



Meon Valley Lions Club

# Welcome to Meon Valley Lions Club



New members' handbook



Meon Valley Lions Club

## A little bit about Meon Valley Lions Club

Meon Valley Lions is a local club that is part of a network of Lions Clubs International with over 1.44 million volunteer members around the world.

The Club was founded in 1971, sponsored by Fareham Lions Club, our “mother” club and, so, we are now 46 years old. Our current membership, consisting of ladies and men, is 23 and we also have over 20 “Friends of Lions” who help with some of our various activities.

There is no defined geographical area in

Lions but our patch covers a wide area from Colden Common to Denmead and Tisted to Wickham and Knowle Park.

Our aim is to support people and communities in our area and to have an active social calendar so that we can have fun at the same time. There is a caveat to our individual contributions and that is that “You give what time you have but never at the expense of your family and business”.





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## Meetings



A meeting of the members is held on the first Monday of each month (except bank holidays when it is put back to the second Monday). This is called a business meeting and is held at 7.45pm at the New Place (De Vere) Conference Centre at Shedfield.

The **President** (in his year of office commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July) runs the meeting to an agenda produced by and supported by the Secretary.

To keep the meetings manageable and as succinct as possible there are sub committees, comprising **Welfare, Fundraising, Social** and **Membership** who meet monthly/as necessary to progress matters and produce reports for Business meetings.

Club member will join at least one of the committees and, each year, are encouraged to move from one committee to another to broaden their experience.

Sometimes, we have visitors from other clubs and Lions Districts and we also invite people to attend who seek support for a project or who have been partly funded by Lions so that they can tell the Club how they got on.



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## At the main business meeting

- The President chairs, supported by the Club Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Club Treasurer who sit together
- Members sit wherever they want and dress is casual
- The meeting starts at 7.45pm and the aim is to finish by 10pm.
- Hot drinks and water are available
- The agenda, committee and other reports are forwarded before the meeting and a member is expected to advise the Secretary if he/she is not able to attend
- Any decisions needed are voted on by a show of hands. Visitors do not have a vote. The meeting aims to reach agreement at the meeting but may defer if further information/consideration is required
- Meetings have to have some structure and formality but that doesn't stop a bit of fun in the process and, at the end of the meeting, a nominated member (the Tail twister) imposes a fine for a small misdemeanour, the amount being decided by the offending member, such as not wearing the Lion's badge, misconstruing or making fun of another member's comment.





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## Some of the terms you may hear at meetings

**Charter:** Celebration of the anniversary of the club, towards the end of March, that is usually a lunch or dinner.

**District:** The United Kingdom is divided into districts and we are in district 105D.

**District Governor:** He/she heads up the district for one year.

**Region:** Each district is further divided into regions - we are Region 4.

**Region Chairman:** This person heads up the region for a year.

**Zone:** Each region is then sub divided into smaller Zones and we are in zone 4 I. The Clubs in Zone 4 I with us are Petersfield, Alton and Woolmer Forest.

**Zone Chairman:** This person heads up the Zone for a year.

**Tail Twister:** This is the member who extracts the fines at the end of the meeting.

**Lion Tamer:** This member looks after the Club's banners and flags, regalia and equipment

### **Badging Up:**

This is where someone is made a member and given their badge, which should be worn, where possible, when involved in Lion's work but always at meetings.

**Club Handover:** This is where the serving President hands over to the incoming President.



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## Welfare

### Our principal Aims

The main focus in Welfare is towards providing support, financially and otherwise, to identified individuals and local charitable organisations. The Club's activities encourage our involvement in the wider community so that we can mix with that community and identify needs. We are also committed to support youth activities and will donate up to 10% of fundraising monies to International causes/appeals, very often through Lions Club International.

### Minibus



We own a 17-seater minibus which is driven by members, Friends of Lions and drivers from other charitable bodies we support.

Typically, the minibus is used 4 times during the week for transport and, then with our trailer, for transporting members and Lion's equipment to fundraising and other

activities at the weekend. Occasional and selective loans mean that passenger trips in the year can be over 3,000.

### National Charities

In recent years, we have been able to support MacMillan Nurses, Action for The Children, Homestart (who support mainly single parent families), Naomi House (Children's Palliative care) and Canine Partners, amongst others, in their own fundraising events/activities, with BBQ services, car parking etc.



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**These are some of the projects the committees get involved in. The events are organised by the committees but the whole club is normally asked to help at the event.**

### **Paulton's Park**



Initiated by our Lion's District, we take up to 100 children to the park for the day, providing them with a fun day which they might not otherwise have and at a discounted price agreed with Paulton's Park.

