



WEST THORPE NEWSLETTER



INTRODUCTION

DEAR ALL,

As we continue to progress through these strange times, there is hope. The return of schools is a big push in the right direction for Scouting, as we begin to plan for a safe return, hopefully sooner rather than later.

This month saw us introduce our new online system, 'Online Scout Manager' which has so far received rave reviews and parents have already begun to use it for uploading evidence of badge work at home – keep it up!

Please take a few minutes to read this month's newsletter issue – and please ensure that you save the date and time for our Annual General Meeting, which will be taking place at 7.15 on Monday 29th June – it is really important that we have as many parents in attendance as possible – more on that later on in the newsletter.

Finally, one great big thank you again for your continued support for us as a group – it does not go unnoticed.

Stay safe and keep on Scouting,

The West Thorpe Team

WENDY HEPTINSTALL

(1961 – 2020)

Many of you will already be aware that we recently lost a much-loved and valued member of the West Thorpe family. Wendy had been involved with the group for many years, spending a significant amount of time as Group Treasurer. We are, of course, absolutely heartbroken at the loss of such an incredible, thoughtful lady, who we were proud to not only call a partner in Scouting – but also, a friend. Andy has passed on his sincere thanks for all the support that he and the family have received since Wendy's passing.

Wendy was a very keen supporter of St. Leonard's Hospice and thus, Andy and Philip have set up a tribute page in her honour to raise money for the place where she spent her final days and was looked after exceptionally well by the staff and volunteers. If you would like to donate to Wendy's tribute page, please visit the link here:

<https://www.stleonardshospice.org.uk/Donate/Tribute-Pages/View-Tribute-Funds/Wendy-Heptinstall>



GROUP NEWS!

Zoom Lift Off!

The Scout Association have recently bought premium memberships to 'Zoom' for all groups, meaning that we have been able to move all of our online scouting meetings from WebEx to Zoom. So far, it has proved a much more reliable platform and one we intend to continue using for the foreseeable.

The new weekly links are below:

BEAVERS (Mon 6-7):

<https://zoom.us/j/97120513376>

(ID: 971 2051 3376 / Password: 935979)

CUBS (Fri 6.30-7.30):

<https://zoom.us/j/98066240526>

(ID: 980 6624 0526 / Password: CUBs40)

SCOUTS (Fri 7.45-8.45 Approx):

<https://zoom.us/j/94724760317>

(ID: 947 2476 0317 / Password: 418008)

AGM

The date for our Group Annual General Meeting has been set for **Monday 29th June**. This will take place from **7.15pm** and will be undertaken using Zoom.

Meeting Details

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/7084774402>

Meeting ID: 708 477 4402

Password: 169355

Facebook Event

A Facebook event has also been set up. Select 'Going' to receive a reminder an hour before the commencement of the meeting: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1085856631785757>

PLEASE NOTE: This is the one meeting a year that we do ask all parents to be present for. Particularly this year, it is all the more important, as there will be a number of important updates regarding COVID-19.



ONLINE SCOUT MANAGER (OSM)

New System Launches!

This month, you should have received an invite to register for our new system 'Online Scout Manager', which gives you, as a parent, autonomy over your child's Scouting experience.

At the moment, you should currently be able to use the parent portal to update your child's personal details, explore the badges they have already attained, the badges that they still need and the requirements for completing these at home. You should also be able to upload pictorial and video evidence of your child completing their badges at home, which a leader can then view and respond to – confirming that they have attained their badge.

In the future, OSM will also help us out hugely when planning camps and larger group events – you will be given the option to register interest and complete paperwork online, to save needing to fill out everything using paper and pen!

At next week's AGM, we will be giving a short 2-minute demonstration of the parent portal where you will be able to see exactly how it can be used and the opportunities that are available.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

REMINDER ABOUT PAYMENT BY CONTRIBUTION:

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their voluntary contribution payment – it is hugely appreciated.

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 version of the newsletter.



PARENTS

Executive Committee

The self-nominations for Executive Committee positions are now open. We will be electing for Group Treasurer and Secretary, along with Executive Committee Members. In this crucial time of Scouting, you will be able to shape the future of West Thorpe and make it a success for the community around us.

If you wish to join our group Executive Committee or if you would like an informal discussion about these roles, please email westthorpescouts@outlook.com to arrange this, or contact us through facebook, messenger and WhatsApp.

Some basic information regarding [Executive Committees](#) in depth:

1. [The Group Treasurer](#)
2. [The Group Secretary](#)
3. [Group Executive Committee Members](#)

Joining Meetings

At the most recent leaders' meeting, we discussed how we can best support you, as parents, to continue to be involved with the group.

We would welcome any parents who may wish to find out a bit more about what we do, or would like to lend a hand – to join one of our weekly section meetings for Beavers, Cubs or Scouts – or even join our next leaders meeting, to give a parent perspective.

The next leaders meeting is scheduled for **Monday 27th July at 7.30pm.**

If you would like to give us a hand or join one of our meetings, please get in touch by email westthorpescouts@outlook.com or get in touch with one of the leadership team directly.



