

The International Association of Lions Clubs

DISTRICT 105D - APRIL 2013



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“Service with humility: Fellowship with fun”

Hello Fellow Lions



I am surprised I can get in any words in, as it seems as if Christine has said it all.

For once this year I was quite speechless at times, and overwhelmed most of the time over the Convention Weekend and I would like to say a very big thank you to my club, Fleet, who organised everything, the people doing all the necessary jobs, the exhibitors and all those who attended either for the full weekend, or the various other packages available. You were most welcome – not nice to stand and run a Convention in an empty room!!! Three quarters of my year has passed and it has been an interesting, hard working journey and I wish my successors all the very best as they continue on their journeys. The last quarter is full of club visits, charters, fellowship and fun. I look forward to meeting even more of the wonderful LIONS in District 105D.

The loss in membership has slowed down and hopefully in the next few weeks we shall see a rise, so that the service we do shall continue apace.

Enjoy the few months of this Lionistic year which I hope will be warmer and sunnier. I will be off to the little Isle over the school Easter break, and will take two of the grandchildren away for a few days and in the evening visiting clubs. Christine and I continue our way on the highways and byways visiting Ryde, Ventnor, Cowes, Bridport, Bradford on Avon, Havant, Bournemouth, Bracknell and Warminster either as club visits or Charters.



Lions Club of Bridport 40th Charter

The month ends in Torquay for Multiple District Convention where we will welcome David

and Diana to join us and wish them well as District Governor elect for 2013-2014.

See you on our travels Yours in Lionism

Lion Roger Munday

The Wessex Adventure

District 105d –from the perspective of the DG’s wife

Well what can I say, it is a few days after the weekend and looking back to the journey everyone travelled to make this weekends, is unforgettable , - THANK YOU. When your husband asks you to join him in his wish to further the development of District 105d by becoming it’s Governor you are not prepared for the roller coaster of Convention weekend.

Roger’s club Fleet and the Convention committee, under the direction of Lion Fred Massey have been so supportive, creative, hardworking and enthusiastic that neither Roger nor I was worried about anything, They took that upon themselves so Roger could do his duties around the District.

What a show they put on; from the moment we stepped inside Beaumont House we were on a very special roller coaster ride. We arrived with the International Guest, Gudrun Yngvadottir, who, as well as us, found ourselves in a suite in the White House each.



The bath was big enough to swim in and the room was bigger than our daughters living room It was very luxurious and the cause of first of many thank you’s Roger had a Cabinet Meeting from 2 o’clock on the Friday afternoon and I had a tea party for the cabinet



partners and the wives of Fleet who had been helping to put the Convention on. It was a relaxed and genteel affair, suited to the settings of Beaumont House hotel, Wow, what a party the host night turned out to be! The

hall had been turned into a mediaeval village even down to the pigs and cows!! The King of Wessex



donned his red shoes and Wyvern standard to lead the celebration. His jester, me, with her 'dragon' was a bit of a pain, people were resplendent in their

historical attire, from Lords, Ladies, monks, serving wenches, King Alfred's bakers, the Town Crier and a few (w)essex girls who had jumped the centuries.

We were royally entertained by a fantastic group of Morris dancers who got the party going, followed , after the meal by the great band 'Why' who kept the toes dancing right up to the end. Thanks to fellow DG John and Linda from 105A for joining us. It was a party not to be forgotten and again to Fleet and the Committee another big thank you

Saturday and the Business Session loomed. Roger was well prepared his script was written in large type; his papers organised, the certificates printed so why was my tummy doing somersaults? The room was very business like in its set up. Off we went a youth orchestra was playing as the delegates and visitors got settled. Oh dear a hiccup! The Lord Lieutenant, the Right Honourable Mary Bayliss was snowed in. Never fear, Lions always seem to turn up and the Chairman of Council did just that, and with about 15 minutes notice opened our 48th Convention with wit and aplomb.

Roger's sense of humour and calmness under pressure came to the fore when he realised he had forgotten the flag ceremony but it went ahead, a little late and out of sequence. My tummy is now settled. The rest of the day went smoothly, a few more coffee breaks than planned, but he was well in time. PID Gudrun was lovely and spoke well. The presentations of awards was appreciated as it shows that it is sometimes nice to say 'thank you' to Lions who give up a great deal of their time. The elections for the District Governor for 2013-14, and the first and second vices were balloted. So congratulations to David Merchant (DGE), Mike Hendy (1st) and Alan Chapman (2nd). This was the first time in three years I could watch this process without trepidation. Not only thank you to the Convention Committee, but to the tech. team and to the Sergeant at Arms, David Firth.

