

62<sup>ND</sup> 71<sup>ST</sup> 90<sup>TH</sup> — KILMACUD SCOUT-  
— UNIT 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY —



1963 — 1988

SILVER  
JUBILEE

O.K., you've paid your pound – so what is it?.....

...this is the commemorative magazine/booklet, or whatever you like, to celebrate 25 years of Scouting in Kilmacud.

It's a long time since Whit weekend 1963 and those first eight Scouts have long since gone their separate ways. Many families have grown up in Scouts and now their sons and daughters are continuing this tradition in the 62nd/71st/90th Kilmacud.

This is not meant to be the definitive history of the Unit. Memories have faded over the years and those finer details were dispersed as people left the Unit. We simply hope that this will re-kindle your own special memories.

At this point we must sincerely thank both Deirdre Nolan and Brendan O'Beirne for their invaluable help in bringing about this magazine. Our thanks also to Mark O'Kelly for the cover and to all our contributors.

So read on and enjoy.....

**Mark Cregg**  
**Harry O'Crowley**

EDITORS

This Unit is indebted to many people who sadly are no longer with us. We remember especially John Byrne and Finbar Eyre (Founding Members) and we ask you to take a minute with us in remembering all our brothers in Scouting who have gone home. ☺

Gasoga Gaicillí na hÉireann

Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland

National Headquarters: 19 Herbert Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. Telephone 761598 Telegrams "Gasog, Dublin"

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 62ND/71ST/90TH KILMACUD UNIT

I am delighted to have been asked to write a foreword for the Souvenir Brochure commemorating 25 years of successful Scouting in the Unit.

I would firstly like to thank all those connected with the Unit from the beginning to date, Leaders, members of the Sections, Parents and the Committees who have all contributed to making the Unit what it is today, including the building of a very fine Den and the equipping of all the sections. To all those involved the present members owe a great debt of thanks.

To the present members my congratulations on continuing the high standard of Scouting that has always been associated with the Kilmacud Unit. I hope that the present Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts enjoy all the activities of the special Anniversary Celebrations, some of whom no doubt will be the organisers of the Golden Jubilee in their turn.

Finally may I take this opportunity of wishing every member success in all their Scouting to an outstanding and happy 25 years of Scouting.

Paul Ring

*Paul Ring*

Paul Ring  
Chief Scout

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF SCOUT C.B.S.I., MR. PAUL RING

I am delighted to extend congratulations and good wishes on the 25th Anniversary to the Unit, 71st and 90th Kilmacud Scout Units.

The Scout Movement is one of the most positive organisations catering for young people in the City and is to be complimented and encouraged.

This is a special year when we celebrate 100 years of our history and I hope that the Scout Movement will focus their attention and energy on some special projects in support of the Millennium Celebrations and the City.

Best Wishes,

*Caewacile Hedawar*

ALEGERAN CARENCEIA HEDERMAN  
THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN

LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM

## 25 YEARS OF SCOUTING IN KILMACUD

The 25th anniversary of our foundation certainly could not be let pass without some form of celebration. The launching of our silver jubilee magazine represents the start of our year of celebration.

In this magazine you can see the photo of the "oringinal eight". I wonder where they are now? You can also see the group photo of the present members of our unit. Nothing can illustrate more dramatically the successful growth of scouting in Kilmacud.

Scouting, like anything else worthwhile doing, often requires putting your shoulder to the wheel. Regional shields are not just won by accident, section meetings don't just happen, they are made happen. Of course it is all about fun, but as we all know the more effort that is put into something the more that you appreciate it afterwards. We certainly do appreciate the effort of all our past members of our unit wherever they are.

We owe a great deal to all those members of Unit Council who have greatly contributed to the development of our unit by facing up to and sometimes making difficult and courageous decisions. A Unit Council meeting has often to deal with many mundane tasks, which are far removed from the excitement of the typical scouting activity. It is to their credit therefore, that many of those who have offered their services to Unit Council, did so for many years after their children had left the unit.

We have a fine scout center, which must be the envy of many other scout units who do not have their own den. It would just not be possible to run meetings for 2 Beaver colonies, 2 cup packs, 2 scout troops, 1 Airscout section, and a Venturer section, if we did not have our own den. The credit for making this financially possible must firstly go to the Bingo committee - Nick & Peggy Mahedy, Dick Courtenay and Bill Semple.

The efforts of the parents Fundraising Committee should also be acknowledged as being responsible for keeping the Unit financially sound during and especially after our weekly Bingo nights were discontinued.

The powerhouse of our Unit is of course its leaders, without them scouting would just not exist. Our unit has been very fortunate throughout its history in attracting many fine leaders. They have provided the inspiration and hard graft necessary to provide the scouting programme necessary to ensure the development of the young people passing through our unit to become mature and well respected people. As a relative newcomer to the unit, I can see the common bond of loyalty which exists amongst those who have been associated with our unit, whether formerly as scouters or leaders. Indeed many have formed friendships for life!

The Kilmacud scout unit on its 25th anniversary must remember most of all, its founding member and former Unit Leader Nick Mahedy. Nick was the man to pioneer the scouting movement in Kilmacud and was our Unit Leader for 22 years! I don't think that I could survive that long in the job. So, well done Nick, you have founded a unit which we are all proud of.

Tony Murray  
Unit Leader



## 2 5    Y E A R S

1950: The first 71st troop was formed in Stillorgan, the writer was the District Commissioner for the area whose job it was to start up new troops in parishes in which no troop previously existed. I brought along a leader from Dunlaoghaire Gerry Kestell (now sadly deceased) - he had as his assistant Paddy Rochford who still resides in Stillorgan. Unfortunately the troop did not last due to loss and lack of leaders. (The old neckerchief colours were sky blue/gold diagonal).

1963: I moved from Dunlaoghaire to Stillorgan to live and was immediately set on to start up a troop. I had the help of Tony Collins who was a former member of St Michaels Unit, Limerick we had a recruiting meeting in May 1963 in the old St. Laurence Hall which was on the main road in front of the Quinnsworth store. We accepted 8 boys and trained them fully before taking on another 8 lads.

