

The International Association of Lions Clubs DISTRICT 105D - DECEMBER 2012



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“Service with humility: Fellowship with fun”

Hello Fellow Lions

Remember Remember November

November is a time for fun and reflection and my time this month has been spent doing both. Christine and I spent the first weekend working for Fleet Lions at their ‘Firework Extravaganza’; I and my son-in-law (a Fleet lion) cooked many, many burgers and sausages. You know we ex-colonials really know how to ‘braai’ (BBQ). Christine was as happy as the King in the counting house as she worked in the Treasury, and thankfully much passed through her hands. The photo shows Christine and her fancy head gear full of lights with son-in-law Mike and me cooking for the BBQ. The following Saturday we ventured off on our travels and



went to a lovely charter at Wimbourne and Ferndown, here I am with the President Michael and his wife Cornelia.



Sunday saw us back in Fleet for the Remembrance Day

service and parade. It started at our own church where we went to the cenotaph via the internet. Lunch was in the Pub with other members from the club. Off we went to the parish church for the service and then across the road to muster in the car park with many other organisations preparing to honour the fallen. I did not take up the tickets for London preferring to be with my own club this year. The march through town was very moving as the streets were lined with many people. It ended with a few words and the laying of wreaths at the town war memorial. Then coffee and hot chocolate in a local coffee shop with family and friends.



With Hart and Fleet Presidents

Marching along →



Dipping the Flags In Remembrance



Three club visits followed that week Thank you Fareham, Crofton and Hythe & Waterside for making Christine and I so welcome.

We had to have an extra Cabinet meeting before a very pleasant President’s Lunch. I hope those there did exchange ideas and encourage each other in the pursuit of new members, service project ideas and in having fun.

The following week saw Fleet festooned in the Christmas lights and festivities in full swing. No, it did not rain for once and I was part of the team selling gluwain and mulled apple juice, and ‘didn’t we do well’ Fantastic support from all the town people. Christine was busy in the shopping mall working for her club on ‘Light up a Life’; Lights on the Christmas tree are sold in remembrance of loved ones. Their names are displayed around the tree for the whole festive season. It is always successful and the money raised goes to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and Naomi House Children’s Hospice.



Lion President Andrew, his wife Angela and us

The next weekend saw us off to Jersey for their 49th Charter. Beautiful Island, but what horrible weather!!!! We spent Saturday driving around the island and peering through the torrential rain. As we failed to take sensible shoes and coats

we did not walk and explore as we usually do, so we will go back and explore. The charter

was great fun and we were made to feel very welcome.

On Sunday we awoke to a bright, sunny but cool day but no exploring off we went flying back to join Windsor for their Charter Lunch. We had a lovely time and enjoyed our time with President Simon, the club and their fellowship.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of returning to Crofton and join them in an award ceremony for Junior Police Community Officers. This is one of their great projects where working in conjunction with the police and young people receive a big reward. A big thank you must go to the two police officers Claire Martin, and Emma Stone who worked so successfully with 14 new recruits. Congratulations to all concerned.

Thanks to all of you who made this month so special and we now look forward to the coming festivities. We wish you peace and joy and all the blessings at this time of year and look forward to being with you in the New Year, which is once the Sleigh stops and lets the snowmen off.

Remember Remember..... November and our bed and our home and our menagerie..... !!!!!

Members Passed to Higher Service

Sadly we lost the following members in November:

Martin Crowley – Eastleigh on the 7th
 David Oxford – Portsmouth on the 16th
 Leonard Rawlings – Wokingham on the 2nd
 Christopher Sheehan – Jersey on the 21st

New Members

We welcome the following new Lions and we hope you are with us for a long time and that you enjoy the service and fellowship:

Mark Marriot – Aldershot (Branch of Fleet)
 Ray Webb – Loddon Valley
 Julia Cockram – Westbury
 Valery Jones – Westbury
 Mark Sutton – Westbury
 Richard Vaughan – Windor

Well done to the Clubs who recruited new Lions.

Dropped members

Unfortunately we lost 16 Lions who resigned in good standing and one member was dropped for non payment of dues.

