

The International Association of Lions Clubs

DISTRICT 105D - June 2014



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“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”



My Fellow Lions

It is time for my last article for the District Newsletter as District Governor. How quickly the year has passed by but it has been a wonderful journey for Lion Diana

and myself. I am ending with a picture which reflects a picture at the beginning of my year as District Governor and shows us with the International President Lion Barry Palmer, along with his wife, Lion Anne, and was taken during a reception at the House of Lords (name dropping, here!) in March. We have had the privilege to meet with them on a number of occasions during the year and they are a delightful and unassuming yet inspiring couple.

As I enter the last month of my tenure, there are still a number of Charter Anniversaries, in addition to other functions for us to attend before we jet off to Toronto to enjoy the spectacle of another International Convention and to enjoy a relaxing holiday.

During the last month we have been to two local events which have reinforced why our Service as Lions is so important. The latest Hope for Tomorrow Mobile Chemotherapy Bus was opened in Thatcham and we had been invited to attend. This is the group Lion Christine Munday supported as her Charity last year and the vehicles are truly wonderful and provide so much support and comfort for those unfortunate enough to need them. The other was to visit a family where Clubs in Zone 4J had worked together to provide a trike for a disabled 10year old girl. This was not an expensive purchase (around £540) but is a trike which can be adjusted as she grows. What is important is that this donation allows the youngster to ride out and about with her twin sister and her younger sister and we were able to watch the 3 of them having a really great time together. The parents are delighted and have offered to help local lions when they can – a success story through and through.

I have to give you all some figures at this point. This year's Spektrek collected some 123400 pairs of glasses – a magnificent effort and brings the total collected over the past 32 years to 2.687 million pairs of glasses – what an achievement! Also District 105D has responded magnificently this year to the demands of those needing help further afield. We have donated just shy of £35000 to the various LCIF funds – which represents 14.87% of the total donated by the whole Multiple District. We donated £12400 to the Lifesavers appeal for the

Philippines – sufficient for 63 units – these are the large Jerry Cans which convert poor water into clean drinking water and which are much in demand following such natural disasters and a further £10000 was donated to help with the Multiple District Disaster Fund to give a healthy balance for future demands from this fund in the future. You have responded magnificently with these requests and I am rightly proud of the way this District responds when the occasion demands our help. Can I please ask you all to consider the latest plea from the Chairman of Council on behalf of those suffering from the devastating floods in the Balkans, an area very much in need of our help. You will be aware this is an area we are closely associated with via the Gift for Living project and one where the Lions on the ground are very active and can make full use of any assistance we can provide.

Talking of money, Lion Diana is equally grateful to all those Clubs who have supported her Charity this year – Missing People. As I write this she has easily passed the £3000 figure but would now like to attempt to reach £4000 by the end of June. If any Clubs, in particular those who have not yet contributed, are able to do so, please send donations to our District treasurer, Linda Picton, and endorse your donation Missing People. There is a thank you letter from their Chief Executive on our District website, following District Convention.

At this point I have to mention membership. To date well over two thirds of the Clubs in 105D have inducted at least 1 new member this year – the total is in fact 94 new members, an excellent achievement.

The downside is that in the same period we have lost 113 members from our District – a worrying net loss of 19. This is something I know next year's team is keen to redress, and it is down to every Club to retain their members as well as recruit.

I wish to record, publicly, my grateful thanks to Lion Peter Garlick for the excellent way he has produced Newsletters in recent years and in particular for this last year during my time as District Governor. This will be the last Newsletter Peter edits and I wish him, and Lion Elizabeth, a happy retirement from this workload, though they are both remaining as active as ever with their own Club in Bridport.

Finally, I want to thank every Lion in the District for their support, encouragement and friendship over the past year. We have enjoyed a wonderful year and have met so many truly inspiring Lions during our trips around the District. I am so grateful for this opportunity to lead our District and this has been made so much easier by the way our Lions have responded in every possible way. Thank you.

