



### District Chair Report

The last year and a half have been incredibly difficult for us all and I am delighted to say that our leaders and those who support them on the committees and at home, have risen to the challenge of making Scouting accessible throughout the pandemic. It has not been easy and we have seen many innovative ways of engaging with our youngsters. Zoom was not a part of our vocabulary but has now become part of everyday society, as have words like sanitiser, lateral flow tests and PCR tests. Consequently, adaptations have been made to premises, to procedures and to risk assessments. All this so that our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts can come together in whatever format we have been allowed to and enjoy the company of others in a safe and engaging way. I thank and applaud every single member of the District for the incredible journey they have been on this last year or so and especially our leaders, who have been on the front line and kept the District going. Thank you.

Because of the work done by leaders and committees, it is great to be able to report that all sections are open again, and indeed, an additional scout section has been opened at Kyle Valley. That said, this wonderful work is only possible with the help of volunteers and we are always looking for people to help where they can to ensure groups continue to function. To that end, I would urge anyone who can afford a little of their time to come forward and fill vacant positions as leaders and committee members. Thank you in advance.

The Dawney build has been a tremendous success and I would like to thank all who have been involved in this project (and in particular, Sue Scotter for her unwavering determination and tenacity to see the job gets done and done right). The Dawney is a wonderful community facility and if you are yet to make use of it, please do so.

Alongside our leaders and Committee members, the District has been very fortunate to have Gary Roberts as our District Commissioner. His dedication to Scouting is clear for all to see and he has worked tremendously hard to support the groups, guide the executive and ensure that posts are filled (often stepping in himself to absent posts while replacements are found). I would like to take the chance to thank Gary personally for all that he has done for the District. Thank you

Gary.

I would also like to thank my fellow committee members (both at District and Group level) for their continued support. Their experience is vital and has been essential in guiding the Groups and the District through these uncertain times. Thank you all for everything you have done and continue to do.

My last thank you is for the children themselves (and of course their supportive parents). You have shown your support for your group and for each other. You have made sessions lively, happy and enjoyable. You have engaged when it would have been easy to let things pass you by and you have shown that regardless of the obstacles put before us, Scouts will overcome and make the best of the situation they face. If ever there was a time to be proud of what you have achieved in your lifetime, these last 18 months can certainly be added to that list. Well done.

My final words are ones of hope. I hope that, as we move beyond the period of lockdowns and restrictions, we are able to continue to help our children grow and develop new skills that will benefit them now and in their future. We are strongest when working together and that strength is in abundance in Easingwold District.

Thank you and have a wonderful Summer.

Stuart Bayne

District Chair