



Wokingham Lions



SENTINEL GOLDEN SPECIAL!

50 GOLDEN AWARDS

In January Wokingham Lions Club announced that to celebrate their 50th Anniversary, they would be presenting 50 Golden Awards of £500 each to local charities and good causes, to help them set-up, expand their activities or purchase items to enhance what they do.

Wokingham president, Lion Lyn Baily, says: "We are delighted to have been able to start giving these awards to well deserving causes in Wokingham and the surrounding area. We have met with groups and individuals we otherwise may not have been aware of, as well as those we knew already, who informed us that they needed assistance with upcoming projects"

Here are some of the donations that have been made so far:

CLASP, a self-advocacy group for adults with learning difficulties in Wokingham Borough, applied for funds for their project to showcase their members' arts and craft work and demonstrate what they are capable of. The funds will support the hire of a venue and fund the opening night.



The Barkham Hookers are a local crochet group, they have worked on many personal, charity and community projects over the last ten years and raised over £70,000 for good causes.

With the award they are planning something special for the Poppy Appeal in November, which will commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day this year.



This display will be prominent in Wokingham and there will be decorated post boxes, which have been very popular in recent years. They also want to crochet hundreds of purple poppies and use them to cover saddles and bridles to decorate the beautiful Horse Sculptures at Arborfield.

Wokingham Cricket Club approached Wokingham Lions for an award. They have over 200 members, boys and men, but this year they are running an initiative to get girls involved. Girls from Year 4 upwards from the local area will be approached via their schools and there will be a social media marketing campaign too. Taster sessions are being offered and the aim is to have a wonderful group of cricket girls going forward. Their Golden Award is helping fund a part-time coach to work alongside volunteers and parents at the girls' structured training sessions, encouraging them to enjoy cricket and continue playing in the future.

Building for the Future is a charity supporting disabled children and young people. They have a centre in Wokingham, from which they run numerous services for the children and their families.



They also run services for young disabled adults, offering social opportunities, work-related activities and learning workshops. Their Golden Award will help launch new workshops for these young adults, for which they need to rent space and buy materials and refreshments, as the existing centre is for children and is currently full!

Igniting Writing, based at Wokingham Library on Saturdays is for children aged 11-18. The children can share ideas, develop their writing skills and build friendships with other aspiring young writers in a fun relaxed atmosphere. The £500 will be used to organize regular speakers, which will encourage and aid literacy development and give opportunities to experience writing in different genres.



Hannah Tomsett is a successful para-athlete, who competes in waterskiing and wakeboarding. In 2023 she won two national titles including wakeboard adaptive trick champion, setting a new British record. Hannah also won a World Silver Medal in Slalom in California, a team Bronze Medal in the World Championships, a Bronze Medal at the British Nationals in slalom and fifth place in a non-disabled slalom competition.

In 2024 Hannah aims to enter both National and European Championships as well as improving her slalom skiing, another of her passions. With this in mind, her Golden Award will be used to help fund a new ski seat which will be better fitted to her body and be transferable from her snow ski to her water ski, enabling Hannah to take her skills to the next level in both sports.



Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly (WADE) promotes the welfare of the elderly within Wokingham Borough. They also exist to reduce isolation and loneliness and to provide a safe and supportive environment for their members, via their day-care centre. The Golden Award will allow WADE to fund some good quality arts and craft supplies for their staff and trustees to use with members. Items made can then be sold at various events, raising funds to keep the initiative moving forward. Their first event is Wokingham May Fayre, which is, of course, organised by Wokingham Lions.



Girlguiding are the United Kingdom's largest youth group dedicated completely to girls, offering fun, friendship, challenge and adventure, inspiring girls to discover their best selves and make a positive difference to their communities. Wokingham currently has 27 units for girls aged four to 18, with around 600 members. There are over 70 girls aged ten to 14 who would love to become Guides, but sadly, there is no space for them at the moment. Each unit is self-financing and the good news is

that they have a volunteer and a venue sorted for a new unit to take some of the girls. The Lions Golden Award will help this new unit to purchase the programme materials, general stationery and other items which are used each week.



Wokingham Pride aims to promote equality, inclusion, reduce stigma and provide social networks and support for LGBTQ+ people and their families in Wokingham Borough.



In 2023 they held a small Pride event, but they have bigger plans for 2024 with live bands, performers, stalls and a parade through Wokingham. The local bands are giving their time for free, but their Golden Award will assist with the cost of a sound engineer, materials to make Pride flags and basic first-aid kits for their First-Aiders to use. Wokingham Pride this year will be held on Saturday 13 July.

Wokingham Repair Café has recently been set up and runs at Wokingham's All Saints Church on the second Saturday of each month. It is a repair and advice service for hand-portable damaged, broken and torn household and personal items. Delivered by a team of experienced and competent volunteers in a safe café environment, repairs (where possible) and advice are free of charge.

The grant will buy a portable electric appliance tester and the training for two volunteers in its use, task lighting for the volunteer repairers to work safely and protective vinyl for the tables.



Wokingham Lions also donated two refurbished laptops from their ReTec project for use by the Repair Café.

Kaleidoscopic UK is a survivor-led charity by and for children and adults subjected to domestic abuse. As well as the ongoing information, support



and courses they provide, this year they have started their 'Fun with Mum' monthly group, where mums and children can enjoy fun, games, activities and crafts as well as a warm meal. They can also meet others in similar situations and gain advice and support. These new sessions are very well attended and so Wokingham Lions Golden Award will go towards the meals, art, craft and activity items for the 'Fun with Mum'

sessions.

Arts4Wokingham are a relatively new charity that aims to make art more accessible and public within Wokingham Borough. They believe that engaging and responding to public arts, has the ability to support mental health and wellbeing. Public art also invites the community to experience its benefits without the intimidation or limited access of formal galleries. Arts4Wokingham are partnering with another charity called PACT in a series of local artist workshops, to create some community art, which Arts4Wokingham will show at an accessible exhibition during Wokingham Arts Trail in September 2024.



Their Lions Golden Awards will help fund a local artist's skills to facilitate the workshops, materials to create and display the art, support in creating and promoting the free exhibition to local people and the creation of video footage of the workshops to help promote the wellbeing benefits and powers of collaboration that this art form can bring to the Borough.

and finally...

WOKINGHAM FIREWORKS CHEQUE PRESENTATIONS

Wokingham Lions Club, along with Wokingham Rotary Club, Easthampstead Rotary Club and Windsor Forest Unicorn Club, organise the Wokingham Fireworks each November, a long established and popular annual charity event.

Wokingham Lions chose **Daisy's Dream** and **First Days Children's Charity** as the main beneficiaries for 2023, the funds to be allocated as a 60/40 split between the two charities.



At their April Meeting, Wokingham Lions welcomed Joanne Somner from Daisy's Dream, a charity that supports children through a significant bereavement. Joanne said that Daisy's Dream were delighted with the donation of £3,500. Joanne explained that the donation could for example, fund their phone line for three months, helping those with initial enquiries and ongoing questions, facilitate a great family day out for the children they help, or allow ten children to access a course of six one-to-one coaching sessions.



First Days Children's Charity support families who are living with a low income or experiencing financial hardship by providing everyday essentials for children who need them. They also provide school uniforms to those in need.

Recently, to help support other families in Wokingham Borough, First Days have started a shop where parents can purchase school uniforms at reasonable prices. Wokingham Lions help in this venture by running the shop at Wokingham's Elevate Centre on Thursday afternoons. On one such Thursday the Club

presented the charity with a cheque for £2,500.