

The International Association of Lions Clubs

DISTRICT 105D - OCTOBER 2013



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"Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment"



Presidents Reception at Alton House Hotel



Exchanging banners with Lion President Pauline of Hart Lions

I have already made a number of enjoyable Official Visits to Clubs, accompanied by Lion Diana, and we have both been very impressed with what we have seen and heard. Although Clubs are very different they all share one common aim: 'We Serve' and this they do extremely well in an impressive range of different ways.

The Lions we have met in our travels have been most hospitable and welcoming and we have enjoyed each and every one of our visits. We continue to be amazed by the commitment shown by members in their work on behalf of others and the way everyone really enjoys themselves in their fundraising, their meetings and within their own social calendars.

It has been a tremendous honour for me to be asked to 'badge up' 3 new members this month and at



Guernsey to present long service chevrons to 6 members providing a total of 165 years service to this wonderful organisation. At New Milton Lions Club I

was impressed by a 14 year old international water polo player – currently a member of the national Under 17 squad. She made an excellent presentation to the Club, and members of other Clubs in Zone 2E, who gave her a donation to assist her with travelling and training expenses. The excellent presentation belied her age and shows us exactly what young people are capable of achieving.

Another highlight in September was the annual Presidents' Lunch at Alton House Hotel. Nearly half of our Presidents joined us for an excellent meal, listened attentively to 3 short presentations and enjoyed the company of other Lions using this opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss topics of common interest.

The Lions Club of Chichester has arranged an Open Day for any Lions and their friends to visit their Spectacle Recycling Centre at Apuldrum (The Apuldrum Centre, Common Farm, Appledram Lane South, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7PE). This event will coincide with World Sight Day on Thursday 10th October and the workshop will be open from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Further details can be found at www.chilions.org.uk or from Sue Boucher on 01243 785737. Refreshments will be available throughout the day so please contact Sue if you wish to visit and to find out exactly what happens to all those thousands of spectacles you collect annually.



During our visit to Ventnor, which closely followed our most enjoyable visits to the two Clubs on the Channel islands, I was pleased to be asked to join with the Club's presentation of a £1000 cheque to the Isle of Wight Children's bereavement Counselling Service - a most worthwhile charity for the Club to support.

Appointment You will be aware the centenary of Lions Clubs International is fast approaching and each District Governor has been asked to appoint a Centennial Chairperson. This role will involve working with our District to provide appropriate ways to celebrate this very special milestone in our history, work with the Chairpersons of the other 12 Districts within our Multiple District to coordinate a national response to our centenary celebrations and be in a position to receive information and support from Lions Clubs International. I need to make this appointment by the end of December 2013 and if any Lion is at all interested in being considered for this prestigious appointment please let me know. Please be aware this will be a 4 year appointment as the work will continue right through until 31st December 2017.

One area of concern has been the lateness by which some Clubs and individual Lions respond to requests for information or ignore published deadlines when booking District functions. I urge all of you to adhere to published deadlines and to respond to requests for information in a timely fashion. This will help those Lions arranging events to do so without the need to respond to last minute requests.

Obituary It is with deep regret I report the passing to Higher Service of Lion Sydney Longson of the Lions Club of Jersey. We offer our prayers and thoughts to his family and friends and extend our grateful thanks for all he achieved in the cause of lionism.

New Members

We welcome the following lions who joined this wonderful organisation in September:

Farnborough	Dave Lewis
New Milton	Liz Griffiths
	Alan Watson
Weymouth	Peter Marlow
Woolmer Forest	Jacque Collins

Thank you for your willingness to give of your time and expertise to help those most in need.

David's Diary for October

Thursday 3 rd	Poole OV
Saturday 5 th	Slough CA
Sunday 6 th	District Service at St Nicolas' Church, Newbury
Tuesday 8 th	Crofton OV
Wednesday 9 th	Basingstoke OV
Thursday 10 th	Visit to Chichester Lions Spectacle Recycling Centre Westbury OV
Saturday 12 th	Model Railway Exhibition with Hart Lions
Sunday 13 th	Maidenhead 40 th CA
Monday 14 th	Andover OV
Wednesday 16 th	District Governor Team Meeting
Saturday 19 th	Sirius Octoberfest Celebrations
Sunday 20 th	District Cabinet Meeting at 10.30am at Alton House Hotel Open Forum at 2.00pm at Alton House Hotel to discuss the District Questionnaire Pangbourne, Theale and District OV
Monday 21 st	Council of Governors at St John's Hotel, Solihull
Friday 25 th to Sunday 27 th	

Alan's 2VDG Diary for October

Wednesday 9 th	Cowes I-O-W *
Thursday 10 th	Ringwood & Fordingbridge
Tuesday 15 th	Weymouth

