

The International Association of Lions Clubs

DISTRICT 105D - AUGUST 2013



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“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”



Gosh! So much has happened since my first Newsletter it is difficult to know where to begin – logically it seems best to deal with events chronologically.

Our first real event in Hamburg was on Tuesday 2nd July with the Registration for both the International School and the International Convention followed by the customary photograph with the incoming International President and his wife – Barry and Anne Palmer. This was an 8.00am start for MD 105 – the usual start time for the next week! Wednesday through to Friday was the International School – the classes were mainly around 30 and consisted of District Governor Elects from a range of countries and cultures. The learning process was, therefore, not just about becoming a District Governor but also learning how other countries face up to membership concerns as well as how other cultures can be so very different – yet at the same time we all follow the same motto: ‘We Serve’.

The concluding part of Friday, after receiving our certificates confirming successful completion of the School, was the District Governor Elect Banquet. This was for some 1600+ Lions and held in a converted warehouse on the edge of Hamburg docks. This was our first opportunity to wear our ‘white jackets’ – we were all very proud and yet extremely careful, especially where red wine was concerned!

Saturday was the day of the International Parade and most countries congregated in a small square behind the Rathaus, Hamburg’s Town Hall. The numbers swelled and swelled and the summer heat increased – we had arrived early as requested around 9.15am – and yet our Multiple District did not set off until gone midday! The route was to circumnavigate a small lake and the crowds certainly made it a memorable event, as did the colour and variety of national costumes worn by so many countries.

Sunday was the Official Opening Ceremony of the International Convention in the Hamburg O2 Arena. This included a fine keynote address by Mrs Laura Bush, wife of former USA President George Bush, and the impressive Flag Ceremony, with 208 countries from around the world now boasting a Lions Club. Such a sight makes one realise what a tremendous organisation we all belong to and how far it reaches.

After various other functions we returned to the O2 Arena on Tuesday 8th for the final time. On this occasion

the Lions Humanitarian Award was presented to Andrea Bocelli, a most unassuming individual, who delighted his audience of Lions and guests when he serenaded us all.

This meant the closure of Convention was nearly upon us. After the swearing in of our new International President it was Barry Palmer’s turn to swear in the 754 new District Governors. This was both an emotional and an uplifting experience which will live with us always. The ‘tearing off’ of the Elect ribbons meant we were finally responsible for our own Districts. At this point, amid the cheers and support of all those around us, I found a moment to reflect on the responsibility I had inherited and at the same time the determination to make a success of the role and all it entails.



District Governors of MD105 British Isles & Ireland

Because Hamburg is so close to the UK there was tremendous support from the Multiple District at this year’s International Convention including excellent support from Lions and partners from within 105D who had travelled to Germany to mark this special occasion. In particular I must make mention of the Lions from Hart, and their partners, who were both vocal and demonstrative in their support for all the newly appointed District Governors, but in particular towards me personally, and for this I will always be most grateful.

We also found time to attend a number of Receptions an integral part of any International Convention, with the Britain and Ireland Reception being the last and the most memorable as it included each District Governor, with their spouse, being individually introduced to the large audience of invited guests. Other memorable Receptions included the Italian – great food and the Dutch – held on a 4 masted training ship moored in Hamburg Harbour.

Our International Convention was a truly memorable occasion for both Diana and myself and the opportunity to mix with so many Lions from around the world was something not to be missed. This was coupled with the friendliness and welcome we received from both Lions and non Lions within the city itself, a city which had embraced the International Convention in such a positive manner.



Following our return from Hamburg we were very quickly into a full Cabinet Meeting, a tea for the partners hosted by Diana and on Saturday evening the District Handover. This required some speeches and formalities, but I believe I achieved my aim of a relaxed atmosphere in which all those attending were able to enjoy good food, good company and the chance to dance the night away. It was a most memorable occasion and the company of so many friends from within the family of Lions made us both so very grateful and so aware of our responsibilities.



Monday 15th July saw me make my first Official Visit as a District Governor, and the Club I visited was Bracknell, where I was privileged to 'badge up' 4 new Lions.

This meant the Club had doubled in size in the last 2 months a tremendous achievement and testament to the planning and execution of a most successful membership drive. This is an example to all Clubs as to what can be achieved through determination and commitment.

