

SUMMER *people*

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SUMMER *people*

Lanesboro / Ballyleague

Roscommon people
Supporting local communities

Reports: Paul Healy & Seamus Duke

Photographs: Andrew Fox

Ballyboro scouts making a splash

Canoeing, kayaking and sailing on Lough Ree are just some of the activities that the ever-busy Ballyboro Scouts take part in during the summer months.

Ballyboro' Scouts, which was set up in the Ballyleague / Lanesborough area in 2003, is one of the great success stories when it comes to youth participation at a local, national and international level.

The troop is a part of the Lough Keel Scout County, which consists of troops from Longford, Boyle, Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon and Mo-

hill and they have their own campsite which is located adjacent to Lough Key Forest Park in Boyle.

With over 140 members, it is one of the biggest Scout Troops in the Midlands and it caters for both male and female from six years up age up to 21 as they progress for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and finally on to Rovers.

The catchment area for membership of their Troop was initially from the Ballyleague / Lanesborough area but has since spread out and caters for youth members from Roscommon, Longford and Strokes-town with enquiries already this year from Ballaghaderreen and Creggs for membership.

Two Venturer members from the Troop, Ashling Brady and Roisin Collier, were elected recently to the National Management Committee of Scouting Ireland which oversees all aspects of Scouting in Ireland, both North and South.

Water activities play a major part in the activities of the Scout and Venturers section as

they ran a very successful water-based weekend in May with over 90 Scouts and Venturers from Roscommon, Leitrim, Longford and Galway participating in Canadian canoeing, kayaking and sailing on Lough Ree. The event, which was sponsored by Waterways Ireland, proved to be an instant success and plans are well underway for a similar event next year which will become a regional event in the Western Region Scouting calendar.

Their flotilla of kayaks, Canadian canoes and topper sailing boats are becoming a regular sight on the Shannon, and with the grateful assistance of Junior Hannon, their local Irish Canoe Union Instructor, a great number of their Scouts and Venturers have attained Level 1 and Level 2 Certification. It is hoped this year to train up some of the Troop Leaders as sailing instructors to enable the Scouts to sail two 25-foot sailing boats that they have at their disposal.

Eight of their Venturers are heading off to Arklow in July as guests of the Arklow Sea

Scouts for a Splash Down and this will coincide with a week-long visit from the Dublin Sea Scouts to Ballyleague as part of their Summer Camp.

The Cub section have only recently returned from a brilliant 'Safari'-themed weekend in the Scouts National Campsite, and some of them will be heading off soon with the Scouts on their Annual Camp to Lough Key Forest Park

At present the Troop are awaiting official designation as Sea Scouts, which will make them the first Inland Sea Scout Troop in Ireland and are very grateful for the assistance is has got from Michael Kelly, Youth Officer, Roscommon VEC in promoting the Troop.

A campaign is already underway throughout Roscommon for communities who are interested in setting up a Local Scout Troop in their area, anyone wishing to learn more on this campaign can contact Liam Kelly, Group Leader of the Ballyboro Troop on (087) 1306553 or email ballyboroscouts@oceanfree.net.

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Lucy Kenny, James Gavigan and Daniel Mullooly in one of the Troops Canadian Canoes.