

## Chairman's report AGM 2019

Good morning and welcome to the annual gathering and annual meeting of the scout and Guide Fellowship UK. I am aware that some of you have had a fair journey to get here whilst others are on the doorstep. Thank you too for the welcome from the Scout and Trefoil Districts.

What a year 2018 was – this time last year I was voted on as a member of the SAGF committee and here I am reporting as your chairman. I am still very much the newbie but have many experienced members to support me.

My first outing as chairman was at the Western European Gathering at Eastbourne in October. Again I was conned onto the JNC to help coordinate this event with others from SAGF. Sue and Allan Page did a marvellous job with organising the venue and the logistics such an event calls for but we all supported them in what turned out to be a very successful event. It was great to see ISGF members not just from our Region but from far flung countries like Libya. This to me is what belonging to ISGF is all about – keeping links and cementing friendships with other member countries. To make our presence felt we purchased an advertising sail which you no doubt saw as you came in. This year 2019 we hope to add a banner and up to date leaflets to our resources. (You will see that this has happened already)

Our membership in 2018 held at about 77 members however we are geographically scattered. I have tried to show this on a map and you will see that some members although belonging to guilds etc they are alone as far as SAGF membership is concerned. The Isle of Man and North East England continue to have substantially more members. (More enthusiastic recruiters??). However no matter how geographically scattered so many are supporting scouting, guiding at home and abroad. I asked the membership to send me a few ideas of the involvement they have had in 2018. Great response:-

Wirral do the Christmas Post raising money for local charities

Nigel and Phillip told me about JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) and the passing on of skills allowing others to run target shooting ranges at Scout Centres.

East Sussex singing circle entertained at the Eastbourne Gathering.

Our own Margaret and friends deliver craft sessions at Waddow (one of Guide Associations trainings centres) and help at the annual Wellies and Wristbands large event in July.

Many members ensure International links are kept in their counties through supporting senior Sections on international trips; participating in International challenges ; and supporting National projects helping struggling WAGGGS countries.

We are pleased that Twinning is still a popular way of linking with units abroad. The exchange of moral support, friendship and programme ideas again is what we are all about. I know 20 Trefoil Guilds in my own region have formally twinned with others

and many have informal links through family and friendship ties.

Despite not being part of the committee at that point I commend you on your fundraising for the Ghanain Children's Trust earlier in 2018 and later for the refugees in Uganda. Originally for tentage in Imvepi this changed into provision of traditional huts at a cost of nearly E500 each. With fundraising at Eastbourne and other donations we were able to send E1000 enough for 2 huts. It was a great achievement. Thank you. I can report that a group of members from SAGF are visiting Imvepi later this year so hopefully at the next Annual meeting we will be able to give you more details on the building progress.

Members have been visiting other countries as SAGF members. I was part of the Trefoil Guild project in Russia supporting scouting and guiding in the country and promoting WAGGGS. Jane visited Sangam – a WAGGGS World Centre as part of an ISGF trip. They were at the centre for Thinking Day. Another truly international group of people.

Other members attended the gathering in Athens and are busy planning to go to the Western European Conference in Bremen Germany.

I have already mentioned the scattered demographics of our membership but they work alongside people who help and support their local communities. My 2020 vision is that we each encourage at least one more person to join SAGF to make our membership tip the 100 mark. It is not just a matter of paying the fee – we have to glow about the benefits of joining – the friendships made at home and abroad, the opportunities open to us, the projects we can support and the differences we can make to others.