



The ROAR

The Newsletter of the Lions Club of Windsor

Issue 01 September 2009

Windsor Lions annual Swimathon promises to be bigger and better than ever before!

It's all systems very much GO! for Sunday 11th October, the day of the Club's 13th annual Swimathon at the Windsor Leisure Centre! With entries at an all time high and still a month to go to the event, it looks like in excess of 50 teams will be participating.

Over the years, the Swimathon has raised in excess of £60,000 for local charities and good causes. Last year, it raised over £8,500, a record then – this year we may well break the £10,000 mark, a real milestone in the year-on-year development of the event.

The Swimathon is a great way for local charities and good causes to raise money for themselves with an additional 'bonus' this year, courtesy of the Windsor Lions. The event involves teams of 8 swimmers to swim in relays (50metres at a time) for 55 minutes, raising money through sponsorship for their efforts. This year, each team will have 100% of the sponsorship returned to them plus an added incentive of 10%! It's easy to do and its lots of fun!

Teams entered so far include local Guide and Brownie groups, schools, local companies, Windsor Leisure Centre and WAMDSAD, the disabled sports club. Event organiser, Lion Mike Sells, enthused "We have tried very hard this year to increase the number of participating teams and so far we have had great results. Effectively, the Windsor Lions do all the organising and management of the event and the swimming teams raise money for themselves. It's so easy and so much fun!"

The Awards presentation evening will be held at The Guild Hall, Windsor in January.

It is not too late to enter a team. Entry forms are available via the Swimathon Website swim@windsorlions.co.uk or direct from Mike Sells on 01753 643581.



The 2008 Swimathon. Photographs by courtesy of The Windsor Observer

Windsor Lions Sponsor The Theatre Royal Windsor with Bursary Grant.

The Windsor Lions Club has agreed to sponsor The Theatre Royal Windsor with four bursaries, 2 for under 7's and 2 for over 7's, for the Youth Theatre which is scheduled to commence this month. The Club has also agreed to provide some funding to sponsor the end of term performance.

The bursaries will be administered by the Theatre Royal Windsor and are available to children who could not otherwise afford to attend the classes.

Lion President Richard Winrow said, "This is a great opportunity for the Windsor Lions to work closely with the Theatre Royal Windsor and to help youngsters develop their confidence and talent when otherwise they might not have the chance. We are very keen to support Youth and the Arts – this is just the sort of thing we should be doing".

Windsor Lions Relaunch Supporters Club

The Windsor Lions has relaunched its supporters club, now known as Windsor Lions Supporters Club (WLSC) and already has 15 members. Several years ago Windsor Lions had a supporters network known as FOWLS (Friends of Windsor Lions) which proved to be a great success and enabled the members to undertake a range of zany activities – a formal black tie dinner on the summit of Snowdon, lunch of Brighton beach to name but two. Whilst it is not envisaged members of WLSC will mimic these activities, it will enable them to learn more about the work of Lions and get involved in fun events and fundraising activities. Membership of WLSC is free of charge and is by invitation by a member of Windsor Lions.



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Lions get ready for the big bang!

In traditional style, the Windsor Lions will be celebrating the 'not so glorious' 5th of November (... gunpowder, treason and plot) with a firework party and dinner at Di Salerno restaurant, Sykes Meadow, Windsor Road, Runnymede on Thursday 5th November. The fun starts at 7pm. Members of the WLSCL are very welcome. Contact the Editor for more information

Windsor Lions Golf Day – another great success!

Despite the credit crunch, the Club's annual Golf Day, this year held at the lovely Mill Ride Golf Course, Ascot, raised an excellent £3,350! Fifteen teams took part, many of them regulars, and helped to make what was a great fun day. Event organiser Lion Peter Darville said "We did better than I expected which goes to show, despite things being tight, our event is as popular as ever. Sincere thanks to our regular supporters. We all had a great day."

Horseride Presentation Evening at Guildhall Windsor – 9th October

One of the Club's major events of the year, the Horseride Presentation evening at the Guildhall, Windsor is planned for Friday 9th October.

The event is the 'grand finale' of the annual Horseride, held in Windsor Great Park which is our major fundraiser of the year. Over 400 riders from all over Southern England take advantage of the opportunity to jump over 20 purpose-built jumps in the Great Park raising sponsorship for their efforts. All monies raised are donated to the Windsor Lions for the support of local charities and good causes in the community. The event this year raised just over £32,000, the majority of which will be donated to a variety of Good Causes at the Presentation evening.

Note: the date of the 2010 Horseride is confirmed as 8th / 9th May.

Good Neighbours, Good Causes

The Windsor Lions major 'help the local community' initiative, 'Good Neighbours, Good Causes', continues to flourish with a whole range of local 'help' projects being delivered to the needy in Windsor every month.

Founded in 2008, the objectives of GNGC, as the initiative is known throughout the Club, is to match those folk in the community who need assistance with everyday living matters with help provided by volunteers. In 2009 we were able to help over 40 people, many of them disabled or elderly. Their needs vary from gardening, DIY, shopping and perhaps the procurement of basic household items that they otherwise would have no hope of affording.

The big problem the Club has is that the demand for 'help' often out numbers the volunteers available. Lion Diane Purchase, who leads the initiative within the Club's Community Services Committee, commented "What we are trying to do now is build up our 'help bank', that is our band of volunteers who can support us. We need to be very flexible because we just don't know when that next telephone call for help is going to come in and what the requirement is going to be."

All offers by volunteers willing to be added to the 'help bank' should be made to Diane at email dianepurchase@aol.com. Contact the Editor for more information on GNGC.

For More Information on the Windsor Lions

Please contact the Editor, Lion John Jenkins at email john.jenkins@jjassociates.com or telephone (office) 0118 903 4073

See the Windsor Lions website at www.windsorlions.co.uk

Windsor Lions is part of Lions International, one of thousands of similar clubs all around the world.

"We serve"