

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 / 2009

Donnybrook Scout Group

Donnybrook Flair



Price – €3.5 billion

3rd Issue

Donnybrook Scouts Still on the Up

No need for NAMA for Donnybrook “Developers”

Beavers Camping; Cubs change their name to the “Dirty Dozen”; Scouts in “safe houses” in the Gaelteacht; Venturers almost brainwashed by an American Cult in Budapest, leaders coming out of the woodwork – what a year it’s been for us again and we hope this, our third ever, Donnybrook Flair will do justice to all the wonderful activities, events and development of your sons & daughters that has gone on since this time last year. I suppose we shouldn’t get too carried away with ourselves because we’ve been so busy that we still haven’t managed to find time to paint the inside of the Hall!

Scouting –the SPICES of Life!

In the following pages you’ll find reports that are an amazing catalogue of activity and a collection of wonderful photos that bring the year that’s just been to life. But while it is most certainly fun and games there is also a serious side to how we plan and run what we do – the Spices. The Spices is a neat way of reminding us that everything we do should be about the development Spiritually, Physically, Intellectually, Culturally, Emotionally and Socially of your son or daughter. So as you leaf through the pages and smile at the photos you might just see that we have SPICED up the fun & games.

“Wake up Man, the tent is leaking”



Another Donnybrook First

At one of our recent Group Council meetings we decided that a Child Protection Officer would be a great additional support to our team of leaders and Julie Cotter, recently returned from Oz, volunteered to take up the role. When Ronan contacted HQ about getting her trained up and to get the protocol he found out that we were once again ahead of the

rest as there was no other Scout Group in the country with their own CPO!

Donnybrook Scouts Cob-webs -site

To our shame our website www.donnybrookscouts.org, that we share with the 7th Donnybrook Scouts (Anglesea Road), is a bit more cob-web than web-site at the moment. However, we are delighted to announce that we will shortly be launching a shiny new look website overflowing with fantastic content before Christmas. The site will not only allow you see what we have been up to but it will also have restricted access to see upcoming activities. If that’s not enough, the hall is about to go wireless so all sections will be able to upload their own content. More news as it happens!



Group Leaders Report

Welcome to our AGM and my report on yet another great year had by all involved with Donnybrook Scouts. They say time flies when you enjoy yourself; it certainly did this year and the last 3 years too. When I was writing last year's report I had come to the conclusion that 3 years was enough for me as Group Leader



but it obviously hadn't been enough for the Group and with a lot of discussions - some sober some not so, I find myself writing my 4th report out of a possible 6. 3 more years, if you say it quick it sounds a lot longer than it will be. Unfortunately, it took a lot of time last year for me to

Parents Group
Chairperson
Pat Seaver

commit to another term and I believe it affected the sections and the program run in some sections. Thankfully all is now back on track and I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead. Last year started with some new Section Leaders, Susie took over Oisín Beavers from John Curran, Ronan took temporary charge of Viking cubs and Aoife McCarthy took over the 40th Scouts. Welcome one and all and a big thanks to the stalwart Section Leaders: Darren, Peter, Jason and a 3 person committee in Venturers. Although the year flew it was very enjoyable from start to finish, from a leaders hike up Slieve Donard Co. Down to the Beavers magical mystery tour to (can't tell you it's a *mystery*). Both cubs attended pack holiday, unfortunately not very well attended, but both packs had a great time and looking forward to next year's trips. Two very good scout camps were had by the 3rd and the 40th and the Venturers put themselves well &



truly back on the map by bringing their usual antics to Budapest for 2 weeks. For the first time we managed to fill all the Section leader positions this side of the summer camps, Eadaoin Ashe took over Viking Cubs, Daithí

Hand the 3rd, Eoghain Fitz the 40th and Conor finally agreed to the hardest task of them all - leading the Venture Section. They have now set out to find new assistants so if interested please put your hand up high in the air!!