This is sad, fellow lions and we seem to be in a steady decline. If your Club needs help with membership please contact:

Your Zone Chairman
 Your Region Chairman
 Your 1st and 2nd Vice Governor
 Your Membership Coordinator
 Your Region Officer for Membership
 Me

You see there are plenty of people ready and willing to help you and materiel can be organised. Please do not forget the Signature Projects pack each club has and the display stands are available – contact Pauline McCreanor our membership Coordinator. If your club has reached a point where you need constant, regular support we have Certified Guiding Lions ready and willing to commit to you for as long as two years.

District Governor Team Club Visits	Roger's Rambles
Bridport	11th December
Newbury	17th January
Bracknell Forest	TBA
2 nd Vice Governor	Mike's Visits
Henley	3rd December
Southampton	10th December
LRPC Committee Southampton	7th January
Zone-J Meeting	8th January
Finance Committee Eastleigh	9th January
Young Ambassador Bournemouth	12th January
Loddon Valley	16th January
GMT/GLT Birmingham	19th January
District Cabinet Alton	20th January
Windsor	21st January
Woodley & Earley	22nd January
Zone-B Meeting	23rd January

Please keep safe on your Sleigh and other activities in December. Yours in Lionism



Lion Roger Munday



The Wessex Adventure" – An Adventure Is In Store For Guest's Partners !

The Lions Club of Fleet are hosting the 48th Annual District Convention on 22-24th March 2013 in the historic town of Old Windsor at the Beaumont Hotel.



On the Saturday our guest's partners will have the opportunity to take an exclusive guided tour around historic Eton College. Founded by King Henry VI in 1440 it is an integral part of our national heritage.

The coach will leave mid morning and the tour lasts approximately one and a half hours. The group will have a dedicated guide to ensure that you are able to learn and ask everything that you may want to know.

After the tour there will be several lunch options available. Then you will have some free time before the coach returns mid afternoon. You may want to see some of Windsor's many other historic sites or to perhaps visit some of the towns many fine retail outlets.

Don't forget that all the conference bookings made before December will be put into a draw and the lucky winner will get their accommodation for FREE !

Its very easy to do...just visit the conference web site and you can book and pay online or alternatively just download the actual booking forms themselves.

Full conference details and all booking information is available at www.wessexadventure.org.uk



Petersfield Lions were delighted to have assisted The Rosemary Foundation on their very successful inaugural sponsored walk – the "Rosemary Ramble."

Throughout the day our members helped with car parking, serving drinks and issuing T shirts which freed up many of the nurses and volunteers to take part in the walks.

Both organisations will look forward to possible collaboration in the future.

A Weekend of Complete Contrasts

It was a privilege and an honour for me to be able to attend two such contrasting and iconic national occasions in London on the weekend of 10th/11th November.



The Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday 10th was an event of colour, vibrancy, pageantry, noise, raucous music, fun, dancing and enjoyment. There were a whole range of vehicles including cars, lorries, buses, tanks, a fire engine, coach and horses including a Wells Fargo Stage Coach and, of course, the Lions train. The Parade included different types of bands, uniforms, young and old and cheering crowds. This is a day when everyone wants to have fun; all those in the Parade and in the Grandstands as well as those thronging the roadsides of the streets of the City of London. The parade represents not only the Worshipful Companies of the City but every conceivable voluntary group as well as military representatives from all of our armed services and, of course, the new Lord Mayor resplendent in his mayoral robes and chain of office riding in the magnificent gold coach. The Parade is simply a representation of all that is good and positive in the UK and it is certainly an occasion to show off.

The annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on Sunday 11th was such a contrast. This is an event of complete solemnity. The peace only interrupted by the commands issued by Officers or when the haunting music of Elgar's Nimrod, played by the Massed Bands, fills the still morning air. The only colour beyond black and grey is the red of poppies proudly worn or the sea of so many, many wreaths laid at the Cenotaph; and occasionally in uniforms, for example the Chelsea Pensioners, so resplendent in their scarlet coats. There was genuine and respectful applause of appreciation from the crowds, and others taking part in the Parade, as groups such as the Chelsea Pensioners and the Gurkhas marched to take up their places in Whitehall. The procession was made up of 4 columns which stretched nearly the whole length of Whitehall back towards Trafalgar Square. Those in the march past and the crowds were able to watch events unfurl on large screens and listen to the music and the service via loudspeakers. Each and every single group was warmly applauded by the crowds, 12-15 deep at the far end of Whitehall, as they marched past the Cenotaph, eyes firmly to the left in recognition of those who had made the ultimate sacrifice. The applause continued as the procession made its way along Birdcage Walk and into

Horse Guards itself, past the final salute. This year's salute taken by Prince Edward. This is a day of total dignity for those taking part and for the crowds and the thoughts are so very different from the previous day.

