



**MALLING DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 6:00pm at  
The Malling School, Beech Road, East Malling**

**AGENDA**

- 1** Welcome
- 2** Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting
- 3** Matters Arising
- 4** District Chair's Report
- 5** District Commissioner's Report
- 6** District Treasurer's Report
- 7** Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- 8** District Commissioner's Nomination for Chair of the District Executive Committee
- 9** Receive District Commissioner's Nominations to the District Executive Committee
- 10** Election of District Treasurer
- 11** Election of District Secretary
- 12** Election of members of the District Executive Committee
- 13** County Representative's Comments
- 14** Presentations of Service Awards, Wood Badges or similar

The 'Oscars' Awards ceremony will follow shortly after the AGM.

## **Chairman's Report**

2018/19 has been an excellent year for Scouting in Malling District. This district has a great track record for running brilliant and large events and on the back of a heavy involvement in the 2017 KIJ and the 2018 Kandersteg expedition, the 2019 Quest, the first for a number of years, demonstrated the planning and organisational skills of our senior members and leaders in delivering a long weekend of adventure and fun for hundreds of scouters.

The campsite has further developed in the past twelve months with the bridleway re-direction finally being completed to the council's satisfaction, but more importantly, with the successful gaining of full planning permissions for the new build. Designs and quotations are in submission and fundraising is fully focused on the development. The build will likely be done in stages which will aid the pursuit of focused grants and bring it into functional operation quicker. This is a grand plan and the fundraising committee is committed to identifying major grant contributors as well as pursuing the more traditional fundraising avenues.

Fund raising is a continual task as each group already knows and I appreciate that each has it's own targets and projects that occupy your resources and supporters contributions, however, remember that the campsite is yours too and we are not seeking direct contributions, but would ask you to support district events aimed to raise funds, such as quiz nights and the Burns Night dinner in the new year, a first for us. The Fund Raising team were pleased to have run events that made a significant contribution to the costs of our record breaking 10 World Jamboree candidates, which as I understand, was a wonderful event.

I am delighted to report that the District Executive and the sub committees have once again all met regularly to carry out the business of district efficiently and each reported accordingly in a professional manner. Officers have been trained and attended appropriate county training courses. The structure works well, but we always need new minds to keep the organisation armed with fresh ideas and we welcome volunteers to join us on the exec and sub committees as per DC Craig's recent communication.

Sadly we have this year lost two senior Scouters and a memorial service for Pam Ayton and Tim Brown was held earlier this month. We are all aware that Scouting does not just happen and we are most grateful for the hard working and dedicated leaders and helpers like pam and Tim, and they will be remembered. To all of you, leaders, helpers and parents, a big thank you for supporting and bringing the world of opportunities to our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, that make Malling District an outstanding example of Scouting and developing these young people into fine and community minded citizens. Your time and commitment must never 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 Scouting year in 2019/20.

**Denis Spiller**

**Executive Chairman**

## District Commissioner's Report 2019

2018-19 has been another fantastic year for Scouting in Malling. Whilst this year our membership decreased slightly due to refocusing of volunteers in certain parts of the District, the District continues to give young people the opportunities they wouldn't always get, go on new adventures and achieve awards they would have never previously thought possible.

We're now 16 months into The Scout Association's new strategic plan, Skills for Life, our plan to prepare better futures 2018-2023 and I'm delighted to see parts of it coming through and being implemented across the District. This plan really focuses on what we know Scouting already does – it teaches young people Skills for Life. The plan focuses on us being Youth Shaped, Inclusive, Growing and making an impact in our communities, whilst focusing on developing our people, our programme and perception. Whilst we acknowledge we haven't grown this year, it is something we're really focused on continuing to achieve, whilst ensuring we deliver fantastic programmes. In Malling District, we wholeheartedly support this plan and will do our best to ensure we meet all the requirements and face the challenges it lays before us as Scouting continues to develop and move forward, giving the best opportunities for the future.

