5 players for each match (*teams may also bring one sub*)

Cost £5.00 per team

*Colonies can register TWO teams if they wish. If you do not think you will have a complement of five players on the day, just let us know so we can organise something rather than have your Beavers miss out.*

**We would ask that only Leaders and Beavers attend this year, no parents/siblings**

### Rules

- Players will be numbered 1-5
- Players will be called individually to play against their opponent
- Play will be on a 1 to 1 basis for all matches
- First player to score a goal will win their game
- Individual play will last no more than 2 minutes
- Sticks must be kept low during match play

Please email Beaver ADCs, Suzanne or Alix to register your team(s) **before 4 February** to [EastBelfastBeavers@gmail.com](mailto:EastBelfastBeavers@gmail.com); or contact either of us

**If your Beavers cannot come along on 11 February, what about entering the County Unihoc instead – this is open to all Colonies in Belfast County- see details below**



### ART COMPETITION – 100 years in the future

Theme this year is linked to the Creative Badge. This can be a group or individual submission. Beavers are asked to draw a picture or collage of what the world will be like in 100 years. Just bring art work with you on the day. If your Colony is not planning to enter the Unihoc, you can still bring an entry for the Art competition on the day.

*Suzanne and Alix, ADCs (Beaver Scouts)*

*Suzanne - 07971754462 /Alix - 07769262707*

### BEAVER COUNTY UNIHOC – OPEN TO ALL IN DISTRICT

**Saturday 11 March from 10am – 12noon**

The Hammer Youth Complex, Agnes Street, Shankill Road.

Teams of 6 players for each match. £6.00 per team





### **QUB Medical School Community Outreach**

East District again hosted eight QUB medical students in January 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 Hannah, Saurav, Matthew and Craig visited 4<sup>th</sup> Belfast at Knock Presbyterian on Wednesday evenings and Jin, Mya, Rhianna and Cora went along to 33<sup>rd</sup> Belfast at Stormont Presbyterian on Thursday evenings.

The course included primary survey, emergency phone calls, compression only CPR, recovery position and choking. There was lots of opportunity for hands on practice by the Cubs, particularly of bandaging and slings. The Cubs enjoyed wrapping each other in cling film to treat imaginary burns or covering each other in foil blankets to manage shock or hypothermia. 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. Even they were stumped at times at some of the items the Cubs chose to add to their first aid kits.

Many thanks to QUB Medical School for continuing to provide this valuable opportunity to our District and to the trainee doctors 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!!!

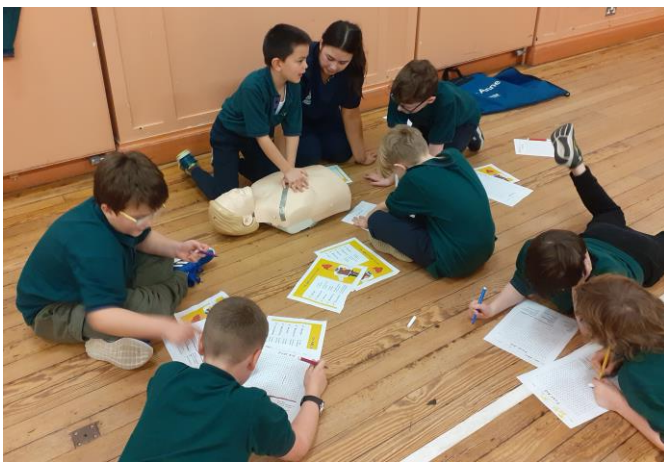
*David*



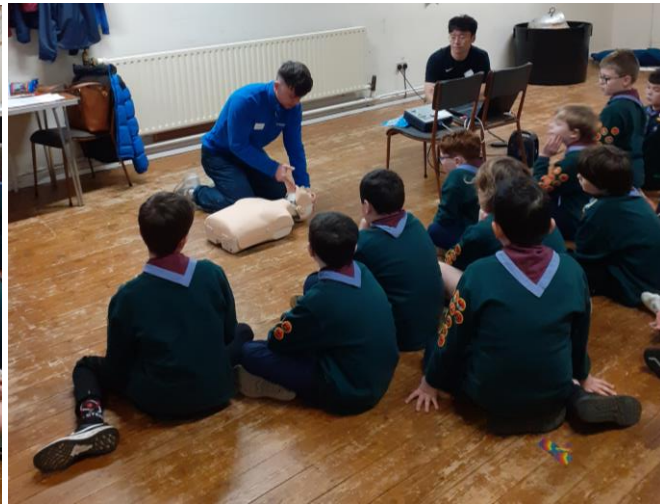




















## News from 7<sup>th</sup> Pack



Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January was our first night of 2023, it was also the night when our succession plan was finally completed. My final night as Akela, and at the end of the evening we had a short ceremony where GSL Des handed over the Akela badge to Kyle McKee my able successor. Des also presented me with a copy of *"Scouting for Boys"* as a thank you gift from 7<sup>th</sup>. I was delighted that our new District Commissioner, Jeanette, was able to visit our Group on this special night. I leave my post with the Pack in a good health with 25 Cubs, who are keen and regular attenders. We have seven Leaders, half of whom are my former Cubs, so they have a good idea of how I delivered Scouting, as fully inclusive and Fun for Free. They can now continue with some modernisation with particular attention on social media communication and computerised record keeping.

