

# The Western Scout

Halloween 2010



## Group Leader/Commissioner Conference

This year's Group Leader and Commissioner Conference, proved another highly successful event, with well over 150 in attendance for the weekend. It was opened by John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy prison who's speech was extremely well received by all.

The new Scouting Ireland website, scouts.ie, was officially launched by the Chief Scout and together with each Scout & Scouters individual pages via the my.scouts.ie facility, will prove a most valuable communication and knowledge-based tool as we move ahead with our transition to ONE Programme.

Saturday saw the "It's a Knockout" competition which was being held outside the hotel. Our team of six, captained by Myriam Pybus, displayed their natural talents and gave us all an outstanding performance - one in which they felt they had the event won. But alas, it was the Northern Province, who yet again took home the medals, with the West tied for second with the North Eastern Province.

The after dinner speaker was Fergus Finlay from Barnodos, who spoke about the work of his organisation and how the role that Scouting Ireland plays makes a huge contribution to the betterment of



society and in the youth in particular.

One thing that you noticed as you moved around the hotel during the day, was the number of small groupings of scouters having coffee and chatting. As one County Commissioner told me "I find that meeting and discussing issues with my fellow Commissioners one of the best things from such a weekend".

There is one more conference to go in 2011 and I look forward to seeing many more participants from the West.

Yours in Scouting,  
Brian

*Provincial Commissioner -  
Western Province*

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**Joe Doherty received the Order of CúChulainn Award, which is the highest award for adults in Scouting Ireland. Congratulation from all of the Western Province for this well deserved recognition of your service to scouting over the last decades! We would like to wish you all the best and continued joy in scouting for many more years to come!**



We, the 2/3rd Sligo Scout Troop are really delighted that Joe got the Order of CúChulainn Award and we are so proud of our Joe. He's been a great source of inspiration and encouragement down through the years. And to be honest, I don't know what Scouting in Sligo would do without him.


*Joe Elliott (2/3/10 Sligo Town)*

## Phoenix Challenge 2010

This year 6 teams from the Province took part in the Phoenix Challenge in Larch Hill. We extend congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> Leitrim-Ballinamore (Bronze Award) and 1/11<sup>th</sup> Roscommon-Boyle (Silver Award) from Lough Keel, the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Ennis (Bronze Award) and 5<sup>th</sup> Newmarket-on-Fergus (Silver Award) from Clare and the 8<sup>th</sup> Oranmore (Silver Award) and 13<sup>th</sup> Renmore (Silver Award) from Galway  for their achievements!!!

### Date for your diary: National Council 2011

will be held on **2/3rd April** at the Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim, Co Meath. There will be camping facilities, Chalet and Hotel accommodation available. The **business** of National Council will happen **on Saturday**, followed by the Scouting Ireland Gala Dinner. The North Eastern Province are offering various incentives to encourage as many youth reps as possible to attend. For details check [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie) and for campsite bookings email: [jfox@scouts.ie](mailto:jfox@scouts.ie)

The latest update on the roll out of One Programme can be found in the 2nd edition of ONE Up & Running on [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie). 



## Provincial Youth Forum for Scouts and Venture Scouts


Our next Provincial Youth Forum will be on **12th December** (venue tba). Each Scout County can send 4 Scouts and 4 Venture Scouts which have been elected at the County Youth Forum.

The Provincial Youth Forum will start at 11am and finish at 4pm. Registration will be from 10.30am. Lunch will be provided.

This will be a great opportunity for the elected Scouts and Venture Scouts from the five counties to bring forward ideas from them and their county as well as having some fun!

At the Provincial Youth Forum both sections elect six Reps to attend the National Youth/Involvement Forum and work with the Provincial Youth Programme Rep and team for the year.



**It's early census time!** To qualify for 5% rebate your groups' census & fees need to be received by 30th November—or by 20th December for 2.5% rebate. Contact your  **PSO/GSF** if you have any questions.