### **Spek-Trek**



Internationally organised, no-longer-needed prescription glasses are collected through the year and sent overseas to be recycled and given to those who cannot afford them. Over 500 pairs are collected by our Club during the year and a recent initiative is developing for hearing aids.



### **Message in a Bottle**

Small bottles are distributed through surgeries and chemists for people, living on their own. Personal and medical details are kept in the bottle and are available to emergency services in the event of an incident.



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## Fundraising

Through our various activities the club raises money, every penny of which goes towards a charitable cause. All administrative costs are absorbed by the Club and its members, largely in the time we give. We have also benefited in the past from donations from local authorities, businesses and individuals who recognise the value of what Lions bring to the local community. In a typical year, we raise in the order of £18,000 which is distributed to International Disasters (5%), National Causes (5%), Local Charities (25%), Local Individuals, Clubs and Groups (35%), Scouts, Guides and other Youth Organisations (10%) and Lion's Minibus Services (20%).



### Christmas Float

Through much of December, up to Christmas Eve, our minibus, complete with sleigh and carols, goes out in the evening to many parts of our area, complete with Santa, lollies for the children, and his helpers to collect donations as we knock on doors. We also do static collections at the weekends.



### BBQ Services

We have built up an impressive range of BBQ equipment which is used for Lions' events and supporting others, complete with members who "staff" the service. Wickham Beer Festival has been one of the major events. We're also five-star rated by the FSA (Food Standards Agency)!

A substantial amount of money has been raised in this way and enables us to make "virtual income" donations of the net profit to a charity when appropriate.



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## Fetes



As well as running the Swanmore Lion's Fete, we attend several fetes/fairs/shows where we provide BBQ Services, and various stalls including "Play Your Cards Right", Coconut Shies, Crockery Smashing.

## Fishing Festival



Held in January each year and organised by Ford Sea-Angling Club we support with the signing in of over 200 anglers on Weston Shore in Southampton, selling raffle tickets and overseeing the weigh-in. The proceeds go to Naomi House at Sutton Scotney



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## Social

The Club considers this an essential part of our activity and enjoyment and encourages members and their partners to attend as many events as possible. “The glue that keeps the Club together”.

The following are a few of the events which are “regulars” in our calendar: -

**Pub Night** held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (other than bank holidays) in a local but varied hostelry.



**Christmas Dinner** at varied locations.

**Charter Lunch/Dinner** usually at the end of March to mark the anniversary of the forming of the Club.



**Changeover** to herald in the new President for a year and to hand over the “chain of office”, hosted by a Lion or Lions. This is held in June/July.

**Zone “Get Togethers”** to meet with members of the other clubs in our zone.

**Day Outings** to places of interest e.g.; Gardens, breweries, Canal Boats, Trains or just walking usually coupled with lunch.

**Parties** hosted by a member but with contributions from others.



## Members and Responsibilities

CLUB OFFICE	OFFICERS
President	Dick Cowles
Vice President	Sheila Campbell
Secretary	Sheila Campbell
Immediate Past President	Ian Adams
Minutes Secretary	Eddy Barringer
Treasurer	Roy Cuthbertson
Deputy Treasurer	Andrew Brown
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
Welfare	Sue Barringer
Fundraising	Dick Cowles
Publicity	Ian Adams
Web site admin	John Hanley
Catering	Roy Cuthbertson
Xmas Float	John Sharpe
Fishing Festival	Andrew Brown
Swanmore Fete	Dick Cowles
Social	John Ormiston
Membership	Chris LeVoi
Liontamer / Quartermaster	Eddy Barringer
Transport	John Sharpe
Youth	Dinah Weberstadt
International	John Ormiston
Almoner	Ron Wilson
Health & Safety	Andrew Brown
Tail Twister	Ian Adams
Medic Alert / MIB	Ron Wilson
Spectrek	Ron Wilson

**Mentor** - each club member has a mentor within the club who is there to discuss and support those club activities the member wishes to be involved in and, otherwise, be a source of information and advice.

**Club Almoner** – normally a member of senior service within the club, who has a responsibility of general awareness towards the needs, welfare and well-being of club members. He/she would react with the offer of assistance and advice in times of illness or crisis.



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## Thank you!

We hope this booklet helps you understand how Meon Valley Lions is structured and what we are involved in.

Most of us come to the Club through friendship and with an interest in welfare and fundraising in our community and any member will be happy to give their version and what it means to them.

Please ask any questions that you might have.  
We will do our best to answer them.



**Meon Valley Lions Club**  
[www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk](http://www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk)

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