

WOODBIDGE & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

Prospective New Member Information

1 Who and What are the Lions?

Woodbridge and District Lions Club (WDLC) is part of the largest service club organisation in the world, known as Lions Clubs International.

There are circa 1.5 million members throughout the world and over 48,000 Lions Clubs whose purpose is to serve their local communities by supporting worthwhile causes and local people.

Lions Clubs in the UK are organised nationally and designated as Multiple District 105CE. Other countries also have their Lions clubs so configured and, collectively, all form Lions Clubs International.

Lions Clubs International has existed for over 100 years and WDLC was founded in 1982. It is a secular club and both men and women are members.

2 What does Woodbridge and District Lions Club do?

WDLC activities may be summarised as follows:

- Supporting volunteering. The club has been very active in supporting volunteering through its Youth Leadership programme work, working with and encouraging young people to raise funds for those in need in the community and to give their time freely for the benefit of the local community. The club has provided volunteering opportunities through its Pig Races, litter picks, Christmas parcels distribution to those in need, Christmas sleigh house to house collections and, in the past, supporting the Martlesham Heath 10k run. The club also financially supports groups of young disabled people enabling them to attend national sports competitions and funds individuals embarking on voluntary service overseas;
- * Helping those in need: each year the club funds and distributes food parcels at Christmas to those in need. Most recently we have worked with the Salvation Army to better target our distribution. From time to time, the club also responds to requests for funds in support of international disaster relief.
- * Supporting the health of the local community. With our “Message in a Bottle” initiative, where the club works in conjunction with pharmacies to provide a bottle to households within which repeat prescriptions and relevant medical data can be stored and found by first responders (alerted by a sticker on the front door). The club also supports “Medic Alert”, a life saving initiative which alerts medical professionals to a bearer’s medical condition by the latter wearing Medic Alert jewellery. “SightSavers” and “WaterAid” have also been supported at national and international level.

- Community Support. Quay Time is a community oriented project which enables people to meet over tea (or coffee) and cakes to enjoy each other's company and to organise further events and activities. These afternoons themselves may feature quizzes, board games or visiting speakers and offer an opportunity to arrange social activities throughout the year. Sessions are held on the third Wednesday of each month in Woodbridge Quay Church.
- * Providing grants to individuals. Grants are made to further the charitable objectives of the club and to help ameliorate an individual's disability, poverty, other charitable need, or provide support to those helping people in need. Referrals can be from school welfare officers, carers, parents or individuals.
- * Attending third party events and volunteer promotions. Examples are: annual local charities exhibition in the community centre; The Royal British Legion annual celebrations; the Woodbridge in Bloom initiative and the Woodbridge Horse Show. All provide a showcase for the club.
- * Participation in environmental/heritage activity. The club helps with East Suffolk District Councils beach clean-up activity and, as a member of "Choose Woodbridge" initiative, the club supports the town in raising awareness of social issues such as the over use of plastic and, in general, helps improve the environment for the benefit of visitors and residents.

3 **How is Woodbridge and District Lions Club organised?**

The club is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which means the club is governed by the rules appertaining to such bodies.

The club's administrative costs at local, national, and international level are covered by a modest, annual member's fee which ensures monies raised through fund raising are spent supporting good causes in the community.

As a registered charity and CIO, the club is required to maintain formal, audited accounts and has to minute its monthly business meetings.

The club meets to discuss business on the first Tuesday of every month at The Royal British Legion under the chairmanship of the club's President. The club is also required to elect a number of officers, namely, a Treasure, a Secretary and six Trustees charged with ensuring the monies spent on charity activity are rightly and properly taken from the club's charity account which is subject to audit.

Community work is overseen by a small community services committee and any major project embarked upon by the club has a nominated Lion in Charge (effectively a project manager).

A most important role is that of the social activities manager who initiates and coordinates club members' social activities and they usually take place on the third Tuesday of each month. They comprise talks, quizzes, BBQs and other events which cement the club socially.

4 **What is expected of you?**

- Primarily it's your time, knowhow and enthusiasm. The club needs to know the principle skills you feel could be put to good use in the club, e.g., chairing a committee, overseeing projects, accountancy, working with youngsters etc.

Also, the club needs an enthusiasm for service to the community and to know how you feel you could contribute, for example, as a good team player and with a willingness to take part in what the club does.

The club also requires members to submit to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, because, from time to time, your work supporting those in the community will involve you coming into contact with vulnerable people. There is no cost to you as an individual.

(Attachment B shows how you can summarise your potential contribution to the club and apply for membership.)

5 **What do you get in return?**

You will be joining a club with a membership of 20 people plus many associates and friends who help out from time to time. As a consequence, you will experience rewarding companionship, a good social life and a means by which you can evidence your commitment to the local community.

You will also become a member of a worldwide organisation whose local clubs will welcome you as a guest to their meetings wherever you are and, if needs be, provide you with assistance.

6 **The Way Forward - How to Apply**

Usually a prospective member attends one or two business meetings to determine whether the club and its activities are for him or her.

Contacting the club Secretary or President will be sufficient for you to be invited to a meeting and, on attendance, the Membership Officer will guide you through the meeting.

If you are willing to proceed, Attachment B will need to be submitted to the club secretary for consideration.

Contact details are:

WDLC President:

WDLC Secretary:

WDLC Membership Officer:

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