

2019 was another great year for Batchworth Sea Scouts with many things to be proud of:

- 🦿 we grew in numbers of young people by 8%: our tenth consecutive year of growth;
- 🦿 we recruited new leaders to many of our sections;
- 🦿 we continue to run exciting and challenging programmes for our young people; and
- 🦿 we ran an incredibly ambitious and successful Summer Expedition to Lochearnhead for our Scouts and Explorers.

None of this would have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of our growing team of volunteers and I would like to thank each and every one of you all for your time and hard work, and to encourage those who have not yet joined the fun, to do so.

More Growth

Numbers of young people in Batchworth have grown by an average of over 10% each year for the last ten years. We are now pretty much at the maximum capacity of the Group, unless we open new Sections, but with waiting lists still pretty full this may be something we need to consider. On the plus side this means that we have many new families involved.

Leadership

We now have a strong leadership team and we have increased the numbers of leaders with Authorisations to run adventurous activities, making sure that all our young people can get out on the water or into the hills at every opportunity, as well as much else. We have new leaders in most sections but could still do with another leader in most sections. Can I offer my thanks to all the leaders, old and new, who have given so generously of their time to make the year a success.

Fundraising

Our traditional fundraising events went well, and the Batchworth Arena at the Rickmansworth Canal Festival proved a real winner for the second time. Of course, my report for 2020 will look very different with no Canal Festival, no Spring Jumble Sale and likely no Autumn one either. But the Group remains in a strong financial position.

Lochearnhead

The highlight of the year for me was the Scout and Explorer expedition to Lochearnhead. 70 young people and 35 adults spent an astonishing week in Scotland sailing, kayaking, cycling, stand up paddle boarding, climbing, hill walking and generally having a fantastic time. The Group's ability to put on such an event and have the skills, volunteers and leaders to run it all safely and professionally speaks volumes about our strength as a Scout Group.

Volunteers

Volunteers are what makes everything we do at Batchworth possible. As well as the uniformed leadership team we have an experienced Executive Committee and many others who help with fundraising, with social events and with managing and maintaining our buildings, equipment and boats.

Our numbers of volunteers are growing but the more we have, the more we can do. The Executive Committee provides the support to the uniformed leaders managing our buildings and equipment, ensuring the necessary resources are there, and providing good governance for the Group. Two long standing members, Simon Reader and Paul Mander are standing down this year. My deep thanks to them both. We could really do with two or three new members to share the load. Please think about whether you could help.

We have other volunteering opportunities requiring fundraising skills, communication and IT skills, project management and construction skills, to name but a few. And the plans to develop our Headquarters site will throw up still more opportunities. Help us if you can, in whatever capacity, and no matter how much or how

little time you can spare. Our “bite sized volunteering” plan means there’s something for everyone to do.

Royal Navy Inspection

Sadly, our Royal Navy Inspection scheduled for October 2019 was postponed as the Inspecting Officer became unavailable. And the rescheduled Inspection in March 2020 was also pulled right at the start of the lockdown. We look forward to our next Inspection and the chance to show off our strengths. This will now be in 2021.

2019 was a great year for Batchworth. 2020 is giving us very different challenges but I think we are rising to them. Thank you to everyone who gives up their time for the young people in Batchworth Sea Scouts.

Michael Read

Group Scout Leader

Batchworth Sea Scout Group