



# Scouting East



*The Journal of East Belfast Scouting*

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## From the Editor



Our District AGM took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and it was super to see such a good turnout of Scouters from across the District. Many thanks to 4<sup>th</sup> Group for hosting us at Knock Presbyterian Church and to the Director of Youth Ministries, Paul Brown, who led us in an opening prayer and moment of reflection in memory of the late Lord Robert Carswell PC KC, Baron Carswell of Killeen, former Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland, and stalwart of Scouting in East Belfast District and Northern Ireland. Our thoughts are with his wife, Lady Romaine Carswell, and daughters at this sad time. It is good to report that most Office Bearers and Members are continuing as we transfer in the autumn from a District Executive Committee to a Trustee Board. Alan Campbell has however called time on his long and dedicated stint at ADC (Scouts) -leaving the Section in the capable hands of Philip Hunter (4<sup>th</sup>) – although Alan will continue as Nights Away Advisor for the incoming year. Gareth McAuley is also relinquishing the District Chairman role and thanks are due to Gareth for all his hard work behind the scenes in recent years to keep the District administration on an even keel as we emerged from the global pandemic. A new Chairman will be appointed in due course. Congratulations to all those who were presented with their Woodbadges at the AGM, and also to Betty Robb on her appointment as District Vice-President, joining President Ann Anderson and VPs Anne Jackson, Ann Hanna, John Corry and Suzi Jeffries. Many thanks also to Jill Ashenhurst and her team who served a generous hot and cold buffet supper after the business of the meeting ended. The annual Badge Report for the District is included in this issue and it is great to see a further increase in the number of badges earned this year, particularly amongst the members of the younger Sections. Some competitions took place at District and County level during May. It is fantastic to report on East's success in the County Flag and Anne Jackson Cooking Competition for the Cub Section and on the recent East District indoor Cub Scout five-a-side football competition, hosted by 9<sup>th</sup> Pack at Sydenham. A number of Groups are just back or are planning weekend Pack Holidays and Camps before the end of June and the NI Squirrel Day is coming up next month. It would be really good to have some reports and photos of these to include in the final issue before the summer break at the end of June.

Best wishes, *David*



## Belfast County Flag 2023

Congratulations to 33<sup>rd</sup> Pack (Stormont), this year's overall winners, and Leaders Sara and David, on bringing the Flag back to East District.



Many thanks to ACC (Cub Scouts) Jonny Allen and his Team who organised the Cub County Flag at Ardnally on 20<sup>th</sup> May. This year's competition saw a range of challenges to test teamwork, communication and various Scouting skills including fire lighting, tent pitching, knots, orienteering and pioneering as well as initiative navigating a minefield, blindfold trail and jigsaw. The day ended with a rousing campfire and who else to be master of ceremonies than the legendary Steve Hoskins from 27<sup>th</sup> / 78<sup>th</sup>.





## Anne Jackson Cooking Competition

The lunchtime cooking event is no longer part of the main competition but now a stand-alone competition for the Anne Jackson Cooking Trophy, which this year was won by 30<sup>th</sup> Pack (Gillnahirk). With the theme 'Crumbs', the team rustled up chicken goujons in their own secret breadcrumb recipe, served on a bed of champ and pan-roasted vegetables, followed by apple and blueberry crumble and custard.



East's Leaders were sorry to learn that Jonny is stepping down as ACC Cubs for Belfast County. Hopefully both competitions will continue in some form next year and beyond, perhaps with a reboot as an East Flag with the cooking either incorporated once more or else as a separate competition on a different date. Speaking for 30<sup>th</sup>, I know our team really enjoyed the day but they also enjoyed the preparation too, especially for the cooking, as you can see from the accompanying photos. A number of the parents have commented just how much the competition has built their self-confidence and also taught them many new practical skills that will be so valuable for the future.

*David*













## East District Cub Scout Five-a-side Football

The District Football competition for the Cub Section saw a welcome return on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May, hosted by 9<sup>th</sup> Pack at Sydenham. Competition was keen with nine teams from 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> Packs play across two halls in a round robin at the group stage. After a break to refuel on crisps and juice, it was time for the semi-finals, between 30<sup>th</sup> A and 33<sup>rd</sup> A in one hall and 33<sup>rd</sup> B and 27<sup>th</sup> in the other. A tense match between 30<sup>th</sup> A and 33<sup>rd</sup> A saw several shots hit the post and with the teams level after extra-time, we moved to the dreaded penalty shootout, which saw 30<sup>th</sup> A progress, setting up an equally dramatic final between 30<sup>th</sup> A and 33<sup>rd</sup> B. Well done to the eventual winners 30<sup>th</sup> A, runners-up 33<sup>rd</sup> B, and third placed team, 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Sydenham for hosting, to Vikki and Aydin for timekeeping and Bruce and Peter for refereeing. Also to all those Leaders and Parents/Team Managers who brought their Cubs along- it was great to see everyone back together again at a District competition. Special thanks to Peter (and Vikki) for all the work that went into setting up the halls, running the event, and tidying up afterwards, and for presenting the medals and certificates.