I haven't gone away you know, as I will continue to be one of Kyle's assistants. I will also look forward to continuing to support the District and County cub events. As I reflect back, I would like to pay tribute to David Bell during his tenure of acting District Commissioner. He took a lot of time and gave a lot of encouragement to finally get me through all my Woodbadge modules. I found this very worthwhile, not only in recording all my previous Scouting experiences, and reigniting my enthusiasm after the Covid break, but also happy memories of the people I have met since I was first a Cub Scout with 78<sup>th</sup> Pack in North Belfast, where both Bruce McCormack and later Steve Hoskins were Cub Leaders. The 78<sup>th</sup> were a large independent Group at the time and I had great Leaders' examples to follow in Judge William Johnston as founder and GSL, and Penny Savage as my Akela, I hope I have done them proud.

Having been presented with my wood beads by David in front of my Cubs this allowed me to be put forward and accepted for my Medal of Merit. I was presented with this at last year's Cub County Flag competition, which came as a complete surprise. I was both humbled and honoured, but most of all I thought it was a most appropriate setting in that I have been involved in training and judging the knotting competition for many years. This I hope to continue if time permits. As I take a step back I would like to take time to thank all the people in 7<sup>th</sup> Group, East District, and Belfast County who have helped and supported me in many different ways. It has been my pleasure to serve you all.

*James Camlin, ACSL 7<sup>th</sup> Belfast*



## News from 30<sup>th</sup> Pack

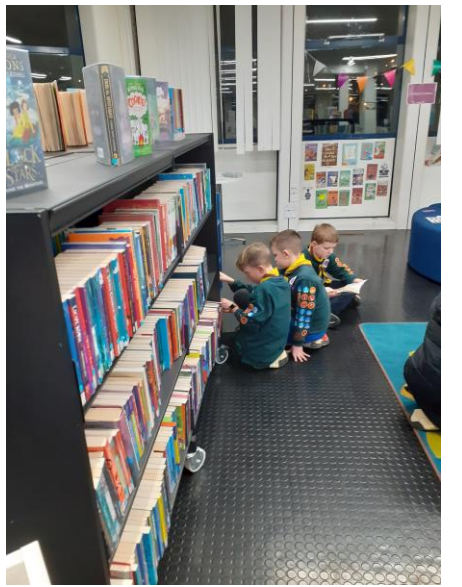
30<sup>th</sup> Pack resumed in January with a Personal Safety Badge Night. The Cubs were somewhat taken aback (as perhaps were some of the parents) to find two officers from the PSNI neighbourhood policing team already at the JB Hall when they arrived- had the Leaders all made a New Year's resolution to crack down hard and fast on unruly Cubs in 2023?? - Certainly their added presence made the appropriate impression!! The Cubs were impeccably behaved all night - but no, the PSNI officers were there to cover internet safety and stranger danger. We also had Karen McCurry from the Royal Lifesaving Society to cover water safety, Paul Loughlan from Translink to cover railway safety, and two of our former 30<sup>th</sup> Cubs, Patrick Morrow and Chris Wilson, from Streamvale Farm to cover farmland safety: they made quite an entrance, having driven round from Ballyhanwood Road to the Church in a tractor and slurry truck- the Cubs were VERY impressed!!

We also completed the Book Reader badge with a visit to Tullycarnet Library. Many thanks to the librarian, Michelle McCartney, and her staff for making us so welcome and providing lots of activities to keep the Cubs occupied and enable them to complete their badge. Thanks also to Bagherra's Mum, Lorna, who came along to listen to the Cubs tell her all about the books they had read recently in fascinating detail (it is a pity so many had read the same book(s)- but all credit to the seasoned teaching professional that she is, Lorna managed to remain interested and actively engaged throughout!!). The branch is open late on Thursday evenings and Michelle has extended an invitation to any Beavers and Cubs in the District who would like to make contact, particularly as World Book Day is coming up in March.

We also had a welcome return visit from local artist, Jasmin Marker. This time Jasmin organised a Bioart workshop for the Cubs, developing photographs using entirely natural materials from pictures the Cubs had drawn. This was a great success and we hope to be able to use this activity towards one of the requirements for the Scientist badge.

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



















## **Events in February**

- 1<sup>st</sup> East Belfast GSLs Meeting  
Venue: Meeting on Zoom  
Contact: Jeanette Allen, DC
- 27<sup>th</sup> East District Scouters' Meeting  
Venue: 10<sup>th</sup> HQ McMordie Scout Complex  
Contact: Jeanette Allen, DC



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



David Bell  
Email: [d.bell@qub.ac.uk](mailto:d.bell@qub.ac.uk)

Not later than **23<sup>rd</sup> February** for the next issue please!