Scouts
Batchworth Sea Scouts

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
2021 AGM

One year on and I never imagined we would still be subject to Covid-19 restrictions. 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for everyone, and I know first-hand how this has impacted friends and family. For Batchworth it meant learning to deliver a Scouting programme using digital tools such as Zoom with sadly much reduced face to face Scouting. I would like to offer my appreciation and sincere thanks to the section leadership team who have stepped up to this challenge and adapted so brilliantly.

For the Exec team, our fundraising with traditional activities such as the Spring and Autumn Jumble sales and the Rickmansworth Canal Festival could not take place. Fortunately, there was support from local Government and we managed to secure several grants to keep our income flowing. A special word of thanks here to our Group Scout Leader Michael Read, who was instrumental in securing these much-needed funds.

For me, the word that has most resonance in these challenging times is **Ambition**. Batchworth is an incredibly ambitious Scout Group who strives to provide a fun and challenging programme with the aim of achieving the Scout Movement vision and strategy – Delivering Skills for Life.

When I was a Scout Leader at Batchworth in the mid-1990s we had one cub pack, one scout troop and a venture scout unit. Today we have two beaver colonies, two cub packs, two scout troops and the District Explorer unit. Our numbers of young people have more than trebled and this still does not include the large numbers of children on our waiting lists.

To cope with this monumental growth we must be ambitious, and this starts with the very fabric of Batchworth Sea Scouts – our Headquarters building at Riverside Drive in Rickmansworth. The existing building was mainly built by volunteers over 50 years ago and is starting to show its age. We need more space and more modern facilities to continue to deliver our scouting programme and accommodate the vastly increased numbers of young people who are now part of the Batchworth family.

To meet those needs our ambition is to develop the site with a redevelopment scheme. I would like to thank Graham Nye who has volunteered to spearhead this redevelopment and a lot of work has been done to date to pave the way for the project, much of it done behind the scenes. For this to become reality we need help from Batchworth parents, in particular people willing to step up and take on key roles to drive the project forwards with Graham – fundraising co-ordinator, quantity surveyor, structural engineers, skilled tradespeople to name but a few. We estimate we will need to raise £500k making this the most ambitious project that Batchworth has ever undertaken.

Volunteers is the very essence of Scouting, and we desperately need more to help with key roles on the Exec committee and in the section leadership team. For the Exec I am looking for the following:

- IT Administrator – responsible for our website and data management
- Fundraising Coordinator - to oversee all group income generation activities
- Communications Officer - to produce outbound digital newsletters and parent email updates
- Building Maintenance Coordinator - to ensure Batchworth HQ is kept shipshape
- Executive Committee members – ideally a representative from each section (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) to help ensure the Group is being run correctly and support the section leadership team in execution of the Scouting programme at Batchworth

Now more than ever we need people to step up and get involved. Our ambition can only be realised with a team of willing volunteers. Could that be you?

Richard Patterson
Group Executive Chairman