

# The International Association of Lions Clubs

## DISTRICT 105D - February 2014



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*“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”*



The year of being a District Governor continues to move ever faster. When you read this newsletter it will be less than 8 weeks to the beginning of our District Convention. For those Lions who have booked for all or part of the weekend, thank you. For those yet to do so please try to book sooner rather than later as this will greatly assist the committee in making its final arrangements for the seating arrangements needed for the Business Sessions and the various social activities taking part over the weekend.



Lion Diana and myself were privileged to attend the District Finals of the Young Ambassador Competition held in Bournemouth early in January. This was a most humbling experience – there were 5 young people there, each of whom is a ‘winner’. The amount of time, effort and commitment each gives

to his/her community in a range of ways in addition to their academic studies is truly amazing and an example to us all. Each one of these youngsters is a credit to themselves, their families and the Lions club which nominated them. Ultimately there had to be just one selected to represent our District at the Multiple District Finals in Dudley towards the end of February and the judges selected Jenny Russ from Jersey; a winner the judges described as “outstanding”. We wish Jenny well in the next stage of the competition but I extend, again, my personal congratulations to each of the young people we were fortunate enough to meet in Bournemouth.

Next year the District Finals will again be held at the Hilton Firs Hotel in Bournemouth on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015. If you have never attended this impressive event in our annual calendar fix the date now for next year and discover for yourself what the young people of today can and do achieve and I am sure it will inspire you to look for a candidate for your own Club. I must also take this opportunity to publicly thank District Officer Yorke Tuke for arranging a splendid weekend and also for all the hard work he carries out on behalf of the Youth in our District throughout the year.

It was an honour to travel down to Selsey Bill in West



Sussex with other members of my own Club – Lions Club of Newbury – where we presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship to the manager of the West Sands Holiday Village. This much deserved award recognises not only the tremendous support we receive from Tina Davis and her team, but also as a most fitting tribute to the example set

by Lion John Bastable, who passed to Higher Service last year. It was Lion John who conceived the excellent and most worthwhile idea of the Club providing caravan holidays for families – a tradition the Club has continued with for the best part of 30 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and to congratulate the Clubs of District 105D for the tremendous way you responded to the appeals prior to Christmas. You donated in excess of £38700 to the Philippines, which includes sufficient funds within the MD part of the appeal for 64 of the jerry cans which convert dirty water to clean drinking water and over £5380 to the Syrian appeal. This latter appeal was to provide ‘school in a box’ packs for the children of Syria and this figure will be matched by our own government following their pledge on all donations received before the end of January. This is money you donated in addition to the monies many of you will have collected and donated to families within your own communities over the Christmas period and this is why I am so proud to be a Lion, and at this time to be your District Governor.

**Convention Host Night - I want to clarify the situation. Dressing up is optional, but if you do dress up the idea is that Lisa is going to do a cabaret type session where she comes round the tables and sings songs from the shows and so the dressing up, if you want, is to dress as a character from a show, any musical.**  
 Lion Diana Merchant.

### David's Diary

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Multiple District Membership and Leadership Summit in Birmingham
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Burnham Charter Anniversary
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	District Membership and Leadership Meeting in Southampton
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Past District Governors' Lunch in Salisbury
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Convention Committee Meeting
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Weymouth and Portland Charter Anniversary
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sandown and Shanklin Charter Anniversary
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Blandford and District Charter Anniversary

### New Members

I am delighted to welcome the following Lions who have joined us in January 2014:

Eastleigh	Bridgette Jones
Newbury	Penny Adams and Sue Langley
Wokingham	Linda Bailey and David Walmsley

I hope each one of you enjoy your experiences as a lion and I extend my grateful thanks for your willingness to give of your time and expertise for the benefit of others.

*Yours in Lionism David Merchant*

## Lions Christmas Show - A Sell Out



Weymouth and Portland Lions Club annual Christmas Show which is free to Senior Citizens was another resounding success with a complete 'sell out' of the 1000 seat theatre. Entertainment was provided by a wealth of local talent which included 50's/60's band 'Replay' fronted by Lion Norman Stagles who, along with his wife Ann, played a major part in producing the show. Lions President Russ Woolley said that the feedback has been very complimentary which makes it all worthwhile and very satisfying.

## Weymouth & Portland Lions Club Annual Christmas Day Harbour Swim



A record number of swimmers made a Christmas Day splash for charity in the Lions annual Harbour Swim. The weather stayed kind as a total of 249 people took the plunge in the annual cross-harbour swim. The popular event organised by the Weymouth and Portland Lions Club began 65 years ago as a bet between two local publicans and has been run by the Lions since 1978. The event has grown to such an extent that each swim has to be limited to 50 and this year saw five separate swims.



