

# The Western Scout

Western Province Newsletter

October 2008

The National Management Committee has announced the election of Michael John Shinnick as the new Chief Scout to hold the position until the end of National Council 2009... Michael John Shinnick has vast experience within the Association and is currently Chief Commissioner, Adult

## New Chief Scout Elected

Resources. He took up the appointment with effect from 12.00 midnight on Sunday 28 September 2008 taking over the position from Mr Martin Burbridge. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Michael John Shinnick and to wish him every success



in his up and coming role. We would also like to thank Martin Burbridge for his work and commitment as Chief Scout for the past 5 years and extend every good wish to him and his wife Eileen in the future.

Michael Devins  
National Secretary

## Scouting Ireland People of the Year Award Winners

In its Centenary year Scouting Ireland received a People of the Year Award in recognition of 100 years of activity in Ireland...

National Management Bulletin Issue 9 September 2008 now online. Check the [News](#) on [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie)

and their unique contribution to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual and social potential. Our Chief Scout Mr Martin Burbridge and 2 representatives of our 36,000 strong youth membership Fiona Byrne and



Leon Maughan were on hand at the Awards ceremony on 13th September to receive the award on behalf of our membership. Mr. Michael Devins, National Secretary of Scouting Ireland said, "The presentation of such a prestigious award to the Association recognizes the tireless, selfless effort being put in by our volunteers throughout the Country in educating and encouraging the development of the young people in their local

community". The People of the Year Awards, which are now in their 34th year, are amongst the longest-running Awards events in the country and are organised by Rehab, sponsored by QUINN-

healthcare and televised live by RTÉ. The Awards provide a unique opportunity for the Irish public to honour outstanding contributions to society and to give real recognition to people whose achievements and stories lift and inspire, whether they be unsung heroes - ordinary people who do extraordinary things - or household names who have made a real difference to people's lives. *The whole presentation can be viewed on YouTube.*

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**Attention Group Leaders**  
**Please mark Sunday, 30th**  
**November in your diary. A**  
**Group Leaders Convention will**  
**be held in the Western**  
**Province. Details will follow.**

### Provincial Management Team strengthened with two new members

Congratulations to **Anne Farrell**, our new Provincial Training Co-ordinator and **Ciaran Greene**, our new Provincial Representative for Adult Resources.

To contact Anne please email:  [farrell.anne@gmail.com](mailto:farrell.anne@gmail.com)

Ciarans email: [itsgreene@gmail.com](mailto:itsgreene@gmail.com)

**BE PREPARED...** And start early with updating your groups information in the online database. This will allow you meet the registration deadline on 31st January without pressure. Please contact your GSF if you require assistance.  
**Email: [dhabermann@scouts.ie](mailto:dhabermann@scouts.ie)**

Do you still have a copy of the system file for the old scout database CD for the census? (Not the one with your groups data on.) If so, please email Jo (Group Leader Castlebar): [jo@stevelow.net](mailto:jo@stevelow.net) who would be grateful for your help.

### Upcoming Provincial Training

1st Nov: **Essentials** in Sligo

2nd Nov: **Fundamentals** in Sligo

29th Nov: **Skills** in Ballybane Community Centre

All bookings must be in Provincial Office two weeks before the course. **So, don't delay, book today!**

**Child Protection Courses:** The Provincial Training Team will provide Scouting Ireland's-Child Protection Training as a stand alone course on a monthly basis in each of the scout counties. The course is intended for all Scouters who have not previously attended this course.

**Schedule:** **Clare, Galway & Lough Keel Scout Counties - 1st Wednesday of the month**

**Mayo Scout County - 1st Thursday of the month** **Yeats Scout County - 1st Monday of the month**

A minimum of 8 leaders per session to a maximum of 24 leaders per session will be required for the course to take place. Bookings on the official form must be sent to the Provincial Office: 1, Wine St., Sligo. Each County Training co-ordinator will nominate the local venue.

