



# WEST THORPE NEWSLETTER



# A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

DEAR ALL,

Well, these are truly strange times that we find ourselves in. Life is changing in so many ways for all of us, but I hope that you are embracing it and are taking time to sit back and relax.

Despite all that is going on, we want you to know that **Scouting continues**. We are working incredibly hard, as a leadership team, behind the scenes to continue to provide you and your children with a range of high-quality Scouting opportunities that you can be involved in during this strange period.

One of the ways that we will be doing that is through this – a monthly newsletter, where we will be updating you with everything that is going on in the group, alongside all the opportunities for YOU to get involved in Scouting during these times! Please do make the most of it, as there is a lot of important news in here that is not to be missed.

Most importantly, we want you to know that we are still here, despite all that is going on. As a team, we are just at the end of an email or a message – so if you have any worries, queries or just want some activities for your children to do – please get in touch!

Stay safe and keep on Scouting,

*The West Thorpe Team*

# GROUP NEWS!

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

As many of you will be aware, on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Scout group!

Of course, the celebrations were not quite as exciting as we had initially planned, but there are many plans to celebrate properly once we are back to face-to-face meetings!

We recently received an order of 100x 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Badges featuring our new logo, which will be given out to each member once we return.

## Camps - Update

In the diary, we had two camps currently scheduled between now and the Summer.

The camp to Great Tower for the Scout section (7-10 May) has been cancelled. We are currently in discussions with all parents concerned regarding whether this camp will be rescheduled for later in the year, or next year instead.

The Anniversary Group Camp to Watson Scout Centre (3-5 July) has also been postponed. We are looking to rearrange this for June 2021.

## Anniversary Group Hoodies

With regards to the Anniversary Hoodie order that we were looking to place in April, this WILL still be going ahead once we return to face-to-face meetings.

If you had already paid for your hoodie prior to the cancellation of meetings, we will hold onto this for you and purchase the hoodie with the rest later on in the year. If you would prefer for this money to be refunded, please get in touch and we will arrange that.



# ONLINE SCOUTING

## Are You Up For The Challenge?

Each week, we will be uploading a challenge for you to complete at home. No matter how old you are, we want YOU to get involved with our challenges.

All of the current challenge videos can be found on our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqVqCUXoNyD1XpcoX0Z2iwA>

Once you've completed a challenge, upload a picture/video to social media, tag us and use the hashtag '#westthorpe40' so we can see your efforts!

## Online Meetings

We have also arranged to continue to run our weekly Beavers, Cubs & Scouts meetings through an online platform 'Cisco WebEx'.

To join our weekly meetings, use the links below:

BEAVERS (Mon 6-7):

<https://meetingsema9.webex.com/meetingsema9/j.php?MTID=m41f8248b914c254db9f8ad0a38c60b19>

CUBS (Fri 6.30-7.30):

<https://meetingsema9.webex.com/meetingsema9/j.php?MTID=mdc14206954c617bce948430ad0c80ccd>

SCOUTS (Fri 7.45-8.45):

<https://meetingsema9.webex.com/meetingsema9/j.php?MTID=mf57f6d1f0b4d1f8974424cb4215a5577>

If you have trouble joining us, do get in touch and we will ensure that we can sort this out for you, so that nobody misses out!



# ONLINE SCOUTING

## Badges at Home

During this time, it is the perfect opportunity to earn some badges! Just because we're not meeting face-to-face, it does not mean that badges can't be earned!

All Beaver parents should have been emailed a 'Badges at Home' guide, outlining the requirements for each badge that you can try and earn at home (If you did not receive this and would like a copy, please get in touch).

For any Cubs & Scouts who would like to earn some badges at home, please consult <https://www.scouts.org.uk/> where you can find the requirements for every badge and select the ones you would like to do at home.

Once you have completed a home badge, email your evidence to our group email address and we can ensure that you gain your badge!

## Social Media

If you are not already, please make sure you are connected to our Social Media, where we regularly share important content for you all!

To join our private Facebook group for parents/leaders/group members only, where we regularly communicate notices and important information, please click the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestThorpeScoutGroup>

Our other Social Media details are below:



A black rectangular box containing social media icons and contact details for the West Thorpe Methodist Scout Group. On the right side of the box is a circular logo celebrating 40 years of the group.

- Facebook: West Thorpe Methodist Scout Group
- Instagram: @wtscouts
- Twitter: @WestThorpeScout
- YouTube: West Thorpe Methodist Scout Group
- Email: westthorpescouts@outlook.com

40 YEARS OF West Thorpe Methodist Scouts



# DISTRICT NEWS

As a group, we are members of the 'York Ebor District', which is a collection of 14 Scout groups in the City of York.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, our current District Commissioner, Kathryn Dunn is stepping down from her position, which she has held for a couple of years. Kathryn has provided great support to us at West Thorpe during her time in the position. We would all like to offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to Kathryn for everything she has done for us, as a group and as a District over her time in the position.

Kathryn will now continue as an Explorer Scout leader for the Jurassic Explorer Scout Unit.

## Introducing Your New District Commissioner...

Taking over from Kathryn on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 will be Nigel White. Nigel is very experienced in the Scouting World and has spent a lengthy period of time as a Cub Scout Leader for 1<sup>st</sup> Copmanthorpe.