## The West @ the World Jamboree in Sweden 2011

There are 14 troops organised for the International Scout Jamboree 2011 in Sweden. One of these Troops "Silín" is from the Western Province. The troop is made up of 36 scouts and 4 scouters. The scouts come from 8 different groups from Mayo (Ballinrobe & Ballina); Roscommon (Boyle); Galway (Kinvara, Killannin & Renmore); Clare (Ennis) and Longford, however these 36 scouts only make up part of the 850 strong Contingent from Ireland that will be going to the Jamboree, and these 850 only make up a fraction of the 40,000 scouts that will be in attendance from across the world. So what has Silín done so far to prepare: already each scout has attended a troop welcome meeting, an introduction

day in Renmore, a camp in Lough Key and also a Contingent camp with the other 14 troops in Portlick. So what's up next? At the moment the leaders are trying to organise a weekend in Dublin for the troop and after Christmas there will be loads more fun events for all, including a second Contingent camp in June. After that, it will be time to hit for Sweden. For 10 days in Sweden scouts from across the world will make Jamboree 2011 the most memorable scout camp ever.

*Eamon Hartley, Silín Troop Leader*





## Western Province Training



### Transition Training

The transition to the One Programme got underway in the Province this autumn. Killimor in Co. Galway was the first group to go through Transition Training. As a new group they worked well with their Transition Trainers, Miriam Pybus and Henk Wijers. They were really welcoming and excited about starting on the One Programme and it made the first Transition Training course the success it was. Portumna in Co. Galway had their Transition Training on the 11th of September and were a strong group with a positive attitude to the One Programme. Henk Wijers and Mary Collins were the Transition Trainers on the day and had a lot of fun working with them. Snugboro in Co. Mayo were a pilot group for the One Programme so it came as no surprise that they were the first in Mayo to complete training on the 3rd of October. Margaret Tallot and Michelle Comer were

the Transition Trainers and presented the One Programme to an attentive, welcoming and fun group. Benbulbin in Co. Yeats is one of the most recently formed groups in the Province and it is also the most recent group to complete Transition Training. They were eager to get on with the One Programme and were full of questions, ideas and fun activities for their sections.

The training team would like to wish these groups the best of luck as they take on the One Programme and to thank them for all the fun and welcome we have received.

I would like to thank the Transition Trainers, Mentors and Group Changeover Coordinators who work so hard to make the One Programme a reality.

*Michelle Comer, Provincial Training Coordinator*

### Training Calendar November – December 2010

Ref	Course Type	Month	Date	Day & Time	Venue	Closing Date
WP S6 01/10	Stage 6 (Leadership)	November	5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 8pm	Portumna	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 10
WP WTS 10/10	Stage 1 (WtS =Welcome to Scouting)	November	8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday 8pm	Ennis Den	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 10
WP WTS 11/10	Stage 1 (WtS)	November	8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday 8pm	Castlebar Den	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 10
WP WTS 12/10	Stage 1 (WtS)	November	10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 8pm	Boyle Den	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 10
WP WTS 13/10	Stage 1 (WtS)	November	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 8pm	Sligo Town Den	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10
WP WTS 14/10	Stage 1 (WtS)	November	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 8pm	Carrabane, Co. Galway	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10
WP CP 14/10	Stage 2 (CPA = Child Protection Awareness)	November	14 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Boyle Scout Den	<b>FULL</b>
WP CP 18/10	Stage 2 (CPA)	November	20 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 9.30am	Renmore Scout Den	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10
WP S5 01/10	Stage 5 (Event Planning)	November	21 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Lady Gregory Hotel Gort	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10
WP S5 02/10	Stage 5 (Event Planning)	November	21 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Lough Lannagh Lodge Castebar	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10
WP CP 19/10	Stage 2 (CPA)	November	28 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Ballina Scout Den	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10
WP CP 17/10	Stage 2 (CPA)	December	11 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 10.30am	Lanesboro	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 10
WP CP 20/10	Stage 2 (CPA)	December	12 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Ballybane, Galway	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 10
	Stage 1 (Welcome To Scouting)	December	There are no pre-organised courses but please contact the Provincial Training Coordinator, Michelle Comer, or Provincial Office if you need a course.			
	Transition Training	ANYTIME	Please contact your County Mentor or County Training Coordinator to organise transition training for you group.			