A new Chief Commissioner for Adult Resources and new National Training Commissioner have been elected at the NMC meeting on 4th October. **John Brennan** was elected as Chief Commissioner Adult Resources. **Fiona McCann** was elected as Training Commissioner.

### Two vacancies in the Provincial Management Team

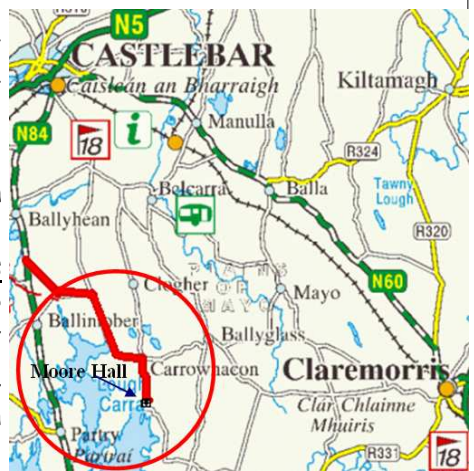
If you are interested in the position of Provincial Secretary or Provincial Treasurer, please contact: [juliescout@gmail.com](mailto:juliescout@gmail.com)

### A Provincial Orienteering Competition

organised by GMIT and hosted by 20th Mayo & Mayo Scout County will be held on **7 December** for Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts. Prizes are sponsored by the county and are awarded to the three winners in each section.

Minimum cost per scout is €3+ badge cost. Bookings should go to Kevin Higgins asap: [snugboroscouts@yahoo.ie](mailto:snugboroscouts@yahoo.ie)

or phone: 087 2235854. See map for location of Moore Hall ->



### Cruacháin Newsletters on the Web

The three editions of the **Cruacháin Sub Camp newsletters** can be downloaded from the Western Province pages on [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie) (-> Western Provincial Documents)



## Opening of National Campsite Ruan



A great day was had by all who attended the official opening of the latest National Campsite in Ruan, Co. Clare on 28th September. The Chief Scout, Martin Burbridge, was delighted to perform the ceremony together with a large number of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scout, Leaders, Parents and Friends. County Commissioner Fiona Staunton thanked the many supporters who helped over the last 10 years to get site up and running. The site has trails, an obstacle course in the forest, a toilet block and showers. Future plans include a beaver playground, a campfire area and ultimately on site accommodation. It is open to all scouts. Enquires to Noel Keaney: **Phone:** 086-3003009 / 061-369642 (After 5pm) **E-mail:** noelkeaney@yahoo.co.uk

## Rosses Point Den undergoes major development

The sea scouts at 3<sup>rd</sup> Sligo (Rosses Point) have commenced work on renovating their Den. The Den was built in the 1980's and commands a great location at the Deadman's Point, Rosses Point, beside great boating and beach facilities.

The group have carried out works over the past few years, to put in a new heating system, rewiring some double glazing etc. The main objective remained to get the Den to a stage where its use could be maximised for Scouting and the broader Community. To do this a plan was developed which included external work to accommodate camping and major internal works to provide totally new shower and toilet facilities, an additional small meeting area, and a new kitchen.

The total cost of the project is in the region of €60,000. The Group applied successfully to Pobal for grant assistance, and were greatly delighted at the recent allocation of a grant of €36,464. Fundraising is well underway for the balance. Work commenced on October 1<sup>st</sup> and we hope to be in well before Christmas. In the meantime our good neighbours in Sligo Yacht Club are allowing us to use one of their rooms for meetings. By the time next summer comes we hope to have the facility generally available. We hope the Centre will prove popular to visiting Scout Groups. As part of the Scout County plan we intend to develop the centre to provide a focus for Scout water activities.

*By Group Leader, Willie Murphy*

**The Scout Hall in Tuam is a testament to the original 2<sup>nd</sup> Galway Troup.** However in recent years it became apparent the standard of this facility was below the accepted health and safety standard, major refurbishment was needed: Removal of asbestos roof, New bathroom facility to include wheelchair access, Kitchen facility, Replace windows, Repair floor and so on.

