

WTF139
FOR DECISION
WARD(S): TOWN WARDS

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM (COUNCILLORS' MEETING)

25 November 2009

WINCHESTER ROUND TABLE PRESENTATION

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Contact Officer: Colin Veal Telephone 01962 848 438 cveal@winchester.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached information is from the Winchester Round Table, in relation to the presentation they will give to the Forum at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Report be noted.

Winchester Round Table `Press Release: Winchester gears up for a great Bonfire Night

This year's Free Charity Bonfire and Fireworks Display in Winchester on Saturday 7 November promises to be better than ever with a whole evening of family entertainment lined-up in the company of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Winchester, BBC Radio Solent's Julian Clegg, the Adjutant General Corps Band (Provided by Winchester Rotary Club), and officers from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The entertainment will start at 6pm outside Winchester Guildhall on the Broadway. At 6.30pm, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Winchester will lead the now traditional torchlight procession around the City. This year, the procession will include the Adjutant General Corps Band and officers from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (complete with a fire engine!).

Anyone can join the procession which will follow a route that passes through the High Street, Middle Brook Street, St George's Street, Jewry Street, and North Walls; finally ending up behind the leisure centre at River Park.

The lighting of the bonfire will take place at 7.15pm and will be compered by Julian Clegg from BBC Radio Solent's Breakfast Show who said

"BBC Radio Solent is delighted to be involved with this fantastic event which clearly raises a lot of money for local charities. I'm thrilled to have been asked to help launch the fireworks and start the parade around the city"

The spectacular Fireworks display will then begin at 19:45

Twenty thousand people attended last year's display which raised more than £50,000. Over the years, the event has raised more than a quarter of a million pounds.

What many people don't realise is that the annual event is organised by a team of just 15 dedicated volunteers from Winchester Round Table who prepare everything in their spare time in an effort to raise as much money as possible for a wide range of good causes.

Local businesses and organisations also support the event by taking out advertisements in a programme produced by the volunteers. This programme is then sold door-to-door in the weeks leading up to the event to raise even more money for charity.

Cllr George Beckett, Leader of Winchester City Council, said: "The City Council is proud to be supporting this annual event for Winchester. Once again, the admirable dedication of volunteers from Winchester Round Table, together with the support of local businesses and the generosity of local people, will help to raise thousands of pounds for local charities at a time when they really need our help. What's more, it offers people and families from Winchester and beyond a chance to get together and enjoy a memorable evening of free entertainment"

Waitrose Winchester Branch Manager, Alison Pilling, comments, "It's great to be able to support the Winchester Round Table's bonfire night. There are a number of charities that will benefit from the event, and hope that together we will be able to raise lots of money for these worthwhile causes."

The event has helped local charities including: Mountbatten Hospice, Boas Project, Blue Apple Theatre, Relate, Age Concern, The Big Sleep Out, Dyslexia Action, and many more. Furthermore, each £250 raised enables a separate "Cash for Causes" donation which goes towards helping individuals with a specific need – this includes helping young people to train for a career as a carer, and helping people with learning difficulties to learn to read and write.

Gaining support for the Winchester Round Table Guy Fawkes Night and its benefits to our community

The aim of our presentation is to:

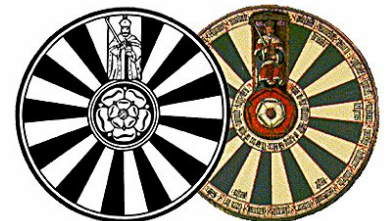
- enable you to better appreciate our bonfire and fireworks night and how hard it is to run
- thank you for your support thus far
- encourage you to think about ways to become a stakeholder in this terrific community event

Presented by:

Matthew Sturgeon, Chairman 2009/10

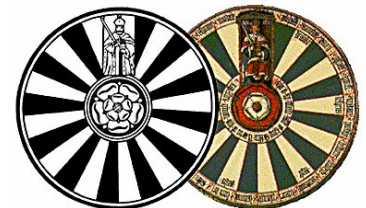
Conor Gately, Bonfire Chairman 2009

Winchester & District Round Table
A voluntary organisation working for our community



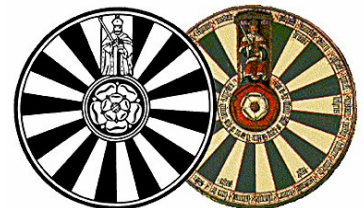
Background to Winchester Round Table ("WRT")

- Round Table is a voluntary organisation founded in 1927
 - Its motto is 'Adopt, Adapt, Improve'
- Round Table is open to men between the ages of 18 and 45
 - This encourages community service and camaraderie amongst this younger generation
- WRT - full title: Winchester & District Round Table- was the 63rd to be created in the UK and is 76 years old
- WRT runs Winchester Round Table Charitable Trust Fund, Reg'd No. 1046348
 - "*WRT is the largest private donor in Winchester*" - the Mayor
 - We place community service over fund-raising
- In WRT, we have just 17 Tablers



