

It seems a long time ago now but this report covers the calendar year 2021.

After the challenges of 2020, 2021 saw an eventual return to a more normal pattern of Scouting at Batchworth Sea Scouts. For the early months of the year all our sections continued with the Zoom meetings and remote activities to which we had all become accustomed. But after Easter we were able to start meeting face to face, with an emphasis on activities and meetings outdoors and with some restrictions on group sizes. By the summer we were able to restart nights away with some additional restrictions, and after September things began to feel much more like pre-pandemic times!

I would like to thank all those leaders and helpers whose energy and commitment helped us get through this most difficult of periods.

Although Scouting across the UK lost nearly 25% of its young people and 10% of its leaders during the pandemic that energy and commitment has meant that Batchworth bucked that trend. We continued to take in young people, move them up through the sections and recruit new leaders. All our sections remain pretty much full and our numbers of young people and leaders have held up.

Some highlights of the sections' programmes and activities are attached to this report.

Fundraising

Fundraising was difficult during the year, with no opportunity to hold jumble sales and no Rickmansworth Festival. Fortunately, as we pay non-domestic rates, we were eligible for several of the Government's grants to support the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality sector which substantially plugged the gap.

Leadership

We have a strong leadership team and we have in recent years 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 we would really welcome anyone who would like to join one of our teams. No experience is needed and there is great training available to help you get the most out of it. And loads of fun!

Two of our long-standing leaders with the Turtles Beaver Colony, Claire Ramsay and Jane Spurr, retired in July and Stephanie Clifford has very successfully taken on the challenge of leading that section., moving over from the Seals Beaver Colony.

It is also my pleasure to report that two of our long-standing leaders, Ben Taunt and Louise Grant have had their outstanding contribution to the group recognised with The Scout Association's Award for Merit.

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. The Chairman's Report mentions some roles which could really help us with the management and future development of the Group and its Headquarters. Please consider whether you or someone you know can help us, no matter how much or how little time you can spare. Our "*bite sized volunteering*" plan means there's something for everyone to do.

One key change amongst our volunteers is that Deidre Edwards, who has been a member of our Group Executive and run our very profitable jumble sales for 14 years has made the decision to retire from that role. That period of service followed 17 years helping run our Beaver Colony. So more than 30 years in total. Our enormous thanks to Deirdre. Her service has been recognised by The Scout Association with the Award for Merit.

Thank you to everyone who gives up their time for the young people in Batchworth Sea Scouts.

Michael Read
Group Scout Leader

Turtles Beavers

This report for Turtles Beavers commences in September 2021, as that is when I took over the section. During the autumn term, we had a super program including kayaking from HQ, sailing from BLYM and doing a night hike. The latter was the inspiration for our Halloween meeting as their hi-viz vests glowed in torch light. The beavers learnt a spooky dance and they wore high viz vests again; we turned off the lights and they were able to dance around in the dark looking like they were skeletons!

They made poppy wreaths to place on the Cenotaph at the Remembrance Service; a very good turnout from the section. We also had a great collaboration with the other Beaver section with a community project; we made decorations for a Christmas tree which was placed in Saint Mary's Church over the Christmas period. Turtles painted little wooden boats and the other section made knots, so our Christmas tree totally reflected that we are Sea Scouts.

In the spring term 2022, we did lots of activities indoors, a favourite of the Beavers is junk modelling; they had a challenge in their lodges to make the tallest tower. For Chinese New Year they learnt to Kow-Tow, and its meaning and also practiced their skills by cooking and eating a stir fry. Over a few meetings, we worked on the new money skills badge, all of the Beavers proudly achieved it. We had a great session thanks to Quentin Webb who came along and worked with us on the fire safety badge; the beavers loved using a fire extinguisher! Another very popular session was archery with Martyn Gowing. For Mother's Day we did some crafts to take home, we did a further night hike and baked bread to take home.