It was apparent to the acting financial committee that local fund raising was not enough to cover these costs. (First quote for roof was 40,000euro).

Under the direction of Margaret O'Driscoll the acting unit leader, they investigated what grants were available. It was decided that a dormant account grant would be the most attainable. The first application was not successful. Certain conditions had to be met before we would be granted any funds. We re-applied two years later and were accepted on condition we would meet their requirements.

However in the meantime the group decided to close due to a lack of leaders, because Scouts was part of Tuam for so long, rather than lose out on the opportunity to upgrade the hall, it was decided that a maintenance

committee should be formed. Their objectives to ensure day to day maintenance and to ensure the grant conditions were met. The group re-opened in 2007 and interest is such that a satellite group has been set up in Williams town.

Work on the hall is progressing nicely. The roof has been replaced, the bathrooms are complete, and the kitchen and windows are works in progress.

To any group who find themselves in a similar situation, be aware these grants are available. Work closely with your areas community development officer. Youth bank grants for small equipment grants. V.E.C. grants for equipment and minor repairs. Dormant A/C grants for major work.

While I cannot deny this has been a long process for us, it has been worthwhile and without doubt will have long lasting benefits for 2<sup>nd</sup> Galway Tuam Scouts. Well done to all involved.

Special thanks to: Caroline Donnellan, Willma Sneeks, Tom O' Donoghue Sol., Arthur Ward Architect.

*By Group Leader, Josephine Gavin*



On 26th July the Chief Scout came to Renmore to present 5 National Scout Awards and one Chief Scout Award to 13th Galway Scouts. Damien Kelly achieved the highest Scouting Award in Ireland. The five National Scout Awardees were: Aaron Connolly, Adrian Lyons, Niamh Gilligan, Gemma Connolly and Fiona Kinsella. Service Awards were presented to—5 years: Jackie Davy, Laffey Kathleen, Tommy Flynn, Eamon Hartley—10 years: Margo Kelly, Padraic Kyne—15 years: Pat Hickey, Philip Sheeran. **Congratulations to all for your great achievements and commitment!**

To achieve the Chief Scout Award six challenges need to be completed. As his personal challenge Damien wrote the following article for the *Outsider Magazine*:

### Rockin' Renmore

Hey, hello and good morning, good afternoon & in case I don't see you good night. My name is Damien; I am a P.L (for those that don't know that means Patrol Leader) in 13th Galway Renmore Scouts group, & very recently I completed my National Scout Award. Basically I firstly had to attend a national scouting event & I then had a choice to either do 3 hikes or 2 camps & a project on either Social Awareness or Conservation. It does sound like a lot of work, well I'm not going to lie to you ... it is! The NSA is presented to a mere 20 scouts per year. But don't let that discourage you. For my project I chose Social Awareness & did research on the elderly in my community. This thought me about the different things the elderly did to pass the time & that they do have an active retirement. For my logs (which for me personally were the easy part) I did 3 hikes, the first was in Clonbur, which is on the Galway Mayo boarder & that took me up onto Mount Gable. The second & third hikes were in Portlick in Athlone which was done on our annual camp in 2004. The thing about leading hikes is that you make the decisions for all & the mistakes you make are down to you also.

After receiving the official letter of the award from National Headquarters, I then thought about starting my Chief Scout Award. I thought about what would be the rewards of doing this award, so I thought & said to myself, "What's better than achieving the highest award a scout can achieve in Ireland". So as I write this very article



**Galway City Mayor, Pádraig Conneely, Damien Kelly and former Chief Scout, Martin Burbridge**

I am in the progress of doing the Chief Scout Award.

The Chief Scout Award is made up of 6 different parts, each set out as a challenge. Challenge 1 is an expedition over 2 days of more than 30km hiking, Challenge 2 is a day activity such as a hike for more than 15km over open country. The third challenge involves building a pioneering project such as a tower or gate, while challenge 4 is a written project similar to that done for the National Scout Award. Challenge 5 & 6 are designed for the individual to accomplish a personal challenge and to receive a qualification such as a first-aid course.

