



## District Commissioner's Report 2019/20

I'm sure that everyone will agree that this year has been one of the most challenging that we have ever faced as a District.

On the 16th March 2020 face to face Scouting ended abruptly as the Coronavirus lockdown started to impact.

That evening's District Leaders Meeting was quickly cancelled and for a few days we were uncertain as to how to proceed but, of course in Bradford South the virus didn't stop us for long. Within a week many groups developed virtual Scouting and online section meetings became the new norm. These virtual meetings quickly became successful offering young people in Bradford South an invaluable opportunity to 'meet' with scouting friends, to continue learning new skills and to enjoy the fun and excitement of Scouting, despite the restrictions. The range of virtual activities has been phenomenal and a true testament to the dedication of our section leaders, managers and all adult volunteers across the District. The toilet roll video was hilarious, there have been numerous virtual camps, quizzes, treasure hunts, lots of cooking, virtual fundraising events and many badges have been earned.

Over the year we have been raising money for Martin House, a children's hospice providing quality end of life care to terminally ill children and support for their families. I'm delighted to announce that so far, we have managed to raise a fantastic £6,800 on their behalf and in view of lockdown we have agreed to continue raising money for Martin House until St George's Day 2021. I'm sure that during these difficult times every penny raised will be very much appreciated and extremely well spent and so I wish to encourage everyone to continue efforts to fund raise and lets see if we can hit a target of 10k. Two groups have presently raised well over £1000 each and are in stiff competition, fighting to win the St George's Day Trophy.

Prior to lockdown the District was as busy as ever with the Cub and Scout Memory walks, conservation work on Marsden Moor which gained many Scouts their John Muir Award, the annual Beaver trip to Sundown and there was much enjoyment at the annual Beaver party in January. Sadly, many events had to be cancelled including the three District Cooking Competitions but I'm sure they will be back next year and better than ever. The Beaver Memory walk was also cancelled but I'm delighted that a virtual walk is planned instead and will still be a great deal of fun. In January a record number of young people attended our annual Bronze and Silver Chief Scout Awards evenings at the City Hall and proudly received their certificates from the Lord Mayor.

Over coming months, I'm sure that we have a great deal to look forward to as we start the phased return to face to face Scouting. At times it will be challenging but it will also present new opportunities and I'm very confident that we will emerge stronger and better than ever, with increased growth and with many more exciting and fun activities. Our young people deserve the best and all that Scouting has to offer and so going forward we will strive as a District to deliver the very best, supporting each other along the journey.

On a final note I wish to thank each and every leader in Bradford South for all their hard work over the last year and for the resilience shown over the last few difficult months. Your commitment and dedication to Scouting is truly inspiring. I hope that you all manage to have a holiday over the summer and return will renewed energy in September.

Stay safe and well and best wishes from myself.

Alison Walton

District Commissioner