A lot of work goes on in the background to keep this group going. With approximately 220 children 50 adults and backroom staff you can only imagine the work required to keep this show on the road and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all collectively on your behalf. THANK YOU

This year saw the end tenure for our Fás scheme caretaker Norman. Again, a big thank you to him for all his work in the hall and grounds. We were successful in finding a fine replacement and I would like to welcome Michael on

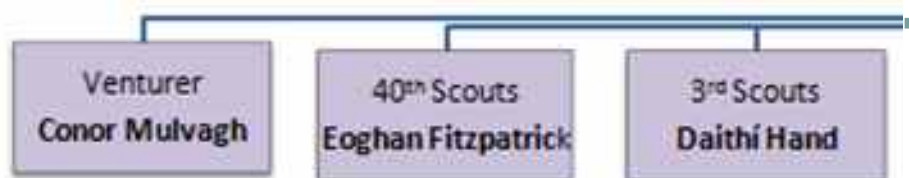
board and believe looking at the amount of work done in the gardens over the Summer months we will be in good hands for the foreseeable future.

Finally I would like to thank Lucy Mc Auley for all her time and effort as group secretary over the last 5 years but sadly we have lost her to further education. We are now looking for a new secretary so if you have a free hour once a month and fancy a new job again please stand up and be counted.

Thanks again,
Ronan Mason



Group Leader
Ronan Mason



Group Treasurers Report

The Annual Accounts are included in this years Group report and as always I'll take any questions, clarifications etc at the AGM or afterwards. I would like to take this chance to highlight some items arising from the report.

Golf Classic:

After a year break and despite the 'current financial climate' we proceeded with another Golf Classic in Old Conna GC. I'm pleased to say that with the kind support of our sponsors and players the event was a success and raised over €4,000. Thanks to Tom Cusack & John Gilsenen for their help again.

Mini Marathon:

Thanks to both Mary Swanton & Pat Seaver for all their help co-ordinating the Ladies Mini Marathon water station. Also thanks to all the members, parents and friends for their work on the day. The event again raised over €4,000 for the group which is primarily allocated towards replenishing equipment and keeping our campers dry!

12 Days Tickets:

To all those who sold '12 Days of Christmas' tickets last year, well done! Over €2,000 was raised for the group and a further €2,100 to the individual sections. Next year 100% of this will be allocated for section activities so it

will more directly impact on the cost (yours!) of events, weekends away etc. So please, get selling!

Family Levy:

The family levy remains fundamental to the running of the Group and to your child's insurance costs. We committed to not increasing this for 2 years and have met that commitment. In recognition of the 'current climate' we will maintain the levy at the 2007 levels i.e. no increase for a 3rd year running. Thanks to everyone for their contribution and also to Catherine Sheehan for her work administering the levy.

Development:

Our development account has continued to grow this year with the success of the Golf Classic and the grants received. As you can see we didn't spend too much on the Hall premises last year but there are ambitious plans to redevelop the Programme room (very, very soon!) and the old kitchen area, with hopefully additional heating on the horizon.

Programme Costs

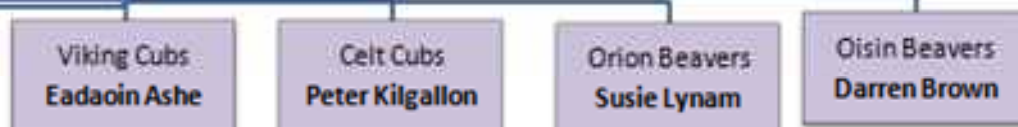
Finally, I'd like to emphasise that the accounts reported here are the Groups central accounts. In addition each section is responsible for their own programme spend which last year ran in the region of €67,000. This primarily comprises of payment for events from parents but also from some section fundraising and also leader payments for events. Yes, the leaders also pay their way along with all

the work they do in planning and running the event and caring for the (your) children. I believe a job well done!

Stephen Bruton
Group Treasurer



Sections



Orion Beavers

A spirited bunch of beavers



Orion Beaver Colony Report

What an exciting year we've had...we've been hand cuffed by the Gardai, adopted a penguin, raced paper boats in the Dodder, rocked some samba beats with our homemade instruments, watched our plants grow, tried to make biscuits - which never set!, learnt the compass points & tracking signs, walked a section of the Wicklow way & found snow, made bows & arrows, cooked over an open fire, learnt new campfire songs, explored out Secret City, camped inside the Scout Hall, made loads of new friends & played lots & lots & lots of games.

