



South East Belfast News



Hi South Easters

October 2014

Greetings, as Autumn starts to colour the leaves, and touches of frost appear. And my wife Rosemary and I start our second 50 years together. I doubt if we will get anywhere near that milestone, despite all the improvements they keep telling us about in medical science.

Quite a short but interesting Newsletter this time. Do lay down your mobiles for a moment and draft a short account of some activity your section have been up to in recent months or plan for the future. It makes the News more interesting for all.

Now over to Maurice

Wood Smoke

The District is 75 years old on 29th October 2014 and a number of events are being planned to mark the milestone. Please support them and enjoy your scouting in our 75th year. A small committee has been established to help make them a success. If you are interested in becoming involved please let me know.



Safe Guarding 2014

This course is for all new leaders and any leaders who do not have a current valid Safe Guarding certificate. I will also hold a separate course for junior leaders between 14 and 18. Refer to the Calendar for more details.

First Aid

A full and refresher course has been organized for November. Please refer to the Calendar below for details. If you have completed the First Response course before, within the past 3 years you only have to complete the refresher course on Saturday morning. If you have never done a First Response course or it is more

than 3 years you must do the full course. The courses cost £6. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. The course is limited to a maximum of 18 on a first come first served basis. E/mail me now showing the course required, with your numbers and names please.

75th Anniversary

The Wellington Park Hotel has been reserved on the 21st March 2015 for the 75th Anniversary Dinner. It is hoped that each Group in the District will attend. Tables seat 10 people and it would be great if Groups would book by table. Initially I will reserve one table for each group in the District and hopefully some Groups will be able to get a second table. Start spreading the word around your Group now and pass the word on to former leaders etc. Partners are invited too. The final cost is still to be confirmed but it will be around £25 to £30. To reserve a table (or two) please email me.

The final design for the District Anniversary Badge is currently with the manufacturers who are working out a cost. Hopefully we will have them for the start of November when the anniversary begins.

I have also heard rumours that the Beavers would like to build an anniversary garden. Any other ideas?

Ardnally

We continue to improve the facilities at Ardnally and recently the shower block has been painted inside and the shower area tiled to improve it's look. Externally the main BP Chalet has had a facelift and the Pathfinder was repainted internally last year. Now we are into autumn the leaves have started falling. These can cause a significant hazard when they get wet and make the ground messy around the car park. If you have any Cubs, Scouts or Explorers who require to do some service please suggest Ardnally. If we had a 10 or so groups up to clear up the leaves it would help to keep the site in condition ready for the winter.

[Keep scrolling down](#)

District Calendar

Event	Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Beaver Events				Contact Debby for more info. ducky_debs@hotmail.com
Cub Events				Contact Phil Patterson patterson_philip@hotmail.com
Safe-guarding Adults	2nd November	Ardnally	2pm	Contact Maurice Johnston mau.johnston@btinternet.com
Safe-guarding Junior Leaders	2nd November	Ardnally	3 30pm	Contact Maurice Johnston mau.johnston@btinternet.com
First Aid Refresher	22nd November	Ardnally	10 00 - 12 30	Contact Maurice Johnston mau.johnston@btinternet.com
First Aid Full course	22nd November	Ardnally	10am 4 30pm	Contact Maurice Johnston mau.johnston@btinternet.com
75th Anniversary Dinner	21st March	Wellington Park Hotel	7pm	Contact Maurice Johnston mau.johnston@btinternet.com
SE Belfast AGM	4th June	Ardnally BP Chalet	7 30pm	Supper provided.

And now an account of Canadian adventures with the much traveled Maurice and his tribe.

Queens Scout Award 2014 – Cameron Kirkpatrick (AESL 37th Belfast/Belfast Network)

As the sun rose over the lakes of Algonquin National Park on the 15th of July, 20 brave Explorer scouts from all over Northern Ireland departed for a life changing adventure. With heavy boats, laden with camping equipment, food and drinking water we began our journey from Little Hawk Lake traveling some 100 kilometers to make it back to the same point in 4 glorious days of canoeing, exploring and having fun. Our first day of the expedition went off without a hitch! The sun was beaming down all day, the waters were calm and even the mosquitos stayed away! We were all



beginning to say how easy this whole thing was when we hit the first portage. (Walking with the canoe for a distance). This was a grueling exercise for all the team attempting to lug huge canoes filled with 4 days' worth of equipment and water up several hilly paths. It was a true testament to the team who worked together to ensure that no person struggled, with some of the more able members often making several trips up and down the paths to help others. As I watched the Explorers succeed in this physically and



emotionally draining task I couldn't help filling with pride.

With high spirits to match the high water level we awoke on the second day to torrential rain! Navigation proved a difficult task as visibility remained consistently poor throughout the first few hours. However with admirable perseverance and determination the Explorers pushed on, arriving safely at the next camp site damp and exhausted. Setting up camp in the rain proved a tiresome task, and the atmosphere that night was

certainly less jovial than the first. However there was never any doubt that the team intended to finish, regardless of the difficult weather.

The third and fourth day seemed to merge into one. The unfaltering enthusiasm of all participants pushed us through the increasingly difficult portages and tricky sections of water. Sleep deprivation mixed with a distinct lack of good food led to some hilarious conversation and questionable singing. As our adventure drew to a close the group grew ever closer, becoming one unit looking out for one another. We began the expedition as Scouts from all over Northern Ireland and by the end we were one Troop ready to face any challenge.

On the last night we reflected on what we had achieved, the opportunities Scouting had presented us with and just how lucky we were to be spending time with friends in such a beautiful setting. Reaching our finishing point on the final day we were filled with a sense of achievement befitting of such a journey. Thanks must go to the Organizer of the trip, Maurice Johnston (DC South East Belfast), our Duke of Edinburgh/Navigation Expert Paul Meikle (DC Coleraine District) and all the other amazing Leaders/Network members who facilitated an unforgettable expedition.

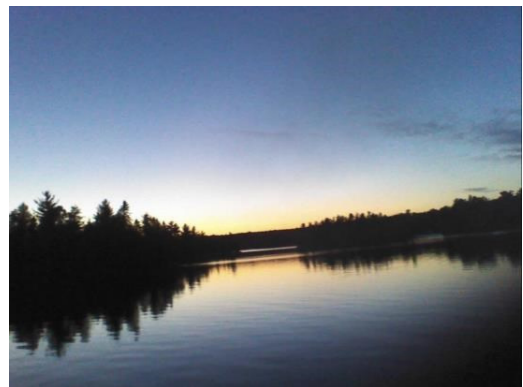


Photo Credits – Alex Thompson (Donaghadee Sea Scouts) & Paul Meikle (Castlerock Scouts)

Good Scouting - Now what can you tell the readers.
John