Yours in Lionism

Lion David Merchant



The Gillingham Mere and Shaftesbury Lions were assisting the Shaftesbury Rotary Club with the annual old Hill Fair over 6/7th July by acting as security and marshal's within the Shaftesbury Abbey gardens (a job we do every year). As part of the event on the Sunday morning Lion David was asked to abseil down the tower as a local notable person. He decided to make it a bit of a publicity stunt for the Lions and so, with great difficulty went up the 120 steps with the Lion costume and then down the tower ahead of the main abseil by the fire service. Many comments were made, including 'let go', but he got to the ground successfully and Lion's again showed their face in the District. On the Saturday he had already paraded through the town in the opening parade and attended the Mayor's opening later in the morning. In helping the Rotary we are given a donation which will be part of our giving for the year

Loddon Valley Day care Centre given £5,000



This year, the main beneficiary of Loddon Valley Lions Tadley Treacle Fair, was the Loddon Valley Day Care Centre in Tadley. At a ceremony on Wednesday 31 August, the Lions President, David Fowler (far

right), presented a cheque for £5,000 to the Chairman of the Trustees of the Day Care Centre, Cllr Warwick Lovegrove (centre). In accepting the cheque, Cllr Lovegrove expressed his thanks to Loddon Valley Lions for their continuing support over many years. Also in our picture are the Lions Treasurer, Geoff Foan (right of Warwick Lovegrove) and Centre Manager, Berveley White (far left), with other members of the Lions and the Centre Managemnt.

The Loddon Valley Day Care Centre was set up in 1989 by local GP Dr John Hollingshead, with financial support from Loddon Valley Lions Club. The Centre provides valuable respite care for the elderly within the Loddon Valley Lions area and the Club have continued to support the Centre financially, throughout its life.

Some Loddon Valley Lions are also members of the Day Care Management Committee, so allowing the Club a voice in the affairs of the Centre.

Loddon Valley Day Care Centre describe themselves as a small and friendly Day Care Centre and are based at The Ambrose Allen Centre in Franklin Avenue, Tadley. They offer a safe environment, three days a week (currently Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 3pm), for vulnerable people in and around the Tadley area.



INTERESTING TIMES AT THE BRIDPORT LIONS

Our very own Lions Club is involved in many things during the year and here are some examples.

Firstly, on September 10 it was an opportunity to recognize a good cause. Over the next six years Tom Osborne, from Horsham Lions Club, is walking in stages around the 5,500 miles coastal paths of England and Wales to raise funds for LIBRA (Lions International Blood Research Appeal). In the last week four members from other Lions clubs in the south have accompanied him and on this occasion Don Morley (second from the right), who is past president of the club, also walked with them from Burton Bradstock to West Bay. That evening Bridport President, Lion Peter Garlick, presented a club cheque to go towards the appeal.



Secondly, that same evening the club welcomed its newest, and youngest ever member, Ed Lawrence seen receiving his membership certificate. During his final year at Sir John Colfox School, as part of his 'A' level IT qualification project, Ed made a

significant contribution to the club's new website bridportlionsclub.org. He has since moved on to Bournemouth University where he hopes his studies will lead to film directing. In the meantime he will be bringing his undoubted skills to the club, some of which can already be seen on the website with his video footage of annual events such as the 'Blues Gig' and Swimathon.

Finally, Ed is leading the drive to attract younger members of the community to the club and is part of a wider initiative that sees a Meet the Lions event on the evening of October 29th at the Haddon House hotel.



Chernobyl kids with Lions

A very special group of 10 young children are selected to come over from Belarus to stay here in England for a month each year, away from the radioactivity poisoning

ever present in their homeland since the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster in mid-1984. This one month of respite away from their home environment much enhances their health and extends their life expectancy. Each year since 2001 Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club have organised a day trip out to Rushall Farm at Bradfield for the visiting Children.

It has become a very popular event for the local Lions who have sponsored a different group of children each time travelling to the U.K. from Belarus since 2001.

On Wednesday 31st July this year there were 10 children of between 11 and 14 years of age in the group hosted by the Lions. They all spent the day happily taking part in the various farm activities including wading in the nearby river



Pang, pond dipping, feeding the animals, tractor trailer riding and insect identification. A picnic lunch was provided on site by members of the Lions Club.

All the children come from the Borodianka District, Kiev Region, Ukraine. They are brought over to the U.K. by the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Group to staying here for 4 weeks and returned home on Sunday 4th August.

The Management and staff at Rushall Farm generously gave their time and facilities free, to enable these visiting young children to experience life on an English farm. They got to meet at close quarters with donkeys, cows, pigs and lambs – which is something those from the larger communities in Belarus do not often get a chance to see. A happy hour was spent fishing with nets in the local river, which they cannot do back home as the water is too contaminated to play in.



Phew! What a scorcher!

Meon Valley Lions take a lead with the organisation of the Swanmore Carnival and Fete and after a 2012 wash-out, we saw temperatures this

year hitting the mid-thirties centigrade. It was a real test for the performers, the carnival floats and walkers, plus the Lions and their partners who endured a twelve-hour shift to put on a great show on the hottest day of the year.