1965: We had to vacate our den to make way for the new shopping centre and moved to St Augustines Oblisk park for a while. The good fathers at Belmont House accommodated us later until we were offered a site at Glenalbyn Community Centre. We had to organise a major fundraising campaign with the co-operation of the parents. We decided on a pre-fab wooden building which cost us £800. We raised the money from donations, cake sales, coffee mornings, dances, raffles etc.

1972: We had the offer from our late Parish Priest Very Rev. Canon Harley to purchase the old presbytery for £7,500.00. We were able to transport our pre-fab den and reerect it in the back garden.

1975: Fire destroyed our pre-fab den with some slight damage done to the house. Here we were again with the task of providing a new den. A fund raising campaign was started with a special church grounds collection which raised £1,200.00. We received a grant from government & EEC union funds. The present building cost £57,000.00. We were quite pleased that we had at last a first class den suitable for all our needs and with space to expand in the future.

## 71st SCOUTS - THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST(???)

On Whit Sunday 1963, an investiture took place that saw the start of Scouting in Kilmacud. What follows is a brief chronological history of that section - the 71st Scouts.

1963: The investiture of the original 8 led by Nick Mahedy and Tony Collins.

- Seamus Creedon, Stephen Collins, Patrick Keating, Niall McNeaney, Tony Daly, Eamon Huff, Seamus McCann and Ernest Cowan.  
- Camp took place in Kilcorney Co Wicklow.

1964: January - a further 8 boys invested.  
- Summer camp took place in Glenstar Abbey, Co. Limerick.

After a number of camps at home the first camp outside of Ireland took place in 1969 in Carouge in Wales. This was followed by 2 camps in Gillwell park in 1971 and 1973. The 71st participated in the two international camps held in Ireland Jamborora 1977 and Portumna 1985, and had 4 representatives at one World Jamboree in Norway 1975.

Over the years the 71st have done the Unit proud in winning the Regional Shield and coming 2nd on two occasions in the Melvin Shield.

The 71st Scouts have been lucky over the years to have a number of very fine leaders, among them being Nick Mahedy, Tony Collins, Eoin Furniss, Brendan O'Beirne, Peter Lynch, Liam O'Carroll Oscar Murray and Pat Brooks.

In the past 25 years hundreds of lads have gone to the den on Wednesday nights, each with his own memories.

This article is but an aid to jog those fading memories.

Harry O'Crowley

Nick Mahedy  
Former Unit Leader

## MEMORIES OF THE 71st CUBS

1967 and fatal words from the then Unit Leader, Nick Mahedy, "Maave could you help us out for six months until we train someone new to take over the cubs?" Six months became 17 years and in that time I have seen the 71st cub pack become so large it had to be divided into two, the hall moved from Glenalbyn to the present site and its rebuilding after the fire. Averaging 40 boys per year a huge number of the youth of Kilmacud have passed through our hands.

Kilmacud was one of the earliest packs to have female leadership and it is marvellous to see how many women have since become involved. We were a bit of a novelty in 1967 and it lead to some funny incidences. On one unit camp in Larch Hill we were ordered to move our tent to a separate field at 11pm! With no alternative but to obey we had the last laugh on the men when our cubs decided to play football at 400am and we refused to leave our tent to get them back to bed.

71st cubs grew both in numbers and experience as time passed. Our numerous camps became more adventurous and gave rise to many memories. Clara, when Brendan O'Beirne and myself nursed a cub through a serious attack of asthma so bad that we ended up praying most of the night and putting relics, given us by another group, on his clothes. Brendan arriving back so tired he could hardly stand up having been awake all of the last night because one of the boys had told ghost stories and so terrified the rest that they could not sleep.

Ballyhale when the cub who won camp dosser was so annoyed he threw his prize into the fire and another boy rescued it and told his parents that he had won it. The weather was the hottest recorded that summer and we discovered we had taken empty gas cylinders by accident and had to cook everything on an open campfire. The boys clubbed together and bought the leaders a large box of chocolates and made us carry it home five miles from the shop.

Wicklow town and the welcome smell of hot soup after a day raking in the rain. Joe Whelan, a scout leader, had arrived on site while we were away and when the weather turned bad he got the soup going to heat us up on our return.

Over the years we camped twice each in Clara, Wicklow Town, Ballyhale, Balbriggan and once each in Avoca, Limerick, Wexford and Mullingar. We also travelled to Liverpool for a weekend and on the ship home two of the boys went sleepwalking which proved very nerve racking for the leaders. But fortunately, looking back over the years, we only recorded three accidents when outside medical treatment was required and for that we are all thankful.

On the introduction of the 747 aircraft into service with Aer Lingus our cubs took a trip on it to Shannon and you can just imagine how many times they were counted that day as the total journey involved two buses, the plane, a coach, and finally a train with a change at Limerick Junction.

We took part regularly in the football competitions, never with much success, the campfire competitions which we won on one occasion and came second a couple of times, and the gang shows, yours truly ended up on stage in my father's dungarees and cub cap doing Ken Dodd with his Diddy Men. One wonders at the sanity of scout leaders at times.

We were also host to a Cork pack who had come to Dublin one weekend. Pantomimes, films, hikes, visits to RTE, McKee Barracks, Zoo etc. were all part and parcel of the work and fun of cubbing and our claim to fame came in 1969 when six of our boys formed the guard of honour at the opening of the International Scout Conference, held in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dunlaoghaire.

At one time we had as members an African boy and two Jewish boys proving just how international and interdenominational we could be.

A history of the 71st cubs cannot be complete without mention of Bobby O'Dowd, killed in a cycling accident in 1970, and Mark Riordan killed in an almost identical accident in 1981.

Looking back over the years it is hard to believe that so many of them have passed with such a number of adults and boys involved, with as a base the Scouting Principles





STEPHEN CONWAY, DAVID DELAHUNT, DERMOT PEARSON  
PETER O'SHEA, JOHN O'CARROLL, GERARD MULVANEY

My pal Niall 'Rock' McNeaney saluted in a funny sort of way outside McKeown's shop on the Lr. Kilmacur Rd. and chanted something incomprehensible which later turned out to be to "Bí Ullamh 71st Dublin"

At the time I hadn't a clue what he was talking about, but inquiries revealed that older lads like Tommy Donoghue and even my brother Stephen were already members of the new Scout Troop - nothing would do but I join up too!

