

## **Folkestone, Hythe and District Scout Council**

### **District Commissioner's Report for the 2016 Annual General Meeting**

I started the report for 2015 by stating that I had agreed to accept the role of District Commissioner in an 'acting' capacity on the understanding that the search should continue, I guess it is still ongoing!

As noted in the Annual Report, leadership in all the Groups again remains fully committed to providing a wide range of fun, exciting and adventurous programmes for our young people. I put on record sincere thanks for all the time, energy and commitment given week after week. That said it has not all been plain sailing, there have been a few problems during the year resulting in several leaders being suspended.

Our District Explorer Scout Commissioner resigned during the year and as yet a successor has not been appointed. Individual Units are continuing to organise and run a range of activities.

Network has been relaunched nationally where all 18-25 year olds holding a Scouting appointments automatically become Network members. A District Network Commissioner, namely Chris Gadeene has been appointed to manage the Network programme in the District.

St Georges Day 2016 saw the District return to the Leas Cliff Hall with a Jungle Book Theme celebrating the Centenary of the Cub Scout section. This was made possible by joining in with the Folkestone Festival celebrations. A few days earlier the all the Cubs in the District had the opportunity of attending a private screening of the new Jungle Book film at the Folkestone cinema.

Our membership database, namely Compass, was taken down due to security issues. It has since been brought back in stages and is now up and running. Much work was then required to check and update all the leader records.

The annual census for 2015 showed an overall increase in membership, the total being 805 (2014 – 775). There was only growth in Cub Scout section, Beavers and Scouts remained just about static with some loss in the Explorers section. There was no change to the number and make up of Groups during the year.

The District team and Active Support (FHASt) members have organised and run a programme of activities for all Sections in the District. These are detailed in the Sectional reports.

Also to be congratulated are the many recipients of the Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Chief Scouts Award.

There have been a number of awards have been gained by leaders, mainly Chief Scout's Service Awards. An addendum to this report details the awards and the recipients. There is an amazing total of 255 years' service put in by the leaders receiving their Long Service Awards. Our congratulations to all the recipients, with a particular mention to Daphne Clarke on receiving her Chief Scout's 60 Year Service Award.

My thanks to all leaders, committee members and supporters who have provided and supported Scouting in the Folkestone, Hythe and District over the past year.

Looking forward, adult recruitment must be a priority as we have several Groups struggling because of a desperate shortage of leaders.

Tony Hogben

## LEADER AWARDS 2015-16

### Chief Scout's Commendation

Margaret Betts, 1<sup>st</sup> Lyminge

### Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award

Michael Ingelbrecht, 11<sup>th</sup> Folkestone  
Daniel White, 1<sup>st</sup> Cheriton

### Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award

Helen Daw, St Georges  
Steven Fairfax, 11<sup>th</sup> Folkestone

### Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award

Craig Ward, 11<sup>th</sup> Folkestone (omitted 2014-15)  
Richard Bardsley, Holy Trinity

### Chief Scout's 25 Years Service Award

Janet Curtis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hawkinge  
Mark Finnis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandgate  
Peter Vale, 1<sup>st</sup> Lyminge

### Chief Scout's 30 Years Service Award

Alan Croucher, 1<sup>st</sup> Lyminge  
David Weekes, 1<sup>st</sup> Hythe

### Chief Scout's 60 Years Service Award

Daphne Clarke, Holy Trinity

### Wood Badge (for completion of formal training)

Andrew Sellors, ABSL – 1<sup>st</sup> Cheriton  
Alan Croucher, GSL – 1<sup>st</sup> Lyminge  
Benjamin Day, ASL – 1<sup>st</sup> Hythe  
Laura Ames, BSL – 1<sup>st</sup> Hythe  
Sara Fernandez, SL – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hawkinge  
Michelle Smale, CSL – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hawkinge  
Lesley Rudd, ACSL – Holy Trinity  
Catherine Ward, SL – 11<sup>th</sup> Folkestone  
David Weekes, ASL – 1<sup>st</sup> Hythe