Firstly I’d like to thank everyone for their continued efforts in Scouting. Please do pass this message on – to parent helpers, occasional helpers, section assistants, everyone who contributes to Scouting in East Surrey. I’m starting to go round the District visiting all the Groups, and I welcome contact from anyone who wants to speak with me or would like me to come along to their meeting. I want to visit people from every Group, and as many sections as possible, before Easter next year.

The County Commissioner has a three-point plan for County:

- **People** – are our people happy, properly trained and do they have what they need?
- **Programmes** – are we running safe and fun programmes for our young people?
- **Places** – are our huts and HQs in good and safe condition?

Here in East Surrey the task is not so different, but I want to outline just a few priorities for us in 2017:

1. **People** – finding and motivating good people. District needs a Treasurer, Appointments Committee members, an ADC Scouts, and leaders and helpers are needed all over the District
2. **Training** – in these days we need to ensure that our training is done, validated and up to date in COMPASS. We will start to train more Training Advisors to make this process go faster
3. **Communication** – better communication, starting with a new District website which I want to be the go-to place for District information
4. **Explorers and Young Leaders** – investing in our future, providing Scouting for 14-18 year olds

### Dates:

- **District Cub leaders dinner** – 6th January 2017, Croydon
- **District Team meeting** – Weds 11th January 2017, venue TBD
- **Panto (Cubs/Beavers)** – 13th January 2017, Oxted
- **Oxted Working party/lunch and learn** – 14th Jan, 1000-1500
- **District Scout Leaders meeting Weds 1st Feb, venue TBD**
- **Tatsfield Quiz night** 4th February
- **Young leader training** - 5th February, Oxted hut
- **District Exec** – 15th February 2017, Mill Lane
- **Oxted Quiz night** 4th March
- **Cokitz (Scouts)** – 18th/19th March 2017, Oxted School
- **County Forum for Administrators** 25th March
- **St George’s Day Sunday** 23rd April (TBC)
- **District Cub Camp** 12th-14th May
- **District Exec Weds 17th May**
- **County Beaver camp** 20th-21st May
- **Oxted Bike Sale** 20th May
- **Lagham Quiz Night** 20th May
- **Young Leader training** 21st May

### Diary
We need to make a greater effort to ensure that our events don't clash and that everyone knows what is going on. I welcome your efforts to send to me information about what you and your Groups are doing. Please pass this information to me and we can then ensure that we don’t have clashing events.

### Census and Capitation Fee

Census login information will be coming out in the next few weeks. Groups need to be filling this in promptly. Any questions from Secretaries, Treasurers, GSLs or Group Contacts can be directed to me. Capitation Fee is not paid by adult leaders but is paid for each young person in uniform. The fee this year will be £46 per head, comprised as follows

- **Gilwell** £26.50
- **County** £8
- **District** £11.50

**Total** £46

Finally, I wish everyone a great Christmas. Best wishes,

Nick Hough