

I took over as Chairman of the Executive Committee at the June AGM in 2019. The AGM was held during the Family Sailing Day at BLYM - a very popular event for all families from every section of the Group, with an opportunity to go sailing, kayaking and Dragon Boating. As I write this report I think back to that fun family event and how the impact of Covid-19 has meant we cannot do the same in 2020. Indeed face to face Scouting activities have not been possible since March, and the Batchworth section leadership team have had to quickly adapt to delivering a programme of activities via video conferencing. Not an easy task and they should be commended for the hard work and extra creative effort this requires – not to mention flour!

Both my children are Explorers and have really missed seeing all their friends and the opportunity to take part in the fun and challenging activities that form part of the Explorer programme. With schools being shut and restrictions on meeting people outside the home it really brought home to me the importance of scouting for our young people; and the friendships, rewarding and fun times the leaders and volunteers have. I am very much looking forward to resumption of face to face activities later this year.

I would like to encourage parents to get involved and help out wherever possible once scouting activities resume. Hopefully we will be able to have our Autumn Jumble sale, as having missed the Spring Jumble and Canal Festival our fundraising has been negatively impacted in 2020.

I was fortunate to join the Scouts and Explorers on their summer expedition to Lochearnhead in July. For me it was an absolute highlight of the year that showcased the very best that Batchworth has to offer our young people, leaders and adult volunteers. An action packed fun week of sailing, river kayaking, mountain walking, rock climbing, stand-up paddle boarding, off-road mountain biking, overnight expeditions and more gave our young people improved skills and outdoor experiences that is so important and rewarding.

Finally I would like to mention that preliminary work has started on how we would like to develop the Batchworth Scout Headquarters. The existing building has stood for more than 50 years, and to support the growth ambitions of the group and our plans to integrate more with the wider community we are looking to expand the existing facility and ensure we can continue to provide a fantastic programme of scouting activities for our young people. More to come but I am excited at the prospect of ensuring Batchworth Sea Scouts remains as an important pillar of our community.

I would like to thank the entire Batchworth Leadership team, the Executive Committee, our army of volunteers and our young people. You are what make Batchworth Sea Scouts special – bravo to you all!

Until we meet again (soon!),

Richard Patterson  
Chairman, Batchworth Sea Scouts