For Challenge 1 I have completed an expedition with my scout section. It was in Cork from the campsite Kilcully just north of the suburbs & took us down through Cork city & out to Cobh in Co. Cork, then from Cobh up to Fota Island for an overnight camping. When you are on an expedition you carry things like your full gear, change of clothes, rain gear, torch etc. Then you still have your tent, food and cooking equipment to make your bag pretty heavy! One kilometre feels like a hundred with that weight on your back & with the summer weather changing from warm to cold & from sunny to wet it can be a bit

trying, but that's what I love about scouting, the different everyday challenges. Scouts have the willpower & the nerve to do things like this, but as scouts we don't do it once, we do it till we can't to it any more!


That's all from me, yours in scouting, Damien Kelly

### Scout Shop Roadshow in the West

- Boyle: Saturday, 15th November
- Ennis: Saturday, 22nd November
- Renmore: Sunday, 23rd November

**Scouting Ireland e-zine** The September Issue of the EZine is now available - 25 pages info's and photos can be downloaded here:

[www.programme2008.ie/September\\_EZine5.pdf](http://www.programme2008.ie/September_EZine5.pdf)



## 2nd Mayo and The People of the Year Award



Scouters from 2nd Mayo with "The People of the Year Award" during the 1st Woodbadge Reunion at Larch Hill. Back: Piney Conlon, Uri Elkyiam, Michael Shinnick; Front: Denise Blaq, Una Canning, Babs Strutt and Daire O Shea.

Our group attended the 1st Woodbadge Reunion at Larch Hill on 13/14 Sept. and had a ball. At the end of the night Michael Shinnick walked in with "The People of the Year Award" held aloft to an

unbelievable cheer (needless to say the night did not end there).

*Una Canning, Group Leader 2nd Mayo Westport*



Leaders of the Achill Scout Group along with members of their parents committee receiving their SQS certificate from the County Commissioner. Pictured front left to right: Colm Dunne (CC), Ruth Allen (Group Leader), Natasha Mc Namara. Back left to right: Laura Mulligan, Hugh Logue, Margaret O'Flynn, Ann Fadian, Monica Gallagher and Henk Wijers (CTC)

*By John Mulligan (PRO Co. Mayo)*



Leaders of the Belmullet Scout Group along with members of their parents committee receiving their SQS certificate from the County Commissioner.

Pictured front left to right; Colm Dunne (CC), Tisha Gallagher (Group Leader); back left to right: Margaret Tallott, Rita O'Malley, Eileen Cowman, Pauline Geraghty, Sinead Gaughan and Joe Doherty (PSO)

*By John Mulligan (PRO Co. Mayo)*

## Memories of Scouting with 1<sup>st</sup> Mayo in the 1930s

*My memories of becoming a Scout was reading adventure books of the Royal Canadian Mounties, with their big cowboy type hats and campfires and living under canvas. It sounded great to a 10year old youngster. I remember getting my uniform hat and blue scarf. The scarf reminded me of my screen cowboys, Roy Rodgers, John Wayne. We had meetings in an old house in the Square owned by the Condan Family and later in the Kirk down at the end of town. Our Scoutmaster at the period was Donal D'arcy, a local bank manager.*

*On Sundays we did paper chases in the country over muddy fields and fences. You would be quite tired when you got home in the evening. We did patrols around the town and attended processions and we paraded when Government ministers arrived in town. We usually had a meal after all of this.*

*We had a great time on weekends. We would camp up the lake Lannagh, Potoon or Westport or Tuckers Lake. My most enjoyable time was camping beside the lake and in the whins in Achill on the Sandybank. Bob Kilkelly arranged the Camp. We had scout marches and sang at night-time. We walked for a few miles. In the morning it rained and we were sent up to the village to get milk with a big enamel jug. We were covered with a ground sheet and walked in our bare feet. We were tired when we got back but had a big breakfast of porridge, sausages, rashers and tea in enamel mugs and plates, it was great. There were always funny moments. Tony McHale got a batch of eggs from home and cakes. He was unpacking them inside the tent when a shoe came through the door and smashed them all over him*

*I have good memories of my growing up scouting days. They were happy ones.*

*Joe McDonald (typed in June 2004)*

Thanks to Colm Dunne, Mayo County Commissioner, for collecting Scouting memories and passing them on.