I am most grateful for the opportunity to have been in London for this special weekend. It was truly a privilege to represent the Lions of our District at both of these historic annual events. David Merchant – 1st VDG

£1500 TARGET ACHIEVED FOR REHAB AT ALTON LIONS 5th ANNUAL GOLF DAY



The 5th Annual Alton Lions Charity Golf Day proved to be another resounding success for the nineteen local teams who took part and helped the Lions achieve their target of raising £1500. The funds, which are donated to Alton REHAB, the cardiac rehabilitation centre that provides such tremendous support to our local community, will be used to obtain new and specialised

equipment to assist people recover from cardiac difficulties.

This year's event was sponsored by Alton based Accountancy Firm Sheen-Stickland and was held at the Test Valley Golf Club in Overton. As was common with just about every sporting event this year all who took part enjoyed an 'almost' dry day with only those held up by "slow play" getting caught in the traditional shower.



Voyagers

Prizes were presented by Alton Lions President Sarah O'Donoghue and awarded to winning team 'The Voyagers', Left (with the Vice Squad a very close runner up), the winning lady Liz Petheram, and the winning man Ted Snelling. There were also prizes for the nearest the pin won by John Smith and Julia Pebert and for the longest drive to Adam Neller and Di Baycroft.



ViceSquad

This year's event raised £1500 for REHAB and will be used to help pay for a new rowing machine and other equipment

designed to help re-build strength and confidence of the members of the rehabilitation centre.

Lion President Sarah thanked the Test Valley Golf Club for use of all their facilities and support for the event, sponsor Sheen – Stickland whose support helped to make the day possible and to all others who helped to make the day another great success for Alton Lions and REHAB.

Lions Sight Awareness Day



The Bridport Lions Sight Awareness Day in Bucky Doo Square was a huge success and we were able to draw attention to the need for

regular eye tests, appreciate the good work done by Dogs for the Blind and the Dorset Blind Association and also publicise our recycling spectacles campaign.

The Mayoress has now booked a long overdue sight test after learning from Trudi Loud of I J Brown Opticians how important it is to have our sight tested regularly. Both the mayor and mayoress visited Browns Opticians in Bridport and were given an interesting and very informative talk on the different ways in which people's sight can deteriorate and how early diagnosis through eye testing can be extremely beneficial. They spent the



rest of the morning experiencing the everyday difficulties that face people with limited or no sight at all. The couple took turns to be led blindfolded through Bridport with a Guide Dog and a mobility instructor. After finding out what services the library offers and visiting Scrivens Opticians and Frosts to hand out collecting bins for old spectacles for recycling they then ordered and drank coffee at Jaxsons Deli, again blindfolded. At Specsavers the staff organised a fundraising morning and the Lions were presented with a cheque for £100.



Many thanks go to the following people for their help and support: I J Brown opticians; Jaxsons Deli; Guide Dogs for the Blind; Dorset Blind Association; Bridport Town Library; Specsavers; Frosts; Scrivens opticians, Jane Silver – the Town Crier and last but certainly not least the Bridport Mayor and Mayoress for willingly participating in all the events with or without a blindfold!



Verwood Mayor's Blindfold Walkabout

International World Sight Loss day was marked in Verwood when the Mayor, Simon Gibson, together with 3 colleagues, were all escorted blindfold around the town by members of the Wimborne & Ferndown Lions club.

Verwood Mayor's Blindfold Walkabout



The event was a great success and enabled The Lions Club of Bournemouth members to make many useful contacts with local residents as well as visitors from overseas and elsewhere in the UK. Barbara Jeremiah



The walkabout highlighted the importance of sounds and smells and the many obstacles in a busy town centre such as people, bollards and other pavement hazards.

There are over 5000 registered blind and partially sighted people in Dorset alone and it's suggested that 25% of people over 50 are likely to suffer some sight loss in their maturing years.



Blandford & District Lions played its part in World Sight Awareness day by arranging for the Mayor of Blandford, Sara Loch, to be escorted on a blindfolded walk to help raise awareness of the importance of having regular eye tests.