With Mickey Rigney I presented myself at the 'Den' snug in the heart of the old Stillorgan. It is hard to imagine the village in those pre-Shopping Centre days, but I can still remember vaguely the dusty old hall, Mr Nick Mahedy who initiated us into the rituals of scouting and even a concert at which Eamon Huff (now a barman in O'Dwyers, Kilmacud) did a hilarious mime to the song "Doctor I'm In Trouble".

We were the proudest boys in Kilmacud the day we donned the green and gold kneckerchief for our Investiture after 10 O'clock Mass in the old Church. Through boyish eyes we saw life opening up that sunny morning as Tony Collins (no relation) Asst. Scout Master led us from the Church - and it did.

When I was asked to do this article I went to a long un-used drawer at home and found something that I knew has lain there undisturbed for nearly a quarter of a century. It is a piece of plastic and written on it in Nick Mahedy's felt pen is "Hohn's Patrol". That patrol was one of three into which we were divided for the first ever annual camp at Kilcroney, on the edge of the Dargle just outside Bray. Then it seemed so very far away. The years have dulled my memories but I do remember the older fellows trying to scare us with the story that the ground on which we slept was a lepers' graveyard. I also remember Tony Collins sending me back to the river to clean behind my ears!

If the sun always seemed to be shining when we were young, then Glensta, Co. Limerick where we went on the second annual camp was a notable exception. It rained continually - but even that failed to dampen our youthful spirits.

We fished in the lake, pulling out perch from a leaky boat like it was the loves and fishes all over again and we soon learned the ways of French Scout neighbours who saved on the washing up by eating off one plate!

An I clearly remember the people of the sleepy village of Newport which I since came to know as the centre of 'Pipperary poteen makers, coming to their doors to stare in amazement as the 71st Dublin under Scout Master Michael Curtis marched in formation through the main street, the only street of their town!

Like all good scouts we hiked through the Wicklow hills, lighting camp fires in Knockree and Larch Hill. We were not very good as academic scouts went, but we had a bloody great time. One nine was fired up as Ned Doyle showed Roly Benner how to milk a cow they had managed to corner in a rocky field somewhere among the Wicklow hills.

It was on one of those hikes that a long-running feud developed between Michael Curtis, Ned and me. We cooked a stew as part of our bid to get beyond the basic scout qualifications. But a reluctant Mr Curtis declined to taste it claiming that as well as the stew the billycan contained woodshaving, woodlice and sundry other livestock. We denied the charge - but never got the meat marks.

By now the 71st was a displaced troop using the Oblate Hall in Gallopington Green. To get there we had to pass through the land of former Olympic horseman Mr Hume Dudgeon. Those fields full of horses were too much of a temptation and we took to "harrowing" the odd horse. We never ill-treated them and always left them back but we eventually got into trouble and late one night had to make a personal and hilarious visit to the stately Burton Hall to explain how we came to be found by the Gardai looking in the window of Bolands Public House while sitting on the back of a horse. Mr Dudgeon, more innocent than ourselves, accepted our story and offered to bring us home in his Daimler car.

Our next camp was an international jamboree in the grounds of the Duke of Devonshire's magnificent castle at Lismore, Co. Waterford. We were then firm fans of the Dubliners, singing the Zoological gardens and St. Kevin and even entering a talent contest as we four - only to discover that there was five of us.

I also remember a night hike along the Railway line to a village called Cappaguin and our progress as we woke up and unwittingly disturbed the puzzled occupants of isolated farmhouses.

Although we were experienced scouts and maybe even patrol leaders we were put to shame by the arrival of Owen Furness, who came from Cogh festooned with enough badges to make a Major General feel uncomfortable.

After years of wandering in the wilderness the 71st was installed in its new Den at Glenalbyn and I was the leader of the Lion Patrol. I enjoyed the job, even if I wasn't very good at it.

My final camp was at Blackrock Co Louth. We were the dreaded teenagers of the 60s but unlike other teenagers who were beginning to grow their hair long myself and Ned go our heads completely shaven. Also on camp was a black Carmelite brother (although I got the nick-name Sambo) and the citizens of the Louth seaside village were intrigued by the pair of early punks and their black friend. They seemed to think we had escaped from whatever the equivalent of Loughan House was.

Casting a benevolent eye on us that year was the late Finbar Fyfe who treated us not as kids, or teenagers, but as equals. He brought us to the gaelic house in the town for Cidona and if we lacked discipline at least we had a great time. Maybe it was that lack of discipline that led to a final parting with the 71st but looking back on it every memory I have of my scouting days is a happy one. We were the last generation of kid not to be reared with a television and scouting gave us the companions and the love of the outdoors that are still with us today, almost 25 years later!

Looking back I can only say that I had a happy childhood, and the scouts played a large part in making it so. I have never put anything back in return, I hope this will go a little way towards redressing that balance.

LIAM COLLINS



## THE 62nd SCOUTS - AN APPRECIATION

Like any newcomer, the 62nd Scout Troop was first regarded with curiosity, amidst controversy and, dare I say it, with even a little scorn! In those early days the towering presence of the 71st overshadowed all activities and to many it seemed as if the efforts to start a second Scout Troop were futile. Happily though sanity prevailed and the fledgling 62nd survived. This was due mainly to the efforts of the founding leaders of the Troop. Aptly enough one of those was the son of our founder, David Mahedy, the other was Paul Macken. They started with only 12 boys, the "Dirty Dozen"! Both leaders worked tirelessly to establish the Troop in that first year and their efforts have been well regarded.

To try and list all or even the majority of events in subsequent years would be almost impossible and would be guaranteed to put someones nose out of joint! Instead I have listed some facts below, including all the Section Leaders the 62nd have had to date.

