

## **District Commissioner's Report**

Well what a year this has been!

When we got together last year to have our AGM and present our awards, we could have never dreamt that within 6 months, the world and Scouting as we knew it would change.

I am proud of the adult volunteers across the District who rose to the challenge when the coronavirus pandemic came along and stopped all face to face Scouting, something which has never happened before. Volunteers quickly came up with new challenges on social media, activities to work on at home and live Zoom meetings. I can't say I'd have imagined virtual Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer meetings happening before and if someone told me it would be normal in March 2020, I'd have never believed them.

Times aren't back to normal yet. The pandemic will have changed Scouting locally, but Scouts have been around for 113 years, and so it will continue as we move in to the year ahead. Our numbers will fluctuate, the way we do things will be different for a while, and there are some further challenges ahead, but I know we have a fantastic team of volunteers across the Malling District who will rise to the occasion and deliver the best for young people moving forward.

We are slowly starting to formulate plans for the next year, but with so much uncertainty, it is hard to confirm things in motion at this stage. I do hope that we will be able to have some sort of St George's Day event next year.

Once Scouting was given the go ahead to resume, our Campsite Team and the Executive Committee worked hard on the necessary changes to make Comp Wood "COVID-secure" and we were pleased to be able to welcome back users from the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020. We've had some successful socially distanced Scouting take place there already which is fantastic to see.

As always, we continue to only succeed when we have volunteers, and so I openly call for people to get stuck in, even if you can only spare an hour a month, there'll be something you can do to help.

I'd like to record my thanks to my entire District Team, the District Executive Committee for their support and drive during what has been the most challenging time we've experienced so far whilst I've been your District Commissioner.

Finally I'd like to thank each and every adult volunteer, parent, young person who has stuck with Scouting throughout the pandemic. You're all fantastic. Remember, we're better off when we achieve together, and remember, Scouting really does make an impact and continues to deliver Skills for Life.

**Craig Worcester**  
**District Commissioner**