

80th CORK



80th Cork Little Island/Glounthaune

June 2017

Welcome to Little Island/Glounthaune Scout Group Newsletter!!

Welcome to the second edition (finally) of 80th Cork's prestigious newsletter.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep parents and friends of the group informed of what is going on in the group and of upcoming events. As we go through the year we will keep you updated of the activities going on throughout the group, as well as projects we are undertaking.

The Phoenix Challenge

The following is a literal however somewhat satirical account of the Phoenix Challenge and is entered to be read a bit, tongue in cheek... Enjoy

On Thursday 18th last August, eight scouts set off to compete at the Phoenix, the annual national scout competition. The patrol was made up of three veterans and five newbs an unusual ratio. For many it would be their first Phoenix and they all knew how hard they were going to have to train. **(Continued on page 6)**

*“Leave this world
a little better than
you found it”*

-Lord Baden Powell



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Fundraising

Fundraising is very important for the growth of the group. As a group we constantly have a number of projects in the pipeline. This currently includes surfacing the remaining driveway and store areas and purchasing camping equipment.

We also have yearly expenditure for the upkeep of the hall, the purchase and maintenance of our programme equipment and the upkeep of our



Photos from Group Camp

Group Camp

Following our usual tradition the entirety of 80th Cork headed off on November 11th to Mount Mellerey for annual group camp.

The weekend began on the Friday night with the customary night hike. We go to the white cross every year no matter what the weather and this year was no different, again, no matter what the weather. Each venture is put in charge of a group filled with scouts, beavers and cubs, the most difficult of course being the scouts. Thankfully this year was a success and only two beavers were lost, a great improvement on last year.

Overall it was a fantastic weekend for everyone involved. There was orienteering, superstars, game nights, rock climbing and of course the annual duck race. The excitement on Friday led to very little sleep that night but unsurprisingly Saturday night was a lot quieter and the bus home on Sunday was dead quiet.

It was a great opportunity for all of the different sections to interact. All of the activities have everyone from Ventures to Beavers working together and it creates a real sense of community throughout the group. It also gives leaders a chance to see what the other sections are doing.

A huge thanks to all of the leaders and especially the ventures who helped out without any complaint, though there was an offer of free Chinese. We impatiently await next year's group camp and all of the excitement it will undoubtedly bring.



Sections



Cub Section

As you know we have two Cub sections in 80th Cork and both were extremely busy this year with almost fifty cubs between them. This year there are also eight cubs doing the Chief Scout Award: Eoin Mc Cullough, Colm Kelleher, Alex Healy, Nathan Power, Ronan McSweeney, Conor Galvin, Gearoid Cottrell, Brendan O'Donnell. They recently completed a 20 kilometre hike as part of this award.

Every year the cubs go on their weekend summer camp. This year they travelled to Ballyhass Lakes where it only rained a little bit and the Cub leaders got loads of sleep. Here they went kayaking, rock climbing and abseiling among loads of other things.

During the year they had an overnight in the scout hall, went on hikes to Mahon Falls and the Galtees. They also played a huge part in the group camp.

They had amazing help from two venture scouts Kate and George and scouts Craig and Darragh. Una also joined as a leader this year.

Beaver Section

This year we had another huge demand for Beaver membership and we decided to have two Beaver sections, one on Tuesday night and the other on Thursday. We have one of the most adventurous Beaver groups in the country and we are very proud of everything they achieved this year.

They worked really hard to connect with other Beaver groups and this year they had a fantastic day at the county day in the Glen Resource centre. They were also part of a great day at the Beaver County Day in Rostellan woods, where they learnt first-aid and semaphore.

They also have loads of fun at their meetings and just a couple of weeks ago they practised their pioneering skills and built a challenge cube out of bamboo they then did blindfolded challenges in it! Their leaders organise some fantastic trips for them including an annual trip to Dublin Zoo, which the kids love!