The bare facts however, do not cover the real spirit or soul of the troop. That story is contained in a multitude of people, places and incidents, some little, some large. Camps like Llandudno Junction, Peta, Broadstone Warren and Fortwell Pirs. People like John O'Carroll, Brendan O'Beirne, Joe Whelan, Pergus Steerle, Tommy Phoenix and Paul Moloney, to name but a few. Incidents ranged from the ludicrously funny (the "Mutiny" on Annual Camp in Gilwell) to the tragically sad. Another feature of the 62nd Scouts is the number of Scouts who have come up through the ranks and remained on in leadership, one of the great achievements in any Troop. All went into make up the fabric of the troop that we have today.

If one was to settle though on any one aspect that is the 62nd Scouts it is I believe, the tremendous sense of fair play and respect for the individual, be he strong or weak, rich or poor, that exists within the Troop. Those qualities have stood the test of time and have given our Unit one of the best Scout Troops I have ever had the privilege of serving in.

### FACTS:

Troop founded in September 1973

#### Section Leaders;

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Sept 73 to Sept 74     | David Mahedy     |
| Sept 74 to Sept 77     | Brendan O'Beirne |
| Sept 77 to Sept 79     | John O'Carroll   |
| Sept 79 to Sept 86     | Kevin Byrne      |
| Sept 86 to present day | Paul Farren      |

### CAMPS:

|              |                  |                       |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 74 Limerick  | 75 Strabally     | 76 Llandudno Junction |
| 77 Slawmore  | 78 Duncannon     | 79 Gilwell            |
| 80 Broad Key | 81 Peta          | 82 Broadstone Warren  |
| 83 Fortanna  | 84 Fortwell Pirs | 85 No Camp            |
| 86 Peta      | 87 Youghal       |                       |

Kevin Byrne



## GILLWELL 1979

By the time we arrived at Gillwell the problems had started. Somewhere in an English train station lay the wood for our altar fires and Eoin Farren and Bren Smith's personal gear. This set the scene for what was to be one of the all time great Annual Camps.

Gillwell was the lap of luxury for a Scout - it had a sweet shop, a swimming pool and Guides. What could go wrong with a set up like this?

We had the usual camp activities such as swimming, canoeing, orienteering and tours of London. But even these fell into insignificance when we mutinied.

It all began on a lazy sunny afternoon after everyone had been swimming. However it was noticed that one Jim McNamara hadn't been in. We decided that he should, against his will. We dragged him kicking to the pool but the leaders stopped us in a very authoritarian manner. That night we stayed up all night creating various noises. At approximately 3 am the leaders opened the doors of Johnny Wynne's tent and his patrol, myself included, were told to stand to attention. We did - in our underwear...well it was hot!! Eoin Farren and Johnny were then told to wash all the dirty pots. Meanwhile the other two patrols had their heads out to have a look.

The following morning, after this most demeaning night, we decided that we didn't like Brendan O'Beirne, or the other leaders. With that Paul and Johnny's patrols boycotted their leaders. This meant breakfast was not worth eating for them so they stormed off.

Next we disappeared for the day. The leaders were rightly upset at this stage and came after us. My only memory of this chase was Liam (Slim) O'Kelly chasing after me having been disturbed whilst dealing with nature. That sight stays with me to this day.

Eventually we were all rounded up and the trouble started. The upshot of it was that Paul and Johnny were to be sent home. We were shocked and stunned. Eventually they reconsidered and both patrols were sent off to wash every toilet in Gillwell. It was at this time we re-wrote the troop song.

The rest of the camp was spent in good spirit. Thank God for leaders with a good sense of humour. Besides Cathal Cornley washing the plates with a dead rat there were very few mishaps. Further, just to prove it wasn't all dossin', we got the Gillwell penant.

And that was Gillwell 1979!

### Leaders: Brendan O'Beirne

John O'Carroll (Camp Chief)

Fergus Sheeran @

### Patrols:

Johnny Wynn

Mark Cregg

Eoin Farren

Liam O'Kelly

Brian O'Sullivan

Rory Nealon

Paul Farren

Bren Smith

Brian Kavanagh

Gary Patterson

Zambira

Padraig Cornley

Ronan Cody

Keith O'Brien

Cathal Cornley

Jim McNamara

Mark Cregg

## 6 2 n d C U B S

Following close on the heels of the 62nd Scout Troop, the Cub Pack was started in 1974. The original leaders were Peter Clucas, Mary McMurragh and Geraldine McDonnell.

The 62nd Cubs soon found a niche for themselves on Thursday nights and have met there since.

Peter Clucas was the last of the Oblate students to work with the Unit. This broke the connection that Oblates had with the Unit from the beginning.

Among the other Section Leaders were Austin O'Connell, Ionna Byrne, Ger Aylward, Angela McCauley and Famen Johnson.

The 62nd Cubs "twinned" with another pack in Cork Co Cork which led to them coming to us twice and us going on camp to Cork.

In keeping with Unit tradition the 62nd always did well in competitions and Regionals, campfires and football. And all those who remember will have to agree that it was all fun just like it ought to be.



## KILMACUD BEAVERS

Our first Beaver colony was started in January 1987 in response to many requests from those within and outside of the Unit. In a very short period of time the number in the Colony grew from 18 boys and girls to the full 24, with a waiting list of over 20 to join. We now have formed a second Beaver Colony (62nd) which already has 24 members plus a further waiting list! So what are Beavers and why are they so successful in Kilmacud?

The Beaver Colony (6 - 8 yr olds) is the first stage in the grand CBI sausage machine for producing mature individuals (at the age of 19). A Beaver, just as in any other section progresses from first being invested as a Beaver in the Colony to taking on various Beaver challenges, to the link into the Cub sections. The aim of the programme is to help develop the boy or girl and to convert his/her weaknesses to strengths. The Beaver learns about himself and on how to get on with others. This is summarised in our Beaver Motto of "Sharing, Sharing, Sharing".