## Expression of Sympathy

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy to Frank and Mary Lee on the recent passing of Mrs. Edna McCabe .

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.





## Programme Corner



### International Drawing Competition "Our World, Our Climate, Our Food"

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) are delighted to extend a special invitation to you to participate in the International Drawing Competition "Our World, Our Climate, Our Food". The competition is organized in the framework of a joint FAO-WAGGGS youth education project, which aims to raise awareness among children and young people of climate change, environment and food security.



The competition is addressed to children and young people from 6 to 20 years of age, who are encouraged to create a logo (an emblem) for "Our World, Our Climate, Our Food" youth education project.

More information on the competition arrangements, including its rules, the deadline, logo templates, etc. can be found here:

[www.fao.org/climatechange/51175/en](http://www.fao.org/climatechange/51175/en)

For any inquiries and clarifications you can email: [children-youth@fao.org](mailto:children-youth@fao.org).

You are warmly invited to join forces with FAO and WAGGGS and encourage as many children and young people as possible to become actively involved in this initiative.

**Note the Deadline is  
10 November 2008**

Best regards,

Reuben Sessa – Environment, Climate Change and Bioenergy Division (NRC)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Maria Volodina – World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)



**Smack!** is a **VENTURES** **SCOUTS** newsletter for young people in Scouting Ireland. It is put together by an enthusiastic team of Scouts & Venture Scouts. The aim of Smack! is to keep young people in the know about things happening in Scouting Ireland, from those boring meetings to the next national event, side by side with what Scouts & Ventures are getting up to around the country.

We at Smack! believe that if you have a problem you need a solution, and we had a problem. Young people didn't have the foggiest about what was going on outside their local group (especially at national level) and we didn't think that was very good. So we came up with Smack!. It's not perfect, and we don't pretend it is, but we hope you enjoy it and we hope it goes some way to solving our problem.

So help us Smack! people! Sign up to receive your copy at [scout-smack@gmail.com](mailto:scout-smack@gmail.com). Please contribute anything you'd like to the newsletter, we want to hear your meeting ideas, camping plans and any adventures you have been on we're very open to new ideas!

Download Smack! from [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie) ->Prog. Resources

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

Deadline for the next edition of

The Western Scout: 1st December



### YEA!!!

**ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA)** is an all Ireland environmental awards programme for young people. The Awards honour the work of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who protect, conserve and enhance our environment through local environmental projects, making a difference to their lives and the lives of others locally and globally.

The YEA is a **fun and exciting** way to empower young people to become better citizens, to build awareness of environmental issues in their locality and promote simple actions and lifestyle changes to improve the environment for all.

#### Who can take part?

**All 12 - 18 year olds** in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in groups of between 2 and 25. The YEA is open to schools, youth groups, **community groups** and environmental groups.

To take part you need to register. The YEA registration **deadline** is the **last Friday in November** each year. Early registration entitles you to **free training** in regional locations in September and October.

Follow the YEA 6 Steps to a better World:

- Step 1** Get a team together
- Step 2** Choose an environmental issue
- Step 3** Make a plan
- Step 4** Decide on positive actions
- Step 5** Take Action
- Step 6** Raise awareness



For more information on this 6 Step approach download a copy of the **Young Environmentalist Awards handbook** from [http://www.ecounesco.ie/yea\\_about.aspx](http://www.ecounesco.ie/yea_about.aspx)