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Bordon Messenger



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Woolmer Forest Lions have thanked the people of Bordon, Whitehill, Grayshott, Headley and surrounding areas for their continued support and help throughout last year.

Following the club's Easter Egg Appeal the Lions were able to donate £2,142 to the SERV Wessex Blood Bikers (pictured with some of the Lions above at Chase Hospital last March). The money was used to buy milk boxes, which are used to transfer expressed breastmilk to premature baby units.

Other local organisations helped by

the Lions during 2017 included Headley Scouts, Headley Nature Reserve, Bordon Junior School, Grayshott Surgery, Hollywater School, Weyford Infant School, Help for Tomorrow, and individual welfare cases, some referred to the Lions by Social Services, and some who made direct contact. The total amount donated to these causes was around £4,800.

While the vast majority of what the Lions raise locally is spent locally, the club did support international disaster appeals and other wider Lions-supported initiatives, with the money spent totalling approximately £1,400.

Baking in memory of Helen

Members of the Arts and Crafts Group at the Forest Community Centre will be Baking for a Change next week in memory of Helen Blake, a local resident and trustee of Whitehill and Bordon Community Association, who died very suddenly from pancreatic cancer.

The event, which runs from 10am to noon

on Friday, February 9th will see the members selling home-made cakes and hot drinks in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Action. Based in Oakhanger, Pancreatic Cancer Action was founded by a survivor, Ali Stunt. The charity's focus is on ensuring that patients are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at a stage that gives them the best chance of survival.

Local resident Liz Lacey, who will have a stall at the event, said: "I could say my involvement began when my friend Vanessa was diagnosed and within a month sadly died. I decided to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer and raise money for the research by collecting women's scarves and vintage jewellery, and all funds raised at events could help. Along with Vanessa husband, Colin Stopher, I wanted to do something positive."

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Cash for The Phoenix

The Phoenix Theatre in Bordon has received a cash boost from Hampshire County Council – but director Rob Alston says it will have to find other sources of income if the show is to go on.

astute as we can," he said, "but still need some funding go help us do all the work we do."

As well as stage productions and a regular comedy club The Phoenix also hosts exhibitions and runs children's activities, adult education classes in a wide range of subjects including drawing and dance, and classes for adults with learning disabilities. Visit www.phoenixarts.co.uk for details of events.

The theatre was awarded the grant at the recent decision day held by Hampshire County Council's executive member for culture, recreation and countryside, Andrew Gibson.

On January 18th Cllr Gibson approved a grant of £12,240 to the Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre in Bordon; £88,000 to Live Theatre Winchester; and £41,900 to the Hampshire Playing Fields Association.

Phoenix director Rob Alston told *The Messenger* the money would help the arts centre to cater for the growing population of the town.

Councillor Gibson said: "The grants will help these organisations continue to engage with local residents through cultural and community activities, including vulnerable groups. People of all ages and backgrounds can experience a wide range of benefits including learning life-long skills, boosting their mental and physical wellbeing, and help them feel more connected to their communities."

The Hampshire Playing Fields Association received £41,900 to continue providing technical and legal advice to parish councils, sports clubs and member organisations which promote and support children's play and sports opportunities across Hampshire.

The grants were awarded from the county council's Culture and Recreation Investment Fund.

"We have come a long way and I think the public's perception of us is increasing," he said. "As new houses are being built more people are coming in to find out what we do."

"Mostly they are young families with kids who want to come to classes and shows."

And he said that while the grant was reduced on previous years, organisations had been warned that their settlements were likely to become lower year on year.

The theatre now needs to look for other sources of funding, he said, including partnership working with other organisations.

"We have always prided ourselves on being as commercially



The Phoenix Theatre.

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