The Beaver Programme contains a large element of fun. However, the Beaver has the opportunity through various challenges to earn the eight Paw Badges. These challenges are not treated as "homework" in the traditional sense, but are practical tasks which can be carried out during a normal Beaver Meeting. Examples are polishing shoes, painting in the Scout Hall (if the Unit Leader is not around) or learning the Safe Cross code. From time to time the Beavers go on trips outside the Scout den (as in our recent Junior troop trip from Dublin to Shannon), to learn about the World about us.

The success of any Beaver Colony depends largely on the level of fun and enthusiasm shown by the Beaver Leaders at the meeting. Certainly the Beaver Leaders in Kilmacud are enjoying their Beaver Meetings and long may it continue. So here's to another 25 years Scouting in Kilmacud and let's hope that we have hundreds more Beavers!

Fiona Horlacher  
Beaver leader

## VENTURING IN KILMACUD

When I was originally asked to write an article for this commemorative magazine about the history of Venturing in Kilmacud I was very reluctant. The reason being that the Venturers in Kilmacud have achieved so much over the years that it is only possible to skim the surface. However since I was present at the start of venturing and am now Venturer Leader I suppose that I can give a fair account of the history.

In 1971, Nick Mahedy was in charge of leading a group of Scouts to Gilwell Park outside London. Among the many Scouts he had a group of SPL who were a bit out of place. Nick, who was never short on ideas decided that these SPLs should have their own tent and be called Venturers. The three original venturers on that Gilwell camp were Kevin Byrne, Brendan Farrnen and David Mahedy.

After that first great Gilwell camp Dick Courtenay was persuaded to become the first Venturer leader in 1972. Venturing was new to CBSI and to the Unit so great credit must be given to Dick for establishing a sound foundation on which venturing in Kilmacud could be built. Among his first venturers were Kevin Byrne, Peter Farrnen, Gerry Smith, Frank Duffy, Leo Corcoran, Colm Berkery and David Mahedy. The Venturers did a lot of community work. They were involved with the Simon Community and spent a lot of time helping the deaf children in Beech Park House.

The first venturer camp was held again in Gilwell Park from 2nd to 15th August 1973. The cost for the fortnight was a mere £22.

By 1973 the venturers had been joined by the very energetic and able Dave Bagnall who was Dick's assistant. Activities continued and the group continued to grow. A lot of painting and gutter cleaning was done to help subsidise the next annual camp which was to be held in Jersey in 1974. What a camp that was!!!

In 1975 the first of the major charity cycles took place from Dublin to Cork. This was a major undertaking and took a lot of planning by the venturer group. This was a major success and it included a visit to the Lord Mayors of both Dublin & Cork.

This was the first of three major cycles. The others were in 1976 a 100 mile round trip and in 1978 Galway to Dublin.

An important event took place in 1976 and that was the major decision of the venturer group to go mixed. There was a lot of discussion and argument but the decision was finally taken to allow girls to join the venturers. The character and spirit of venturing changed from that stage and it is a change that has enriched the Unit since the arrival of those first girls in 1976. Ann McDonald became the first female venturer leader.

In 1976 the annual camp took place in Killarney and for this camp the venturers had the benefit of the Unit van which by that stage had been turned into a bus. The van toured parts of Kerry and eventually turned up in Killarney for Puck Fair. This was the time that Roibey Berkery ended up with a gold medal for singing some camp-fire songs at a local Feis. Some say that they only gave him a medal to get rid of him. Singing of a more refined nature was performed by Orlaith Carmody when she sang "The Spinning Wheel" on an open stage before a large crowd in Killarney.

Early in 1978 Paul Macken took over as Venturer leader and as with all changes in leadership there was a change in personnel and in the direction of the group. The group was now involved in more outdoor activities. Over £1000 was raised to purchase and to make six canoes that are still in use to this present day. A great deal of canoe training took place and many exciting expeditions were enjoyed by all members of the group.

The social service element of the venturer group was also looked after. The group painted Shell's Home and helped a great deal in looking after children in Limerick. The summer was spent running a permanent camp in Wicklow for two months. The ISPC sent different groups of children down to the camp for a week at a time.

As with all groups summer camps and expeditions were held and these were the highlights of the years activities. In 1979 and 1980 camps were held in County Kerry. In 1980 the venturers hiked around the Ring of Kerry. In the summer of 1981 an expedition to America took place.

January 1981 also saw a change in leadership. I, for my sins took over as venturer leader. This was only to be a temporary measure until a proper leader could be found. However, seven years on, I find myself still acting as a leader. Certainly for me a more rewarding job couldn't be found and I think I will always treasure the friendships made over the years.

Again as with any other change in leadership there was a change in personnel and the activities in the group. While the Venturers still did social work in the parish and helped with the various sections in the unit there was a definite increase in the social activities of the group. The sales of large bottles of lemonade increased and many parents of the Venturers found that Saturday nights could see a large increase in the number of people in their homes.

It was just before our first camp to Boyle, Co Roscommon in 1982 that Cathryn Courtenay joined our group as female leader. In those days it was always very difficult to get a female leader that would stay with the group and was both willing and able to get involved in all the activities. However, it was no trouble at all for Kate, perhaps she inherited the gift from her father, who was the first venturer leader in Kilmacud.

The executive played a very important part in the group in those early days. Much lobbying and trading of votes was entered into to ensure the correct result. I don't know if the venturers always got the result they were looking for but the executives always worked.

The role of chairman is always important to a venturer group and we in Kilmacud were lucky to have a supply of good chairmen, Harry O'Crowley, Martin Flynn and Fergus Healy among others.

As camps are dealt with in other parts of this magazine, I won't go into them in any detail. Everyone has their own favourite so the list of camps since 1981 are:

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1982 Boyle, Co. Roscommon   | 1983 Aughengillan, Scotland |
| 1984 Belgium & Holland      | 1985 Lake District, England |
| 1986 Aughengillan, Scotland | 1987 Belgium                |

Finally to all those who have been Venturers under my leadership could I say thanks for the friendships and my apologies to those who didn't enjoy the type of Venturing that was available under my leadership. I hope it wasn't all bad!!