The swimmers raised £10,518 for a variety of national and local charities including Westfield School

- Kids with Autism £1,800.00, £1,000 for the RNLI, £1,000 The Alzheimers Society and £1,000 to 'Alive and Well'. Lions also made a street collection which, along with the registration fees added £2,000 to the clubs charity fund

## When the going gets tough



Goring Woodcote & District Lions 30<sup>th</sup> Annual 10k Charity Road Run on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January took place during a dry window of weather with 87 people registering on the day and just over 250 runners in total.



Quite a large number of runners who had registered in advance failed to take part. Race winner Jake Shelley (left) completed the course over 2 minutes ahead of Charlie Pearson who was also runner up in the race last year. The First Lady over the line was Sheena Keates.



Goring Estate Agent Bob Warmingham, was the main sponsor, the official starter and also presented the race trophies. Other sponsors were Halarose, JRS Services and Bouchier Fencing, all of Woodcote; Woodborough House Dental Practice of Pangbourne; Johnson Matthey of Sonning Common; and the Boathouse Surgery of Goring. The official photographer Denis Chapman has photographs of all runners available to download from his website [www.denischapman.co.uk](http://www.denischapman.co.uk)

## Now Sylvia can read those recipes



Wimborne and Ferndown Lions have obtained a special reader/magnifier which enables very small print to be read with ease. Made by Optelec of Croxley Green near Watford, the TCI colour cctv (video magnifier) gives a full 22"HD TV image with

up to 60 times magnification.

Sylvia from Wimborne has often wished to try some new recipes but cannot read the small print often displayed on foodstuffs (amongst other things). Now she can relax and devise new dishes in comfort.

Picture shows Sylvia with Lion president Frank Fortey. The Optelec (left) is displaying the recipe which you can just see on the platen

## A little seed bears fruit



When International President Wing-Kun Tam asked Lions throughout the world to plant trees, Newbury Past President, Lion Colin Mansell, approached local councils to see what could be done. The Town Council in nearby Thatcham were considering developing a community orchard, but plans hadn't got very far. Since then, with the promise of a small financial contribution from the Lions Club of Newbury, the scheme has gathered pace and attracted other funding. In partnership with the Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire wildlife trust and Thatcham Town Council, Newbury Lions have been involved in the project development which has finally come to fruition. A fruiting hedge surrounds the orchard and fruit trees native to Berkshire have been planted. Lion Colin planted a William's Bon Chretien pear tree on behalf of the club, aided by Lion Peter Collicot and Lion Derek Lawrence. The Community Orchard was officially opened by the Mayor of Thatcham aided by Newbury Lions President, Judith Colby.

## LIONS YOUNG AMBASSADOR 105D Finals

Over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 the 105D district finals of the Young Ambassador Award were held at the Hinton Firs Hotel in Bournemouth. There were five clubs represented, Eastleigh, Cosham, Hythe and Waterside, Petersfield, and Jersey.



On Friday the five candidates arrived at the hotel around 5.00pm and at 6.30 we assembled in the Dorset Lounge for introductions. Each candidate was introduced by their sponsoring Lions Club then each gave a short presentation about themselves and the thing that they are

doing within their communities. It was obvious right from the start that the panel of judges would have a very difficult task in deciding who would represent the district at the MD Finals in February, such was the high quality of the youngster's work. The draw then took place to decide the order of the interviews the following morning. After dinner in the restaurant we were back in the Dorset Lounge for a Quiz, very ably presented by PDG Lion Pat Nixon. A close contest ensued and the team comprising of the candidates and the judges came out victorious.

The panel of judges started the interviews early on Saturday and we were fortunate enough to have last year's Young Ambassador, Jake Toomer, on hand to make sure the candidates were where they should be at the appropriate time. With all interviews completed the judges made their deliberations. After lunch in the restaurant it was back to the lounge for the results. The Chairman of the panel of judges, Peter Viney, congratulated all the candidates on the standard and quality of their contribution to society. It is always said on these occasions that there are no losers because all these young people are winners in their own right. The judges had decided that the candidate to represent District 105D at the Multiple District Finals was to be Jenny Russ sponsored by the Lions Club of Jersey. Present to share her celebrations were Lion Mike Labey and Lion Brian Bullock along with Jenny's mum Rebecca. However all the candidates agreed that it did not matter who had won they all appreciated the opportunity that this weekend has given them to



mix with like-minded young people and exchange a few ideas.

Thanks were given to the judging panel Peter Viney, Julie Mackay and Andy Salter. Thanks were also given to District Governor Lion David Merchant and Lion Diana Merchant for their support throughout the weekend.