In summer term, we visited Chorleywood campsite and the Beavers learnt how to make campfires using two different methods and had great fun playing wide games in the woods. We have kayaked from HQ, we've sailed from BLYM, we built a hotel for bugs and to finish off this term we will be doing some more sailing and will have a summer picnic weather--permitting by the River Chess. July will also see Turtles join Seals to camp overnight, as they did last year. Our numbers have remained high; we have a full section of 24 Beavers, most sessions there are only one or two absent. Our leaders are Stephanie, Brent, Gislene and Matthew plus Zebedee when he can. We have had some Explorers to attend for their DoE; it is a pleasure to work with them and they have proved to be a great help to the section.

Stephanie

Beaver Leader (Turtles)

Warrior Cubs

Membership: we started the year with 27 Cubs - 16 boys & 11 girls and finished with 23 - 14 boys & 9 girls. We needed to keep spaces available as there would be a large influx of Beavers coming up in 2022.

Leadership: Leaders in January were Cub Scout Leader (Louise), Section Assistants (Andrea, Orsolya, Roopal & Sarah) and three Young Leaders (Chloe, Oakley & Rosie). During the year Oakley called time on helping us but we would like to thank him for all his help over the years it has been a pleasure to see him flourish. From myself and all the other helpers we wish him well for the future. During the year we continued to use a rota to cover every meeting and to allow time off for everyone. Parent help at every meeting is much appreciated and without it we couldn't run such a full programme. Thank you.

Programme: 2021 started the same way as 2020 finished with our meetings on Zoom but after Easter we were back to face to face which was great news. Favourite activities on zoom were definitely cooking and craft as well as playing drawosaurus.

During the Summer we were out on the water a fantastic 6 times - 3 kayaking and 3 sailing. There was the traditional cycle ride along the Ebury Way which this year was a split meeting with sailing due to having to limit numbers in boats.

Activities once we were back together at HQ in the Autumn included all things safety - ie home, water and fire related meetings and the parent's favourite badge - Home Help. We are grateful to Quent who came along to demonstrate fire extinguisher use.

There was also bat hunting at the Aquadrome and a visit to the Three Rivers Museum which had been postponed.

Families and their Cubs were offered the chance to attend the Panto at Watersmeet which was a great way to end the year.

Nights Away: As this was our first proper camp since 2019 we kept to traditional scout activities including firelighting, shelter building, pioneering and wide games plus hiking over to Cassiobury for a session in the splash pool ie Cubs having a wash!! The Cubs did really well considering they hadn't been away together for over 2 years.

Silver Awards: 3 were completed in 2020 and will be presented shortly - well done to Finlay, Oliver and William B.

Louise

Cub Leaver (Warrior)



Discovery and Endeavour Scout Troops

Despite the COVID-19 induced limitations and disruptions, the Batchworth Sea Scouts Discovery and Endeavour Troops had a very active and fun-filled year in 2021. We started off the year with Zoom-based meetings and individual challenges, which included:

- Cooking activities, both main courses and desserts
- A What3Words-based challenge around the local area
- Virtual name writing on Strava
- A photo competition leading to the Photographer badge
- An Astronomy session
- Taking part in the Watford North Scouts Watopoly competition

Once circumstances allowed, we then moved onto face-to-face meetings, including:

- Fire-building at the local campsite
- Lots of time on the water (sailing, SUPs, canoeing, kayaks, kayak polo, rowing, dragon boating)
- Hikes in the local area and the Chilterns
- The Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI)
- Orienteering and other compass skills
- First aid skills
- The ever-popular York House cycling track
- Cycling the Ebury Way and Whippendell Woods
- The District Sailing Regatta
- Litter picking in the local area and waterways
- The quite challenging Grimsdyke competition (it snowed!)
- We finished off the year with a scuba diving session in the York House pool

We also ran a local Summer Camp, which included visit to Swinley Bike Park, Liquid Leisure in Windsor, a day of fun activities at Paccar, an overnight canoe expedition down the Grand Union Canal, and a BBQ and campfire to top it all off. At the end of 2021, the section had 70 Scouts across two troops, an increase of 6 from our pre-pandemic numbers!!!

André & Matt
Scout Section Leaders

