



WEST THORPE NEWSLETTER



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

DEAR ALL,

First of all, let me offer a huge thank you to every single one of you. As parents, the support you have given and continue to give is remarkable – it's incredibly appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

Let's also take time to thank the wonderful leaders and volunteers, who are continuing to give up their time on a regular basis so that our young people are able to continue to socialise with their friends and 'Scout' at home.

In this month's newsletter issue, there's a bit of an update on the contribution based subscription payments, as discussed at the most recent parents' meeting, as well as a few other bits of news and some helpful links so the kids still have plenty more activities to carry on doing at home!

Stay safe and keep on Scouting,

The West Thorpe Team

GROUP NEWS!

AGM

The date for our Group Annual General Meeting has been set for **Monday 29th June**. This is likely to take place from **7.30pm** and will be undertaken using a virtual platform, which will be confirmed nearer the time.

We are currently exploring all of the options here, to make this meeting as quick and fluent as possible and ensure that we still retain and include all of the official content that must be included, as part of an AGM. Full details are expected to follow in the next issue of the Newsletter.

For now, please save the date and time!

Group Website

Over the last couple of weeks, we have revamped the group website to make it much more visually appealing and 'on-brand'.

We have included a range of useful content for new starters, existing members and others interested in Scouting, so it would be great if you could have a little explore.

Our Website can be found at:

www.westthorpescouts.weebly.com

Though the site is still not perfect, in the future, the aim is for the website to become our 'go-to' area for all group resources, which will include eventually – purchasing a custom domain to allow for a wider range of options & features.



ONLINE SCOUTING

Online Meetings

So far, our online section meetings have been a real huge success. Thank you to everyone that has been attending and for your feedback.

We are always looking for ways to improve our activities and methods, so if you have any feedback that could be of use to improve our future sessions, please get in touch.

Additionally, if your child has not been attending the online sessions, we do not want them to feel as if they are excluded from the group. We are very keen to offer opportunities for everyone to be involved! So if your child would like to be involved in a different way, please email us and we will plan to make alternative arrangements.

Your Choice!

Our Online Sessions should by no means be the end of your child's at-home Scouting experience!

All Beavers & Scouts should have been sent a 'Badges at home' workbook to work through and earn your badges in the comfort of your own home. We also hope to have something similar available for the Cubs in the near future.

In the meantime, please visit our '[Online Scouting](#)' page on our website, where we have shared a range of resources for all sections to help earn badges at home.

Remember to evidence everything you do and send your evidence in so that we can sign off 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:



SUBSCRIPTIONS

IMPORTANT GROUP STATEMENT:

At the most recent group parents' meeting, we discussed that, as a group, we still have a number of fixed costs to pay, e.g. rent/capitation etc. so we are unable to afford to have a term without any subscription income. However, we feel it completely unfair and unjustified to ask for a full £35 subscription payment when we are not providing a full face-to-face programme. Therefore, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 per child. We do not want to add any more financial pressures, as we understand many of you will be going through tough times at the minute. Therefore, we would like to stress that the contribution is purely voluntary. If you feel able to give more, or even give a full £35 payment, of course this would be greatly appreciated and received, but is not expected by anyone.

How do I pay my contribution?

Payment can be made in one of three ways:

1. **By Bank Transfer.** Details are: Bank – Leeds Building Society; Account Number – 14954341; Sort Code – 08-61-19 . If you are contributing in this way, please add a reference of your child's initial of first name & full surname, e.g. 'J Bloggs'. Alternatively, you can email us with the details of your contribution at westthorpescouts@outlook.com .
2. **By Cheque.** Please make your cheque out to 'West Thorpe Scout Group'. This can be posted to the treasurer's address (below). Please ensure that the cheque is in an envelope and please also include the child's name, a contact number and email address, in case there is a problem.
3. **By Cash.** Please ensure this is held securely in a padded envelope (particularly when posting coins). Again, this can be posted to the treasurer's address (below). Please also include the child's name, a contact number and email address, in case there is a problem.

The address to send/post any contributions to is:

Not Available in this newsletter format. Please email us at westthorpescouts@outlook.com if you would like this information.



YOUR GIFT!