The Mayor was led around the town by Margaret

Hemus who has macular degeneration giving her 5% vision, and is a member of the North Dorset Blind Association. The Mayor was able to experience the difficulties that visually impaired and blind people have getting around a busy market town.

The Mayor commented after her walk "That was very scary – I now fully understand the benefits of providing embossed paving stones at pedestrian crossings"

The Lions collected £50 on the day which will be donated to the North Dorset Blind Association.



The Lions Club of Bournemouth held a World Sight Day event in The Square in Bournemouth town centre. Unfortunately it was a wet, windy day but this did not dampen the

spirits of the 30-odd people who accompanied the Mayor of Bournemouth, Cllr Phil Stanley-Watts down Old Christchurch Road and into The Square, where Lloyds Pharmacy staff were holding diabetes checks at The Lions Stand. Many of those walking were from The Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired and a Guide Dogs for the Blind handler accompanied The Mayor with a Training Dog.

The event was a great success and enabled The Lions Club of Bournemouth members to make many useful contacts with local residents as well as visitors from overseas and elsewhere in the UK. Barbara Jeremiah





Lions Club of Cosham takes to the High Street

As part of its annual events diary 2012 -2013, Cosham Lions decided to offer an event that would provide

free, drop in blood sugar testing to the public. Information about diabetes was to be made available. Lionism and the existence of the Lions Club of Cosham would also be promoted.

It was recognised that the local Council would have to be approached and that clinical assistance from a pharmacy or GP practice would be needed. The event would have to be advertised. A rota of lions available would be required. And equipment in the form of gazebos, tables, chairs and display boards would be required along with diabetes information and lions PR material.

Some four months before the day, permission was sought and gained from Portsmouth City Council to hold the event in Coshams' High Street. If a bucket collection was to be carried out a Street Collections licence would also have been needed. The regional manager of Lloyds Pharmacies was contacted requesting support for the day. Area manager, Gary Winter promised help with the project.

The Walk-in Diabetes Screening Day was advertised in the local press, on the website <about my area po6> and on posters distributed to local community centres, information centres and shop windows.

Two adjoining gazebos were used, one for blood sugar screening and one for Lions PR. Pharmacist Mr Wing Yap and a colleague carried out blood sugar testing. Five Club Lions, supported by Region Chairman Micky Turner and helper Pauline, manned the gazebos encouraging the public to have the screening and talking about Lions and distributing Lions leaflets.

Following a slow start on a cool morning, interest slowly built up. By the end of the five hour session, 230 people had been screened. Eighty people had borderline levels of blood sugar and one lady was strongly advised to seek immediate help from her GP for further investigation regarding diabetes.

The Club succeeded in providing a very important service to citizens in its local community. The surprisingly large percentage of randomly tested people showing varying degrees of higher than expected blood sugar levels indicated the importance of Lions involvement in such activities.

Lion Richard Fulstow Diabetes Awareness Officer



Are you involved with Temporary Road Closures for Community events? Do you need to save money on hire of Chapter 8 Traffic signs?

Fleet Lions in conjunction with local groups and supported by Hampshire County Councillors have now trained up 20



volunteers to lay out signs safely as per the Chapter 8 directive. This initiative could save the local community up to £10,000 per year and more importantly run better than external organisations as local knowledge is much greater.

Fleet Lions have also received grants and procured over two hundred cones

and signs, conforming to the BSEN174 Directive

If you would like to borrow these signs for your events then please contact Lion John Geering at Fleet Lions john.geering@fleetlions.org.uk

There will be a small charge per unit for wear and tear and any lost or damaged signs would have to be replaced

A Champion Conker Collection

The Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Annual Charity Conker challenge held during the Apple Day Open Day at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledurham, near Reading on Sunday 14th October raised £186.80 in donations from participants.



Michael Park with 3 year old Mason



Nick & Alison Drew with Ruby 5 & James 7

Above are two photographs, courtesy of the Henley Standard, of some youngsters who enjoyed taking part.

Fortunately it was a bright sunny day and many of those who did take part enjoyed re-telling stories of their youth and past battles with champion conkers. The competition rules ensured all players only used fresh conkers provided by the Lions rather than home pre-prepared pickled or baked specimens.

