Malling District Scout Council
Annual General Meeting 2026 – 4th July 2026

District Lead Volunteer's Report

I am delighted to report that Scouting in Malling has had another excellent year. In the census at January 2026, we stayed consistent with our membership figures of last year. Malling continues to offer opportunities to over 1000 young people every week, supported by around 350 adult volunteers.

It's now been about 18 months since the transformation of Scouts, changing our ways to working in teams and I'm pleased to say the approach, culture and ways of operating are well and truly embedded across all the district teams.

Last summer, many of our Groups and adult volunteers took part in Kent International Jamboree, KIJ. From the adult volunteers who helped as part of the team organising and delivering it, to the troops and explorers who attended and took part in the varied and exciting programme, they shared a week of memories with over 7000 Scouts and Guides from across the world.

Our Programme Team continues to deliver events for young people from across the Malling area including the District coming together to celebrate St George's Day at the Friars in Aylesford, as well as providing varied and fun events for all sections. Our 14-24 team, as well as continuing to offer a fantastic programme, DofE and Top Awards, organised the selection of Malling's participants to the 26th World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027, I'm delighted that we have 7 young people from the district attending as part of the county units and the wider UK Contingent. Our Campsite Support, Management and Development Teams continue to work on maintaining and developing Comp Wood, which includes construction of a new building and refurbishment of existing facilities. We are excited to watch the new building and facilities take shape.

Young people remain at the heart of everything that we do in Malling, shaping the activities we offer which gives them opportunities to take on leadership roles. The Youth Team has been at the heart of this, including forming a youth panel to help shape Quest 9, which we look forward to next year.

All Groups across the District continue to offer brilliant programmes and activities for young people and we are working with groups to identify opportunities to grow where there are signs of waiting lists. Some of our Groups are facing some challenges without a lead volunteer, and so we're continuing to work with the Groups, the county and others across the District to support and identify teams of people to work together in leadership teams. If anyone is looking for a new and exciting challenge, please do get in touch for a chat.

As we look forward to Malling's future, Quest 9 is on the horizon in spring 2027. Quest is our whole district activity camp from Squirrels to Network and adult volunteers on the early May bank holiday weekend. We'll be heading to Downe, where I am sure it will be an out of this world experience! There are also many other incredible opportunities being planned for all sections throughout the year ahead.

As I reflected on at St George's Day, this is my last AGM as Lead Volunteer, as my tenure finishes at the end of the year after 10 incredible years. It really has been an honour to lead the district over this time, and with its ups and downs, we have always found a way through. The district is in a strong position and I'm proud of what we've achieved. The process has started to find my successor to lead Malling into its next chapter and I look forward to ensuring a smooth transition to them later this year.

I'd like to say thanks to my entire District Leadership Team, the wider District Teams and the Trustee Board for their support during what has been another busy year. Finally, I'd like to thank every adult volunteer, parent, young person who has been involved with Scouts. You're all fantastic. Remember, we're better off when we achieve together. Scouts really does make an impact and gives people a Place to Belong.

Craig Worcester
District Lead Volunteer