

## Godstone Parish Council Annual Meeting 29th May 2025



### 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 21 men and women who look to serve others. Sadly, age catches up on service clubs and COGs is no exception. However, all is not doom and gloom as we hope to invite a new member to join us in June. We are still 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 American themed dinner at the White Hart Barn. Our Christmas activities were scaled back in 2024 due to availability of helpers which left static collections and Santa's float was only seen in Godstone, north and south of the A25. Should the sink hole still be causing trouble this Christmas we may have to change things again!

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, Godstone Village School the Godstone Fete Committee, and several others. It is with great reluctance that the Club will not be able to provide hot food at the fete in 2025, but we will still have a smaller presence. Other charities included the British Legion, Prospero and Head-to-Head charities. 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, Reigate Castle and a cream tea at Knights Garden Centre.

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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