

Penkridge & District
Round Table - 1178



ROUNDTABLE

Press Release

26/03/09

Free places for local School- Children in the 2009 Penkridge Fun Run!

**Penkridge Fun-Run set to have record entrants to celebrate its 11th
anniversary**

This years Penkridge annual Fun-Run will for the first time in its 11 year history offer free places for 250 local children of school age. The Fun-Run & Fun-Day organised by Penkridge & District Round Table, has achieved the support of The Stafford & Surrounds Commissioning Group (SASCG) in a sincere effort to get the village running for a 'Change 4 Life'.

Change 4 Life – an NHS National initiative to get children eating well, moving more and living longer is receiving robust support from SASCG & Round Table alike on a local basis. Round Table is busy developing and strengthening its links with local schools (many of whom have given support to the rebranded Fun-Run & Community Fun-Day during the past couple of years). With the aim of significantly increasing the number of school children participating in the Fun-Run part of the day-long event.

The health benefits from exercise are clear to all and Round Table will be working in partnership with Stafford and Surrounds Commissioning Group and South Staffordshire PCT in promoting exercise and good health via the much loved annual event.

Dr Anne-Marie Houlder, Clinical Lead representing The Stafford & Surrounds Practice Based Commissioning Group commented as follows.....

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“I’m delighted that we have been able to offer support to Round Table for this event. This is a significant event in the Summer calendar for Penkridge and District, and anything that has a positive influence in getting children to participate in exercise by means of a fun event for the wider family unit is to be applauded and supported by all concerned. Great job Round Table, and we hope everyone involved enjoys the event to the full. Round Table’s Press Officer mentioned the spirit of the day was very much one of ‘if in doubt – get involved’ – which sums things up just fine.”

UNQUOTE

The project is an ideal opportunity to promote the Change 4 Life strategy, as well as taking positive action to meet the challenges it raises within the local community. Round Table also plan to work closely with other local sporting organisations including the village Junior Football Club who will be present on the day to promote the take up of exercise by local children.

Round Table and SASCG believe that by offering free places to school children this will also increase the take up rate of adults participating in the fun run as experience has shown that many children run with their parents. Thus widening the scope for potential participants, and accordingly encouraging exercise in a wider age group.

The Fun-Run, being held on Sunday June 28th at the Haling Dene Centre, Cannock Road, Penkridge (commencing at 11.00am) has become tremendously popular over the past couple of years due to its significant expansion to include the Penkridge Community Fun-Day.

This year the Fun-Run & Community Fun-Day will again include side stalls hosted by various village groups and organisations, an events arena with local talented performers, a bouncy castle, face-painting, licensed bar, and of course the now infamous Round Table 'Mega-barbecue'.

Penkridge Fun-Run & Community Fun-Day mastermind Malcolm Newman, who resurrected the Fun-Run from its demise back in the 80's said of the up-coming event...

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"The Fun-Run has certainly been gaining popularity over the past few years, in fact last year we had a record 450 runners...of all ages, abilities & sizes. This was the highest turn-out in the events recent history. We believe that with the support that SASCG has given the event, and its renewed focus on the health and well-being of local school-children we could yet again surpass our record for the highest amount of entrants.

The evolution of the day to include its expansion to Community Fun-Day was a tremendous hit over the past couple of years, so again myself and all my fellow Round Tablers are committed to making this a memorable and enjoyable day for all who attend".

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The 2.5 mile (4.02 km) circular village route follows a similar course as previous years through the streets of Penkridge. It is open to all regardless of age ability and shape. Those wishing to sport fancy dress are as ever most welcome too. The event will be marshalled throughout and medical support provided by St John's ambulance.

All times will be recorded and published, and trophies awarded for new age categories for 2009, being introduced to reflect the ages of children in first (under 9's), middle (under 13's), and secondary (under 16's) schools, with trophies for first and runners-up in each category. Medals will also be given to all of the first 500 finishing runners.

107.7 The Wolf FM's morning show host Richard 'Dicky' Dodd will be providing the musical entertainment and lending a hand on the PA. It's rumoured that 'Wolfie' may attend again this year and assist in starting the run.

For those who are not amongst the 250 local school-children a minimal charge of £3.00 per entrant and £8.00 per family (of up to four) will be made for those entries received prior to the day of the event. Entry forms will be available to download from end of March onwards from the Penkridge & District Round Table website www.penkridgeroundtable.co.uk or by e-mail request from penkridgefunrun@btinternet.com. Hard copies will be available from April from Heather Stern Estate Agents in Penkridge village, Plumbrads Bathrooms & Plumbing Supplies of Baswich (a local business sponsoring the event), and other local outlets.

The presentation of medals will take place in the entertainments arena at around 1.30pm on the day, followed shortly after by the release of the provisional race results and times. Once confirmed these will be published from Monday evening (29th June) at Penkridge & District Round Tables website (address given above), and on the Penkridge Village website www.penkridge.org.uk

Incoming Penkridge & District Round Table Chairman Kevin Long said of this years scheduled event...

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“We are proud of Round Table’s ever-developing associations with the various village schools whose pupils and parents alike we hope will whole-heartedly take part this year, and trust that as in the past couple of years we are able to include many more community organisations to make the event even bigger, better, and more successful too.

Last year was such a resounding success, and once again we’re especially keen to welcome those who wish to take part both in the Fun-Run and the Community Fun-Day from the wider district and neighbouring villages. It’s our aim to bring both the Penkridge and adjacent communities together for a great day of fun for all, to make a clear statement that community spirit, and a conscious effort to support the ideals of Change 4 Life are alive and well in Penkridge”.

UNQUOTE

Those seeking Run-Run entry information, or details on how to promote and fund-raise for your organisation at the Community Fun-Day should contact Malcolm Newman on 01785-715188, or 07795-335274. Round Table would also be keen to discuss the benefits to be gained by local businesses getting involved. Anyone seeking to assist with sponsorship of this nature is encouraged to contact Richard Marsh on 07767-211563. Penkridge & District Round Table – unofficially the ‘most-fun’ of the UK’s 637 active Round Tables (now proudly comprising 33 active members) welcome membership enquiries – Please visit their website www.penkridgeroundtable.co.uk or contact Gordon Shearer on 07711-444929 now for further details.

Below are enclosed, and attached various photo’s from the 2008 Fun-Run & Fun-Day, which may be reproduced at will.

Press Release ends – 26/03/09

