



# The Western Scout

Spring Edition 2010



**2011 has been designated the European Year of Volunteering**

## In this Issue:

Provincial News	2
Training	3
Co Yeats News	4
Co Galway News	5
Co Lough Keel News	6
Co Mayo News	6
Express of Sympathy	6
Co Clare News	7
Programme	7

EYV2011 was launched with an opening ceremony on February 12th in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. Patron for the Year, President McAleese was at the launch event, along with volunteers and representatives from Scouting Ireland and other voluntary organisations from all over Ireland. Scouting Ireland were represented at the event with Scouts from Bluebell and Naas along with Programme Commissioners from Cub Scouts, Venture Scouts and a representatives

of the Scout and Rover Scout Teams, The Training Team was also represented.



The President visited the Scouting Ireland Display and spoke with the Scouts.

**The National Youth Forum** was held on the first weekend in March at the Blackrock Scout Center. Scout and Venture Scout delegates from all the Scout Provinces in Ireland came together to discuss pressing issues, vote on various motions, train on being Youth Reps and elect 9 National Reps. John Donlon and Joe Vaughan from 14th Clare (Sixmilebridge), Meabh Gardiner from 5th/22nd Clare (Killaloe), Karl Mallon of 1st/3rd/5th Longford (Town) and Ben Daly from 1st/11th Roscommon (Boyle) were the Scouts representing the Western Province.

Congratulations to John and Meabh who have now been elected as National Reps and to Joe who was elected as Chairman for the Western Province Scout Reps by his Western Province peers at the weekend.

The Venture Scouts representing the Western Province at the National Youth Forum were Ailis Gavin, Ronan Mulligan and Niamh Donnolly from 1st Mayo (Castlebar). Congratulations to Niamh who was elected as National Rep and to Ronan who was elected Provincial Rep for Venture Scouts. Ronan attended his first NYPC meeting in Larch Hill on Sunday 13th March.

## National Council in Trim on 2nd April

*Dear Colleagues,*

*National Council weekend 2011 is just around the corner and this year Trim, Co. Meath is our destination. As can be seen from the details outlined below, a huge emphasis this year is on our youth members, and rightly so! National Council affords us all the chance to have our say on how we see our association moving forward. Every group should make an effort to attend.*

*It's not just about voting on motions, National Council offers us the opportunity to network with fellow scouts and scouters from across the country...you'd be amazed at the tips and ideas you can pick up.*

*See you all in just over a week.*

*Yours in Scouting,*

*Brian Webster (Provincial Commissioner)*

All business of National Council will happen on Saturday followed by the Scouting Ireland Gala Dinner. Group Councils are encouraged to also nominate Youth members as National Council delegates. The North Eastern Province are offering various incentives to enable as many Youth Reps as possible to attend. All Youth Reps are encouraged to book into the Campsite adjacent to the Hotel at the unbeatable cost of €5 per night, including breakfast roll and tea/coffee for breakfast. For campsite bookings email: [gickey@scouts.ie](mailto:gickey@scouts.ie).

For further details check the National Council mailings on <https://my.scouts.ie>



## A warm welcome to our newest Scout Group!

7th Mayo (Foxford) has recently opened with a Beaver Colony and Cub Pack. We would like to wish everyone in 7th Mayo a great adventure in scouting and lots of fun!



### Scouting photos & videos please

In order to promote Scouting and all the great things Scouts and Scouters do, a campaign has been started to compile high quality photographs and video footage that

Scouting Ireland might be able to use.

**This is the chance to show some of the fun and adventure your Group or County has!**

Please send or give any photos and videos that can be used to promote scouting to Joe or Danny.



### Eamon Hartley appointed Western Province International Rep

Eamon Hartley from 13th Galway and Troop Leader of the Western Province Contingent going to the World Scout Jamboree this Summer, has recently been appointed International Representative for our Province. Congratulations and all the best in the new role!

