



# WEST THORPE NEWSLETTER



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# INTRODUCTION

DEAR ALL,

It seems wrong to begin this piece without first saying a big thank you for everything that you have done to support us in keeping Scouting going for our young people over the past four months. It has been a tough time for all of us, but the online sessions have been a real success and that is partly down to your dedication as supporters of the group.

A further thank you goes out to all parents, leaders & committee members who attended the group Annual General Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June. It was a learning curve for all of us and ultimately, we feel as though it was a success! Thanks as well to our District Commissioner, Nigel White, for his support and attendance that evening.

In this newsletter edition, we will be updating you on the intended move back to face-to-face Scouting, both on a group and a national level. We also celebrate some of the incredible successes by members of the group throughout this lockdown period.

I would like to sign off with one big final thank you to every single leader, parent, young person and supporter of the group and I wish you a well-earned rest throughout this Summer break. We hope to see you all again soon.

Stay safe and keep on Scouting,

*The West Thorpe Team*

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Returning to Face-to-Face Scouting

The Scouts have recently implemented a 'traffic light system', which is intended to indicate when it is appropriate to move back to face-to-face Scouting. As a Scout group, we are under strict guidance to stick to this model.

Readiness level	NYA level	Scout level
<b>Red</b> Rate of infection is remaining consistent or growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online and digital youth services</li> <li>Detached youth services and 1-2-1 sessions with vulnerable young people outdoors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital programme delivery</li> <li>No face-to-face activity or meetings</li> <li>No residential activities</li> </ul>
<b>Amber</b> Rate of infection is reducing consistently in all parts of the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online and digital youth services</li> <li>Small group sessions can take place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital programme delivery</li> <li>Small group sessions can take place outdoors</li> <li>No residential activities</li> </ul>
<b>Yellow</b> Number of cases low and decreasing, full Track and Trace system in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online and digital youth services</li> <li>Indoor group sessions can take place</li> <li>Outdoor learning, trips and visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital programme delivery</li> <li>Small group sessions can take place indoors and outdoors</li> <li>No residential activities</li> </ul>
<b>Green</b> No new cases or a vaccine is readily available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All services open as per normal yearly operations</li> <li>Overnight trips and visits allowed</li> <li>International travel allowed within FCO advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities can resume in line with government guidance</li> </ul>

The current England readiness level is **AMBER**.

This means that face-to-face Scouting can recommence in groups of no more than 15. These activities must take place outdoors and groups must first receive written permission from their District team before recommencing.

## The Great Indoors Weekender

Scouts nationally recently came together for a 'Camp at Home' event, full of fun and exciting activities! Across the country, Scouts put up tents in their gardens and camped out for the night, while enjoying a range of organised online activities, hosted by a number of famous Scouts, such as Bear Grylls & Warwick Davis!



# GROUP NEWS

## Chief Scout Awards

During our final online Beavers session before the Summer break, we were delighted to be able to 'virtually present' THREE Chief Scout's Bronze Awards!

The Chief Scout Awards are the highest awards possible for members of each section, so members have to work incredibly hard both in group sessions and at home to earn these awards.

A huge congratulations to **EVIE, OLIVER L & GEORGE**, who have all earned their Chief Scout's Bronze!

We hope to be able to present these awards for real after the Summer break!



## Face-to-Face Sessions

Due to the new Scouting guidance moving from **Red** to **Amber** on the traffic light system (see page 4), we are now beginning the process of returning to face-to-face Scouting.

Prior to restarting, we must first receive written permission from the District Leadership Team. The group committee are currently in the process of completing the risk assessment to ensure the safest possible return to face-to-face Scouting.

Once permission has been received, sessions will look slightly different. Please see page 4 for information regarding what an 'Amber' session would look like.

Further details will be issued regarding the return to contact sessions once we have received restart permission from the District Leadership Team. We aim to be able to provide further clarity in the next month or so.



# AGM

## Summary of Meeting

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS** – Darren Lightfoot was elected for a second term as Group Treasurer. Group Scout Leader, Sandra Blake, also nominated Grahame Wimborne to continue his role as Group Chair. Claire Martin stepped down from her position as Group Secretary. We thanked Claire for all of her support and efforts during her time in the position.

The [Group Secretary](#) & [Executive Committee Member](#) positions are still vacant. If you would like to put yourself forward for either of these positions, please contact us on [westthorpescouts@outlook.com](mailto:westthorpescouts@outlook.com).

**ANNUAL REPORT & SUMMARY OF GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS** – Group Scout Leader, Sandra Blake summarised the group's main achievements over this past year. The main achievement was the positive way that the group have adapted to the challenges of lockdown through the online scouting methods, such as WebEx & Zoom.

**RECRUITMENT** – At this year's AGM, a big push was made for recruitment. We have recently lost a number of leaders and therefore need to bring in new volunteers to maintain the regular running of the group. The main volunteer recruitment priorities are:

- 1x Beaver Leader
- 2x Scout Leaders
- Executive Committee Members
- Group Secretary

These are our priorities, but if anyone is available to give up any amount of time – we would be overly grateful. If you are interested in volunteering with the group, or would like further information about the roles, please get in touch via email at [westthorpescouts@outlook.com](mailto:westthorpescouts@outlook.com).



# SUBSCRIPTIONS

## A BIG, BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION PAYMENTS!

Thank you to everyone who has paid their voluntary contribution payment – it is hugely appreciated. During this uncertain time, it is amazing that we have been able to rely on our parents to continue giving so generously. The money you have donated is hugely appreciated and will go a great way to supporting us, as we emerge from lockdown. We have been overwhelmed by the number of people who have contributed substantial sums of money and no amount of thanks will be enough to truly show our gratitude.

If you have not yet contributed and would like to offer a donation to the group, to replace our regular termly subscriptions – it is not too late. Please see the details below. Perhaps you feel as if you've already paid, but feel that can contribute a little bit extra? We truly appreciate whatever you feel that you can offer – it all goes a great way to supporting our young people.

### 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](mailto: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:

West Thorpe Scout Group  
c/o 23 Summerfield Road  
York  
YO24 2RU



# BADGES AT HOME

Throughout lockdown, a lot of our members have been working hard to earn their own badges at home. Even though the term is over, that doesn't stop you from working hard to earn them over summer!

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](mailto:westthorpescouts@outlook.com).

Look at some of the amazing work some of our members have been doing:





# 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 £576.95 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!

**24<sup>th</sup> August – West Thorpe Leaders' Meeting** – Our monthly leaders' meeting will be taking place from 8pm on this evening. We would love for any parents to join us and offer their input. If you would like to attend this virtual meeting via Zoom, please contact us via email on [westthorpescouts@outlook.com](mailto:westthorpescouts@outlook.com).

**w/c 7<sup>th</sup> September – Beavers, Cubs & Scouts Return!** – West Thorpe Beavers will return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Cubs & Scouts will recommence on 11<sup>th</sup> September. We cannot yet confirm whether these sessions will be run online via Zoom, or whether they will be face to face. We will be in touch nearer the time with further details.

**30<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

**31<sup>st</sup> 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](#).

**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>





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With Thanks To: Darren Lightfoot; Neal Macdonald; Joe Fillingham; Grahame Wimborne and the rest of the West Thorpe Leadership Team.

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