Higher Service

It is with sadness I have to report the Passing to Higher Service of Dick Gillam of Blackmore Vale and Syd Perry of Yateley and District.

We remember these Lions with affection and offer our thoughts and prayers at this time to their families, friends and members of their Lions' Clubs.

New Members

The following new members have joined 105D in the last month:

Andover	Simon Hodgson
Cowes	Christine Brown
Hayling Island	Steve Harding
Reading	Mick Elliman
Trowbridge	Amanda Wilkes
Wareham	John Goodwin
Wimborne and Ferndown	Andy Boyd

We wish them a long, enjoyable and successful time as Lions and hope they find fulfilment in helping those most in need.

David's Diary for June

Sunday 1 st	Blackmore Vale CA
Saturday 7 th	Westbury CA
Monday 9 th	Jersey – to help present cheques following the Club's Swimathon
Friday 13 th	Farnborough CA
Saturday 14 th	Newbury CA
Sunday 15 th	Reading CA
Monday 16 th	GLT/GMT Meeting in Southampton
Sunday 22 nd	Paulton's Park
Saturday 28 th	Boscombe CA
Sunday 29 th	Funfest
Monday 30 th	Toronto for Intl. Convention

Yours in Lionism District Governor David Merchant

ZONE 1A Lions Clubs Supports Their Local Hospice



Lions from Blackmore Vale, Bridport, Dorchester & District and Weymouth & Portland chose the Weldmar Hospice for the annual Zone Project. Zone Chairman 1A, Dave Woolford, accompanied by Lions from the Zone clubs, handed over a cheque for £2000 to Senior Sister Sally-Anne Baverstock supported by hospice nursing staff.

Dave said Every year we do a Zone project where each club has to raise the same amount. This year we heard the nurses at Weldmar wanted some commodes and bedspreads and thats what we have given them money for, so they can now go and purchase them.

Sally-Anne said that the funds would be very gratefully received at the Hospice, its a fantastic amount.

Trees For Communities A New 105D Project



This project was inspired by Wing-Kun Tam's message to plant 1 million trees during the Lionistic year 2011-2102. Woolmer Forest felt that southern England had plenty of trees but that sub Saharan Africa was in dire need of trees. In January of this year the 105D Cabinet approved the TREES FOR COMMUNITIES PROJECT as a District project.

How can you help? Please send a donation to the District Treasurer made payable to Lions Clubs International District 105D, endorsed trees for Communities on the back. If every club donates £50 we will have a great start and will be able to work with The International Tree Foundation to select a scheme to raise, plant and manage trees. Not only will this help deforestation but will help the farmers to harvest fruit and improve their income.

I am pleased to say that the project is gaining momentum and I would like to thank the following clubs for their donations: Alton, Bradford on Avon; Burnham; Christchurch; Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury; Gosport and Lee on the Solent; Hook and Odiham; Meon Valley; Petersfield; Ringwood and Shaftesbury; Salisbury; Swanwick; Wareham and of course Woolmer Forest who started the ball rolling. To date a total of £1300 has been raised and sent to the District Treasurer, with at least another £100 in the pipeline, which is great news. Please think about this project and help us realise our dreams. Wouldn't it be great to have fulfilled our dreams in this Lionistic year.



IMAGINE THIS



WITH THESE



INTO THIS

**PDG Lion Judith Goodchild
Chairman of the Steering Committee**



WARMINSTER LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The Warminster Lions Club celebrated their 50th anniversary with almost 100 guests present at a dinner held at The West Wilts Golf

Club on Friday 11th April. Several Past Presidents and Club Officers in the Club's history were for able to be present for the occasion, travelling from as far as Taverham (Norfolk), Minehead and the Isle of Wight. Representatives from the Town Council (Mayor), the Rotary Club, and neighbouring Lions Clubs also attended.

Guests were introduced on arrival by Master of Ceremonies Warminster Town Crier Mr. Phil Seddon, and entertained during the excellent dinner by pianist Amanda Williams and table magician Bernard Jones, which helped to create a relaxed atmosphere to the proceedings.