Scout Section

Shield Competition



The Shield is a two part county competition which takes place every year. 80th Cork always compete and this year was a great success. Over the shield weekend the 80th Cork team had a great time. On the expedition weekend the team worked together and took part in loads of bases including, orienteering, pioneering and backwoods. Following the trail up the mountains they got to work on their navigation skills. It was a glorious weekend with delicious food, plenty of sleep and great weather.

The campcraft weekend started with the site build, as always they were prepared and got off to a great start. They then continued suite build on the Saturday morning followed by the raft race. The raft race is always great fun during the weekend, all of the parents come along with treats and everyone takes it ridiculously seriously. After a tough race we were delighted to have come first.

Saturday evening ended with the test meal and an amazing camp fire, where most of the team lost their voices. Sunday morning started with a blast as the un appeared which made the trek cart race and trade fair even better. On Sunday afternoon everyone was feeling very nervous and competitive as site take down began. They scoured every corner of the site to make sure nothing was left behind. They then got all dressed up in their uniforms, ready for the awards ceremony.

They were an absolute wreck! Bundles of nerves as they headed towards the hall. Turns out their was no need to worry as they did the group very proud!!



Scout Camp

Last Summer while the Ventures were jetting off to Switzerland the scouts were busing to St Petersburg in Galway, something they were just thrilled about. There were twenty scouts going in total, one of the biggest summer camps to date.

Over the course of a week where the rain/sun beat down (it depends on who you ask) they did a ridiculous amount of things. The best of course being the hike where they went on up some mountain which they never reached the top of. That was considered a resounding success.

They also went caving, gorge walking, windsurfing and kayaking, but these were considered disappointing in comparison to the fantastic hike.

They went on a night hike to see the sunrise and it's rumoured that Mark Crowley was so exhausted the next day that they stayed on camp, sleeping and resting. Shocking, I know.

They also went cycling orienteering in the nearby town and bought ice creams. They all bought about 30 dip dabs each over the week! (this behaviour is not condoned by 80th Cork Scout group or Orla who was very worried about a diabetes epidemic.)

Overall they had a fantastic week, their final break before the tough Phoenix training started.



Venture Section

Last Summer the Ventures headed off to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland for the trip of a lifetime. For months we had no idea where we wanted to go but after a lot of thorough research we finally decided. Next was the fun part, fundraising. Switzerland is one of the most expensive flights in Europe so we knew it wasn't going to be cheap. We Priced the trip and it ended up being €800 per person which was crazy. We quickly started planning our fundraisers, the main ones being a wine tasting night and a fun day at the St Patrick's Day parade.

We sold raffle tickets, cupcakes, teas and coffees and we ran games for the smallies, the kids not Josh. We were so thrilled with everyone's generosity and over the course of the year we raised €4000, this meant that we didn't have to spend as much money and go to go for €400 each.

We were so excited! On July 14th we got the bus up to Dublin at an ungodly hour and after strict warnings about inappropriate jokes in the airport we boarded the flight with very few issues, considering. The flight was quick and we were seriously excited to land in Switzerland thinking that this was the end of our already long journey. We were wrong. Following our landing we were thrilled to hear we would then trek across Switzerland in 4 different trains with all of our incredibly light luggage.

When we eventually arrived at Kandersteg we were exhausted but the adrenaline kept us going. We quickly set up camp while a couple of us headed down to the local shop. The Co-Op, a ginormous corner store where you could always get everything you needed. The only problem was the cost of meat, it was crazily expensive and looked a bit odd. So just for the first day we decided to have go vegetarian and have pasta.

In a shocking turn of events people weren't happy (something about a lack of protein) and for the rest of the week we had meat. It was an action-packed week. We went rock climbing in the Swiss mountains in the sun, a very different climbing experience compared to the Irish mountains. We also went crate stacking, white-water rafting, canyoning, sledding, swimming, canoeing and of course hiking.

It was a fantastic week and well-worth all of the hard work. The Ventures now look forward to their next overseas trip to Austria!

"If you don't do wild things while you're young, you'll have nothing to smile about when you're old."

