



Southwell and District Lions Club (CIO) Registered Charity No. 1186703

Information for Prospective Members

Lions Motto: WE SERVE... the local, national and international community.

Our Aim: To have fun whilst doing the above: we tend to look after local needs first.

Southwell Club was founded in 1981, but Lions have been around for over 100 years having started in 1917 in the USA.

Most of the information about our Club is on our website <https://www.southwell-lions.org/> with frequent updates of our various activities. Updates are also posted on Facebook.

Meetings.

Meetings are held twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday at the Reindeer Inn, Southwell. The second Tuesday is our business meeting, where we catch up on our finances, e.g. how much we have in our charity account to donate to others, requests for funds, fund raising activities etc. Whilst it's run to a framework agenda, participation and friendly banter form the basis of the meetings.

The fourth Tuesday meeting is loosely described as a speaker / social meeting. This can involve a speaker representing an organisation who need some help, or wine tasting / quiz night/ BBQ etc. where the emphasis is on socialising.

We have an annual dinner at the end of June / early July which includes the handover of the presidency. It's called our Charter Dinner as it's close to the day when the club was formed.

Organisation:

Treasurer: looks after the finances of the Club and ensures that we follow approved procedure on raising and spending money. Being a registered charity, we need to handle our finances in a structured way that would stand scrutiny by the Charity Commissioners, if such a request was made.

Fund Raising: Whilst our aim is to serve our community, we cannot normally do this without raising some cash. We organise a number of events through the year, typically 2 quiz nights, Santa's sleigh, annual carol service, Duck race, Easter Egg stall. We have tried out some different events each year, some more successful than others, and welcome new ideas. Essentially all Club members assist with fund raising, but there is a committee to organise each event.

Community Service: The Club receives requests for help from individuals or organisations who perhaps need a helping hand or money. We don't generally support large national charities, but rather local or small charities where we think that we can make a difference.

The community service committee vets requests before putting them to the Club for approval. Additionally, the community service group is involved in the annual carol service, senior citizens party etc.

House and programme: a small team which organises the content of the fourth Tuesday meeting and perhaps some ad hoc events.

Publicity: local publicity in the Bramley, Southwell Life, Facebook etc.

Membership & Welfare: Liaise with sponsor of prospective new member to ensure that the latter receives information about the Club. Helps new members to become familiar with the way the Club operates. To be aware of any member whose irregular attendance and commitment may be of concern.

Elected officers

- President: chairs the business meetings and represents the Club externally.
- Secretary: takes the minutes of meetings, deals with correspondence, reports to Lions
- Treasurer: deals with the financial matters of the Club.
- Vice president: stands in for the President when not available and is the next year's President.

Committee chairmen

- Community service including special initiatives for youth and the environment.
- Fund raising
- House and programme
- Publicity
- Membership & Welfare
- Tail twister : generally the immediate past President, who wraps up the meeting by fining members for daft comments etc.

Notes:

We are all volunteers, and hope that all members will put themselves forward to help where possible. Members are never forced to do anything, but it is not just a social club.

Priorities are accepted as 1st your family: 2nd your work: 3rd your voluntary work with Lions

No Lion is asked to over commit themselves.

The Lions year starts at the beginning of July.

There are many ways to help running the Club. Members do swap roles to maintain interest and see how the Club as a whole works.

Do speak your mind at meetings and feel free to contribute.

Some events really do need everyone to help e.g. the Christmas float, but working behind the scenes is equally valuable.

New members:

Anyone is welcome to come along to a Lions meeting to see what we do and how we operate.

There's no commitment and if it's not for you, that's fine. There will be no pressure.

We like prospective members to attend 6 events, meetings and/or get involved in helping at one of our events so that you can get to know us better, before thinking about joining.

If you want more information about the Club or any specific issue, feel free to ask any of the Club members.

The club hold a secret ballot prior to membership.

The membership enrolment is normally a simple affair at a Club meeting, and the person who introduced you to Lions will act as your sponsor. i.e. the sponsor is there to give you any information that you need about Lions, how we work as well as introducing you to other Club members.

The best way to learn more about Lions, what we do etc. is by getting involved in our events. Whilst all the Lions are involved in some aspect of fund raising, new members normally join that group as a starting point.

The monthly subscriptions are £12 and this covers all the administrative costs of the Club as well as the dues that we have to pay to UK Lions and Lions International.