The year peaked with our Magical Mystery Tour... 8am on June 13th and Robin Hood's Merry Men are gathered in Dublin Port to take the ferry to Holyhead. It was the day of the Oisin and Orion Beaver Colony's joint Robin Hood themed Magical Mystery Tour, and we went to Greenwood Forest Park, Snowdonia, Wales. The ferry crossing was a bit rough but we occupied ourselves making Robin Hood style hats, complete with feathers! We arrived in Holyhead & were met by our bus driver who brought us straight to Greenwood Forest Park where we had our lunch and broke up into groups to go and explore the park.



There are over 15 rides and activities in the park and we went to as many as possible in the couple of hours we had there. We did the Barefoot Trail, where we had to walk in our bare feet over all sorts of things such as leaves, pebbles and bark. We climbed through the Treetop Towers, and found our way out of the Crocodile Maze. We also went on the Great Green Run, a 70 meter sledge run which was very popular with adults and Beavers alike!

One of the highlights for most of the Beavers was the Green Dragon Roller Coaster, an eco-friendly roller coaster which was a little bit scary but great fun! Then there was just time for an ice cream before getting back on the bus to catch our ferry back to Dublin. Just before we arrived back in Dublin Port, the Captain came down to talk to us and to present all the Beavers with a certificate and a Beaver badge. We arrived home very tired, but as fully qualified Merry Men after our great adventure in Wales.

The year came to an end with a Bring you Family BBQ & exhibition of the photos that the Beavers took on the Secret City day. It was a great way to finish off the year & we even managed to recruit a new leader! We'd like to officially welcome Jason Ballard who joined the leader group this September, along with the lovely Grace Crimmins & the

much sought after Andy Swanton. And this year has already starting with a bang, Group Camp was fantastic & for the new Beavers a glimpse of what their Scouting careers will hold. Congratulations to all the Beavers who camped for the first time & Good luck (not that they'll need it) to Maggie, Conn, Sarah, Jack, William & Lucy who have graduated to Cubs. We have loads more delights planned for the days ahead & hope to have an arm full of badges this time next year!

Yours in Beaver Scouting,

Susie, Orion Beaver Scout Colony



And their leaders



Oisin Beaver Colony Report

It has been another busy year for the Oisin Beaver Colony as it has with the rest Donnybrook Scout Group.

As always this year we have been completing badge work through games - the badge work programme is designed to aid Beavers physical and mental development, manual dexterity, social interaction, community spirit, teach them



was a great day and everyone had a lot of fun!!

In June we had our annual slumber night. We went to Stillorgan and went bowling followed by pizza for dinner back in the hall where we watched a bedtime movie. We all got no sleep at all and sent 10 sleepy beavers home in the morning!

The main highlight of the year is always a magical mystery tour. This year we went to Greenwood Forest Park in Wales. The day started off with us all boarding the boat for Wales. We all went on the rollercoaster, slides, tree houses and got through the maze! We had a brilliant day in Wales and can't wait to return in years to



basic scouting skills and its fun too!

We have had a number of great outings this year: For our Christmas outing we joined up with the Orion beavers and attended the Farmleigh Christmas Fair in Phoenix Park. There was a Christmas food market, a live Crib and we all met



Santa. It was a great day but very, very cold!

In March we set off for Malahide Castle. We got there by train and Dart. The weather was fantastic and we had an amazing day running around. We had a picnic for lunch out in the sun. All in all it



come! We would like to thank Susie from Orion Beaver Colony for organising this Great day. It was the BEST Magical Mystery Tour EVER.

I would also like to thank the leaders of the 40th Scouts Eoghan, Aoife, Darragh and Cian for the help they have given us over the year. I would like to thank my current assistants,



Erika, Noelle and Kia too. Thank you for giving so much of your time to make sure we all have fun



and keeping me sane. Without your commitment and encouragement the Beavers and I would be lost. Thank you so much.

We have just lost some wonderful Beavers in the link and our loss is the Cubs gain but we have a great bunch and some great new Beavers have just joined the colony.

It is all shaping up to be a great new year....

Yours in Beaver Scouting,

Darren, Oisin Beaver Scout Colony



Celt Cub Pack Report



What a year we had! From Donnybrook to Town, Brittas to Beckettsfield and even as far as Wales it seems there is no where we haven't been.

Harry, Joe, Massey and Peter led the section throughout the year with the strong support of their Sixers and Seconders. Our first Camp of the year took place in our Scout Hall with a day trip to the Lead Mines in Enniskerry where the cubs learnt to light fires and backwoods cook (their own lunches!!)