It had been a difficult year and an added challenge to harvest enough good quality conkers due to the unusual weather, but luckily some special local sources and collectors came to the rescue. This continues to help preserve a great British tradition and fun pastime of playing conkers. Often many people are not aware of where conkers actually do come from, their history and many diverse uses.

A Message from Your Editor

What a great supply of news for this issue must be the most ever! Well done to all clubs, please remember to send all pictures in Jpeg please.

Perhaps for next issue can I have some details and pictures of your Christmas floats etc.

Next issue closes on 23rd January 2013.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.



Lion Peter Garlick



Afternoon Outing On 'The John Pinkerton'



It was our pleasure and privilege to host an enjoyable afternoon on the canal boat 'The John Pinkerton' for 26 guests and 9 Lions and their partners on the Basingstoke Canal for a return trip

between Odiham and Winchfield. Our guests were Senior Citizens and their carers from Geffereys House, Gregory House and others from their homes around our area, with one aged 93 and another 87. Taxis collected our guests for embarkation from Colts Hill Wharf in Odiham for our 2.30 start when our skipper gave the signal to his crew to cast off for our journey along the picturesque countryside. Afternoon Tea was served at 3.45 consisting of sandwiches, cake and fruit and then the highlight of the afternoon was the raffle which was enjoyed by all who took part. People chatted along the trip which finally came to an end back at Colts Hill Wharf at 5.00pm when our guests were returned by taxi to their homes having enjoyed a memorable afternoon courtesy of Hook and Odiham Lions.

Melvin Jones Fellowship Lion Derek Port



At their recent charter 1st VDG Lion David Merchant presented Lion Derek with a MJF.

Lion Derek Joined Alton Lions Club in its formation in January 1973. He has served many club positions and was President in 1980/81 and 2000/01.

In 1981 Lions Derek and Ray Payne, who were Extension Officers, and between them formed the Woolmer Forest Lions Club. Lion Derek moved house in 2005 and transferred to Woolmer Forest Lions and has been the main fund raiser, and was President in 2007/08. In 2010 they had a recruitment drive with 6 new members.

Jubilee Tree Planted on Holyport Green



Recently about 30 people gathered on Holyport Green, Maidenhead to watch the planting of an oak tree to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The audience comprised local residents and members of the Lions Club of Maidenhead. The tree was formally

planted by MP for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May, on behalf of the Bray Parish Council and the Lions.

This tree is Bray Parish Council's contribution to the celebration of the Jubilee and for the Lions it is also part of their International Environmental Project, aiming to plant one million trees and Multi District D challenge 'to plant a tree in D'.



It is some few yards from the tree planted in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee; in 115 years time the new oak will hopefully be as imposing. There are other trees on Holyport Green marking our Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees.

Junior Diabetes Research Foundation Sponsored Walk 30th September 2012



For many years now Swanwick have supported the annual fundraising event of a sponsored walk, organized by JDRF. Swanwick's contribution is not by donation, but by providing a service of serving tea, coffee and sandwiches to the participants. This is a very challenging job, as we have to serve drinks and food prior to the walk and again on their return to anything between six and eight hundred walkers. The food and drink is provided free of charge (not by Swanwick) and our job is to serve it. However we invite the "customers" to make a donation to JDRF if they wish, this year we raised £598.55.

We in the Swanwick club are privileged to help out such a worthwhile charity and to provide an essential service to the participants many of whom suffer with diabetes.

The picture below shows the Swanwick team poised (or is it posed) before the frantic serving of the departing walkers.

Weymouth & Portland Lions Beach Motocross A Roaring Success



Thousands of spectators thronged the Esplanade to watch this very popular annual event with all its spills and thrills. Over 200 riders took part in what is to them the highlight of the racing season. The good weather encouraged people to get out and enjoy the spectacle and help raise funds for the Lions Charity Fund



MedicAlert and Message in a Bottle Work Together

Following on from the Position Statement issued by MedicAlert recently, we would like to confirm that we are in full agreement that both MedicAlert and Message in a Bottle complement one another. The idea of Message in a Bottle is that it is used within the home environment whilst MedicAlert is an excellent medium for helping the Emergency Services outside the home.



This message was successfully brought home to the BAD Group in Bournemouth at a meeting that was co-ordinated with the Royal Bournemouth Hospital by the Lions Club of Bournemouth.