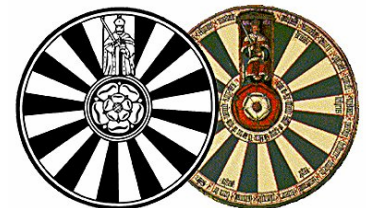
Background to our Guy Fawkes Night

- 2010 will be the 52nd successive year of the WRT Guy Fawkes Night
- Originally held at Oram's Arbour and now held at River Park
- A free event
 - One of the few free bonfire celebrations in the South of England
- Increasingly popular, with a capacity crowd of 22,000 this year
- One of the major social events of the Winchester calendar
- To run the event we receive active support from: Winchester 41 Club, Tangent, Ladies Circle, Winchester Air Training Corps, Scouts, Rotary
- Your Safety Advisory Group is substantially involved and their support is greatly appreciated in helping us run a safe event
- Sponsorship from a broad spread of the business community



The Benefits of Bonfire

- The people of Winchester love it!
- Provides a significant boost to the Winchester evening economy and generates genuine interest in the business community
- Proceeds of the event are paid to the WRT Charitable Trust whose...
- ...beneficiaries impact on the local community and/or are local
- Examples are:
 - Christmas Hampers: distributed by our Tablers to the elderly and infirm
 - Hard of Hearing drive: Tablers take the elderly for a drive and dinner
 - Cash for Causes – up to £500: see Appendix A
 - General distribution of funds of up to £5,000 (but generally between £500 and £1,000): Boaz, Mountbatten Hospice, Blue Apple Theatre Project, Dyslexia Action, Naomi House, relate, Age Concern, Winchester Air Training Corps, Big Sleep Out, Theatre out-reach, and many more
- So not just charities but people too - it is good causes

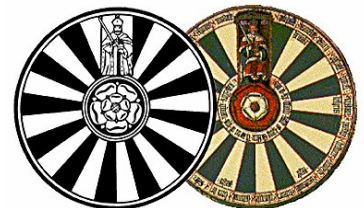


We Appreciate the Support We Receive, but need more

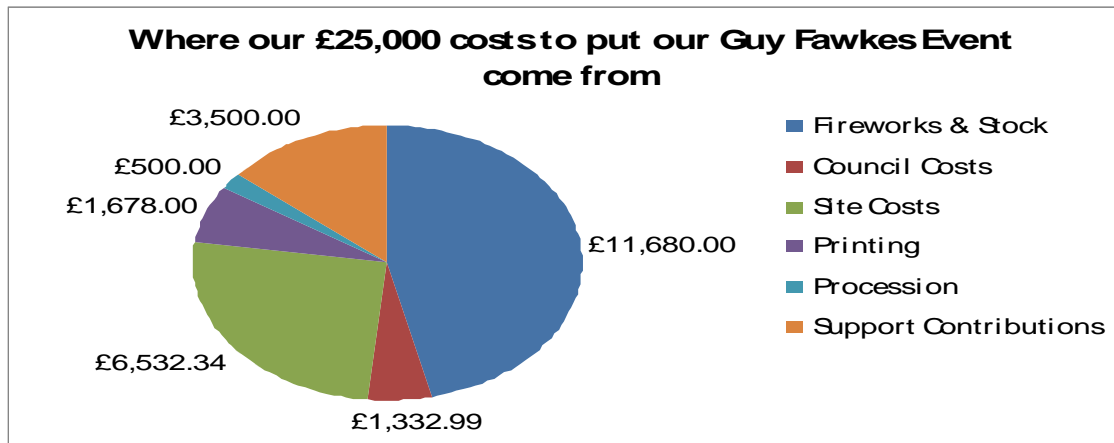
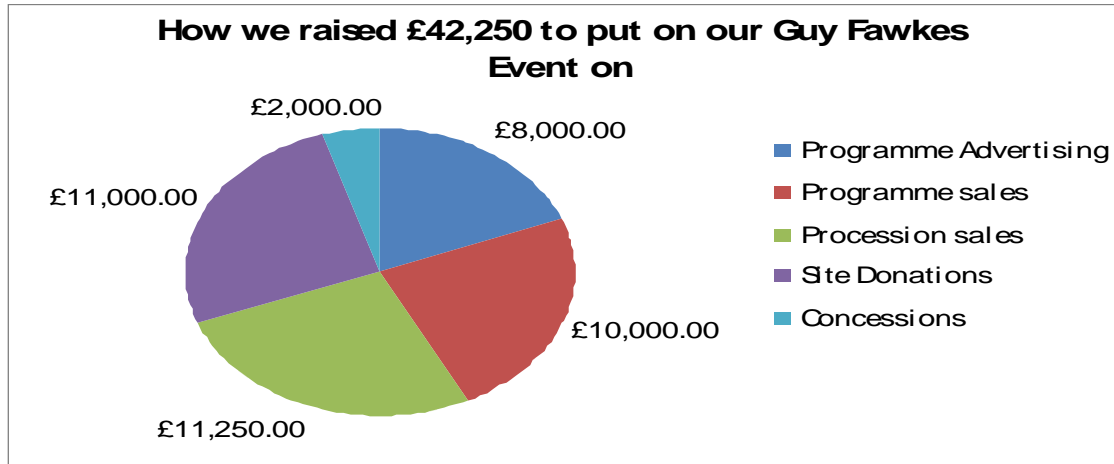
Cllr George Beckett, Leader of Winchester City Council:

