

Godstone Parish Council Annual Meeting 22nd May 2024



Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions Club (COGs)

Over the past twelve months we have lost a number of members for various reasons and our numbers are at their lowest for many years at 23 men and women who look to serve others. Sadly, age catches up on service clubs and COGs is no exception. In a few days time we celebrate the 90th birthday of Lion Peter Drysdale a founder member of the Club in 1978. We are in need of a new younger generation of community minded people to revitalise the club so we continue to serve the people in our community and further afield.

The Club has undertaken fund raising events including attendance at Godstone Fete, three Trivia Quizzes, an Italian themed dinner at the White Hart Barn and a concert at Caterham School featuring ABBA Chique which was a huge success for the second year running. As always, we toured the area with Father Christmas and his Float during the festive season and were astounded by the generosity of residents. Regrettably this may be in doubt for 2024 due to lack of volunteers.

Money raised is spent both locally, nationally and sometimes on Lions projects abroad. The Club has supported locally; St Catherine's Hospice, The Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, Caterham Food Bank, the Bletchingley Skills Centre, Godstone Village School (with Key Stage 1 books), the Godstone Fete Committee, and several others. National charities included the British Legion and Blind Veterans. Donations to Lions International Charities included; Lions Eye Camps, Lions International Blood Research Appeal (LIBRA) based at Kings College Hospital, support for our youth exchange programme in the South East and nationally. If you want to know more, please get in touch.

How is all this hard work sustained I hear you ask. The answer is simple by having fun. Our Club has a monthly social function for members and sometimes friends as well. The past year has seen dinner meetings with speakers, and an outing to the Miller Centre Theatre, the Wings Museum at Pease Pottage and coming up a cream tea.

None of the money raised from the public is used to run the Club. This is generated by subscriptions from members and social events.

If you wish to find out more about your local Lions Club, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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