District Officer Iain Pudney promoted both Message in a Bottle and MedicAlert to the Bournemouth Area Defibrillator Group and received support from the floor for both schemes.



Whilst the 5 million Message in a Bottle bottles have been given out free, the information contained on the form could leave the individual vulnerable if it is stolen whilst outside the home whereas there is no information on the MedicAlert Bracelet or Pendant which would give any indication as to where the individual lives. This is a valuable reason for using MedicAlert outside the home as many Police forces will confirm. They are all for anything which does not give away where an individual lives if a handbag or car is stolen, especially if there are keys involved. If there is such a theft, they know that the individual is NOT at home because they have just stolen items from them in the street.

Also, the Medical information on a MedicAlert Bracelet or Pendant is held on a secure database and a Medical Professional is available at the end of a phone 24/7 Worldwide. I recently heard that MedicAlert received calls from Costa Rica and India and were able to provide the Medical information needed to provide prompt treatment in both cases. When you consider these elements of the MedicAlert operation, 50p per week is a small price to pay to save a life and give peace of mind to the wearer.

Finally, when outside the home, a MedicAlert Bracelet or Pendant is easier to carry than a Bottle, and a Form, if left in a Wallet for some time, would become very difficult to read and eventually would disintegrate.

Remember, the two schemes complement each other and should be promoted together.

Lion Iain Pudney Medic Alert Officer

Lion Ann Twining Message in a Bottle Officer



The Lions Club of Petersfield, held the eighteenth annual quiz and draw on Friday 2nd of November at the Petersfield Festival Hall. The evening was in aid of Holidays for Disabled People and raised the highest ever

total of £2609. Since 1992 a total of £24,533 has been donated to Holidays for Disabled People.

The draw was held during the interval for twenty four prizes which were generously donated by local people and businesses. The first prize of £100 (donated by Paul Beck of A1 Security Systems Ltd) was won by Ann Murphy who was a member of "Les's Miserables" team. Lion's Club member Clive Midson again acted very ably as Quiz Master.

Twenty nine teams took part and Holidays for Disabled People supported the evening by entering four teams. Other teams were made up of local clubs, societies, businesses and friends. The winner of the quiz was the "Buddies" team with an impressive score of 100 out of a possible 110. They were presented with £60 and a trophy by Derek Fulker of Holidays for Disabled People. They graciously asked that their prize be put back into the cause. "Flower Power," a team from Petersfield in Bloom were second with a score of 97. Teams from Life Church Petersfield ("Lifers"), the U3A ("Strollers") and Petersfield Twinning Association ("The Baren Dwarfs") tied for third place with a score of 96.

The team with the lowest score of 57 were presented with a set of wooden spoons. A full list of the results and prize donors will be posted on the Lions Club website - www.petersfieldlions.org.uk.

Weymouth & Portland Lions mark United Nations Day



Weymouth & Portland Lions President Richard Burgess, in responding to the Mayor, quoted 'Winston Churchill who said 'Jaw, jaw is better than war,war' and this, of course, is the fundamental purpose of the United

Nations, to solve international disputes by negotiation and debate rather than armed conflict. Clearly, it is a matter of frustration to all of us that this doesn't always work and we look at the situation in Palestine, in Iran, in Somalia and most recently in Syria with great disappointment. But equally the rewards from negotiated settlement are huge including the avoidance of more grief caused by military and civilian deaths. We look at the peace process in Northern Ireland and peace in Croatia as examples.

We also celebrated today the work of the UN's agencies. In South Dorset we appreciate and value the world recognition given to us by the World Heritage Coast designation by UNESCO. We value particularly the work of UNICEF in addressing the needs of underprivileged children in the third world.

But what's all this got to do with Lions?

Well, Lions aren't just local clubs doing good and having fun locally; we are an international organisation with branches in 206 countries. We exist 'to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world'.

Lions Clubs work with UNICEF internationally. Our campaigns in the third world to address the need for clean drinking water, for 'sight and hearing and to eradicate diseases, currently measles, all fit within UNICEF priorities. Our commitment to fund and help with disaster relief worldwide remains an on-going priority.

So I regard it as a great privilege that Lions are invited to participate with the Mayor in the Ceremony to raise the United Nations flag and in doing so renew our vows to help create a more peaceful, equal and prosperous world.