



# Scouting East



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## From the Editor



Hello everyone, and welcome to the final issue of the newssheet before the summer holidays. For many of you I hope that you are looking forward to hanging up your woggles for a short break before it is time to throw yourselves into planning weekly programme for the autumn once more. Thank you for all you have done during 2022-2023 to provide fun-packed and memorable programmes for our members. The summer months are often a great time for outdoor Scouting activities. For those heading off on summer camps, Explorer trips or Duke of Edinburgh expeditions I hope that all goes well and would love to hear about your adventures in the pages of Scouting East on your return. Some of our Network members are participating in Netfest 2023 at the beginning of July and we will be sure to interrogate Carlos on return to hear all about it. Two Explorer Scouts from the District are attending the World Jamboree in South Korea and we send best wishes from all in East for safe travel and the adventure of a lifetime.

The District is fairly up to date with (renewal of) mandatory training. If anyone would like assistance completing or validating woodbadge training please do make contact with the District's Training Team. The next woodbadge training opportunity is the residential weekend from 15-17<sup>th</sup> September at Crawfordsburn covering modules 16, 17, 19 and 38. Places may be limited so please sign up soon. It may be possible to deliver some of the other modules locally within the District this autumn if there is enough interest and some can also be completed online or via workbooks if you have some down time during the summer and would like to get this completed. If any Explorer Leaders have members interested in signing up for Young Leader training please make contact and this can be arranged for the autumn.

Best wishes for the summer break, *David*





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

The fantastic weather throughout June saw the members of the Pack spend Thursday nights enjoying our favourite wide games at Tullycarnett Park. One evening our very friendly Scout Leader Stevie Whyte even treated the Cubs to ice cream, blowing all of the healthy profit that he had accumulated in the Troop tuckshop during the year courtesy of the Scouts in one night of reckless generosity to the Cubs! We also completed the Athlete badge with nine of the Cubs stacking up enough points for Athlete Plus. Two members of Dromara Cycling Club also helped us to complete the Cyclist Badge – thanks Trevor and Paul. Our final night before the summer was spent at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre for an evening of caving and crate-stacking- many thanks to Sid, Maggi and team. Nine of the seniors were presented with their Silver Awards, and having already spent a few weeks' experiencing Scouts, their Moving On Badges. Congratulations to Corey Roulston who was presented with the **Audrey Beggs Cub of the Year Cup**. The significance was not lost on Akela that the very first recipient in 1996 is now the father of one of our current Cub Scouts!

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















## **30<sup>th</sup> Pack Weekend at the Mourneshore Hilton**

A small group of Cubs and Leaders from 30<sup>th</sup> were delighted to be invited to spend their first weekend at Andrew Totten's cottage, Mourneshore in Ballymartin in June. Not only did the comfortable bunks and camp beds come with the luxury of optional duvets and pillows for the Leaders, but there was even a gas-fired oven and fridge and hot showers on demand! Although there is no electricity, in the evenings lighting was provided by a combination of the solar-powered panels and candles located around the cottage for added ambiance. Outside, the Leaders could relax in deckchairs or hammocks on the veranda while supervising the Cubs on the beach. And the Cubs- well they were surprisingly easy to entertain – they were fascinated by the sea life in the many rock pools adjacent to the cottage and also in splitting rocks open to find fossils- indeed they willingly invested so much of their free time engrossed in this activity that we are thinking of contracting them out to generate chipped stone for landscaping local gardens and driveways. And Bagherra even got to have a morning dip in the cold Irish Sea waters each day and swim with the seals to entertain us all while we sat munching our tea and toast!

As this was the first time the Pack had ventured south of Newcastle when in the Mournes, we sought out some new activities to experience. On Saturday morning we visited Neary Nogs Chocolate Factory to find out all about ethically sourced cocoa beans and how they are turned into chocolate. And nothing is wasted- we got to taste Cacao juice made from the white pulp that surrounds the beans, and also cocoa nibs, made from crushed beans and brimming with antioxidants with a bitter chocolate taste. After the tour, we got to sample chocolate made from African, South and Central American beans, each with their own unique flavours, before finishing with drinking chocolate. Most opted for the house blend, but our hosts showed us a chart with lots of different flavours so Akela tried orange and Bagherra peppermint. One Cub pointed out the more earthy, grassy, smoky and burnt flavours on the bottom left of the chart- and told our hosts that Akela had made them 'burnt' the previous night in the cottage!!

We then headed to Rostrevor for a hike through the forest and to the summit of Slieve Martin. The weather was not too kind at that point so we hastily retreated to the forest for our packed lunch but the sun returned once more as we made our way to Cranfield Alpacas. We were fascinated to learn all about the alpacas before an opportunity to feed them and then attempt to herd them- Akela was surprisingly good at this and was delighted by the award of his official certificate – all those years trying to herd Cubs has clearly paid off!! We rounded off the day with chips and ice cream in Kilkeel. On Sunday, after we had dragged the Cubs away from their morning shift splitting rocks and fishing in the rock pools once more, we completed another hike at Silent Valley. By this time the weather was glorious and we decided to delay our return to Belfast for the

obligatory visit to the Bon Bon, Joke Shop and Kent's Amusements in Newcastle, followed by ice cream at Morelli's. We all had a super weekend and are very grateful to Andrew for the loan of the cottage. We hope to be back very soon!!

### *30<sup>th</sup> Cubs and Leaders*











Oh No!!! I've shrunk Gareth!!!! Do I still get my Conservation and Gardener Badges? At least now he will fit inside my Bug Hostel!!





## News from Ballyhanwood Unit



Several members of the Unit took to the River Lagan for a mid-exam break and an intense physical workout peddling on hydrobikes. We are pleased to report that although the photos show them drifting towards Belfast Lough in the general direction of Scotland they all made it safely back to shore and are now looking forward to joining the members of 30<sup>th</sup> Pack and Troop at our summer camp at Bibby's Farm, Chorley at the end of July.







Great to see some more Leaders and Explorer Scout Young Leaders complete the latest First Response Course held within the District.





## Events in June

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

East District First Response Course  
Venue: 30<sup>th</sup> HQ Gilnahirk Presbyterian  
Contact: David (see below)

## Events in July and August



Please send in any reports for the next issue if your Section is organising any activities or camps during the summer – thanks!



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



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