- All Bookings must be made in advance through the Provincial Office.
- Please forward booking forms and fees to the Provincial Office, 1 Wine Street, Sligo before the closing date.
- Bookings are taken on a 'first come' basis. Minimum number is 10 leaders.
- CPA course fee is €10 per person; max number on course is 18 adults.
- Courses are always booked out before the closing date so please book early to avoid disappointment.
- See all Ireland courses at [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie)



## New Wood Badge training courses rolled out



Scouters from Clare, Galway and Mayo attended Scouting Irelands first role out of the new Wood Badge Stage 3 (Foundation) course which was ran in Gort and Castlebar on 9th October. The

course was delivered by Dick Ridge and Dermot Houlihan in Gort and Colm Dunne and Michelle Comer in Castlebar. The Scouters thought it was a great course and thoroughly enjoyed their day. The Stage 3 course signifies a Scouter has completed half their Wood Badge training. This is recognised with the awarding of a Turks Head woggle and certificate. The Western Province is the first Province to take on the rolling out of the new stage 3 Wood Badge training scheme. Congratulations to all who attended these courses. The Training Team would like to wish them all the very best with the rest of their training.



Two new Scouters receiving their Welcome Pack at the new Welcome to Scouting course which is ran monthly throughout the Province.



Participants of the Child Protection Awareness Course in Portumna on 3rd October—one of the many CPA courses that are ran across the Province on a monthly basis.

## Wood Badge Beads presentations

**Henk Wijers**, Provincial Trainer and Group Leader 20th Mayo (Snugboro) has been awarded his 3rd Wood Badge Bead. Congratulations for this great achievement!



In County Galway three Scouters were recently awarded their Wood Badge Beads by County Training Coordinator Dick Ridge: **Alan Delahunty** from 24th Galway Knocknacarra (pictured below left), **Iain Foulger** (right) and **Ultan Hynes** both from 10th Galway Portumna. Congratulations on completing your Wood Badge training and best wishes on your continued journey in scouting!



Email your news, articles, photos, updates, ideas, etc to: [dhabermann@scouts.ie](mailto:dhabermann@scouts.ie)



# County Clare



**Clare County Commissioner, Fiona Staunton, was presented with her 3<sup>rd</sup> Wood Badge Bead by Joe Doherty (PSO / Trainer) at a meeting of the Western Province Training Team on 9th September. Congratulations to Fiona from all her training team colleagues!**

## Fantastic Summer Camp in Wales



**5th/22nd Clare Killaloe Scouts** recently went to South Wales for our Summer Camp 2010, with the Western Province Commissioner Brian Webster (pictured below) in tow. He definitely showed that Scouters still know how to get the adrenaline running, and we are wondering if Brian is SI's answer to Bear Grylls. The adventures undertaken included board riding at the LC in Swansea, climbing Snowdon in Gale Force conditions even after the staff at the summit canteen had been evacuated, riding the Big4 in Oakwood, coasteering and caving on the Gower peninsula. Below picture shows the whole gang on the way home after a most memorable summer camp at the Silver Cross Scout Centre in Swansea where a week packed with thrills, excitement and fun was matched only by the hospitality and good nature of the staff at Silver Cross and all the people of South Wales. The 5th/22nd Killaloe would definitely give Silver Cross a big Thumbs Up!!!

*By Liam Gardiner, Section Leader 5/22 Clare Killaloe.*



**Congratulations to Kieran McCormack** of the 5<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Killaloe Scout Group from County Clare on receiving his 25 year Service Award. Kieran received his Commission on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1984 while he was a member of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Limerick, St. Paul's Scout Group. He hails from a scouting background, his father the late Denis McCormack, was a founding member of the St. Paul's Group. He also has served with the 36<sup>th</sup> Limerick, St. Nessian's, Raheen Scout Group and the 37<sup>th</sup> Limerick, Croom Scout Group. He was a founding member of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Clare, Ogonolloe Group in 1999, which amalgamated with the 5<sup>th</sup> Clare Killaloe Group in 2000.

Kieran has served as a Cub Leader, Scout Leader and Venture Scout Leader as well as being a Warden of the Castleconnell Co. Limerick Campsite, and as a staff member of the National Water Activity Centre in Killaloe since 1990.