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









## **Ringside seat for The King's Coronation**

Many of our Leaders and members across the District will no doubt have watched the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla on TV on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. But one of our Young Leaders from 4<sup>th</sup> Belfast (Knock), Emily Wilson, not only had an enviable vantage point in Westminster Abbey, but she also got to sing at the Coronation ceremony with the girls from Methodist College Belfast as part of the Coronation Choir. Well done Emily on all of the hard work and dedication that went into the preparation and flawless performance of the music on day. We are all very proud of you and are sure you will have memories of a very special day that will last a lifetime.







It was terrific to see so many badges awarded this year across the District- an impressive total of 3368 (almost 1000 more than last year). Once again, the Cub Section led the way, with badges particularly popular with this age group, and perhaps less so with the older Sections. It is great that our newest and youngest Section are starting to embrace the badge opportunities offered through the Squirrel programme. A few Groups didn't send in their reports before the AGM- there is no problem amending the record if you would still like to do so.

It is good that all Sections are working on the Challenge badges too as these link into the higher awards for each Section and we are keen to see as many of our members as possible attaining these. Some of our Squirrels and Beavers are also attempting the Staged badges which is great to see and hopefully builds a foundation for progression through the Stages in later years.

It is always interesting to discover which badges are the most popular each year and compare with trends in previous years. For the Squirrels, this year it was Story Time and Adventure, for the Beavers Creativity, Space and Health and Fitness, and the Cubs it was Artist, Athlete and Musician. Clearly we have some very active, creative and talented junior members in the District and the report may generate a few ideas of competitions and events that we could arrange around popular activities. All but two of the Activity badge opportunities available to their respective Sections were taken up by the Beaver and Cub Sections this year, which is great to see. If any Groups would like to see Badge courses organised at District level in the year ahead or need assistance running a badge please do make contact with Betty or me and we will see what we can do to try to facilitate that.





*David, Assistant Badge Secretary*



Congratulations to Kerry Teague and Ashley Teague from 4<sup>th</sup> Troop who have recently completed woodbadge training. If anyone else would like more information about Woodbadge, or help to complete or validate training modules please contact David or Jill or DC Jeanette. The next training opportunities at Crawfordsburn are Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> (modules 14, 15, 36) and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June (modules 7, 13). Please speak to one of us or contact the ScoutsNI office for more information.



# District Badge Report 2023

Group					Total
4 <sup>th</sup> Belfast (Boys)		277	488	0	765
4 <sup>th</sup> Belfast (Girls)		70	140	68	278
7 <sup>th</sup> Belfast	171	0	0	168	339
9 <sup>th</sup> Belfast	42	42	0	0	84
10 <sup>th</sup> Belfast	0	0	0	0	0
27 <sup>th</sup> Belfast	0	66	305	0	371
30 <sup>th</sup> Belfast	0	98	674	0	772
33 <sup>rd</sup> Belfast	50	130	230		410
73 <sup>rd</sup> Belfast	27	25	44	14	110
99 <sup>th</sup> Belfast		75	157	0	232
Explorer Section					7
Total	290	783	2038	250	3368
[2022]	75	701	1398	237	2427

## 

### Activity Badges

Brilliant Builder 35

Get Creative 20

Feel Good 25

I am Friendly 8

I am Learning 7

Be Active 51

Explore Outdoors 17

Lets' Celebrate 6

Local Superhero 6



Super Chef 10  
Story Time 19

### **Staged Activity Badges**

Air Activities (1) 9

### **Squirrel Scout Challenge Badges**

All about adventure 20

All around us 7

All about me 18

All together 12

Joining in (1) 8

### **Chief Scout's Acorn 12**



### **Activity Badges**

Animal Friend 4

Book Reader 1

Builder 5

Community Impact 30

Communicator 15

Collector 4

Cook 25

Creative 69

Disability Awareness 41

Experiment 51

Explorer

Faith 51

Gardener 33

Global Issues 39

Health and Fitness 65

Hobbies 30

International 14

Money Skills 5

Photographer 24

Safety 20



Sports 41  
Space 69

### **Staged Activity Badges**

Air Activities (1) 35  
Emergency Aid (1) 10  
Navigator (1) 17  
Swimmer (1) 1

### **Beaver Scout Challenge Badges**

Teamwork challenge 40  
My Skills challenge 21  
World Challenge 3

You Shape 5

Joining in (1) 12  
Joining in (2) 1  
Joining in (3) 2



### **Activity Badges**

Animal Carer 5  
Artist 96  
Astronomer 48  
Athlete 103  
Athlete Plus 39  
Backwoods Cooking 44  
Book Reader 16  
Book Reader Plus 1  
Chef 17  
Collector 44  
Communicator 50  
Community Impact 27  
Disability Awareness 27  
DIY 3  
Entertainer 9  
Environmental Conservation 10  
Fire Safety 59