#### ROLL OF HONOUR

##### Venturer Leaders 1972-1988

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| David Bagnall     | Michelle Maher   |
| Niamh Carmody     | Eleanor Mahon    |
| Dervila Carmody   | Ann Moore        |
| Leo Corcoran      | Ann McDonald     |
| Dick Courtenay    | Brendan O'Beirne |
| Cathryn Courtenay | Liam O'Carroll   |
| Maeve Eyre        | Peter O'Connor   |
| Maeve Farren      | Róisín O'Crowley |
| Deirdre Nolan     | Niall O'Shea     |
| Paul Macken       | Miriam Stott     |



**Showpiece Site:** The dresser was constructed after about two days, a marvellous piece of work. The girls had built the first gadget on the site.

Though for the most concerned this was their first venturer camp, we felt bound by what we could only surmise as being a time honoured tradition in venturing - "the relaxed camp". Anyway, pitching six tents in a cobbled stone yard was a feat in itself.

The table, a truly magnificent structure was the "piece de resistance" of the site, designed in the nouveau-bombshelter style by the same architect famous for the Gilwell pallet dresser which required only two lashings.

Important features of the table were:

1. The necessity for only 4 lashings (well we were quite tired)
2. The fact that none of the spars involved had to be sawn
3. Its "structural stability" i.e. the supporting courtyard wall.

**Unfit For Hiking:** Camp activities were numerous and varied... coffee making, canoeing, mars bar eating, card playing and coffee drinking. All agreed (without undue investigation) that Brendan O'Beirne's evaluation of the surrounding countryside as unfit for hiking was indeed correct and wise. Could it be anything else, coming from "Mother Hen"?

Coffee related activities took place mostly on-site and card playing was mostly on the train to and from Boyle. The canoeing by far the most arduous activity was located "on Golden Pond"

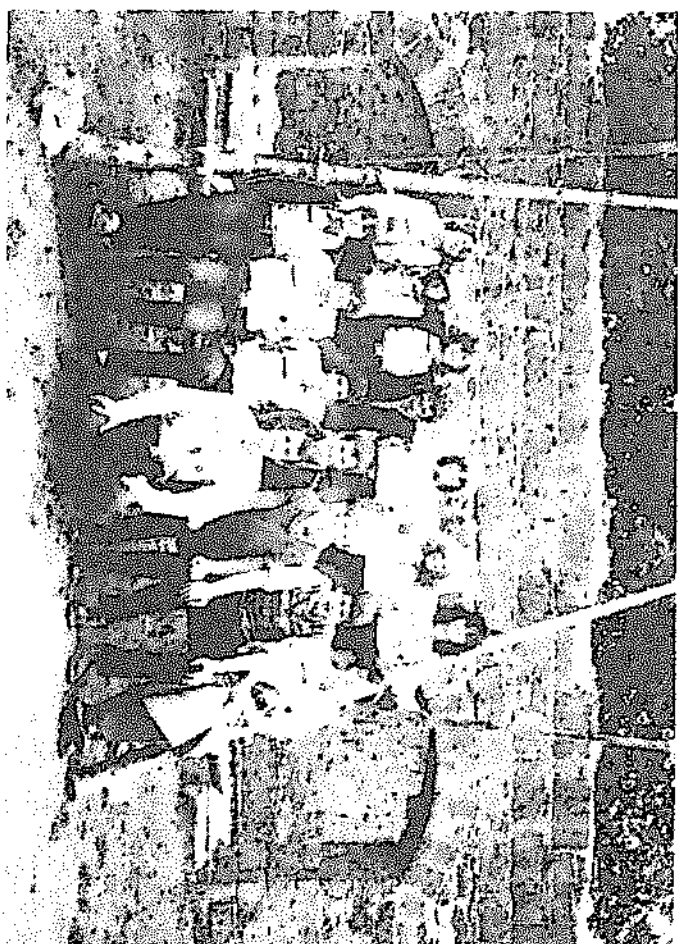
**Piping Hot:** The canoeist experts (those that could manage a straight line) lead an "expedition" to the nearest island, 100 yards, of a half a days canoeing offshore. Mother Hen stayed behind perfecting his three point turns, while the better-off members of the group hired rowing boats, Róisín O'Crowley and Dee Nolan proving their female stamina by swimming alongside in the piping-hot volcanic waters of Lough Key.

The reason for the apparent intense interest in current affairs became evident on the Thursday when the announcement was made on the one thirty news on Bren's car radio. Harry looked at Joe - their faces dropped.

After much pleading "the boys" were deposited in Boyle City by Brendan. Alone at last in this thriving metropolis with only a fistfull of five penny pieces. The briefing and been thorough, the rules were clear.....NO stories.

**Sweets:** We had but a few hours. We found the phone box. Joe first, then Harry, Niallie and Ronan. WAAH WHOO!!!! The results were out, the celebration began. We spent the remainder of our five pennies on sweets, and waited in the sun for Brendan to collect us.....remember NO stories.

Ronan Cody  
71st Scouts -  
Section Leader





## ONCE UPON A TIME....

.....Way back in the year of 1976, a certain wonder-wizard by the name of Dick Courtenay, stood in complete darkness weaving a magical spell. His apprentices consisted of one average-sized Snow White and 7 somewhat larger than life "Dwarfs". The spell he weaved was the first pantomime staged by the Kilmacud Venturers - the darkness came courtesy of the ESB! Snow White and the 7 "Dwarfs" was such a success that the idea of an annual venture pantomime was born.

And so it continued with "The Wizard of Oz" in which Orlaith Carmody played Dorothy, "Cinderella" played by Rita Moloney, "Aladdin" which in true panto style was played by a girl - Eilish Moore, "Little Red Riding Hood" played by Rita Moloney. 1983 saw the repitition fo "Snow White" which was played by Dee Nolan and yet again the average height of the "Dwarfs" was 5'11"....!!!

The year after was another repitition - this time "Cinderella" played by Roisin O'Crowley. "The old woman who lived in the Shoe" came next adn this particular panto was special because Brendan O'Beirne finally hung up the Dame's wig, bloomers & football sock and Mark Creggy, complete with curlers, took over the role - enjoying it so much in fact, that he continued to play the Dame for "Robinson Crusoe" played by Pete O'Connor, and "Hanzel & Gretel" played by Dave Lenihan & Mairead White. This was where Mark exchanged the dress for the civvies and Dave Doran became the Dame for 1987's "Aladdin" played by Elaine Whelan.