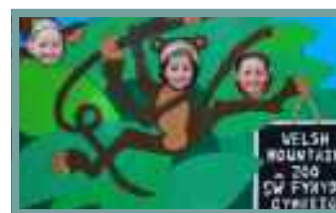


We had a Wild Goose chase in town where the cubs had to run between places such as Trinity, Dublin Castle and the Spire.

2009 promises to be just as much fun and we are looking forward to all it holds. While we have just lost our longest serving members to Scouts, our new members have fitted in quickly and are being well looked after the gang.

Here's to 2009!

Peter
Celt Cub Pack



Our joint Camp with the Viking cubs, which took place in Beckettsfield, saw the wind and rain blow the leaders tent away on the Saturday night, which got the Cubs wondering if their leaders needed to go back to Scouts to learn how to pitch a tent!

Pack Holiday 2009 took place in Wales in the town of Conway on the foothills of the Snowdonia Mountains. The week included a quick Ferry ride visits to Caves, Mines and the odd swimming pool!



Viking Cub Pack Report

We kick started the year in the usual fashion with weekly meetings and the link process. We waved goodbye to some of our older cubs and welcomed in some new faces. We also welcomed Ronan Mason as section leader to the pack, after Keith decided to hang up his woggle and return to being an assistant leader.



Musical show and although we won't admit to it, all the leaders joined in singing and some even broke out in a HSM dance routine or two!

The *unaptly* named 'Good Weather Camp' in May with the Celt Cub Pack, was held in Beckettsfield. Although the weather was not kind to us, all cubs had the craic, making it an unforgettable camp.



to Dan also who left during the year for the USA. I also want to thank Robbie Campbell (Venturer), who has been helping us out for the past year and is continuing to do so as part of his Gaisce

We had a wacky Halloween Party in October, involving lots of mess and madness.

In December, we headed down to Aurora hostel in Wicklow for our traditional 'chilly' Christmas camp. There, we fought and beat the infamous Grinch, who'd stolen all our Christmas presents!

New Year came, which saw the Vikings head to the Gaiety for Cinderella. In March, as well as another link ceremony, we had a weekend in Glendalough. Along with cooking rashers and sausages on sticks, and the now famous, eggs in oranges (yum yum!), the pack learned about trails, respecting the countryside and discovered how waterproof leader Dan's new hiking boots really were!

April saw us return to the Gaiety for the High School

In June, the sixers and seconders were invited on an extra special weekend. Brittas Bay was the destination and once all the relaxing and pampering was taken care of, they took a day trip to Courtown and swimming in Arklow.

Although the turn out was not what we had hoped for, Pack Holiday 2009, was the highlight of the year.

Ten cubs and six leaders went on one massive road trip to Cork. Everyday was jam packed with fun. From the caves at Mitchellstown, to the 'tiny town' of Clonakilty, the top secret tour of the Naval base and the day out at Trabolgan. No one left Cork with a bad memory or a sad face.

Due to work commitments, Ronan Mason had to step down during the year. Keith

put back on his woggle and carried the pack through the year. In September, I decided to take on the role of section leader. I wish to thank Keith, Niamh, Ger, Emma, Sean and Ronan for all their help and continued support. A big thanks



Award. Finally, a big thanks to Celt Leaders Peter Kilgallon and Mary Mason for their help on Pack Holiday.



Looking forward to the year ahead....

Eadaoin Ashe, Viking Cub Pack



3rd Scout Troop Report

Our first hike of the year was the final furlong of Noelle Doran's Gold Gaisce Adventure. With the sun beating down and blackberries galore we made our way from Greystones Scout Hall to Bray and finished up with a nice swim in the 40ft.



In January our annual PL and APL joint training weekend for the 3rd, 40th and the 7th Scout Troops took place, this year in Glendale Lodge. The Scouts joined us on Saturday for one of the wettest hikes we've had in a long time!



Then on to Bristol, Campa Samhraidh with the 146th Firhouse Scouts. I think I can speak for everyone when I say it was Jungle MASSive!!!