Perhaps when hearing of this day and the weekend more people will attend convention in the future.

We went for a 'quick' change of clothes and Roger

donned the white jacket and I put on the posh frock. It is astonishing how adept we have come to turning out, scrubbed up well in a few minutes – practice makes perfect!!!! We entered a very glamorous world in the conference room this time. It had been turned into a glamorous setting, candelabra shone from every table and the stage had a New York sky line and beautiful lighting. On the table were the little chocolates which had almost given me a lot more grey hairs –(they had not arrived in the post before we left on Friday so I had given up on them, but my son-in-law, Michael, who was at our house looking after our dogs and chickens took delivery and being the good Fleet Lion he is drove through the snow to get them to us)

The food was great, the fellowship superb, and the music from 'Sing that Swing' was listened to and then danced to. Another well organised event enjoyed by 105d Lions and guests. Thanks to Council Chairman Martin and Jill, IPD, Gudrun and her husband IPD Jon Bjani, for being with us and of course Lions of Fleet and their partners.

Sunday saw some people drifting away after another excellent breakfast but a lot went into the plenary session which discussed the previous days workshops, presentations from Gudrun and Jon, and a general discussion time. This was well organised by Lion Graham Drayton. Lunch of bacon baps and Danish pastries was a good way to send us on our way. The tea and coffee was free flow all weekend and always in use.

From Friday afternoon, through Saturday and most of Sunday morning the exhibition area was a hive of activity. Lions charities, MDHQ and the tombola – run by Aldershot Lions were all on show and a big thank you must go to Lee Turner who organised, got the exhibitors and ensured a good layout for everyone to enjoy. Maidenhead Lions gave excellent service at the registration stall.

We spent a few hours at home with Gudrun and Jon Bjani discussing Iceland which we have visited and would like to go back to. They were so pleasant and easy to be with that it was quite sad to take them to the airport.

A full circle is complete, and even in reflection both Roger and I are overwhelmed by the whole event and the attention to detail, support and organisation skills of the Convention Committee, who spent months meeting together to prepare they are, Lions Fred Massey and Helen Bellamy, Brian Proctor and Jane Jeffares, David Styler and Marilyn Robson, Tom Sayers and Juliet Graham Drayton and Gill, Lee Turner and finally Travis McCall. Plus, Fleet members, who on the weekend put up signs, set up the rooms and so on. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, it is a weekend we shall never forget.





In March this year Members of Alton Lions Club met at Alton College to proudly present 43 College Students with the Lions 'Young Leaders in Service' Certificates that recognise young people for their service in their local communities over the last twelve months. These awards are designed to help young people on the road to becoming responsible adults and future community leaders and along the way help to make a difference in their own communities.

The gold award recognises over 100 hours of service and the silver more than 50 hours and for the Alton College Students their activities, organised together with Helen Freeston from the East Hampshire Volunteer Bureau, have ranged from assisting sports adventure projects for young and disadvantaged children to helping decorate a school.

Mr Ian Gibson, Chairman of the Alton College Governors welcomed the Students, Lions District Governor Roger Munday, Alton Town Mayor Sue Hodder and Members of Alton Lions Club and described the wide area of North Hampshire and West Surrey that the the College services and therefore the range of communities impacted by the YLIS project. Alton Lions President Sarah O'Donoghue explained the significance of the awards and conducted proceedings. The Certificates were presented in turn by Alton Lion Nicky Branch, District Councillor and Chairman of The Alton College Foundation For Excellence, Cllr Hodder and the Lions DG Roger Munday. In closing District Governor Roger Munday congratulated the Students on their awards and expressed Lions pride and thanks for their achievements.

Blandford Lions celebrate 40 years



On Saturday 23rd February Blandford & District Lions celebrated their 40th anniversary with a dinner at The Crown, Blandford.

The dinner was attended by the current Lions and their partners along with many past members together with members

from neighbouring Lions clubs. The main guests were the District Governor Roger Munday from Fleet Lions and his Vice Governor David Merchant from Newbury Lions and their wives.

One other special guest was Albert Whittle of Wimborne & Ferndown Lions who was the founding father of Blandford Lions when they received their Charter in 1973. He was asked to cut the cake and was ably assisted by Henry Cuff,

the longest serving current member who joined the club just six months after it had been formed.

The Lions and their guests were entertained by Spetisbury duo Take Two and pupils of The Blandford School with whom Blandford Lions have a long association.