“The City Council is proud to be supporting this annual event for Winchester. Once again, the admirable dedication of volunteers from Winchester Round Table, together with the support of local businesses and the generosity of local people, will help to raise thousands of pounds for local charities at a time when they really need our help. What’s more, it offers people and families from Winchester and beyond a chance to get together and enjoy a memorable evening of free entertainment”

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The Figures

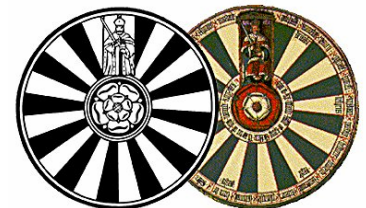


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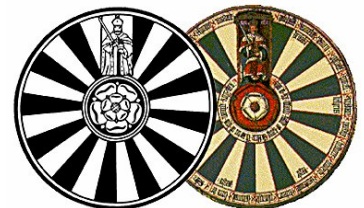
The future of our Guy Fawkes Night is at risk

- The event grows in scale, popularity and expectation:
 - From Oram's Arbour to this year's capacity crowd
 - Now 25 minutes of fireworks, an enormous bonfire and more demanding safety requirements
- This increases the voluntary time needed
- But there are fewer Tablers than in the days of Oram's Arbour
- Funds are getting harder to obtain
 - In 2008, we needed a public campaign to ensure the survival of our event in that year
 - Per capita donations are shrinking
- Costs of insurance, fireworks, safety fencing, etc only ever rise



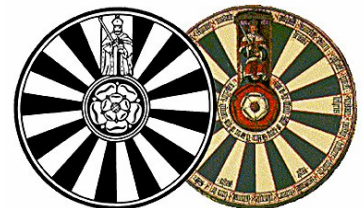
How you could protect the future of our event

- Establish yourself as a stakeholder
- Provide enhanced assistance
 - Support beyond the 'in kind' - for which, we stress, we are grateful
 - Event management & co-ordination
 - Effective partnership – 'We need to, together' rather than 'Table needs to'
- Underwriting the liability
- Funding towards the cost
- If at all possible, please don't charge us for any local services



In conclusion

- Our Guy Fawkes Night is a great Winchester event
- It requires an awful lot of time and money to put on
- It benefits and is supported by a large, growing and broad spread of the community
- Rather than do it alone, we would like to do it with you
- **We're grateful for how you've helped us so far...**
...but now we need to ask for more from you
- Thank you



Appendix A: Cash for Causes beneficiaries

| <u>Cause</u> | <u>Details of Cause</u> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Contact the Elderly | Taking out 4 to 6 elderly isolated people once a month Christmas lunch and drivers for elderly |
| Owlesbury community | Many bus outings for senior citizens, Age Concern drivers, social stimulation for those disadvantaged by age and physical disability |
| Solent Mind | Greenhouse staging and automatic vent openers pots and potting trays |
| Sea Cadets | Getting the Sea Cadets back on the water again |
| Winchester Youth Counselling | Counselling services for children and teenagers |
| Pregnancy Crisis Centre | Training to new counsellors |
| Music Therapy | Music therapy sessions for mental health clients |
| Breast cancer support | Christmas social event for breast cancer sufferers |
| Wickham Time Out club | Subsidised places for children whose parents are struggling through illness and unemployment |
| Rainbow Club | Stanmore Senior citizen club enabling an outing for the elderly residents |
| 3rd Winchester Scouts | Fixed garage roof help keep equipment safe and dry |
| Crestwood Access club | Adults with learning disabilities special open evening to celebrate the 20th anniversary |
| Winchester Live at Home Scheme | Single male senior citizens men's pub lunch group helping to counteract isolation helps group become accessible to all |

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