Thea Tilley, 3rd Donnybrook Scout Troop



Following a link hike to the Leadmines and the fugitive themed weekend in Aurora Co Wicklow, April brought the highlight of the year for many, Easter Camp in Dún na nGall. After a 5 hour bus journey we reached the land of Gaoth Dobhair where the clouds parted on Friday morning and the sun shone right until we went home. With boat trips to Gola Island, tales of the Howth gun running, beach games and a BBQ with the locals it was truly a memorable weekend.



This was promptly followed by an epic weekend to St Michael's House near Jack's Hole in Brittas Bay. After we braved the cool waters of the Irish Sea, we ventured forward into the dark and silent grounds of the haunted hotel formerly owned and ruled by the Ferocious French Chef Fabien.....screams and terror aside...fun was had by all.



Next, a backwoods survival weekend where the Scouts learnt the key ingredients to surviving in the wild 'à la Spuddy' style.



The Dodder Cup provided us with an excellent opportunity to revise our scouting skills in preparation for Annual Camp and in true Donnybrook style we went home with 4th & 7th prize outdoing those other groups who took themselves far too seriously!



40th Scout Troop Report

The year began with a Pirate themed Patrol Camp in Larch Hill in **September**.

By **October** our scurvy sea dogs were back in Larch Hill, but this time to link 9 new scouts up from cubs and bid farewell to 2 prospective venturers.

In **November** we stayed in Wicklow Town scout hall, played games on the beach and completed a rainy scavenger hunt. After presentations on proposed countries for Annual Camp the scouts voted on Austria! On Sunday we invested our new scouts in the castle ruins.



We celebrated Scouting's 100th birthday by organising a charity food collection. All patrols made a huge effort donating well over 100 items. Over **January & February** we hit Funderland, Ice Skating, completed PL training, slept in the hall, ran a fantastically wet PL led hike through Knocksink woods, the February link and a twin scavenger hunt. In **March** we journeyed to Beckettsfield. For some the journey there was a very interesting one, requiring a garda escort! Just as well we had taught the scouts navigation skills as the leaders abandoned the patrols

on the hike and they had to find their own way back to the hostel. On Sunday we woke to something magical and

unexpected - Snow, everywhere! There was no trouble getting the scouts out of bed as they all ran outside to sled down the snowy hills of the campsite. After a dawn "Scouts' Own", we awarded National Sunrise Hike woggles and the Emergencies Skills badge.

In **April** we headed to Portlick, for Easter Camp to climb, to do archery, zip-wire and crate stack. Some brave souls even went for a dip in Lough Ree. At 5.30 am on Easter Morning we went to a dawn mass and watched sunrise over the Lough Rea. After mass and fry we completed an easter egg hunt in the forest. For the first time in a while the 40th Scouts competed in the Dodder Cup, a scouting and campcraft competition. Apart from the competition aspect it is a great opportunity to make new friends. This year's theme was Halloween - in **May** - hello?, but all patrols embraced it by decorating their sites and fancy dressed themselves for the campfire. We came a very respectable 8th and 10th place out of 14 patrols.

In **June** we had Good Weather Camp, and for once, the weather was good for our epic hike from Enniskerry to Lough Dan. About 26k of



hiking later we got to Lough Dan Campsite and had a well deserved swim!

July: Annual Camp to Zellhof Scout Centre, Austria - yahoo! Each day started with the 'Polar Bear Challenge' - an early morning lake dip. Over the two weeks we got up to all sorts of things- mega pioneering, Salzburg zoo & trick fountains, a cable car ride, Mattsee - the local village & beach, an uphill cycle hike to a cheese factory, massive



high ropes park, canoeing, Salzburg Science Museum, a boat trip and loads more. We met scouts from about 10 different countries that helped us earn our friendship & environmental badges. On our we stopped off at a theme park and then stayed in a Scout hut in Memmingen outside Munich before flying home.

Our **new scouting year** is already in full swing and with that we must say goodbye to 5 scouts as they move to Ventures. New PLs have taken their places and we have taken in loads more new scouts from cubs and from the waiting list too. Our leader team is +1 too as we are delighted to welcome Luke Gavin to the troop. There is now a great buzz in the 40th with so many new members, and our new section leader, Eoghan. Lets make this scouting year even better than the last!

