

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2021 marked a return to face-to-face Scouting as Covid became less prevalent due to the UK vaccine roll out. Batchworth still had to follow National Scout readiness rules which meant plenty of adaptations and updates to the way we delivered Scouting activities for our young people. I would like to commend the section leadership team under Michael Read (our Group Scout Leader) for working hard to ensure we could deliver a fun, challenging, and safe programme.

We were still unable to hold our normal Spring and Autumn Jumble Sales; and neither the May Fair nor the Rickmansworth Canal Festival were able to go ahead. This once again severely impacted our crucial fundraising but fortunately we were able to secure much needed Government grants to cover our costs. Once again, a special word of thanks here to our Group Scout Leader Michael Read who was instrumental in securing these much-needed funds.

Demand for Scouting is at its highest levels since World War 2. To meet this demand, we have several key volunteer support roles, and I would like to draw your attention to the Recruitment letter that was circulated with the AGM invitation. Filling these roles will ensure we can continue to support our Uniformed Leadership team as they deliver our outstanding Scouting programme for our young people.

In last year's report I spoke about our Ambition and the need to develop our current Headquarters. 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.

Graham Nye is spearheading this development and has worked tirelessly to progress the project with much of that work hidden from sight. We have also had wonderful pro-bono legal support from Lorraine Reader – one of our Batchworth parents; I would like to thank them both. We have made some important progress here and we expect to submit a planning pre-application imminently.

My own children have both been through Batchworth Sea Scouts. My daughter finished in October of 2021 as she turned eighteen; my son is still in Explorers. I can see the benefits and opportunities it has given them both, and the strong friendship groups they have made.

We are fortunate to have an amazing group of volunteers who freely give their time to run section meetings and support the group – both our uniformed section leaders and our volunteers (both on the Executive Committee and skills volunteers). They are the backbone of Batchworth and very much in the limelight. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the often “significant other” behind the scenes enabling them to give this precious time. Thank you one and all.

I look forward to another great year of Scouting at Batchworth, and seeing our young people grow and develop their skills for life.

Richard Patterson

Group Executive Chairman