

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

2022 was a year of achievements for the Group. We delivered a fun and challenging programme for our young people thank you to our fabulous, uniformed leadership team under the support of our Group Scout Leader Michael Read, and Assistant Group Scout Leader Ben Taunt. Each of the sections were able to run a summer camp; and the Explorer's went to Kandersteg in Switzerland for an amazing week of adventure alongside Scouts from around the Globe. The very essence of Scouting is the ability for our young people to meet regularly and take part in fun and challenging activities led by this very important team. Without this amazing bunch of individuals this would not be possible. Thank you one and all!

We have approximately 150 young people in the Group, all of whom gain valuable life skills to help them further develop. Of the 24 men who travelled to the moon on the NASA Apollo missions, 20 were Scouts – including 11 of the 12 moonwalkers. This is one of my favourite Scout facts; it clearly looks good on a CV!

I chair the Executive Committee who are collectively responsible for the governance of Batchworth Sea Scouts, which is a registered charity. One of the key tasks is to oversee and help drive much needed fundraising for the Group. I am delighted to report the resumption of the Grand Jumble Sale that was held in September under the superb organisation of our newly crowned "Jumble Queen" Trish Ferris. It was great to see so many familiar – and new – faces in our volunteer team who made this key event possible.

2022 also saw the return of the Rickmansworth Canal Festival and we were able to run our hugely successful Batchworth Arena event for the full two days over a glorious sunny weekend in May. On behalf of the Group, I would like to thank Kelly Patterson, Justine Nye, Graham Nye, Zebedee Jacobs, Katy Saunders, Quentin Webb and Michael Read – the event organising committee; the leaders, and parents who helped run our Cub activity stand, cream teas, bar, and BBQ whilst we listened to great bands and DJs. We raised a significant amount of money which boosted our yearly income, helping raise a healthy surplus.

Graham Nye is spearheading the development of our HQ 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 - I would like to thank them both. We have made some important progress here despite several major challenges.

Last year I circulated a Recruitment Letter for several key volunteer roles at the AGM. We were able to fill a few of these, but there is more we could do with a broader volunteer team both for key support roles and for the uniformed leadership section. Could this be you?

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. 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.

Richard Patterson
Group Executive Chairman