Many of you will have seen the 'Your Gift Challenge' that we have set as a group over the last couple of weeks. The challenge has received national attention and we were even interviewed on Scout Radio last week as part of their 'Late Show'! We have had some fantastic entries already and would love to get plenty more! Send your entries over to our group email westthorpescouts@outlook.com or upload them to our private Facebook group! Please note: the challenge is for EVERYONE. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders, Leaders & even parents! Get involved!



By West Thorpe Methodist Scout Group
(York Ebor)



YOUR GIFT CHALLENGE



WHAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL?

Every person is gifted in some way. This week, we've been challenging our young people, leaders and even parents to think about what it is that makes them special. We would absolutely love to open up this activity to members across the Scouting family.

Once you've worked out your gift(s), we would like you to write 'My name is ... and I'm great at ...' on a piece of paper and take a picture of you holding it while wearing your group necker. Let's spread some positivity during this torrid time!

Please feel free to open up this activity to your groups and collate together all your images.

Once you've done that, please send them to us at West Thorpe: westthorpescouts@outlook.com or upload to Instagram and tag [@wtscouts](https://www.instagram.com/wtscouts) so that we can put together a collage celebrating all of the different gifts and talents in our Scouting family!

LEADER RECRUITMENT

URGENT – HELP NEEDED!

As a Scout group, we run purely on the help and time of volunteers. Due to unavoidable situations, we have lost a number of leaders in the last few years, and unfortunately have gained very few. As a result, we are really down the bare bones of our team and are urgently recruiting new volunteers to help run our sections!

We are not expecting anyone to come in and instantly take over the running of Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. However, if anyone is interested – or knows anyone who may be interested – in volunteering with us in any way, either regularly or just occasionally, please do get in touch and one of our team would be more than happy to discuss further with you the roles on offer!

We also have a number of behind-the-scenes roles that we are looking to fill. Perhaps you don't like the idea of leading one of our sections, but you enjoy social media management, creating digital content – or could perhaps join our executive committee?

For the kind of people that we are looking for, please visit our [Group Vacancies](#) page on our website. There are a number of positions that we are looking to fill and if we could even recruit just one of them, we would be absolutely delighted!



CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND

Thank you so much to everyone who has already registered with us as their local cause with the Co-Op – we have already raised a grand total of £544.62 for the group, at the time of writing, which is incredible!

How does the scheme work?

If you become a Co-Op member for just £1, you can choose us as your local cause, meaning that 1% of your spend on Co-Op products comes to us as a group. To join the Co-Op membership scheme click [here](#).

Already a member? Then what are you waiting for? Register us as your local cause by clicking [here](#)!



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!

24th May – **Sunrise to Sunset Badge Deadline** – Our young people have been asked to design a badge for this event. The badge needs to include the wording: 'Sunrise to Sunset' and 'North Yorkshire Scouts' and also the Scout logo somewhere. Send a photo or scanned attachment of your design to Tom Haigh, our County Youth Commissioner at cyc@nys.org.uk

21st June – **Sunrise to Sunset Activity Day** – North Yorkshire Scouts are hosting an all-day online event on this day to celebrate the longest day of the year. There will be the option to sign up for as many or as few activities as you would like to join in with. Details about which events will be taking place will follow towards the beginning of June.

28th June – **West Thorpe AGM** – Our Annual General Meeting will take place on this date at 7.30pm (this leaves half an hour after the end of Beavers). The platform and format of the event has not yet been decided, but details will be issued nearer the time. Please save the date. It would be good for all to attend, as we will be voting on important matters, such as the executive committee and financial matters. There will also be feedback from our Section Leaders on the achievements of the year.

15th 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>

30th September – **Gardening Competition Deadline** – Grow a plant (flowers or vegetables) from seed, using recycling materials to make containers to pot it on, and then display the results in an imaginative and creative way. You will need to take photographs to document your progress from start to finish and submit these for judging by the end of September. Remember to keep the seed packet throughout the competition. Further details can be found [here](#).

31st October – **Photography Competition Deadline** – The Creative Activities Team is running another photographic competition for all members of Scouting and Guiding within North Yorkshire. As we are currently living in extraordinary times the theme of this year's competition is MAKING THE ORDINARY EXTRAORDINARY! This can be interpreted in many ways; ordinary objects or scenes or events photographed in an extraordinary way, used for extraordinary purposes, from unusual angles or just plain odd! Further details can be found [here](#).



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West Thorpe 40th Logo Design: Tom Ibbott

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