During the interview period on Saturday morning we held an Open Forum where many ideas were thrown open for discussion. The candidates were included in this and were very forthcoming with their ideas and suggestions. One

such suggestion was that all the young people who were present may like to accompany their sponsoring Lions Club to their Zone Meeting and so try to spread the word from their perspective about the Young Ambassador competition. We need to encourage more Lions Clubs to become involved with this competition. Even the youngsters could see that only five clubs from some sixty three clubs was a poor rate of support.

Another point discussed was the timing of our District Finals. We had planned to move the finals weekend to December to try to avoid the exam times in January. As these exams are not now to be held in January it was suggested that we continue to hold them as we are. We are also able to revert to holding them over a Saturday and Sunday thus easing the pressure to get to Bournemouth on a Friday afternoon. The outcome of this is that the District 105D Young Ambassador Finals next year will be at the Hinton Firs Hotel, Bournemouth on Saturday and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

I'm sure you will join with me in wishing Jenny and the Lions Club of Jersey every success in the MD Finals and beyond. Yorcky Tuke Young Ambassador Officer

## Time Is Running Out! Not To Be Missed District 105D's 2014 Annual Convention



"Convention is your opportunity to bring your ideas to a wider audience, listen to the suggestions of others and debate our common approach to our motto of 'We Serve'.

Spend just a day with us on Saturday and take part in your AGM or take the opportunity to enjoy a weekend together catching up with old friends, making new ones and relaxing in excellent company"

(David Merchant, District Governor)

Here are 5 more great reasons to attend!

- 1) Guest Speaker - Past International President Jim Ervin will be our International Guest Speaker.
- 2) Workshops – There will be a series of relevant and informative workshops over the weekend that require active participation!
- 3) Location – The Holiday Inn at Winchester. Winchester is the former capital city of England and is a city steeped in history partnered with some wonderful medieval architecture.
- 4) Exhibition – Our exhibition hall will be packed with displays.
- 5) Entertainment – Friday Night's "Cabaret Showtime" and Saturday's "District Governors Banquet and Ball" will not disappoint.

The convention runs from 28-30 March 2014 and full details – including online booking – can be found at [www.cabaretshowtime.org.uk](http://www.cabaretshowtime.org.uk)

## 96 Christmas Food Parcels from the Lions



The annual delivery of Christmas food parcels to local people has been made again by Wimborne and Ferndown Lions club.

In a process somewhat resembling musical chairs, club members fill bags with about 25 food items from bulk supplies purchased from Morrisons of Verwood. The bags are then delivered to people most in need who have been notified to the Lions from local Social Services, CABs and GPs etc.

This year the Club was ably assisted by Verwood's Mayor, Peter Richardson, who took an active part in the bag-filling process. He said afterwards "I was very pleased to share with the Lions this year, helping to send out parcels to many local people in order to brighten up their Christmas time".

We would like to thank the Mayor for his support and also thank the Verwood Scouts for the use of their hall for the parcel assembly.

Pictured with the Mayor are Lions Robin Hotchkiss, Teresa North, President Frank Fortey and Jackie Hosford-Roberts.

Some 70 persons attended and enjoyed a traditional



Christmas lunch. Lions and Partners acted as cooks and waiters and also enjoyed the lunch. Many local residents return year after year and all enjoy the glass (or two!) of sherry with their meal.

Afterwards entertainment was arranged by others.

## 'Fellowship'



Lions and their partners from Bridport, Dorchester and the Weymouth & Portland clubs enjoy a Sunday Lunch at the Engine Room Restaurant in Poundbury, Dorchester.

A fine example that membership of a Lions club can bring.

Coming up in April the Zone have their annual skittles match which is a very competitive event. Zone 1A continues to look for more events that will bring the club members together.

## Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Craft and Food Fayre success.



Despite competition from other events and the general belt tightening we all know about, the Lions' first Christmas Craft and Gift Fayre at the Allendale centre on Dec 8th was deemed a great success, raising over £700 for local good causes. Thanks mainly to the hard work put in by organiser Lion Neil Godfrey with support from other club members, over 50 trade stands were on display for visitors to sample. The day was enhanced by singing from the LEAF choir, who perform for charity to support Leukaemia sufferers.

## A Message from your Editor

Just a reminder on photos please ensure all photos are sent as JPEG and reports in word, also with new cameras and phones can I please suggest to downsize the quality of image as it takes a while to download images. So if you could alter image size in your camera's to 2 or 3mg (this will be ok for quality A4 printing) you only need larger size if you are printing on photo paper A3 or higher.

This will also speed up camera shots and give more room on camera cards and speed up emailing.

Next Issue will close on 23 March

Peter