Since our last AGM, there has continued to be an exciting programme of activities provided across the District, but our main event this year has been Quest 7. After a 7-year break, the whole district multi-day activity camp returned, at a new venue for us, and it was a roaring success. The weather threw everything it liked at us but over 500 young people from across the District came together to share a programme of exciting activities across the May Bank Holiday weekend. I was so impressed with how the event worked and my thanks go to the entire volunteer team who planned and delivered the event. I'm delighted to say that we are planning for Quest to return in 2023.

This summer, 11 Explorer Scouts, 2 leaders and I represented the District, Kent and the United Kingdom at the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA. This event is the pinnacle event of World Scouting activities, where there was over 50,000 Scouts from more than 150 different countries around the world taking part in activities, sharing cultures, ideas and beliefs. The participants got added adventures of exploring New York City, Washington DC and a hosted hospitality experience in Canada which gave the whole experience a 3-week duration. I am delighted this was the biggest representation Malling had ever sent to a World Scout Jamboree and am pleased the desire for international adventure continues with 16 young people and 2 leaders from the District heading to the European Jamboree 2020 in Gdansk, Poland.

As a District, we continue to fundraise to enable the development of Comp Wood, our district campsite. We're aiming to extend our existing building to provide additional toilets and showers, more storage space and meeting rooms which can double up as accommodation. Planning permission was granted in March this year, and we're just finalising the specification documents for tender, and then the applications for grants can go in. We welcome any offer of support, advice or any donations towards the project which will enable us to provide better facilities for the users of our campsite.

Finally, I'd like to thank every leader, administrator, advisor, trustee, helper or parent who has supported Scouting by volunteering across the District this year. Without you all, we couldn't do what we do, so thank you.

Craig Worcester

District Commissioner

# ADC Beaver Section Report 2019

I (Sue Cubitt) took over the Malling beavers just before Christmas last year 2018.

We held our first Christmas party in years and was well received by the district colonies. So much so we have already booked the venue and the disco for this year's party to be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The district held their first meeting with me, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. This was well represented by all the district beaver leaders. We discussed they way forward and what they wanted as a district. Put some ideas on the table to discuss and how we are going to achieve this. I told them that I wanted Beavers back in the District being noticed.

Our outings this year have been the District Quest weekend. Despite the cold wet weather, I think most enjoyed the weekend. A few more Beaver type activities could have been done for us.

There was an Adventure day for the Beavers on 11<sup>th</sup> May held by County. A chance to cave bus, archery, mini golf, climbing and lots more.

We joined the cubs for a trip to Gilwell's fun day in June. Not well attended as most beaver people thought to expensive after Quest. Those who did go, had a great day out and the weather was very kind to us. Some of the beavers got to meet Gruffalo,

We joined County again for the Teddy bears picnic on 29<sup>th</sup> /30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The beavers that attended had a go at shooting for the first time. Despite some apprehension, the beavers were all very well behaved when they used the guns.

We now look forward to our first sleepover for a few years, being held at Hopehill on Friday27th/Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The theme this year is Spies. And I hope all those who attend have a fun time. It took a lot of planning as most things do, but I wanted it to be fun for beavers as well as the adults.

County Beavers are holding a builder badge day so I hope some from the district will attend as we did last year.

I have replaced the contents of all the beaver district First aid boxes as the contents was well out of date, some going back to 2009.

I have also had a clear out of old food, books etc from the District beaver boxes held at Comp wood. Anything broken, smelly or out of date went in the black sack. The boxes are tidied and named, and the contents audited.

I Look Forward to the Beaver Christmas party and what we will be doing next year.

Sue Cubitt

ADC Malling District Beavers

# ADC Cub Section Report 2019

The Malling District Cub Scout section continues to thrive and all Cub packs have had a very busy year, participating in Group, District and County activities and events.

Each year Group leaders, Pack Leaders and Parents show a great deal of dedication in organising activities that Cubs need. It's encouraging to see we have had yet another year with an increase in children joining packs within our district, and it is also encouraging to see yet another year with an increase in adult volunteers taking on both leadership roles and as sectional assistants.