District D becomes "Deaf Aware"

Two Deaf Awareness Training Sessions took place over the last weekend in October with a total of 61 people taking part. The first event was organised by Lion Barbara Jeremiah from Bournemouth Lions Club and was attended by a large number of voluntary and service organisations including Victim Support, Youth Football, Bournemouth Society for Visually Impaired and Bournemouth Transport Groups. This was a tremendous achievement for Barbara and will hopefully benefit a large number of people throughout the town. Barbara has already had requests to arrange another training session. The second event was organised by Lion John Drago (MD Speech and Hearing officer) at his own Club in Westbury. Here there were several Lions with their families and some young ladies from a local Special Needs School who already used Makaton sign language on a daily basis.

Both courses were extremely well received and both had an attendee who was completely deaf. At the Westbury session we were able to have a demonstration of the differences between British Sign Language used by Nigel who is deaf, and Makaton used by the staff at the local Special Needs school.

The course covers the problems associated with Hearing Loss, how to recognise the signs and ways to make communication with those affected much easier. Different types of sign language are discussed and the course has a good practical aspect with participants having a go at lip reading, finger spelling and sign language. This proved to be a real eye opener and showed how difficult these tasks can be, but with a few small considerations communication can be improved with those who have a hearing impairment.

The two courses were taken by Lion Penny Tregillus from District A who works with the Lions Hearing Trust as a qualified trainer. The Hearing Trust is a charity set up by District EA and they are happy to arrange Deaf Awareness Training for any organisation at no cost in order to fulfil their aim of raising Deaf Awareness.

For more details contact Lion John Cheetham at speechhearing@lions105ea.com or visit the website at www.thelionshearingtrust.org.

Many thanks to Penny for her time over the weekend.

Volunteering Day

Saturday 9th February saw Maidenhead's first Volunteering Day when 33 organisations who were all seeking volunteers to support their work in the local community took over an empty shop in the town centre. The Lions Club of Maidenhead had decided that they could give the local community a boost by encouraging residents to participate in helping the many causes that assist those with various needs.



The Town Centre Managers were approached for the possible use of a vacant store for one day. After a couple of months the largest empty store was offered for one day only five weeks away.

The site was not in the most popular area of the town so the challenge was to create an interest in volunteering and to attract potential helpers to the event.

Posters were displayed in nearly two hundred sites around the town. Members delivered leaflets to houses in their neighbourhood. The leaflets offered a prize in a free draw to be entered on the day for £50 M & S voucher and also asked for spectacles to be donated for Lions recycling. Advertisements were placed in the local paper and announcement made on local radio. On the extremely cold Saturday prior to the event 3,000 leaflets were handed out in the busiest part of the town. It was noticeable that these were received with interest by many perhaps because of the prior publicity around the town. The leaflet distribution was reported in the local paper giving added publicity.

Now the store needed to be tidied, stand plan prepared, tables borrowed, setting up timetable circulated and the crowds awaited. More wanted to attend than could be accommodated so two stands were outside in the shopping mall. Organisations were asked to pay £15 and that together with a sponsoring £200 from a local charity covered the £650 expenses.

TV Sports Presenter, Steve Rider opened the Event saying that last years Olympics had shown how rewarding volunteering could be. He added "This is like a trade fair for volunteering opportunities. It is a really good idea because people are able to see such a variety of things to do. Volunteering is a two way thing as it opens up whole new social circles and friendships".

Later in the day Cllr Colin Rayner, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead attended and after making the draw for the winner of the M & S voucher went on to say how much the community depended on volunteering and that the event showed how what a wide range of support is available. He later sent a personal note of thanks for a wonderful event. Of course, the local paper sent a reporter and photographer along which ensured two page cover in the following weeks edition.

Organisations participating included Alzheimer's Society, Community Responders, Family Friends, Maidenhead Care, Relate, TV Police, yes even they need volunteers, and Samaritans. Every group has reported receiving volunteers which total over 200 from the hundreds that attended the Volunteering Day. The only complaint was that in February an unheated store was rather cold.

All have stated that the event met or exceeded their expectations and have asked that is repeated next year but in a warmer month.

Not bad for a first venture.

Naomi House nets a whopping cheque!

Following another successful Fishing Festival on Weston Shore this January, Meon Valley Lions were delighted to attend the recent prize night of the Ford Sports and Social Club Sea Angling Club, at their clubhouse in Southampton.



Photograph: (Front - L to R) Peter Oates, Ford Sports & Social Club; Mrs Sarah Hudson, Naomi House & Jack's Place; Ron Wilson, Meon Valley Lions Club.