The event had just about everything. Starting with the colourful carnival parade and classic cars and motorbikes, through to some amazing arena performances from the Big Noise Samba Band, a fully working hovercraft and the Weorod historical re-enactment

group. The heat forced the Canine Partners display under cover of gazebos, but this didn't hinder an amazing demonstration of

these dogs' abilities - picking up keys, remote controls and cash and undertaking a range of tasks for their owners.

Initial indications are that we have raised around £3,000 directly for the Lions' charities and entertained around 2,000 people in the process. The classic Motorbike rally should add a further £350 to another nominated charity and of course this estimate does not include any monies raised by around 25 individual charity stallholders, who attended the event in their own right.

Photograph. (Brian Pancott): Cool music for a hot day courtesy of our friends from Swanwick Lions, aka The Birnie Boozle Band Canine Partners demonstration





"A sin to miss Fleet Lions Beerfest"

It broke our hearts last summer when we had to turn customers away from our 6th beerfest because we were full to capacity. So we sought out the new manager of our town centre municipal hall, checked with our customers, cut a good deal and we were off with our 7th beer festival with no restriction on numbers. Our hard working treasurer John suggested a theme of The Seven Deadly Sins. So we spent a few nights in the local Wetherspoons with a young artist we know, designing an attractive logo for our glasses.

There were quite a few challenges to be overcome as we were virtually starting again. We had to do a full layout, work out our manning, procedures and risk assessments and submit them to the local Council. We had to redo our budget, including making an intelligent guess at how many extra punters we thought we could attract. And how we could arrange for sale or return stocks of beer that would be cool and settled. We even joined our local Pubwatch scheme for the day. We knew we'd have more to do to set the event up but our Club responded magnificently and all the labour and brains arrived when required. The first issue was when the temporary hall manager cancelled the delivery of the half a tonne of glasses we ordered. And then when the glasses arrived all the correct numbers were on the delivery note but not necessarily in the right order! We'd had a short delivery.

Promotion is the key to making an event like this work and we post it on websites and put posters, leaflets, banners and signs all around the locality where people queue or drink or drive. As well as going to all the local beerfests and not touching a drop. We also have collected over 200 email addresses from past customers over the years. We already had a website and a Facebook page but decided to make our first excursion into Twitter. We've picked up 70 'followers' in a month including one in Virginia, USA and a bridge over the Thames!

So the great day arrived, we had the 40 helpers for each session from our Club, our Aldershot and Sirius Branches as well as an awful lot of friends. We sold 3000 pints of beer, 320 pints of cider and 700 burgers and dogs. Our raffle ladies sold £750s worth of tickets and we'd scrounged all the prizes for free. We took £14,000 off our customers and that gave us £5000 of profit, £2000 of which was ear-marked for our local cancer treatment hospital. A tiring but very rewarding event.

There are many people to thank for helping us make this event happen but the one we are always so grateful to is Mike Desquesnes. He's a local guy who owns the Banks and Taylor Brewery, lends us lots of equipment, gives us lots of advice and even sponsors us with three free barrels of beer!"



Greenshoots Gift from Lions

With a donation of £500 from funds raised at the local Goring & Woodcote 10k run organised by the Lions in January this year the Greenshoots Charity

in Peppard Common, part of the Ways & Means Trust, have been able to purchase some much needed new machinery.

The attached photograph was taken as the equipment was delivered to Greenshoots at Manor Farm in Peppard. The new lawn mower and an angled hedge trimmer supplied by the Toad Hall Garden Centre in Henley cost £750 in total, but a £250 discount was very kindly provided.

From left to right are Roy Green (head mechanic at Toad Hall), Paul Jarman (instructor & supervisor at Greenshoots), Lion Chris Stevens, Angela Fordham (Greenshoots Manager), Alan Lovegrove (Lions Club President), Lion Cynthia Lovegrove and Frances Hill (Way & means Trust). Up to 30 local people with learning difficulties and mental problems attend Greenshoots each week for help with and training in gardening skills, growing vegetables and flowers. For more details and information about Greenshoots view the website www.waysandmeans.org.uk



Loddon Valley Lions Support to 'Play Day'

As part of a National Play Initiative 'Play Day', See <http://www.playday.org.uk/about-playday.aspx> for more information, The Hurst Leisure and Learning

Centre at Baughurst near Tadley organised a Free Fun Day aimed at young children. Numerous activities were available to keep the youngsters happy between 11am and 3pm on Wednesday 7th August, both indoors and out. Loddon Valley Lions joined with other groups in the area, including Hometree Childrens Centre, Sentinel Housing Association, Tadley Youth Council, Tadley and District Community Association, Heartstart and others to provide various activities. Hurst Centre Staff were kept busy on the barbeque, cooking and serving up Hot Dogs and Burgers through the day.

We set up a table with a row of plastic ducks and invited the youngsters to shoot the ducks off the table with high powered water pistols. This kept the Lions extremely busy throughout the day and also made them rather wet. Quite refreshing considering the excellent warm weather!

A Message from your Editor

Many thanks for your articles, the next issue will close on the 24th November.

Lion Peter Garlick