While none of his 12 sisters and 2 brothers ever got involved in scouting, Kieran has inspired his nieces and nephews to join the movement, both here in Ireland, in Britain and in Canada.

Kieran was presented with his Service Award at the 5<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Killaloe AGM by the Provincial Commissioner, Brian Webster.



## Expression of Sympathy

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy to Kay & Michael Hennessy and family on the tragic loss of their son Darragh. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



## County Galway

### 10th Galway Portumna Scouts Scale Mt Snowdon

Portumna Scouts traveled to Snowdonia Mountain Range, Wales for this year's summer camp. They were based in the village of Llanberis, at the base of the 1,085m Mt. Snowdon, the highest peak in England & Wales, which the scouts successfully scaled. This was a huge personal achievement for each of the 20 strong scout party and involved a 12 mile trek and a climb and descend of over 1,000m in a day.

The party left Portumna on 14th August at 4.30am to catch the Ferry to Holyhead. It was then on to their base to settle in to their hostel and prepare for their climb on Sunday. The climb and descent took over seven hours, and was a serious challenge for all, young and old, which they all rose to with determination. The group was blessed with a beautiful clear day which afforded them views of some of the most magnificent scenery in the British Isles from the summit. The tired but elated scouts celebrated that night over dinner at the famous Pete's Eats restaurant in Llanberis - both the quality and quantity of food served was most welcome. And as for the Knickerbocker Glories!!

Monday's activities included a visit to the largest hydro-electric power station in Europe, swimming in the



local lake and a mini-soccer tournament. The ferry trip home on Tuesday was made all the more interesting with a trip to the ship's bridge, where the captain and his officers welcomed the scouts and provided a tour of all the very complex equipment required to sail such a large ship. A tired but very happy returned to Portumna on Tuesday evening, with stories of their achievements and experiences to recount to their families and friends.

*By Ultan Hynes, Group Leader 10th Galway Portumna*

### 13th Galway's Annual Camp 2010



**Some of the highlights during a fun and action packed 10 day trip to Wiltz in Luxembourg:** Joining in the 500th year celebration of the local church with the local scouts, the brass band, the bishop and a parish of priests! Cooling down & relaxing at the local swimming pool for a few hours. Day out at Walibi theme park in Belgium with great attractions. Mountain biking

instead of hiking. Shop 'til you drop in Luxembourg City. Kayaking down a 12km river with great weather & plenty of splashing for all. Visiting the other scouts group that were camping locally: Germans, Dutch and many more nationalities were all very welcoming even at 12am! At the local adventure centre: aerial runway over the river, high ropes obstacle course, rock-climbing, abseiling, climbing to cliff top to and another aerial runway from half way up the mountain to flat on the ground in 30 seconds! And finally, what happens after the last night campfire on annual camp? This year's awards: Congratulations to Ronan on becoming best new-comer, Shauna on Best achiever and Martin on Scout of the Year.

*Eamon Hartley, Scout Leader 13th Galway Renmore*

### The first ever Galway County Forum for Beaver Scouters

was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in Portumna. The forum was attended by Scouters from across Galway county and proved to be a great success. New skills learnt throughout the day included map and compass work, trangia cooking and hiking forward planning skills. The day included a think which produced several ideas for future county events. Thanks to the Shannon Oaks Hotel for all their help in making this event happen and to Orlaigh Kinnucane, John Rock and Dick Ridge for their guidance throughout the day. County Co-ordinator for Beaver Scouting in Galway Brendan Murray presented a gift bag of collector's items on completion to all attending Scouters.



*By Brendan Murray*

## County Lough Keel



### Seissiu Na Sionnaine

Over 150 Scouts and Venture Scouts from Galway, Leitrim, Roscommon and Longford descended on the Shannonside town of Ballyleague/ Lanesborough over the May Bank Holiday Weekend as Guests of the 12th Roscommon (Ballyboro) Scout Troop for Seissiu Na Sionnaine.

This new annual event in the Lough Keel Scout County Calendar was a tremendous success and plans are well underway to stage the event again in Lanesboro/ Ballyleague towards the end of June 2011 to cater for Scouts and Venture Scouts who may be sitting their examinations. The 3 day, water based event, which was held on the River Shannon at Ballyleague/ Lanesborough saw a colourful floatilla of Sailing Boats, Canadian Canoes and Kayaks on the waterway under the supervision of the Lough Ree Yacht Club, Lough Allen Adventure Centre and Lough Ree Sub Aqua Club.

