



1st Grundisburgh Scout Group

Dear Members, Parents and Group Supporters,

Some of you may be aware of the recent bequest that the Scout Group, along with St. Mary's Church, the Baptist Church and the Sir William Brampton Gurdon Cottage Trust, are to receive from the Estates of John and Nigel Batchelor.

I am writing to you to explain the present position of the Scout Group and how this will affect the Group's future. For the people who are unaware of this news, I will explain:

John Batchelor and his son Nigel were residents of Grundisburgh. In the Summer of 2017 Nigel suddenly passed away which was tragic for John who had also lost his wife in 2009.

When dealing with Nigel's estate it was found that he had various savings and investments. John, who was already an elderly man, decided he did not need Nigel's money and after seeking advice concluded he wanted to 'gift' it to three Village Organisations – St. Mary's Church, the Baptist Church and the Scout Group.

Unfortunately on Christmas Day 2017 John himself passed away and one of his wishes was that his house be given to the Sir William Brampton Gurdon Cottage Trust who have a collection of houses available for rent to local families.

The Scout Group is deeply grateful to the Batchelor Family for the bequest but also sad that John and Nigel will never see how this will change the Scout Group.

It has been decided to use this generous gift as a means to start the new Headquarters project and it is likely this could cover the costs of groundwork and building the shell of the new HQ. We also intend to set aside a portion of the bequest for the financial stability and future requirements of 1st Grundisburgh Scout Group.

The new HQ project has been ongoing for a number of years and although progress has been slow we are taking steps forward – it is at times tricky to juggle the requirements of the project as well as the day-to-day needs of the Group and weekly meetings.

In terms of the new building location we are still looking at different options before finally committing. We have given great thought into placing the new HQ on the current site of the old Hut. We have recently examined the possibility to build on nearby land adjacent to the playing field, plus we have looked at other sites in the Village. You may have seen sketches and potential designs, but as at this moment nothing is 'set in stone', although one of the main 'core' needs is that we have access to an open area such as the playing field which provides us with so many opportunities for activities and games.

However, things are currently out of our hands.....

The Batchelor Estates are being handled by Solicitors and because both John and Nigel have passed away it makes things complicated as there are no family Executors. So I must state that at this present time the Scout Group still has not received the bequest.

There are also other Solicitors whom we are communicating with regarding potential land purchases and personnel from the National Playing Field Governing Body and Charity Commission on matters appertaining to Grundisburgh Playing Field.



As you can imagine being volunteers it is difficult to get things moving any quicker, especially as I do not have much experience, if none, in Legal matters, Planning or Development, this is where we need the support to move the project faster to obtain completion.

As Group Scout Leader I know what space and facilities we need in this new building to provide the activities necessary for a great Scouting experience to all Sections, but people with knowledge of the finer details - Legal matters, Planning, Development and Construction is what will be needed to make this new HQ come to life, so please support wherever you can.

Some people have asked that if this generous bequest is very large then why do we need to continue fund-raising?

The simple answer is that there are always costs involved in running a Scout Group as equipment and resources will all need replacing over years of use. It is also likely that this bequest will not cover the costs of fixtures and fittings so Grants and further Fundraising may be required.

As regards to Subs this too will continue to meet the costs that the Scout Group need to pay out. Currently £42 of your Subs goes to National, County and District fees, Personal Insurance and Membership. The remainder of the Subs goes towards our costly Insurance for the Hut and contents amounting to £1500 per year, as well as electricity bills and the increasing price of badges which can be over 60p each.

To this end we intend to continue with major Fundraising events like the Duck Race and Fireworks Display to keep up our public profile and, as many people have said to me, that it is almost part of 'Village Life' now that these events happen.

The 2018 Duck Race will be on Saturday 23rd June and some of you may have already received your Duck Race forms, with more forms to be handed out to other members soon.

Please support the Race by selling tickets, donating prizes and assisting on our stalls if you are able.

There is a great deal of satisfaction to be had when being a volunteer in Scouting and I personally do enjoy the different outdoor activities we take part in, and to see members enjoying it makes it all worthwhile.

This new HQ Project will only increase our potential number of members, however, without the expanding Leadership and Committee support we will not be able to provide the Scouting and Outdoor experiences that generations of children will want. Therefore I would urge anyone to join our brilliant team of Leaders and Committee, assisting us in more ways to provide Scouting for children now and in the future.

Should anyone wish to speak to me personally about these matters please call, email or see me at the Scout Hut

Yours in Scouting,

Stuart Ross

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