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## Media Release

### On the prowl from the RUH...

If you go down to the Assembly Rooms today, you're sure of a big surprise... you might just come face-to-face with 'Manely in the Pink', a fabulous pink lion, painted by RUH Web Developer Louette Eagles.

Manely is one of a giant pride of 100 individually decorated, life-size lion sculptures, taking up residence in and around Bath from the end of May to mid September 2010 in a colourful cultural event to raise funds for local charities and bring a smile to the faces of residents and visitors alike.

Inspired by the successful 2008 King Bladud's Pigs event, which raised £200,000 for charity, the lion sculptures have been decorated by artists and craftspeople using their skill and imagination to produce eye-catching artworks from the beautiful to the bizarre.

Louette, from Westbury in Wiltshire, said "'Manely in the Pink' is a perfectly detailed lion, modelled on the African lion, roaming the plains of Bath. Using acrylic paints the lion is exquisitely detailed but with a twist; the lion is in hues of pink."

South African born Louette paints and sketches in acrylic and pencil on canvas, ostrich eggs and slate. She was herself recovering from breast cancer as a patient at the RUH when the King Bladud's Pigs event took place, and fantastically decorated pigs appeared all over the city.

"I loved the pigs and I wished at the time that I could have done one. When the story of the Lions broke I decided to bid for one. My brush with breast cancer inspired the design; the lion is clearly male and pink is associated with breast cancer, which made me think of the often forgotten fact that men get breast cancer too. The idea for the name was inspired by all the people supporting the victims of cancer; the partners, lovers, children, parents and friends. Without their support it would be difficult to envisage a time when life will return to being 'Manely in the Pink' again."

Louette submitted her tender for the lion in September 2009 and in February 2010 the Shepperton Group offered to sponsor the project with a brief to be "lighthearted and fun".

The lion came to his temporary den in the IT department at the RUH on the 11 March and after a weekend buying and experimenting with airbrushing equipment Louette entered the den every evening to transform him. After all the finishing touches, and five layers of varnish to help protect Manely from the inclement Bath weather and enthusiastic visitors, he was whisked away on the 27th April to await his residence outside the Assembly Rooms for the summer.

'Manely in the Pink' will remain on public display throughout the summer and then return to his den in September 2010 to be restored to his former glory in preparation for the 'Lions Roar Goodbye' weekend event, 9th and 10th October, when the pride will gather together in front of Bath's world famous Royal Crescent for their public farewells before the Lions of Bath 2010 charity auctions on Friday October 15th and Sunday 17th 2010.

**Notes to editors**

Net proceeds from the Lions of Bath 2010 event will be donated to a number of local charities, including Off the Record, a charity that supports young carers aged 5-18 in Bath; the Quartet Community Foundation, which is being match funded by the government to the tune of 92p to every pound raised and will support a number of local community projects; and the Mayor's Relief Fund for Bath, which gives emergency funding for those in real need in the city. A percentage will also be ploughed back into a rolling fund for future public art projects in Bath