



District Commissioners Report 2020 – 2021

I have spent some time considering what to include in this year's report, no one could have anticipated the extent and length of the pandemic and its impact on our communities.

My report for the last AGM thanked everyone for working through the challenges of the pandemic and I am impressed as to how that resilience and tenacity continued through the lockdowns, restrictions and anxieties that continued. Despite the slow progress of return to face-to-face Scouting everyone's commitment has not waned.

The last Scout Census indicated a significant loss of the number of Scouts in some regions and some groups being at risk of folding or folding. A bleak picture indeed. Leaders and executive have faced additional demands including applying for grants, managing sections, developing risk assessments to enable sections to resume face to face when permitted, cancelling rearranging and sometimes cancelling some events again, requirement for exec members to now complete mandatory training, the Scout Association highlighting importance and urgency of leaders completing their training in short timescales, and of course the challenges faced within their personal and work circumstances. Despite all this the census reflected a minimal loss, and since then a surge of membership, including Kyle Valley expanding with a second Scout section.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to a number of leaders for various reasons during the time but have recently appointed GSL's for the Forest of Galtres and Kyle Valley Groups with a standing vacancy for GSL at Moxby Moor. We have also seen a number of new leaders, assistants and exec members joining the District, we welcome them into the Scouting family. Roger Clements retired (is that allowed?) his post as Chair of the Appointments Advisory Committee (AAC) and Andrew Harrison kindly stepped up to the post from his position of Sectary with Kate Thorn taking on the Secretary post in support, both in a smooth and effective manner and are working hard to ensure our new leaders are supported into post where appropriate. There are of course many others who ensure the District is effective in proving safe and effective Scouting and I greatly appreciate their commitment.

But, we move forward, hopefully into more normal times. The generosity of the hardship fund provided by a kind benefactor has enabled some Scouts to return or continue Scouting, leaders

are focusing on gradual lifting of restrictions and developing risk assessments accordingly and executives ensuring they are supported in providing effective and engaging activities. Fundraising will have its challenges as many charities vie for funds in increasingly difficult times, recruitment continues to be a challenge, particularly for executive functions but on the whole the District has performed outstandingly and moves forward in a strong position.

Yours in Scouting

Gary Roberts

District Commissioner