After dinner speakers included Lion President Richard Owen, who said he felt honoured and privileged to hold the post of President this year to a Club celebrating 50 years of service to Warminster and the surrounding area, and to the wider cause of people in need through Lions International. District Governor Lion David Merchant (Newbury) responded on behalf of International President Barry J. Palmer, presenting the Club with a signed letter of congratulations, with an International President's Banner and Badge. Vice President Lion Digby Barker then proposed a toast to "Our Partners and our Guests", with response from Past Council Chairman and Patrons Representative Lion David Firth (Westbury). DG David Merchant then presented the Club with a signed Certificate of Appreciation for 50 Years Service from HRH The Countess of Wessex, Patron of The Lions Clubs of The British Isles.

As coffee was served following dinner, a surprise birthday cake in the shape of a lion was brought into the room by Lion President Richard and Vice President Digby to applause all round, and District Governor David was invited to help make the first cut.



The evening concluded with a grand draw, many prizes being contributed by local businesses and individuals.

Two photo's show group photo (left to right) Town Crier Phil Seddon, Lion President Richard Owen, Carole Owen, District Governor Lion David Merchant and Lion Diana Merchant.

'Hands on Lionism'



Weymouth and Portland Lions joined up with the 'Great Dorset Beach Clean' and went litter picking along Chesil Beach, a total of 18 Lions and friends turned out on a wet Sunday morning and collected a credible amount of rubbish in the two hour event. Weymouth

and Portland President Russ Woolley said 'It's not all about fundraising and donating, sometimes you just have to get your hands dirty'.

Pool Hoist Project – 'Kick started by Lions'



Thanks to the support of Weymouth & Portland Lions Club, Osprey Leisure Centre now has a new pool hoist that people with mobility issues are able to use to access the pool. The South Dorset Community Sports Trust had raised money through its own

fundraising efforts and was really grateful to The Lions for providing the balance of funds.

Centre user Dave Merton who needs the hoist to enjoy his swimming was absolutely thrilled that the new hoist was in place so quickly. He said "I really look forward to my swimming at Osprey and even though it has only been a few weeks that I haven't been able to swim I am really pleased that I can now get back in the water and even Mrs Merton has now got a smile on her face as apparently I have cheered up again!"

General Manager, Nigel Williams commented "The generous support of the Lions Club has ensured that all our swimmers are able to fully enjoy the pool here at Osprey. Customers unable to negotiate the steps are not excluded from using the facility!"

The Lions, the Choir and the Hospice



When the Romsey Male Voice Choir, who are well known in Hampshire, wanted to reach a Dorset audience, they contacted the Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Club. A concert was subsequently

held on March 29th in Wimborne Minster, promoted by the Lions and sung by the choir with contributions from the Dorset Youth Wind Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble. The concert was enjoyed by some 160 people who were treated to a range of songs by the mature members of the choir, with piano or unaccompanied, interspersed with some remarkable playing by the young, some very young, members of the Dorset Youth Orchestra.

The concert was held to raise funds for the Julia's House Children's Hospice in Corfe Mullen and a cheque for £818 was subsequently given to the hospice. The picture shows the handover in the hospice garden with David Witt, Ken Taylor, Frank Fortey(seated), David Grey and Ron Neave (RMVC in green, Lions in red) with Rebekah Selby-Davis receiving the cheque.



Recently the MIAB scheme celebrated its 10th anniversary in our Area and we decided this would be a good time to raise the Emergency Services and public's awareness.

On Thursday 15 May the Lord Mayor Councillor John Beavis and his wife Christine hosted the event in the Lord Mayor's Parlour at Gosport Town Hall. Members were there from Gosport & Lee on the Solent, Portsmouth, Cosham, Fareham, Swanwick and Crofton Clubs. MIAB Officer Anne Twining and husband Ron travelled from the Isle of Wight for the occasion.