Again there has been an increase in the number of Cubs Scouts achieving their Chief Scout Silver award, this can only be a credit to the District Cub Leaders and Groups who do a fantastic job programming events and activities, this is encouraging as there has been drop in cubs achieving this award nationally. We have held several very successful District Cub events, just to mention a couple: - March the Cub hike, Quest 2019, it was very encouraging to see some many District Cub Scouts attend this adventures event. Gilwell Fun day on 8<sup>th</sup> June, we joined forces with the District Beavers, the water day on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, again was very successful with all Cubs attending gaining activity and challenge badges.

Several Packs have arranged links with other organisations to assist in badge work and increase the fun and challenging elements to Cub Scouting.

In 2018 all 15 District Cub Packs have held or will have had a residential stays, sleepovers and camps, with some Packs having 2 or 3 camps, and many taking part in group camps.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the District Cub team, Gary Mills, Karen Carmillet, John Morgan, Elaine Greenwood for their support in planning and running District Cub Activities. I must also say a big thank you to District Cub pack leaders, the District SAS team, District Explorers, District team and the District Executive who also play a big part in supporting the District Cub team and Cub activities.

2019 - A short summary on some District Cub activities.

- March 16<sup>th</sup> Cub Challenge Hike
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Quest 7
- June 8<sup>th</sup> Gilwell Fun Day Gilwell Park Essex
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Kent Cub Leaders Sleepover
- July 13<sup>th</sup> District Cub Water Activity Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> Aug – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept Kent Cuboree Ashford

Forthcoming events to complete District Activities

- October 19th Laser Tag Challenge Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> December Cub Carol Service Rochester Cathedral

The District Cub Team are in the process of planning for 2020 –we have plans to continue on from the success from previous years and add to the excitement and enjoyment scouting can bring.

Ken Sharp.

## Scout Section Report 2019

All the Scout Troops throughout the District have had busy programmes with all of them offering camping experiences, hikes, trips and experiences and many of the young people are achieving their Chief Scouts Award.

I'm still looking for support in delivering the District provision for the Scout section, and so if anyone may be interested please do speak to me.

## Explorer Scouts Section Report 2019

This year has seen us review our Explorer Scout provision in the District – we've merged Phoenix and Pegasus ESU units to ensure the young people get the best experience going and more opportunities to achieve. Our new unit that opened last year in St Mary's Platt – Trident ESU, has gone from strength to strength with membership increasing and changing from a bi-weekly meeting schedule to every week.

All the units have been active and undertaking many different exciting programmes, activities and camps across the year. 11 Explorer Scouts from across the District took part in the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA with 50,000 other scouts from around the world and had the experience of a lifetime.

In DofE, Matthew Paramor has settled well into the role of DofE Advisor and has seen even more young people through achieving all levels of the award. He's also taken on advising on Top Awards across all sections in the District, from Chief Scouts Bronze right up to the Queen's Scout Award, and I'm delighted that we've had a few of those achieved this year too!

I am keen to find someone who would be interested in steering Explorer Scouts throughout the District, and so if anyone fancies a challenge then please so speak to me.

Craig Worcester

District Commissioner

## Excalibur Scout Network Report 2019

Network in Malling District is in a state of renewal. The unit has existed for some time, but has been dormant for a while. A group of people who have recently turned 18 and "aged out" of Explorers were keen to continue their Scouting journey in Network. To this end the Network unit has been revived. There are approximately 25 people in the District who are aged 18-25 and therefore automatically part of Network. There is however a much smaller number of "active" members. Work is ongoing to rebuild a programme and setup some events for the Network, to encourage more active participation. It is encouraging that there have been numerous expressions of interest from several Explorers who are about to turn 18. Two of the Network members have recently completed their Queen Scout Award – the highest award in Scouting – which is a fantastic achievement; and they are now waiting for their invite to Windsor! What Network get up to is very much up to the members. If you would like to get involved, or have any suggestions for what we can do please get in touch: [mattmwood@hotmail.com](mailto:mattmwood@hotmail.com)

## **Malling District Active Support Team AGM Report 2019**

The small Active Support Team continues to support District events as and when we can and when asked to do so. This year we attended the Quest Camp showing Cubs how to make alligator shaped keyrings by weaving beads together and another two other activities. The youngsters enjoyed what they were doing and took keyrings home.

