

## **District Chairman's Report**

2019/2020 has been a very different year for Scouting in Malling District. The year was proceeding well with all the usual activities, camping, fun and games and then in March 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic struck. As for every other voluntary organisation in the UK, scouting was brought to a sudden halt by COVID-19 under the strictest restrictions imposed by the government since World War 2.

Our age-old motto 'be prepared' was never anticipated as being applicable to something with such widespread and immediate effect as that inflicted upon us all by the pandemic. Scouting is resilient however, and I am proud of the way our groups swiftly adapted to the restrictions, moving to on-line activities and communicating with our members to maintain interest and contact.

With so many events such as St George's Day Parade being cancelled, maintaining membership interest was not going to be easy, but Malling district has survived and will in coming months be restored to a full schedule of events.

In the first three quarters of the year, we saw all the usual fantastic activities and recruitment for Euro-Jam and initial planning for the next KIJ. These events are now on hold waiting for new dates. Fund raising at group and district levels was also proceeding well and the District Campsite fund has seen good growth. With sufficient in the bank to start to impress grant bodies, planning permissions was applied for and gained ready to start development. The pandemic has curtailed most fundraising opportunities and we look forward to their recommencement as restrictions ease.

Throughout the year and into the next, the district team has continued to meet online and I believe has managed to be productive and supportive to the groups. Training has progressed and our finances are in good shape.

Scouting depends on volunteers and to all leaders, helpers and parents, I offer a big thank you for your continued support in bringing the world of opportunities to our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. Scouting is still the largest and most successful uniformed youth organisation in the world and it is thanks to your freely given time and commitment which is never to be underestimated.

I am delighted once more to submit a positive report and summary on the health of the district and wish everyone a wonderful and successful 2020/21 as we come through the COVID pandemic into a new world of Scouting.

**Denis Spiller**  
**District Chairman**