



Wokingham Lions Club

Friend of Lions 2025



Welcome to the Wokingham Lions Club.

We are part of Lions Clubs International, a world-wide voluntary service organisation, with more than 45,000 clubs in 200 countries - all doing fantastic work to help others. We contribute to help globally, and in our own country wherever needs arise.

Most importantly for us, though, is to help in our own community. We are well known for the tremendous support we give to people in Wokingham, through our fund-raising events and many other activities.

We work closely with many organisations, and occasionally with other service clubs, (e.g. Rotary, Round Table / 41 Club) to organise events like the Wokingham Fireworks, and with many charitable organisations to help make things better. As well as our Club members we rely on supporters of the Lions, we call them '**Friends of Lions**' (**FoL**), who help us out at events needing more staff in order for us to make a huge difference in our local area.

Our two most successful ventures, in liaison with Wokingham Town Council, are the annual Wokingham May Fayre, which is entirely organised and run by Wokingham Lions Club since 1995. It is a huge event each May, visited by thousands of people. In 2022 we took over the organisation and running of the Winter Carnival which also attracts thousands of visitors. Each event requires in excess of 60 people throughout the day.

We have great fun planning and running these events. We also try to have a social get together, an outing or just a drink in a local pub once a month, which FoL's are most welcome to attend.

If you think that you would like more information about what we do and how you can become part of our **Friends** team, please call or email me:- 07530 376 254, bobdwokinghamlions@gmail.com

Bob DuGard

Wokingham Lions Club

***Do you want to help others and your community?
If so, become a Friend of Wokingham Lions Club!
Ordinary people doing extraordinary things.***



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Friend of Lions



Friends of Lions are:

- Male and female, who live or work locally
- Charity-minded people, who want to give something to their community and care about those around them
- Fun-loving people, who also enjoy fundraising for local, national and international causes

Wokingham Lions make a difference every day. We could need your help with the following:

- May Fayre
- Winter Carnival
- Fireworks
- Wokingham Walks
- Classic Motor Show
- Opportunities to help other charities with their fund-raising events. Eg. We assist with the Poppy Appeal and Marie Curie collection
- Annual Can-Can Appeal (grocery collection for Christmas parcels for those in need)

We raise and donate funds to many local charities, good causes and community groups including:

Alexander Devine Trust	Link Visiting Scheme
Berkshire Women's Aid	Marie Curie
Building for the Future	Men's Shed Wokingham
Camp Mohawk	Me2 Club
Citizens Advice Wokingham	Ollie Young Foundation
Cricket Club – female team	Regain Sports Charity
Daisy's Dream	Share Wokingham (food sharing charity)
Dingley's Promise	SOBS - Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide
First Days Children's Charity	Sue Ryder
Wokingham Girl Guiding	Thames Hospice
Home-Start	The Friends of CAMHS Phoenix School
JAC in the Box	Thames Valley Air Ambulance
Kimel Café	WADE
Kaleidoscopic	Wokingham Foodbank



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Our Annual May Fayre on May Day Bank Holiday



Past Presidents Lyn Baily (left) and Debbie Slay with our Lion in costume at the May Fayre.

Our annual May Fayre, one of the largest street fairs in South East England, started in 1995.



Or why not become a full member of Wokingham Lions?

We are an informal club with a wide and varied membership from many different careers and backgrounds. This is what makes our club so enjoyable and thoroughly rewarding. Wokingham Lions have a business and social meeting every month. We'd love you to come along to one of our meetings. If you would like to find out more about joining Wokingham Lions, please contact our **Membership Chair, Bob DuGard, on:**

07530 376 254 or email bobdwokinghamlions@gmail.com or visit www.wokinghamlions.org.uk



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Frequently Asked Questions about becoming a Friend of Wokingham Lions Club (FoL)

Q. What is Wokingham Lions Club?

A: Wokingham Lions Club is a group of fun-loving people who aim to serve our local community by raising funds and providing support to help the vulnerable and those in need.

It is part of Lions Clubs International (LCI), the world's largest service organisation, with more than 45,000 clubs in over 200 countries.