-Richard Crowley, 2017



The new Ventures have just finished their link where they planned Summer camp and cooked pizza in the woods.

This Summer the Ventures are heading off to Roscommon for the week of July 17th. Following this a number of the Venture's plan to lend a hand in training this years Phoenix team, no easy task!

In the coming months the venture section will be carrying out a number of fundraising activities in the hopes of going to Irish Jamboree 2018 an they would greatly appreciate any and all support.

The Phoenix Challenge

On Thursday 18th last August, 8 scouts set off to compete at the Phoenix, the annual national scout competition. The patrol was made up of three veterans and five newbs, an unusual ratio. For many it would be their first Phoenix and they all knew how hard they were going to have to train.

Not ones to shy away from a challenge, they came home from summer camp and got stuck in straight away. There wasn't a day where they weren't in the Scout Hall and when it got close to competition time, they were there nearly twelve hours a day, we couldn't get rid of them. They showed great initiative training themselves at times and always being co-operative.

Finally it was game time they arrived on Thursday and the site build was very tight but they powered through. Dinner was very original, meatballs and garlic bread. They then played social games and built spaghetti and marshmallow towers, the best part of the whole day! No one was at all stressed and they all went to sleep looking forward to bases the following day.

On Friday at the first base they built a monkey bridge, unfortunately it wasn't raining for this base but don't worry it rained heavily for the rest of the day. Next up was a lunch of soggy crisps and sandwiches again we are renowned for our culinary talents. The second base was semaphore and ballista and this was very stressful, we'll leave out the details as to why. Dinner was a delicious beef stir fry. Then they had an indoor campfire in the church, raining, and they all fell asleep!



On Saturday They had the first aid base, searched for bombs (AKA tennis balls, thanks for clarifying Maeve), helped poor hikers who got lost in a blizzard, built a shelter, had more soggy sandwiches and of course a shard of glass stuck in person. They had the trade fair in the evening in the ½ acre where they dyed their hair pink, I don't know where they got that from.

Sunday consisted of site take down and presentation of sub camp awards. Then the award ceremony...

80th cork has competed in the Phoenix for a very, very, very long time and we've gotten close to winning it a couple of times the most recent being 2nd in 2015. Saying that we've never won it, like ever. I know, it's difficult for us to understand as well.

They knew that as they headed to the final awards ceremony. The nerves were sky high, this was where they would find out if all of that training would be worth it. First they call out what level each of the patrols got, which frankly takes forever. Then they thank a whole bunch of people which again takes forever, then they call out 25th to 4th, which is honestly just cruel. Then finally they got to 3rd and 80th hadn't been called yet, everyone was holding their breath. Next up was of course 2nd, not us. Which as I'm sure you've gathered means that they won! They literally couldn't believe it, it didn't feel real. After a quick food pit stop they all went home to take well needed showers and have a fourteen hour sleep. The celebrations would follow.





If you're still with us welcome to our filler page. When making a publication you need an even amount of pages so it looks pretty and this makes it even so have some photos!



Hall Extension

These past couple of months 80th Cork's Scout Hall has gone under serious renovations. For some unknown reason it was felt by some that the stores needed to be extended and that we desperately needed a drying store. We were very lucky in that we were given a number of grants and are owed quite a few favours. Work began in mid April and finished at the end of may, completely on schedule. The extension of the hall has been in the pipelines for quite a while and there was fierce excitement when it was finished with many a cub going 'missing' to have a nose.



Cry for Help!

As per usual the group is desperately looking for new leaders due to the amount of new members. The scout group is totally reliant on volunteers and any help is appreciated. If you would like to get involved please do let us know!

Our Website

Check out our website www.80thcork.com, which is very kindly run by Conor.

We will be adding information to it over the coming months and there is a live feed from our Facebook and Twitter pages so you can see what we get up to at our meetings and activities.

Contact Us

If you'd like to get involved or speak to us about your child joining please get in touch with us below

Details:

Email address
80thcork@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/80thcork>

New Website
<http://www.80thcork.com/>