

## **Introduction**

After the challenges of the previous three years, it was a pleasure to be able to run a full programme for all our sections in 2022. I would like to thank all those leaders and helpers whose energy and commitment helped us to have such a successful year.

Every section in the group ran camps ensuring that every young person had the opportunity to take part in the nights away camping which are a hallmark of Scouting. Every section also ran a full and challenging activity programme, and if a rather more of those sessions were outdoors than had been the case previously then that is all to the good. Our teams of water activity leaders grew and pretty much everyone had the opportunity to go kayaking, canoeing, sailing, stand up paddleboarding and much more.

## **Fundraising**

It wasn't just the programme for young people that returned to normal. We were able to restart our very successful jumble sales in the autumn under the new leadership of Trish Ferris. And the Batchworth Arena at the Rickmansworth Festival was a huge success, with loads of fun, music, food and drink and a fabulous number of volunteers who all had a great time. The fundraising results exceeded our expectations and we hope this will be an important part of the Batchworth calendar for years to come.

## **Leadership**

We 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.

Batchworth came through the pandemic with all our sections close to full and our numbers of young people and leaders at record levels. But after seven years of consistent growth 2022 saw a small fall in the numbers of young people in our sections of around 7% overall. Our waiting lists are still full and the reason for the fall is that sections are having to constrain the numbers of young people joining so that we can continue to deliver a high quality programme with a reduced number of leaders.

## **Change**

The Scout Association is making changes to ensure that its constituent charities (like Batchworth) can continue to operate successfully, legally, and safely. The first of these is reflected in the change elsewhere on this agenda from Executive Committee with a wide range of responsibilities, to Trustee Board with a focus on charity governance.

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2022



The second is a much more flexible approach to volunteering and training of its adult volunteers. Rather than signing up for a fixed role, new volunteers are encouraged to join a team of volunteers and find tasks and responsibilities which match their available time, skills and interests. Training beyond the basic will be because volunteers want the knowledge and skills rather than having it thrust on them.

We have opportunities in most sections and we would really welcome anyone who would like to join one of our teams. No experience is needed and there is loads of fun to be had! And by increasing the numbers of adults in our teams we will be able to remove the constraints on recruitment and let more young people share in the fun. Please consider what you are able to offer this fantastic organisation which runs entirely on volunteer effort.

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

**Michael Read**  
**Group Scout Leader**