### New Scouting Ireland members-only website

All members of Scouting Ireland are encouraged to register at <https://my.scouts.ie> The latest news, events, chat forum, forms, resources, One Programme material and much more can accessed here. Contact your Group Leader should you have questions when filling in the Registration page. Group Leaders that have questions about registering, please contact: [dhabermann@scouts.ie](mailto:dhabermann@scouts.ie)

### Provincial Venture Scout Weekend

The first Western Province Venture Scout event took place in Mayo from Friday the 18th to Sunday the 20th of February, and was well attended by 36 Venture Scouts from across the Province; Killaloe, Ballinrobe, Knocknacarra, Roscommon, Westport and Claregalway were represented.

We met at the foot of Mweelrea, Connacht's highest mountain, at 9am on Saturday morning. The hike was enjoyable, with vast amounts of snow on the mountain providing endless fun. We made great time, and were off the mountain by two o'clock. We then returned to Westport Scout hall for a Plan-Do-Review session after which we headed to the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport for a nice relaxing swim in their leisure centre. After our swim each group then nominated a representative to cook what turned out to be a delicious chicken curry. A table quiz followed, which was won by the Leaders (who were disqualified after a stewards enquiry!!).

On Sunday morning, a Scout's own was held, and a meeting took place where the Venture Scouts exchanged contact details so as to plan future events.

All in all it was a successful weekend, and all those present eagerly await the Provincial Survival Weekend, to be held

### Fellow Scouters

I am sure that like me, you have been shocked and taken aback at the suffering and misery endured by the Japanese people following the recent catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in that country. [...]

I believe that the most expeditious and effective way of giving support to the Japanese is for Groups to coordinate a local fundraiser and to make direct donations to charitable organisations who have the expertise to channel these funds into direct support to the victims.

I thank you in advance for your support and generosity to the Japanese earthquake victims.

Yours in Scouting,

Michael John Shinnick (Chief Scout)

### Backwoods Adventure Skill Assessments Weekends

The Backwoods Adventure Skill Team are running Backwoods Assessments Weekends on:

- 8-10 April at Dundrum Scout Centre, Co Tipperary (previously advertised for Lough Dan)
- and TBC April/May - Lough Dan, Co Wicklow (previously advertised for Fota)

Please note that the Backwoods Team are making these assessments available to all Scouters, irrespective of whether or not they have completed transition training. For further details please email [backwoodskillsteam@gmail.com](mailto:backwoodskillsteam@gmail.com)

**Scouters, please familiarise yourselves with the New Camping Policy and Guidelines now available on <https://my.scouts.ie> under Resources -> Official Documents**



in Killaloe in May. Many thanks to all those who helped in the organisation of the event, especially to Kieran McCormack of Killaloe and Una Canning of Westport, without whom this event would not have happened and also the Castlecourt Hotel for their hospitality.

*By Keith Webster, 5th/22nd Clare*



## Provincial Training Calendar until June 2011

Course Ref	Course Type	Month	Date	Day & Time	Venue	Closing Date
WP GLT 01/11	GL Training	<b>Postponed</b>			TBA	TBA
WP S1 07/11	Stage 1	March	30 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 8pm	Boyle Den	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
WP S1 08/11	Stage 1	April	5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 7.30pm	Ballybane	28 <sup>th</sup> March
WP S4 01/11	Stage 4	April	9 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 9.30am	Lough Keel	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
WP S5 05/11	Stage 5	April	10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Lough Keel	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
WP S4 02/11	Stage 4	April	9 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 9.30am	Ruan, Co. Clare	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
WP S5 06/11	Stage 5	April	10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Ruan, Co. Clare	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
WP S2 08/11	Stage 2	April	17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Castlebar Den	10 <sup>th</sup> April
WP S1 09/11	Stage 1	May	10 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 8pm	Castlebar den	3 <sup>rd</sup> May
WP S1 10/11	Stage 1	May	10 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 8pm	Clare	3 <sup>rd</sup> May
WP S4 03/11	Stage 4	May	14 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 9.30am	Galway	7 <sup>th</sup> May
WP S4 04/11	Stage 4	May	15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Galway	7 <sup>th</sup> May
WP S4 05/11	Stage 4	May	15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Ruan, Co. Clare	7 <sup>th</sup> May
WP S4 06/11	Stage 4	May	15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Mayo	7 <sup>th</sup> May
WP S1 11/11	Stage 1	May	18 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 8pm	Ballybane	11 <sup>th</sup> May
WP S5 07/11	Stage 5	May	29 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 9.30am	Galway	22 <sup>nd</sup> May
WP S5 08/11	Stage 5	June	11 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 9.30am	Castlebar	4 <sup>th</sup> June
WP S6 01/11	Stage 6	June	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 7.30pm	Lough Keel	8 <sup>th</sup> June

