Hi everyone

We’ve had a good start to the year, and we have a busy time ahead. As always please do step forward if you would like to help in any way. (Contact details at bottom of page.)

First of all from Leaders, Committee & Scouts

**HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO ALLYSON on 12th May!!!**

(Enjoy 10 Tors!) Thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 18th May – Ilchester Infants School - 6.30pm onwards.

Please do come and meet the Committee, have a chat to your Leaders,

and enjoy food and refreshments afterwards.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Current term runs May to July. Subs remain at £25 per child per term, £45 for 2 and £65 for 3. Please make cheques out to WESSEX SCOUT GROUP. Don’t forget to complete your GIFT AID form (you only need to do this once) – we hope to get a copy online for you to download via the Group webpage (see below) – presently we get 25p back from the Government for every pound you contribute to the group, whether it’s subscriptions or a sponsored fundraising event, at NO COST TO YOU.

All other payments still to be made to WESSEX SCOUT GROUP unless otherwise advised, eg. 10 Tors (Yeovil District).

WESSEX SCOUT GROUP – WEBPAGE – <http://wessexscoutgroup.weebly.com/>

Chris Fry has been working hard to get this up and running so do take a look. Thanks for providing contact details. Hopefully Scouts and Explorers will have had a first email from Chris on 24 April with reminders about subs and coming events. We hope to have links to notes from Committee Meetings for you to look at. These are held monthly at The Ilchester Arms. Do feel free to come along if you would like to get involved. We also hope to have an ongoing diary soon, so you can see at a glance what’s coming up.

BEAVERS

One of our Beavers, Sam Loughrey, came 1st at the District Beaver Connect 4 Challenge and went through to the County Challenge. And everyone enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, hot cross buns and games at the end of last term. Lots of lovely things planned for this new term. Any questions do go and have a chat with Tanya.

CUBS

Three Cubs gained their Chief Scout Silver Award last term – well done to Ben Dennett, Edan Hummel and Harry Akhurst. A team took part in the Centaur Hike for the first time ever and came 12 out of 22. Cub Leader Elliot was presented with his 5 year service badge and Paul Wood has completed his training for his Warrant. Congratulations to everyone.

SCOUTS

Four Scouts took part in the District Hiking weekend, completing the course and were a credit to the Group. The Mountain Bike Challenge was fun in the mud and rain. The Cooking Team won the Best Dessert Trophy at the Regional cooking competition and came 4th overall. Well done everyone. And welcome to 3 new Scouts who have moved up from Cubs.

LENDINIAE EXPLORERS

Great Lyde Hall hire remains at £480 per year – please be sure to pay your subs as soon as possible, so that we can continue to use this venue. **The GIFT AID helps to pay the rent on the hall, so please do sign the form!** It costs you nothing.

Events coming up:

Ten Tors – 11-13 May – Good luck to the teams!

Scoutfest (<http://somersetscouts.org.uk/scoutfest/>) – 1-3 June – Have fun everyone!

Gilwell – 6-8 July – No sleep needed!

And The Tunnel (shooting range), Canoeing and kayaking at Sutton Bingham, and working towards the Queens Scout Award. Be sure to look out for details from Skip and check the webpages. Remember to get your paperwork and monies back in good time.

FUNDRAISING

Coffee mornings in April raised over £300. Thanks to everyone who supplied cakes, and those who helped on the day. Help is needed for the following – see list at bottom of page for contact details:

Bingo – Wednesdays fortnightly, 6.30-8.30pm at Ilchester Town Hall (commenced 19 April – next Wed 2 May). Please contact Group Scout Leader, June Eaton if you can help with refreshments.

19 May – Ilchester School Fair – 11am-2pm – skittles, coconut shy, buzzer game – helpers needed.

20 May – Car Boot Sale at Ilchester Playing Field, 6.00am-1pm – 8 people to assist with car parking. This can bring in up to **£1,000** for a day’s help.

**Raffle Prizes/Tombola** – please donate what you can, ask your local shop, etc. - we hope to build up a stock to draw on throughout the year. Bring along and put in the collecting box at your Group’s evening sessions.

Western Gazette ‘Wish List’ – HURRY! HURRY! Only 2 weeks left to collect vouchers – **final day Fri 18th May.** Ask your work colleagues, friends & neighbours to cut this out of the paper - then give them to your Group Leader.

Vouchers – keep those Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda vouchers coming in.

Bag-packing – Friday 5pm-9pm - dates to be arranged. We will let you know asap when booked.

Collect-a-bag – keep filling those black bin bags with old clothing/textiles/shoes, take them in to your Leaders.

Old Hiking Kit – if you’ve any old kit you don’t need any more (boots, poles, rucksacs) please pass on to your Group Leader.

SCOUT WEBSITE

And don’t forget to take a look at the Scout website - <http://www.scouts.org.uk> . It has loads of useful information about how you can support your child. And you can see what’s needed for the various badges, and where to put them on the shirts!

Thanks very much. Allyson, Leaders & Committee