While the Scouts were busy Sailing and Kayaking 11 of their leaders from Knocknacarra, Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballinamore and Longford were busy undergoing Level 1 & 2 Certification with our local Irish Canoe Union instructor Junior Hannon.

The weekend event culminated in a Raft Building Competition for the Ted Mole Memorial Cup, a former leader in the Scout Troop from Strokestown who passed away during the year, the cup was won by a team comprising of Scouts from Lanesborough and Knocknacarra in Galway.

We would like to thank our main sponsor Waterways Ireland for all of their help before and during the event.

By *Liam Kelly*



**Cub "Safari Weekend" in Larchhill** - A weekend that our Cubs will never forget was their involvement in the "Safari at Larchhill" that was organised for the June Bank Holiday Weekend. This Annual Event which is a "MUST" for all Cubs was held at our national Campsite in Larchhill and 14 Cubs from Ballyboro and their Leaders spent a fun filled weekend with nonstop activities from when they arrived on the Friday Evening until they departed on Monday afternoon.



The opening ceremony culminated in the launching of Chinese Lanterns from the Cub Field and all of the Cubs looked on in awe at the brilliant sight of over 100 Lanterns floating over Dublin City, this was followed by an extravagant fireworks display.

By *Liam Kelly, Group Leader 12th Roscommon Ballyboro*

## Co. Yeats



### 2/3 Sligo Scouts on Annual Camp in Larch Hill 2010

The Scouts enjoyed a variety of great outside activities such as Crate Stacking, Areal Runway and Grass sledging. They also visited Newgrange and Knowth as well as the Natural History Museum.





## County Mayo

### 1<sup>st</sup> Mayo Scouts - Scout Camp July 2010

This year for our summer camp we went to a campsite beside Lough Key, Boyle in Roscommon. It is a scout campsite called Lough Keel. There were 22 scouts and 4 leaders on the camp. We stayed there for three nights and four days. The weather wasn't the best but we still managed to have fun. There is a forest either side of the campsite so that made it fun to explore and hang out. On the second day we went to Lough Key Forest and Activity Park. We did the Boda Borg which is one of nine in the world the rest of which are in Sweden. Basically there are forty seven rooms and you need to figure out the challenge with no instructions to get to the next room. It was really good. We did the Lough Key Experience too. We went through the tree tops on a self guided tour through the servant's tunnels of Rockingham house. We went up this 5 storey tower the view was really nice. On the third day we did pioneering my patrol made a gate for our camp. For the first time each patrol had a dining shelter and



we were responsible for cooking all our food it was good and I enjoyed it. We fed the leaders too who were very pleased. On the last night we dug a hole in the ground and lit a fire in it and cooked our chickens and vegetables really nice, we also cooked pizza on the campfire. That night we had a campfire and sing-song as usual. We met scouts from Dublin and Cork who were also on summer camp. Overall it was a very good camp, in my opinion the best we've had yet and I hope to go back there some time again.

*By Sarah Mulligan, 1<sup>st</sup> Mayo Scouts*



### SPICES in your hands

The Lone Initiatives are special events that you can organise in your Section, Group, County and Province that are supported by special badges. There are six badges, incorporating the SPICES logos. Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual. All Groups can take part!

**The idea:** Together you choose the badge you want to pursue, then choose an activity or design an event to explore this SPICE area. Then, working with the young people in your section, explore the other SPICE opportunities that can be included to make your activity or event a more rounded experience.

The event must be based in the

## Programme Corner



outdoors and be exciting, challenging, fun and adventurous. The event is planned using the Plan, Do and Review method. So, everyone is involved, a plan is agreed, jobs are distributed, key review parameters are agreed before the event, SPICE areas and opportunities are also identified. Then the Event happens. Afterwards the event is reviewed, using agreed parameters - knowledge learnt can be used to enhance the personal journeys of young people and improve the running of future events. Badges are available from National Office in packs of 25.

**Example of a mind map / spiders web which can be used as starting point of planning a programme cycle:**