Venturer Group Report

We started the year with some much needed culture: a special James Bond night in the Helix. We all arrived in formal attire, though one of us left Donnybrook wearing a wetsuit and flippers - a great, if slightly odd, start to a great, if slightly odd, year! We attended a premiere of "A Curious Case of Benjamin Button"; the Bodies exhibition (where no body got touched/played with/licked ... we promise); had a paintball skirmish mission through



We would like to thank all the parents again for their continued Fundraising support. The race-night was a huge success and our homemade cakes seemed to go down well on St. Patrick's Day.

Summer Expedition:
On Monday 'the-morning-after-the-night-before-Oxegen' we set off for Hungary, some of us being slightly worse for wear. We spent the trip dodging J-Bombs and dropping F-Bombs. We stayed in a lovely campsite an hour outside Buda or Pest - I'm still not fully sure which. Anyway, in the city, we visited caves; raced push carts; went to a water park; had a giant scavenger hunt; bought a mouse; and returned a mouse. We went to the baths twice. We enjoyed the sweltering saunas; the luxurious warm pools; and tried to outlast each other in the freezing plunge pools.



1" (look them up on youtube at their "training" camp). They may or may not have been trying to *convert* us. (Angela thinks convert should be replaced by brainwash). We managed to find them 3 times throughout the trip. We also had French scouts on our campsite. We had a campfire with them. They sang the Lion King. We sung Bad Touch and Maniac 2000. Summer Ex. was a resounding success thanks mainly to the work of the leaders -



UCD; a scam Birthday Party / Christmas Party in Real Burger restaurant; and had the annual "Skongz" bonding weekend in Naas.

On the scoutier side of things we had two overnight hikes:

One through the Wicklow Way where we found odd things buried next to our tents and we arrived a minute after the link ceremony ended in Larch Hill the following morning.

The other was a more horizontal stroll from Newcastle Beach to Greystones along the railway tracks. We played in an abandoned house and listened to gangster rap. A pretty standard hike really.



We took an overnight trip to the biggest lake in Hungary. We were given the choice between cycling and wind surfing. We decided to buy inflatable boats and play pirates for two days and *most* of us made it back to the train on time.

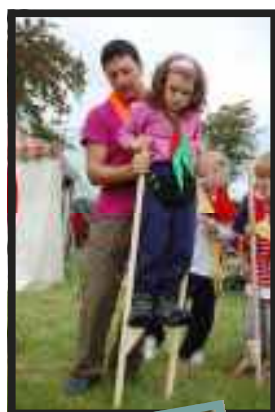
We also made many friends - like the American Christian break dancers "Audience of

Conor Mulvagh, Iseult O'Clery, Angela Crimmins, and Davy Devine. I would like to thank them and the other leaders Steph, Kate and Brian and also my exec of Tom, Toby, Matt and Conor for a great year and wish the new chairman Tim the best of luck for this year coming. Aidan Young - Chairman 2008 -2009.

D.V.G.

Directors Cut

Donnybrook Flairs designer extraordinaire and chief gopher, Daragh Mulvagh, had such a hard job deciding on which photos to drop from this edition that he has added a new page called the Gallery: a selection of his own favourite photos that nearly got the snip. He's done his work and now all you have to do is see if you can match them up with the right report.



Treasurers Report

Donnybrook Scout Group - Treasurers Report 2009

Main Account

Income	2008	2009	Expenditure	2008	2009
Levy	14930	14640	Registration & Insurance	9386	8284
Marathon	4080	4700	Hall running costs	739	1316
12 Days draw	1568	2149	Utilities	1848	2025
80th Charity Event	1600	0	Insurance	1018	1076
Misc	316	516			
Programme	48823	760	Programme Activities		
			Training	562	1535
			Programme Activities	52475	3305
			Equipment	1856	2024
			Administration		
			Post & Stationery	714	872
Carried forward 2007	641		Bank interest & charges	94	57
Carried forward 2008		1466	Donations	1800	727
Total	71958	24231		70492	21221
Carried Forward	1466	3010			

Development Account

Income	2008	2009	Expenditure	2008	2009
Golf Classic	0	4136	Scout Hall Development	1200	703
Grants	6570	5951			
Hall Rent	250	0			
Surplus 2007	34986				
Surplus 2008		40606			
Total	41806	50693		1200	703
Carried Forward	40606	49990			

Stephen Bruton
Group Treasurer

Accounts