Q. What is a Friend of Wokingham Lions Club?

A: A Friend is a person who can't or doesn't want to commit to becoming a full member of the Lions Club, but wants to volunteer to help the community as and when they have some spare time. Your family and work will come first. After that you give what time you can.

Q. Who can volunteer for Wokingham Lions Club?

A. Becoming a Friend of Lions is open to any charity-minded adult who is willing to work with us to support our aims and help at our events. We welcome women and men, aged 18 or over, from all ethnic and social backgrounds, and any creed. We aim to be fully inclusive. The Lions movement is apolitical and secular.

Q. How large is Wokingham Lions Club?

A. We currently have around 40 members, which includes both women and men of all ages. Additionally, we have around 40 registered Friends of Lions who volunteer to assist at major events which require more people.

Q. How do you decide what Fundraising events to hold?

A. There is a Fundraising Committee made up of the full members who put forward suggestions to the Club membership for approval. This group is then responsible for ensuring these events happen as planned e.g. May Fayre, Winter Carnival, Classic Motor Show, Wokingham Walks, etc. Any member can suggest a new event.

Q. How do you distribute funds?

A. Our Community Services Committee regularly meet to review and discuss charities in need of financial support, and individuals in need. The Committee votes to give funds within a set financial limit. Requests for larger amounts are voted on at the next business meeting by all Club members present.

Q. Where do you distribute funds?

A. Priority is given to local charities, and individuals in need in the Wokingham area. We also consider national charities, and give regular donations to Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) who provide funds for international disaster relief.

Q. What sort of community work is undertaken?

A. Our main focus is supporting the local community in Wokingham. We are also active in collecting used spectacles, that can be re-cycled and sent to third World countries, and collecting food at Christmas which is distributed to the elderly and families in need. We provide an alert system for individuals with serious



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medical conditions (Message in a Bottle), which can aid the Emergency Services attending incidents in people's homes. We also recycle used laptops for those less fortunate.

Q. What sort of social events are organised?

A. The club has a very active social programme. Our Social Committee organises activities for our members, their families and Friends throughout the year. Recent activities have included a trip to the Mill Theatre at Sonning, ten pin bowling and weekend country walks. Alternatively, we could just meet in a local pub for a drink and a chat.

Q. How can I learn more about becoming a Friend of Wokingham Lions?

A. Contact Bob DuGard, Wokingham Lions Membership Chair, on 07530 376 254 or email bobdwokinghamlions@gmail.com

Alternatively visit www.wokinghamlions.org.uk or check us out on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X and LinkedIn to find out about upcoming events and other news.

Additional questions regarding membership of Wokingham Lions Club

Q. What is the difference between a Friend and a Member?

A. A member pays membership fees, can vote on club decisions on where money is spent and suggest new fund raising ideas.

Q. Can I attend meetings without being a member?

A. Yes, of course. Normally a prospective member would be invited to attend business meetings and be involved in at least two club events prior to receiving an invitation to apply for membership. New members will be assigned an experienced Lion as a mentor to provide guidance prior to their induction, and during their first year as a Lion.

Q. How often do Wokingham Lions meet?

A. There is a business meeting at 7.30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (currently held at Arborfield Royal British Legion, Eversley Road, Arborfield, RG2 9PR – **What 3 Words** - ///dreams.alerting.pitch) and a social event, often on the evening of the 4th Wednesday. The social events are open to partners and friends which gives them an opportunity to meet members in an informal setting.

Q. What is the membership cost per year?

A. The cost of membership is currently £40.00 per half year. Payable in January and July.

Q. Are there any other costs I may incur, through membership?

A. You will be invited to attend club functions which are all totally voluntary. Such functions, sometimes dinners, are priced at market rates. Other events are at varying costs dependent upon the activity.

Q. How can I learn more about becoming a member of Wokingham Lions Club?

A. Contact Bob DuGard, Wokingham Lions Membership Chair, on 07530 376 254 or email bobdwokinghamlions@gmail.com