- To book, send booking forms and fees to: Danny Habermann, GSF, Fahy, Roscahill, Co. Galway before the closing date.
- Bookings are taken on a 'first come' basis. Book early to avoid disappointment. Minimum number is 10 leaders.
- CPA course fee is €10 per person; max number on course is 18 adults.
- See courses in other Provinces at <https://my.scouts.ie>

**It has been a busy few months of training** in the Province with several courses for Transition Training and the new Woodbadge scheme being delivered. The groups who have completed Transition Training since January and are currently working on the One Programme are; Clare: Cloonlara, Ennis, Kilalloe - Galway: Abbey Duinery, Carrabanne, Kinvara, Renmore - Lough Keel: Boyle - Mayo: Achill, Belmullet, Westport - Yeats: Ballyshannon

A great deal of gratitude is due to the Transition Trainers who have worked so hard over the past few months to accommodate groups in their training day,

however a great deal more thanks and recognition is due to the Mentors and those who have worked at group level for the past year to ensure that all preparations are complete and continue to support the groups as they get to grips with the new One Programme.

Please contact your Mentor for more information on booking your Transition Training date.

The next few months promise to be equally busy with several Stage 4 and 5 courses being ran throughout the Province. Please book your place on courses in plenty of time as places are always limited.

*Michelle Comer, Provincial Training Coordinator*

**Special Programme Training Day: Chief Scout Award & Leave no Trace on Saturday 16th April** to prepare Scouters to act as "Chief Scout Award Support Scouters" in support of the Chief Scout Award for the Scout, Venture & Rover Scout Section. This training covers the requirements of the CSA, the role of the Support Scouter, as well as "Leave no Trace". It will be delivered in conjunction with Gaisce Trainers.

Each Scout County has been allocated 2 places on the training course. The cost is €15 per delegate (including course material and light lunch). Bookings and payment

must be received by **25th March**, after which time spaces not taken up by Scout Counties will be open to all to send additional delegates on a first come first served basis. Closing date for these bookings 8th April. Bookings must be made by contacting Gillian in National Office directly on 01-4956300 where you can pay by credit/debit card over the phone.

Please ensure that your Scout County avails of this Special Programme Training Day to ensure that the Youth Members in the Scout County have an opportunity to complete the CSA.

*Ian Davy, Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme)*

## Co Yeats

The 14th Donegal Ballyshannon Scout Group held their Transition Training on the 22/1/2011. The training was held in the Breesy Centre at Cashelard which is three miles north of Ballyshannon. The centre provided a spacious and well heated room. The training was conducted by Michelle Comer. Joe Doherty, Maria McLoughlin and Gillian Watters, Yeats County Commissioner/Mentor also attended. There were 15 Scouters and three patrol leaders present for the morning session. The training opened with a couple of ice-breakers but quickly got down to business. This was a heavy session as there were a lot of concepts and information coming at the group. At lunch time we gratefully broke for a meal of chicken curry. For the afternoon session we



were joined by 8 members of the Cub Pack. This is where the day really took off. The scouts and cubs had to plan an event. The scouts planned a weekend away to Larch Hill and discussed the badge work they would do in preparation. The Cubs planned to visit the Carribbean Island on their programme map and planned their badge work. The Beaver Leaders also planned their next programme events. All three groups then gave a presentation. We all found the training and the One Programme very worthwhile and not to be feared. We were a lot wiser at the end of the day than we were at the start. *By Stewart Doyle, Group Leader, 14th Donegal*



12 days of Xmas 11th prize won by Megan Copeland from 11th Sligo Benbulben.