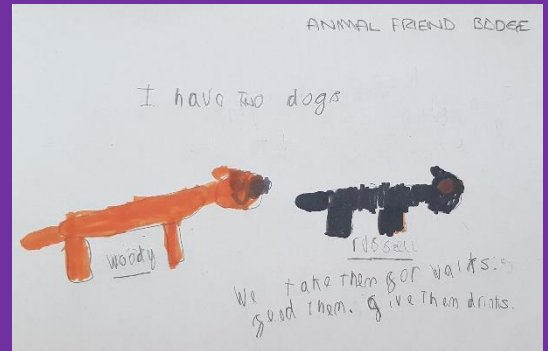
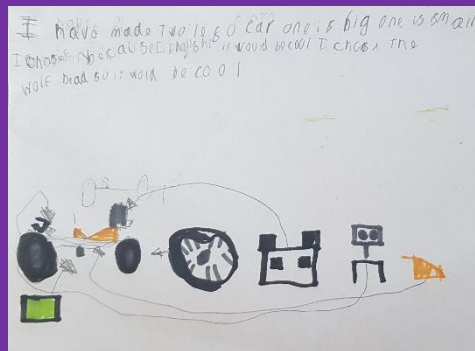
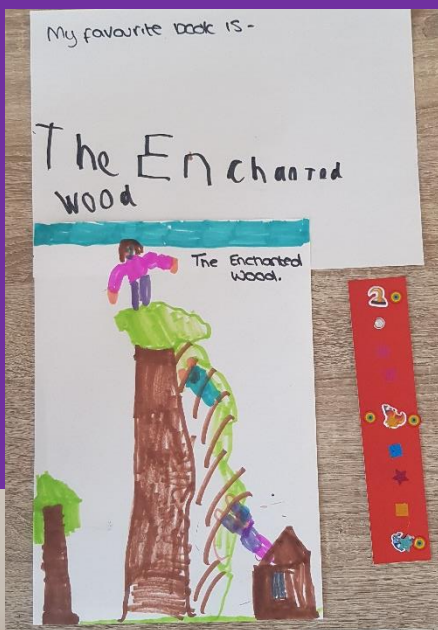
BADGES AT HOME

While we understand that online scouting is not for everyone, we welcome the possibility of our young people working independently at home to earn their badges!

Please consult OSM, [The Scouts Website](#) or the '[Online Scouting](#)' page on our website to find out about how you can be earning badges at home.

Once you have completed them, you can upload evidence to OSM or email it directly to us westthorpescouts@outlook.com.

Look at some of the amazing work one of our Beavers has been getting up to at home!



Independently, Josh has managed to complete his Builder, Book Reader and Animal Friend Activity Badges. He also had a go at the Scavenger Hunt Challenge that we had completed in our online Beavers session!



COUNTY NEWS

As a group, we are members of the 'North Yorkshire Scouts' Scouting county. On Sunday 21st June, the County ran a 'Sunrise – Sunset' activity day, starting at 4.15am and running all the way through until 10pm!

Around 5,000 young people are thought to have engaged with the activities on the day, which included challenges, nettle cording, a 'stay-at-home wide game' and of course a fitness session with our very own Joe Wicks, Joe Fillingham! If you would like to give the fitness session a go, a recording of the activity can be found on our Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zqm0vMyc93Q&feature=youtu.be>

The event finished with a live campfire, followed by a short closing ceremony and guest appearance from UK Chief Commissioner, Tim Kidd.

A badge will be issued to everyone who engaged with the various activities on the day.

Many of the activities can still be found on the North Yorkshire Scouts Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7fu8jbTwDEw7ju4IDX80TQ>

Scouts
North Yorkshire



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 £551.98 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!

29th June – West Thorpe AGM – Our Annual General Meeting will take place on this date at 7.15pm (this leaves 15 minutes after the end of Beavers). The platform and format of the event will be Zoom. 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.

30th June – Junk Modelling Competition Deadline – Using recyclable or junk materials only, create a model. You can do anything so use your imagination to come up with your most creative design and name it! Further details can be found [here](#).

11th – 12th July – The Great Indoors Weekender – Join the UK's biggest digital summer camp from your living room or garden. With surprise guests, cooking, crafts, music and more – join up now for a weekend of fun! Further details can be found [here](#).

30th July – Campfire Competition Deadline – All you need to do is record yourself performing your favourite campfire song. With the magic of editing we will make it appear like we are all singing together. We would prefer videos of your performance, but we will accept audio only. Further details can be found [here](#).

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 – 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](#).

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>



In Loving Memory of Wendy
Heptinstall (1961 – 2020)

West Thorpe Newsletter – Issue 03 [June 2020]

Designed, Edited & Written By: Tom Ibbott.

With Thanks To: Jo Enderby; Joe Fillingham; Sandra Blake; Neal Macdonald; Andrew Heptinstall and the rest of the West Thorpe Leadership Team.

West Thorpe 40th Logo Design: Tom Ibbott

All Scouting Images are the property of West Thorpe Methodist Scout Group. Additional Images supplied by Andrew Heptinstall.

Next Issue Due: 29th July 2020.