We continued to visit Beaver and Cub meeting nights doing badge work with them. This year we branched out and introduced Pioneering into our repertoire.

Sadly, during the year we lost two colleagues, Pam Ayrton and Tim Brown, both had previously been ADC Scout Fellowship the forerunner of Scout Active Support and were holders of the Silver Acorn Award. They are both missed by us all and exemplified "Doing Their Best" as Scouts.

We entered a team for the District Quiz night and came somewhere in the middle of the ranking, which was an improvement of our previous efforts, it was a nice evening which we all enjoyed.

Some members still go to the campsite on a weekly basis to carry out maintenance works all those little jobs that need doing but often are not noticed and some bigger ones such as moving railway sleepers around.

Linda Shillito

District Scout Active Support Manager

## **Friends Fund-raising Committee Report for District AGM - 2019**

**The Friends of Comp Wood** was formed in 2013 to assist in raising funds for the purchase and subsequent development of the campsite at Comp Wood and took on the functions of the former Fund-raising committee; with the purchase of the site achieved, it has since been raising funds to ensure the success of the proposed Campsite development project. Initially this was to increase and enhance the toilet and shower facilities at an estimated cost of some £60,000 (and by now that would have been achieved!) but a larger project which will also provide a meeting room and additional storage has now received planning permission from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, costings are being sought, and applications will now be made to major grant-making bodies. This much larger project is estimated to be in excess of £300,000.

The Friends' Fund-raising Committee has met on four occasions since the last AGM and I am delighted to report that our efforts mean that we have now raised more than £72,000, £8000 of which consists of interest-free loans which need to be repaid within the next year or so. We continue to raise funds as some

grant-aid is given on a 'match-funding basis', the grant-making bodies being anxious to ensure that we are doing our bit towards our project target.

A number of innovative events have taken place during this year: regular coffee mornings in members' homes on a Saturday morning which have so far raised more than a thousand pounds; the District Quiz night in April which raised £488; Explorers 'portering' at two major events at Great Comp Garden (our near neighbours) which have seen more than £600 coming into our buckets; a sponsored climb of Snowden by one of our Friends and Committee members, Anne Marsland, which raised over £800 in June and a Twixmas Market last November which raised £643. We have also been supported by donations from a number of individuals and supporters.

Our fund-raising for the Campsite project was a little deflected during the past year by our commitment to assist the youngsters representing our District at the World Scout Jamboree: the committee arranged opportunities for them to fund-raise, and £1850 raised at the annual Dinner at West Malling Golf Club was shared by five of the participants who provided tables of guests.

A number of events are being planned for the coming year: a Cub Laser Tag day in October; a Burns' Night Supper on Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> at West Malling Golf Club, for which we look for support and encouragement from parents and friends throughout the District - it promises to be a splendid event, with the haggis piped in, a display of Scottish dancing by members of a Branch of the Caledonian Society, and a chance for the assembled folk to join in the dancing too! A 'Cash in the Attic' event is also being held in the lovely gardens of Paris House in East Malling in April: we look for friends to search out something of quality to donate for sale - please start searching now! Other events will be advertised throughout the District, and we are hoping to increase the number of Friends' members from the current 80 to something in the hundreds - every parent whose youngster benefits from all that the campsite offers really ought to consider becoming a member (at a very low annual rate) and thus be kept in touch with all that we are trying to do on the District's behalf.

If you can offer your home for an hour-and-a-half one Saturday morning next year to host a simple coffee morning, please let me know: we can assist you in and all we need is the accommodation - it could even be in your Scout Hut!

I am immensely grateful to my small but hard-working committee (does anyone want to join us?) comprising Executive members such as myself, the District Commissioner, Denis Spiller, Ken Sharp and Adam Ray, and non-Executive members Elaine Greenwood, Barry Allen, Anne Marsland and David Marlow: all of them deserve our appreciation.

Please consider joining The Friends of Comp Wood - it will give us real encouragement as we work to increase and improve the facilities at the campsite which your youngsters enjoy so much, and which is in increasing demand by all our Groups.

If you can help in any of the ways I mentioned, or assist financially or practically, please contact me.

Derek Carpenter

Chairman Friends' Fundraising Committee

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