Nigel has an incredible vision for Scouting, both in the District and in the City as a whole, and I am certain that he will be the perfect fit for the position.

Nigel recently joined the West Thorpe leaders for a group meeting, where he was introduced to the team and he was able to introduce himself to us. We would like to welcome Nigel, once again, to the position and look forward to working with him for the foreseeable future.

**"Although I am starting the District Commissioner role in unusual circumstances due to COVID19, I am really looking forward to working with your team. We have some exciting plans for the future. In the meantime, please support your fabulous volunteers in helping young people continue to have fun and adventure, whilst developing skills for life. Keep Safe and Keep Scouting."**

- Nigel White



# UPCOMING EVENTS

In addition to all of the online Scouting methods that we, as a group, are currently offering, there are also a range of Scouting events being offered by the District, County and by Scouting nationally. Please do get involved with as many of these as you can!

**23<sup>rd</sup> April** – **Last day to 'Hike To The Moon'!** – Scouts around the country are coming together to hike the distance to the moon to raise money for 'The Big Night In'. Information about how to get involved can be found here: [https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/scouts-helping-others/hike-to-the-moon/?fbclid=IwAR31z2PoX3DWrMCo-3lhdd5K0grg\\_KBPWeH9Fy\\_ADYN1U-blbs60Gq9D5oU](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/scouts-helping-others/hike-to-the-moon/?fbclid=IwAR31z2PoX3DWrMCo-3lhdd5K0grg_KBPWeH9Fy_ADYN1U-blbs60Gq9D5oU)

**23<sup>rd</sup> April** – **Clap for Carers!** – Every member of Beavers, Cubs & Scouts around the country are being asked to clap for NHS workers at 8pm wearing your Uniform & Necker to raise awareness for Scouting, while celebrating the incredible work of the NHS.

**26<sup>th</sup> April** – **St George's Day** – Just because we can't meet together for our usual celebrations, it does not mean they won't be happening! This year, North Yorkshire Scouts are hosting a virtual St. George's Day service at 2pm. It is estimated to last around half an hour. There's even a contribution from a West Thorpe member! Click the link to go straight to the service: <https://youtu.be/9Ljds8aDUoA>

**30<sup>th</sup> April** – **Limerick Competition Deadline** – Are you creative? Can you write a good poem? Then enter the North Yorkshire Scouts Limerick competition! See the link for details: <https://www.nys.org.uk/scouting-at-home/1024-how-good-are-you-at-limericks>

**30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May** – **#CampAtHome!** – Hosted by Northumberland Scouts is a virtual Scout camp, where you can be a part of a world record attempt! As a group, we will be taking part in this event, details can be found here: [https://www.facebook.com/events/497678237569344/?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A\[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search\\_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D\]%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/497678237569344/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D]%7D)

**15<sup>th</sup> August** – **Manchester United Competition Deadline** – Would you like to win a signed Manchester United Shirt? Well, Scouts have teamed up with the Manchester United Foundation to offer two Beavers, Cubs or Scouts this opportunity! Click the link to find out how to enter! <https://www.scouts.org.uk/supporters/manchester-united-foundation>

# SUBSCRIPTIONS

## IMPORTANT GROUP STATEMENT:

Throughout this strange time, we completely appreciate that many of you may currently be going through financial stress. As a Scout group, the last thing we want to do is further fuel such stress.

Therefore, we can confirm that we will not be asking for a full subscription fee this term. As we are offering an online-only programme, we feel that this is fair and appropriate, taking into consideration the best solution for all parties.

As a group, we are currently discussing, in detail, what approach we will be taking financially, to keep the group stable during this turbulent time and ensure that we can still return once the situation comes to a close, while still not adding pressures onto you, as parents. As I'm sure you can appreciate, it is taking a bit of time to finalise exactly what route we would like to take here.

But, be assured that we are in regular contact as leaders and executive committee, and as soon as we have a finalised decision, we will inform all of you immediately. I hope you can appreciate that it takes a bit of time to logistically decide on the best way to approach such a sensitive topic for all parties.





# CAN YOU HELP?

Throughout this time, we are **STILL** constantly on the lookout for volunteers to support us with the running of our activities. At the moment we are particularly on the lookout for people with the following skills:

- Social Media Management
  - Video Editing
  - Photo Editing
- Organisation & Communication
- Marketing & Member Recruitment

We are also on the lookout for new leaders to help out with our sections. Perhaps you only want to help out occasionally? Maybe you want to give us a hand at one of our sections each week? However you want to help, there will be a role for you somewhere!

Additionally, we are looking for new members to join our 'Executive Committee' and support the three current members of the committee, the Group Scout Leader and the Section Leaders with the running of the group!

## CAN YOU HELP IN ANY OF THE ABOVE WAYS?

Email: [westthorpescouts@outlook.com](mailto:westthorpescouts@outlook.com) to discuss the opportunities!





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Designed, Edited & Written By: Tom Ibbott.

With Thanks To: Nigel White; Darren Lightfoot; Sandra Blake and the rest of the West Thorpe Leadership Team.

Next Issue Due: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

West Thorpe 40<sup>th</sup> Logo Design: Tom Ibbott