Barry Palmer's theme for the year is Follow Your Dream, a most appropriate theme for Lions as we nearly all have a dream of how we see our Club, our role, our life developing. The art of success now is to put those dreams into realities.



My Dream is summarised by the diagram (kindly produced by Tom Sayers). As you can see it is a simple cyclic process and no matter where an individual Lion or Club starts the rest will follow. In the heart of my cycle is the phrase 'Value our own Members' as I believe it is essential we all

value each of those who are members of our own teams, and we need to ensure this is undertaken before we can start on the cycle of success.

Whatever you undertake for Lions over the next 12 months, enjoy your year.

We welcome the following new Lions who have joined our great organisation in the last 2 months and thank them for being prepared to provide service for others. We hope they enjoy the privilege of being a Lion:-
 Basingstoke - Renee Smith, Bournemouth - Russell Berry, Bracknell - Jane Dalby, Paul Day, Richard Fletcher, Linda Habgood, Naomi Markham, Homer Valencia, Christchurch - Deryk Sayers, Cosham - Pauline Bromley, Christopher Smith, Fleet -- Peter Pickett, Newbury - Barbara Green, Portsmouth - Shane Malloy, Salisbury - Philip Downton, Windsor - Philip Bullock, Wendy Johnson, Martin Tocher, Woodley & Earley - Martin Doyle

David's Diary for August:

Thursday 8th Visit to the Youth Camp at Osmington Mills
 Saturday 10th Visit to the Youth Camp at Osmington Mills
 Youth Camp Gala Dinner
 Monday 12th Sirius OV
 Tuesday 13th Bridport OV
 Wednesday 14th Wokingham OV
 Wednesday 21st Salisbury OV
 Thursday 22nd Slough OV
 Saturday 24th Goodwood Races with Districts A, D, SE
 Monday 26th Swanwick and Southampton - Solent Duck Race

1st VDG Mike Hendy's Diary for August:

Wednesday 14th Romsey
 Monday 19th Petersfield
 Suggested but not confirmed
 Wednesday 28th Dorchester

Yours in Lionism *Lion David Merchant*

Bushy Leaze Children Have Fun with Alton Lions



The recent hot weather offered Lions John Smith and Margaret Willoughby the opportunity of splashing about in the water with the pupils of Bushy Leaze School. This was a follow up to the presentation of a cheque for £1100 collected from the raffle of 20 Easter Eggs throughout Alton and the surrounding villages.

Bushy Leaze has some 60 children with fifty per cent of the places designated to those with learning difficulties and disabilities. It also supports some 500 other children in Alton and the surrounding villages through an Outreach programme.

Head Teacher Patti Snook and Outreach organiser Ann Blackman said the donation was greatly appreciated and helped fill the gap in funding. The money will be used towards the purchase of a 'Poddely' construction kit and other equipment to assist in learning.

The Lions wish to thank the patrons, owners and managers of Alton, Four Marks and Worldham Golf Clubs, the Kingsley Tennis Centre, the Cricketers, the Cedars, the Four Horseshoes, the White Hart, the Railway Arms, the Wheatsheaf, the Market Hotel, the Swan, the King's Head, the Star at Bentworth, the Golden Pheasant and the Rose and Crown at Farringdon, the Greyfriars, the Royal Oak at Lasham and Alton College.

Cosham Lions Help Local Family



In mid-March the Club received a plea from a worried mother of three children. She had to stop working to become her four year old daughter's carer. The family then had to rely exclusively on her husband's salary, barely enough to get by on. This little girl is autistic and has a neurological condition effecting cerebral function. The child was being transported around in a 15 year old, borrowed pushchair which was no longer fit for purpose. The mother had been trying to raise money by selling on E Bay and local table top sales but had not been very successful.

Following enquiries regarding the family's status the Club Lions unanimously agreed to step into the breach and purchase a suitable replacement. The recommended model was a Maclarens Elite pushchair for Special Needs children. In negotiations with the company it kindly agreed to sell the pushchair to the Club at trade price.

At the beginning of May the pushchair was presented to the grateful mother in Portsmouth's College park on a lovely sunny afternoon. The child climbed aboard and after the taking of photos, mother and children, all with smiles on their faces, crossed the park and went home. It is anticipated the pushchair will be in service for the next 10 years. Another challenge met!