Gardener 1  
Global Issues 54  
Hobbies 27  
Home Help 33  
Home Safety 20  
International 8  
Local Knowledge 18  
Martial Arts 4  
Money Skills 71  
My Faith 26  
Naturalist 46  
Personal Safety 26  
Photographer 3  
Physical Recreation 36  
Pioneering 7  
Road Safety 47  
Scientist 86  
Skater 27  
Sports Enthusiast 23  
**Staged Activity Badges**  
Air Activities (1) 15  
Community Impact (1) 20  
Digital Citizen (1) 9  
Digital Maker (1) 31  
Emergency Aid (1) 3  
Emergency Aid (3) 52  
Hikes Away (1) 46  
Hikes Away (2) 23  
Navigator (1) 17  
Nights Away (2) 13  
Nights Away (5) 12  
Nights Away (10) 5  
Nights Away (15) 3  
Musician (1) 101  
Nautical Skills (2) 8  
Paddlesports (1) 41  
Paddlesports (2) 8  
Sailing (1) 1  
Snow Sports (1) 1  
Swimmer (1) 11  
Swimmer (2) 5  
Swimmer (3) 1  
Time on Water (1) 62



## **Cub Scout Challenge Awards**

Outdoor challenge 33

Adventure challenge 28

Skills challenge 48

Personal challenge 23

Team leader challenge 17

Teamwork challenge 65

World Challenge 10

## **Miscellaneous**

Harry Scott Award 18

Joining in (1) 11

Joining in (3) 14

Joining in (4) 22

Joining in (5) 8

## **Chief Scout's Silver Award 42**

Moving On Cubs to Scouts 6



## **Activity Badges**

Astronomer 1

Craft 15

Local Knowledge 30

Martial Arts 1

Master at Arms 6

Mechanic 5

Photographer 1

## **Staged Activity Badges**

Emergency Aid (2) 7

Emergency Aid (3) 7

Hikes (1) 11

Hikes (2) 12

Nights away (1) 1

Nights away (2) 26

Nights away (4) 5  
Nights away (5) 13  
Nights away 10 (5)  
Navigator (2) 4  
Musician (1) 13  
Musician (4) 4  
Snowsports (1) 2  
Swimmer (1) 1  
Time on Water (2) 4

### **Scout challenge awards**

Adventure challenge 5  
Creative challenge 1  
Outdoors challenge 1  
Skills challenge 3  
Team leader challenge 1  
World challenge 1  
Teamwork challenge 1  
Personal challenge 1

### **Miscellaneous**

Joining in 15  
Lead- You Shape 9  
Plan- You Shape 9  
Represent – You Shape 9  
Central- You Shape 9  
NI Camp Challenge 5  
Well done 4

### **Chief Scout's Gold Award 1**



### **ESYL Badge**

Emergency Aid (4) 7





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



At the beginning of May, it all went a bit 'Pete Tong' when 30<sup>th</sup> Cubs had a visit from two resident DJs from the Artcart Project for an evening mixing the decks! The hall was surprisingly quiet however as the Cubs spread out around tables and concentrated on mixing their own tunes as their headphones prevented them (or anyone else) hearing them crank up the volume- but the facial expressions and actions were priceless. Even Smashie and Nicey aka Gareth and Carlos got in the act spinning the decks and mixing a few tunes.



During May, we have also been tackling the Gardener and Environmental Conservation badges. The Cubs have been keeping a record of their water and food waste, learning about recycling and about renewable and non-renewable energy sources (including the traditional wood campfire!). We've also made a compost bin for the church grounds, are growing onions, herbs and sunflowers, and spent several evenings weeding the Garden of Remembrance and planting flower bulbs, seeds and a wild meadow that will hopefully begin to sprout up over the next few weeks. Another task was to make bug hotels by cutting plastic bottles to make tubes and packing these with leaves, twigs, paper straws and sections of bamboo cane. We are looking forward to discovering if any guests have checked in and taken up residence next week.

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







## Events in June

5<sup>th</sup> June      Belfast County AGM  
Venue: Ardnally Scout Centre  
Contact: Wilson Lambe (Chairman)



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Reports & Announcements to the Editor:**



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