11th Sligo Benbulben Scouts winners of Yeats County Scout Quiz.

## Yeats County Beaver Scout Snow Hike

Beaver Scouts from Yeats County got together on a snowy Saturday morning to hike the Barnaribbon loop, on the side of Benbulben. The Beaver Scouts followed tracking signs, collected leaves and pine cones, and sang campfire songs. It was the first time some of the young Beaver Scouts were on County activity and they thoroughly enjoyed the Social aspect of the hike. Well done to all who helped to organise the event.



*By Gillian Waters, Yeats County Commissioner*



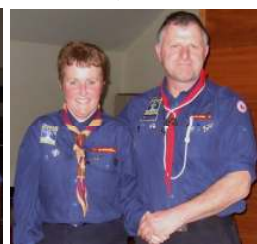
## Co. Galway



**A  
G  
M**



Photos taken at a very well attended and organised County AGM in Galway on 9th March. County Management Team: Noel Leahy-County Commissioner, Sean Greene-Chairperson, Sean Harte-Secretary, Miriam Pybus-Treasurer, Dick Ridge-Training Coord, Linda O'Dea-Programme Coordinator, Bredan Murray-Beaver Section Coord, Anna Casserly-Cub Coord, Eoin Brown-Scout Coord, Mary Collins-Venture Coord. Guests: Brian Webster-Provincial Commissioner, John Egan-Provincial Youth Programme Rep, Michelle Comer-Provincial Training Coordinator, Joe Doherty-PSO, Danny Habermann-GSF.



Michelle Comer awarded Woodbadge Beads to Andrea Lenihan, Danny McGinley and Malachy Lavelle. Noel Leahy presented 10 year Service Awards to Mary Kyne and Anna Casserly. **Congratulations to all!**



### 28th Galway Investiture & Awards Ceremony

The Community Centre in Kinvara was packed with scouts, scouters and parents on the evening of 27th January for 28th Galways' Group Investiture and Awards presentation. 27 new Beaver Scouts, 10 Cub Scouts, 5 Scouts, 2 Venture Scouts and 6 Scouters were invested by Group Leader John Downes. County Commissioner Noel Leahy presented 5 year Service Awards to Caitriona Lawless, Gabs Fennessy, Eoin Brown, Darragh Brogan and John Downes. John Downes also received his 10, 15, 20 and 25 year Service Awards on the night! Congratulations to all!



Both the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland reverend were present and gave their blessings. Then, to round off a great night, everyone enjoyed the cakes, biscuits, tea provided by the Beaver parents.

### Carrabane Beavers enjoy Investiture Night

The 27th Galway (Carrabane) Beaver Scouts are pictured at the Investiture of new Beavers on 7th March. A total of 13 new Beavers received their neckerchiefs having successfully achieved the requirements to be a Beaver Scout. The children had a party to celebrate. Congratulations to Áine Mulry, Alex Keogh, Jake Duckworth, Elly Frawley, Alicia Donohue, Amy Darcy, Gary Randles, Michael Forde, Sarah Hill, Cathal Delahunty, Alanah Doherty, Lilly Walsh and Adam Johnson.

*By David Evans, 27th Carrabane Beaver Scouter*



## Co Lough Keel



### Lough Keel County PL and APL Training Weekend

28th - 30th January 2011 saw our first County event of the new year. Scout Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders

from Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon, Boyle, Lanesboro and Longford all took part. The event was held in the Allen Centre in Drumshanbo, 25 Scouts and their Leaders enjoyed a very busy and informative 2 days of learning through games and activities. The Scouts were told of their roles in the One Program, they enjoyed a night hike around Drumshanbo, survival challenge in the forest on Saturday morning and various bases around the centre in the afternoon, all the Scouts worked together in teams to complete the tasks and challenges they had been given. They rounded off their day with a DVD and popcorn. Sunday morning the Scouts packed up and tidied up. In a Scouts Own at midday in the beautiful setting out beside the lake they reflected on the weekend and thanked each other. It was a brilliant and informative weekend and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to all the leaders for their time and help in organising the event, thanks for the use of the Allen Centre and thank you to Sean Wynne for helping us get settled into the accommodation.