The "Wizards & their apprentices" as it were, may have changed from panto to panto but year after year we have always had the fantastic help of our panto band - otherwise known as the room n' roll mega-stars 'Out of the Blue' who under the baton of Joe sheehy, provided us with the music for our shows with a lot of slaying & heckling thrown in for good measure.

The pantos have always been a good fundraiser for our hall and this is due to the great support you have given us over the years. In fact, thanks to you, the scouts can live, as all good panto say they should.....HAPPILY EVER AFTER

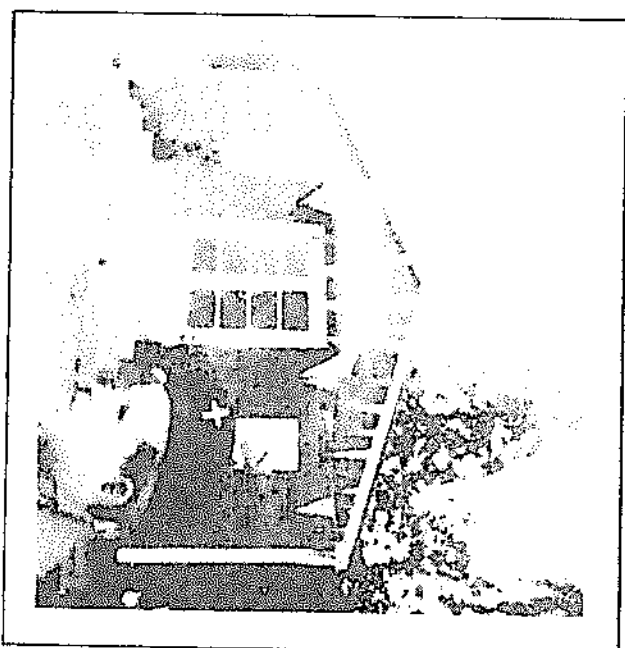
Dee Nolan  
Venturer Leader

## THE 90TH AIR SCOUTS

One of the latest additions to the Unit is the 90th Air Scouts, started as a fully fledged Scout Troop last September.

As the name implies the 90th is a Scout Troop but with the added extra of Air Activity in the programme. The general aim of this new addition to our Associations Programme is to open up the huge world of Aviation to young people using the Scout method. In its application the general rule of Air Scouts is Scouting first, Aviation second. Consequently the Air Scouts have already been on 4 hikes, a camping weekend, and a hostelling weekend in the last year, all of which were run on traditional Scout lines. In addition however, they have also been to Airfields, assisted at the Air Spectacular in Baldonnel last year and in fact at one point the entire troop were airborne in Light Aircraft during a weekend last year. More recently they came second in the National Air Scout Trophy Competition and are eagerly looking forward to the Regional Scoutcraft Competition. As the saying goes, the Sky's the Limit!

Kevin Byrne  
Air Scout Section Leader



## JERSEY - THE TRUE STORY!

"Sun drenched beaches on a tax-free haven, where the Yuppies of the '70s Holiday" That is the heading that attracted the 71st Venturers to teh Island of Jersey in 1974.

We met at the Scout Hall on Saturday 1st August 19874. We loaded the gear and headed for Dunlaoghraire. Under the watchful eye of Dick and Dave the Venture Troop boarded the boat for what was to be a very memorable camp.

The boat docked in Jersey at 3.30 on Sunday 2nd. We all got off, collected our gear and waited for the arrival of the mini-bus which was to take us to our camp site. The transport and camp site was provided by the Oblate Fathers on the island. As we waited for the mini bus it was decided to carry the gear to the end of the pier so the driver could spot us more easily. One half waited at the boat while the rest went to the car park at the other end of the pier. Eventually a mini bus arrived - a Fiat 850 to collect 15 Venturers and gear. It is a small island so maybe everything on the island is small!! Jerry, realising that the mini bus was for us called out to the rest in the car park. It was very noisy and Jerry tried to shout over the noise. Eventually an attempt was made to send semaphore without flags. After a few minutes the message was interpreted and we started back to the boat. Suddenly out of nowhere a police car came racing down the pier. We watched thinking that maybe they were about to search the boat for drugs. To our amazement the car stopped and an officer approached Jerry. Dick and Dave had a job explaining to the officer that we didn't realise that shouting was an offence but after a little sweet talking by them the police left. Poor Jerry, only a few minutes on the island and nearly arrested!

We left for the camp site which was on the other side of the island. The following day we slept late. After breakfast we decided to make the camp site look like a good Scout Camp should. Timber and ropes were needed for dressers, gate ways, basin holders and biscuit tin ovens. Off we set to collect the equipment but unfortunately we got side tracked and the only timber we found was a snooker cue in a pub with a pool table and bar billiards. A very enjoyable day was spent experiencing some of the other uses of timber. Well - tomorrow was another day!!

That evening we decided to go to St Ouens, the nearest town, to see what was going on. A mad dash was made for the large boarding school style bathrooms and there were places washed that had not seen soap for weeks. With the smell of after shave deoderant, talc and eau de Cologne, it was like a perfumeerie after a free trial session. We were now ready to take on the world. The ElMelino seemed to be THE place to go. It was a large cabaret-pub with 12 alcoves decorated in different countries' colours overlooking a small dance floor with an electric organ at the side. Percy was the man at the organ. It was here that we first met Mary Anne. What a girl she was. "When in Jersey do as the Jerseyites do" that was our motto, so after some exhausting negotiations with D & D an outcome was reached. We could try her if we wanted to but only once and we were to be careful. One by one we tried out this Mary Anne. She was everything we expected her to be - full bodied, eager to please and very cheap. Mary Anne special - a local Lager only available on the island of Jersey. Some of us liked it, some didn't, but we felt we had experienced a little of the traditional Jersey. Percy soon arrived and within minutes the best sing-song we every had was in full flight. Before the night was out nobody was in any doubt that the 71st had arrived in Jersey. The best group of singers, or noise makers, Percy had heard in a long time.