The charity fishing competition is now in its 38th year and it has become a tradition that the monies raised from the event are donated to The Naomi House and Jack's Place children's hospice charity in Winchester. The Meon Valley Lions have been involved with the event organisation since 1996 and with the steadfast support of the Transport and General Workers Union, were able to generate a splendid £1,500 from this year's receipts and raffle. That brings the rolling total to around £35,000 over the last 17 years – a great achievement.

At the prize-giving, event organiser Peter Oates and Lion Ron Wilson presented the cheque to Naomi House & Jack's Place area representative Sarah Hudson. Expressing her gratitude to the Ford Sea Angling Club, Sarah commented that she could think of no other organisation on the south coast that had consistently contributed so much money to the charity, over such an extended period. Well done lads!

District Dates for 2013-2014

2013

Sat 13th July District Cabinet 3pm at Regency Park Hotel, Thatcham
District Handover 7.00 for 7.30pm at Regency Park Hotel, Thatcham

Sun 8th Sep Presidents' Lunch 12 for 12.30pm at Alton House Hotel, Alton

Sun 6th Oct District Service 2.30pm at St Nicolas Church, Newbury
Tea will follow Service

Sun 20th Oct District Cabinet 10.30am at Alton House Hotel, Alton

2014

Sun 19th Jan District Cabinet 10.30am at Alton House Hotel, Alton

Fri 28th Mch District Cabinet 4pm at Holiday Inn, Winchester

Fri 28th-3 Mch to Sun 30th District Convention at Holiday Inn Winchester

Sun 18th May District Cabinet 10.30am at Alton House Hotel, Alton
Pre Cabinet Meeting 2.30pm at Alton House Hotel, Alton

Community Card scheme is a winner!



In 2012 Meon Valley Lions Club and the 1st Wickham Scout Group were jointly successful in their application to secure financial support from The Southern Co-operative as part of its Community Support Card scheme.

The scheme works when shoppers at the Co-operative store present the Community Card each time they make a purchase. The Co-op then makes a charitable contribution to the Community Card fund against a percentage value of the shopping bill, to the joint benefit of both the Lions and the Scouts.

Over the last twelve months period during which the scheme operated, we spent a number of days promoting Lions and distributing the Community cards at the Wickham shop and the results have been fantastic. Just before Christmas we learned that we had reached the £20,000 target!

Scouts and Lions groups both received a cheque for £10,000 at a recent presentation ceremony that marked the topping-off of the new Scout hut. The Meon Valley Lions club will be using our proceeds to improve the minibus service we provide in the Meon Valley Area, and specifically Wickham where we undertake regular trips for pensioners and lunch groups.

The Southern Co-operative has a strong ethical and corporate responsibility policy and the Community Card scheme demonstrates their commitment to their local communities. It was fitting that we were chosen to be the beneficiary given the Lions International's mission to serve local communities. The programme may provide an opportunity that other clubs may wish to investigate as a source of fund raising in their respective areas.

IT'S AN ILL WIND...BUT...

Last month Ryde Lions ordered 4 giant chocolate Easter eggs from a mainland company to raffle over the Easter period for local charities, unfortunately, when the eggs arrived 3 out of the 4 were smashed, damaged in transit, so the club had to order more. The supplier (John Bull Confectionary) kindly replaced the eggs free of charge.

The club raffled 2 of the broken eggs off, making £48 for local charities and the third egg was given to the Children's ward at St Mary's Hospital. Barrie Jehan said

that we are sure the children will enjoy the Kilo of chocolate!! Barrie also said that it was great that something good had come out of a disastrous beginning.



I read with interest in February's news letter, the article from Meon Valley Lions on attaining their 5 star rating and that they had all done food hygiene courses. We at Ryde on the Isle of Wight first earned our 5 star rating 4 years ago and still retain it. In doing so we do need to complete food Hygiene courses. We bought 21 on-line courses from the Safer Food Group only to be contacted by them the next day to let us know that there is a special price for these courses arranged by Multiple District which we were not aware of. Just wanted to let you know that if more clubs are going to handle food they can obtain courses cheaper by using the following web address: -

www.saferfoodhandler.co.uk/lionsclub

Barrie Jehan.

A Message From Your Editor

Apologies for the delay but I picked up an infection and was feeling quite under the weather, but hopefully now getting better. (Sign of getting old!!!)

Thanks to Lion Christine Munday who did an excellent convention report.

Many thanks again for your varied input please keep them coming. Please ensure that all photos are sent as a separate JPEG file as I do put them through a photo package to enhance them.

My next issue will close on the 22nd May.

Lion Peter Garlick