*By Michelle O'Donnell, GL 1st Leitrim*

## Co. Mayo



Provincial Training Coordinator Michelle Comer awarding Woodbadge

Beads to Una Canning and Uri Elkayam.

Daire O'Shea was presented a five year Service Award



and Barbara Strutt a 10 year Service Award.

**Congratulations!**



**Scouts and Scouters of 2nd Mayo Westport pictured during their Transition Training Day.**

### Expression of Sympathy

Expression of sympathy to the family of the late Mary Murphy, wife of Michael Murphy Scout leader and former Group Leader 1st Mayo Castlebar. Mary passed on January 19th after a long illness bravely borne. Mary was a remarkable woman who touched the lives of everyone she met on the road of life. She along with Michael was a great friend of Scouting in Castlebar and Mayo. May she rest in peace.



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



## Co Clare

### The National Youth Forum [cont'd from p.1]

John Donlon and Joe Vaughan from 14th Clare (Sixmilebridge) and Meabh Gardiner from 5th/22nd Clare (Killaloe) were the Scout Representatives of the Western Province having been elected at the Provincial Forum in Tuam.

A big congratulations to John and Meabh who have now been elected as National Reps by a group of their peers. It is a terrific achievement for these two scouts on a personal level. They were presented with special scout team Necko's at the end of the forum by the Program Commissioner for scouts which they can wear with pride as one of only 12 people in the country to have one. It is great for Clare scouting to have

youth members who have reached this level within the association. Also congratulations to Joe who was elected as chairman for the Western Province Youth Reps by his Western Province peers at the weekend.

*Liam Gardiner, Clare County Programme Coordinator*



### Fancy a fun day out or an overnight?

Why not visit [www.mellows.ie/scouts-guides](http://www.mellows.ie/scouts-guides) and find out what *Mellows* has to offer.

## National Water Activity Centre



## Portlick Scout Campsite



### The NWAC will run two summer camps in August 2011.

The objective of these camps is to offer scouts the opportunity to attend a water based camp and earn Adventure Skills as well as the coveted Brian Boru Challenge Award. Perhaps you cannot go on your troop camp or you want to do an additional week scouting. Then this is for you. The camps are fully residential and all costs for the week are included within the price. **Cost: € 175 per scout**

Camp A : 7 - 12 August 2011

Camp B : 14 - 19 August 2011

For details visit:

<http://www.wateractivities.ie>



### Scout Patrol Challenge @ Portlick

Backwoods Cooking - Campcraft - Pioneering - Knot Board - Campsite Orienteering - Best "GREEN" Patrol (Environmentally Friendly) - Archery - Patrol Spirit - Fastest Time for a patrol on the Assault Course - Campfire (Songs / Singing) - Best Patrol Sketch & Props.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August - 21<sup>st</sup> August 2011**

One day's activities + competitions. A trophy + voucher will be presented to the winning Patrol in each event. The overall winner will receive the Portlick Shield

Cost - €200 per Patrol (8 + 3 leaders), Deposit €50

Email: [portlick.campsite@gmail.com](mailto:portlick.campsite@gmail.com)

Phone: 087 6885279



### A Venture Scout water survival weekend will

take place at the National Water Activity Centre (NWAC), Killaloe, Co. Clare on May 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

The weekend will consist of:

- Sailing
- Rowing
- Canoeing
- Backwoodsmanship



Over the weekend parts of the Adventure Skills badges will be covered. The weekend will be based on the *Brian Boru Challenge*. You are required to bivi for one night on an island and cook for yourself. The cost for this event is €30. This includes 1 night indoor

accommodation on the Friday night at the NWAC, Killaloe.

Places are limited to 30 people. A non-refundable deposit of €20 is required before Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> in order to secure a place.

Food is not provided, so participants must bring their own provisions.

See [www.wateractivities.ie](http://www.wateractivities.ie) for more information on the National Water Activity Centre in Killaloe.

For more information and booking please contact Philip Neville.

Email:

[philip.neville@wateractivities.ie](mailto:philip.neville@wateractivities.ie)

Mobile: 085 7332181