A Bow-wow of a Barn Dance

The Lions Club of Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury held a very successful Barn Dance at the Olive Bowl, Gillingham, on 31st May. Dancing was to a live band, Fippenny Piece, with a live caller making the evening go with a swing. A splendid supper was served halfway through by the Olive Bowl and a raffle was held to raise funds for the Lions Charitable purposes. The sum of £200 was achieved and this was immediately donated to 'Canine Partners' in the guise of their representative, Ken Staniforth.

The picture shows the presentation by the Club Lion President Denise Stenner.

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Lions Youth Brass Band shine at the Minster



The picture shows some of the band relaxing outside the Minster during the half time interval.

Some fifty young musicians aged between 11 and 19 gave a concert at the Minster on 22nd July which was free but generously supported by donations from the audience. The Lions Youth Brass Band from Cheshire were on tour having played

in Weymouth, Wareham and Poole and after Wimborne were going on to Dorchester and Bridport. The evening was arranged and presented by the Wimborne and Ferndown lions Club.

Despite the sweltering weather, the band provided music of an amazingly high standard and included several brilliant solos. The band's Musical Director, Nigel Birch, thanked the Club for their organisation of the concert and praised the Minster as being ideally suited to brass band music and being the best venue they had played in.



The band also played in Bridport's Bucky Doo Square on the 24th July which was also market day and once again the public were very generous. We raised £185.50, during their interval the



Bridport Lions fed and watered them!



Goring Lunch Club Memories

Members of Goring Lunch Club for the over-60's is gathering together some

familiar objects from the recent past that stimulate memories and conversation. With the help of a £200 donation from Goring, Woodcote & District Lions the lunch club run by Age UK Oxfordshire has started a project to compile a number of reminiscence kits. Each kit is aimed at having a different theme, ranging from music to cookery and military service.

Last week the Goring Lunch Club organised by Jonathan May held a meeting at the Community Centre in Station Road, Goring to launch the project. This initial session was a great success with items brought along by military expert Graham Bandy, from Surrey. His collection included uniforms from both World Wars, a 1916 Lee-Enfield rifle, children's toys, tinned milk, a dial operated telephone, camera and two portable record players with 50's gramophone records which were played and passed around. This stimulated much discussion and fond memories amongst the pensioners at the meeting.

Shown in the attached photograph (courtesy Henley Standard) are L-R lunch Club volunteer Carole Slarks, organiser Jonathan May, Lions Secretary Alan Wright, collector Graham Bandy, Lions President Chris Stevens, volunteer Elaine Butler and Karen Thomas Age UK.

Karen Thomas, Age UK Oxfordshire's community development worker commented "We are creating a safe environment for older people to come together and share their memories."



'Gillingham in Gear'

On the 8th June on the Town Meadow in Gillingham the 3rd Annual Parade of about 100 classic cars and 150 classic motorbikes and other assorted vehicles

were on display free of charge to the public. This was brought about by co-operation between the original organisers, Ron & Anne May, and the GMS Lions who facilitated the event. The opportunity was taken to simply advertise the Lions and their activities as well as a big push for 'Message in a Bottle'. The day was warm, sunny and, above all, dry. Hundreds of people came through the gates and the event was considered a particular success.

The picture shows our 'Lion' mascot with club members at the wheel on one of the classic cars show.

'The birthplace of the Rider Cup Came Down Golf Club saw fierce but friendly competition for the team trophy at Weymouth & Portland Lions Club annual Charity Golf Day.



The cup winners were the Tristan G. Murless Ltd team lead by the man himself, Lion Tristan Murless (on the right).

An enjoyable day was had by all however with over £2000 raised for the Lions Charity Fund.

Lions gift helps Beacroft School.

Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Club have given £1000 to Beacroft Special School in Wimborne to help towards the provision of specialist outdoor play equipment.



The picture shows some of the pupils enjoying the ride whilst learning some basic rules of the road



Lions Vice President Russ Woolley puts the finishing touches to a new Lions plaque, in Portland Stone, very kindly designed, carved and donated by Portland Stone Mason, Neville Walbridge. The plaque will eventually be fixed in pride of place at the entrance to the Hotel Prince Regent where the club holds its meetings.

A Message from your Editor

Many thanks for your articles, Please keep them coming!

Sorry omitted one article for the next issue due to not enough for a further page.

The next issue for October will close on the 24th September.

Lion Peter Garlick