The following morning or afternoon whichever it was, we decided to go down to the beach. The beach at St Ouens is famous for its big waves and surfing. It wasn't until we were going home that we found out one is supposed to try and stay on, not fall off the surf board. Live and learn!! That evening it was back to the ElMelino for more song and dance.

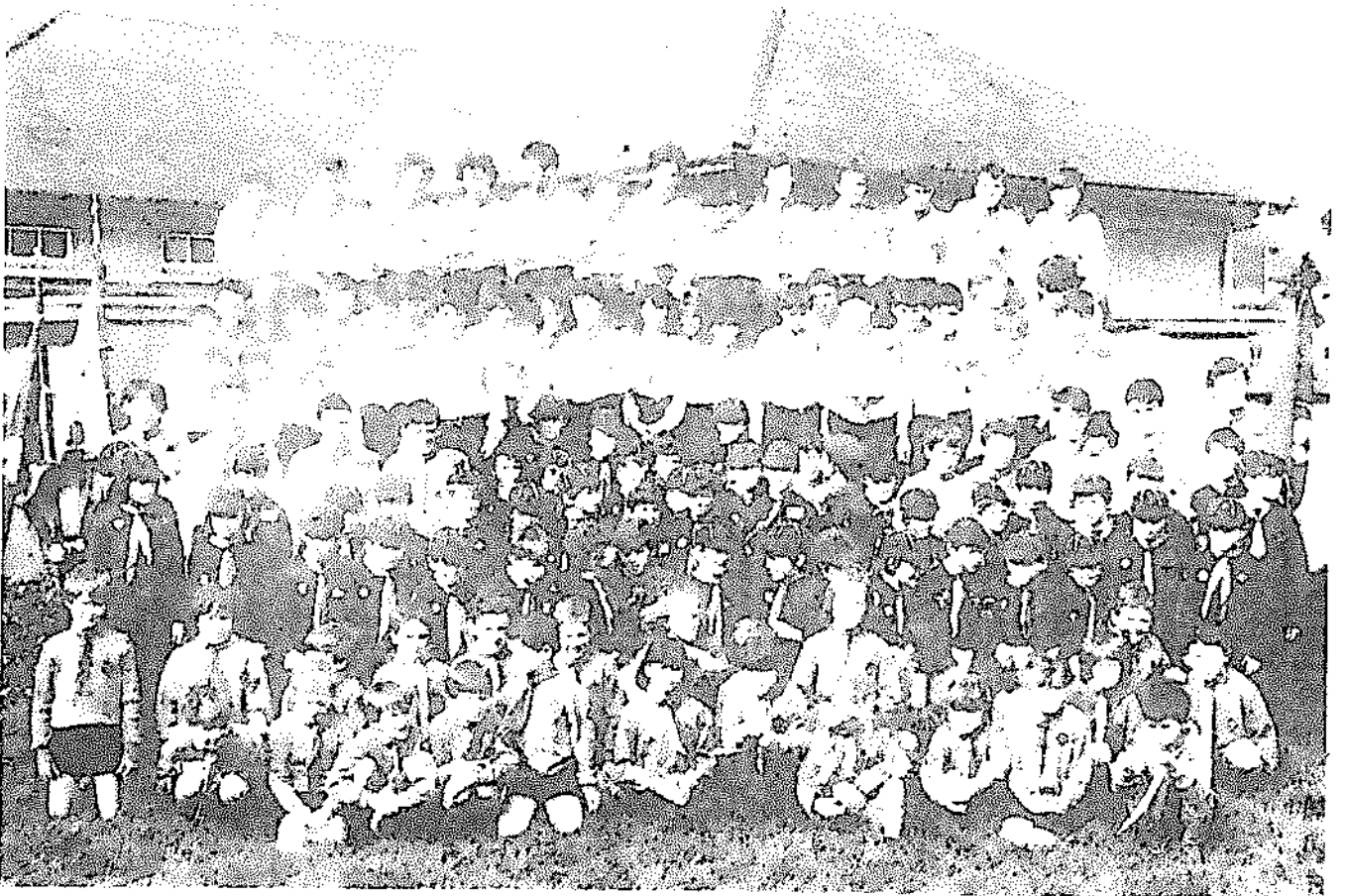
Over the next few days we went to all the places one goes to when one is in Jersey. St Bredlade's Bay and Light House, the underground hospital and the German cemetery. By now we were all well versed in the progression of the war but a little rusty on the night life in St Helier. So we set about putting that right.

It was the 7th and Peter's birthday so off into the disco in St Helier we went. Well as far as the Frong door anyway. The

The door man explained that a shirt and tie was needed and no denims were allowed. Now a tie was a luxury we did not possess. But "Bí Ullamh" is our motto so we improvised. Ties were made out of our neckerchiefs, shirts swapped for t-shirts and denims for trousers. Eventually 5 out of 13 were dressed for the disco and the other 8 went home dejectedly. Peter and the other lucky four had a great night and came out with new friends. However the question of which hotel we were staying in came up and when the new friends heard that we were camping they suddenly had other pressing appointments. So home we went on our own.

Time was moving on and the site was not yet the site it was supposed to be. Well timber was hard to come by, especially in the places we were looking. It was decided to get up early the next morning but after having such a great night at the ElMelino for some strange reason, the following day didn't have a morning. We were wakened to the cry of "Fall in. Full inspection in 10 minutes". The Area Commissioner and some local Scout leaders had arrived. We explained that we had not been able to find any timber and that the camp site was not up to our usual standard. We had actually made a boot scrape but someone had put it away so carefully that we could not find it. The Area Commissioner left. The Good Camping Certificate must have got lost in the post as it never arrived in Kilmacud.

It was a camp that everybody enjoyed and will be remembered as one of the all time greats. The other 5 days which I have not covered will have to remain that way. Maybe they will be in the next edition in 25 years time. I don't think people are ready for them yet.



# 50/50

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