Invited guests mingled and were provided with a light lunch, courtesy of Morrisons, before John Apps from Portsmouth Lions gave his presentation. The guests included representatives from the Ambulance Service, Police, Fire Service, Homeserve, the Befriending Service and a Patient Participation Group. John provided an opportunity for people to give their views on the scheme, which were all very positive. However, it was noted that it is important to continually advertise the scheme as staff change and details are not always passed on!

Gosport & Lee on the Solent Lions have been invited to join the Gosport Police at a Beat Surgery to be held in the town market on Saturday 31st May. This will give MIAB a high profile in the town.
Carole Gratton Secretary Gosport & Lee on the Solent

Forty years ago, 20 Fleet residents in their late 20s and early 30s, with busy lives and young families, got



together and formed the Lions Club of Fleet - an autonomous service club affiliated to Lions Clubs International. The main aim of the Club was to give something back to the local community by raising money or undertaking projects for a variety of local good causes whilst, at the same time, enjoying themselves. The Club thrived and over the years gave rise to Lions Clubs in Hook, Farnborough and Yateley and, more recently, the formation of Hart Lions Club and a branch club in Aldershot. With the age range of Fleet Lions widening over the years, the Club has also formed a branch club known as Sirius Lions for people in their 20s and 30s. Fleet Lions remain an active force in the local community organising a number of fund raising events in the town, such as the annual Motor Cycle Rally to be held on 5th

May, Fleet Beer Fest on 9th August and Fleet's only public Fireworks Fiesta on 8th November.

Fleet Lions celebrated the Clubs 40th birthday this March at the ballroom at the Grange in Church Crookham with friends from other Lions Clubs in north east Hampshire and guests from Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath Parish Councils and Fleet Town Council. Honorary Fleet Lion, James Arbuthnot, MP also attended to congratulate the Club on 40 years service in the community.

Said Lion Graham Cooper, a founder member of the Club in 1974, "Over the years the Club has raised many hundreds of thousands of pounds for charitable causes, in the main focusing on the youth and the elderly. We also give others an opportunity to join the Club and enjoy the camaraderie of working with like minded people on behalf of local good causes and people in need." Further information about Fleet Lions can be found at fleetlions.org.uk

Pictured (left to right) are Robin Hotchkiss, Lion Graham Cooper and Richard White - all founder members of Fleet Lions - together with this years Club President, Lion Julian Behmber

Lions help with safety awareness.

Several members of Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Club were treated to a tour of the Streetwise safety centre in Elliott Road and presented Diana Newbury with a cheque for £200 to support the centre's efforts in education of safety



matters in the home and on the road. The centre has a mock up "village" with street and houses with all sorts of hazards on display, ranging from saucepan handles sticking out in the kitchen to cyclists without helmets. Pictured are Barry Duxbury, Anne Lippitt and Joan Budden with Ken Taylor handing the cheque to Diana.



Boost for Heatherlands toddlers.

Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Club have contributed £250 for extra equipment for Ferndown and Heatherlands Soft Play who run a play school at the Heatherlands Community Centre. The pieces, called Atlas steps, slide, wave and wedge will supplement the centre's range of climbing and clambering toys. Picture shows the "customers" already on the new pieces with Lisa Guy receiving the cheque from the Lions in the background



Start of project clearing the area

Lions improve the view for the people of Fleet

Fleet Lions joined their local nature conservation group, Fleet Pond Society for the grand opening of a major new viewpoint that overlooks Hampshire's biggest freshwater lake, Fleet Pond. The Lions had

given a grant of £12,000 (their biggest ever by far) to pay for the bits and the Pond Society and chums had screwed it all together! (the whole project took 750 man hours)!

Fleet Pond was dug out as a medieval fishery to supply the Bishop of Winchester and was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest to protect its wildlife, one of the first in the UK. Unfortunately that didn't stop the MoD allowing silt to wash down from their nearby land into it after they chopped the tops of a few local hills as part of the privatisation of their airport at Farnborough. The situation became so bad that it was possible to walk across the lake without the water going above your knees. The water was permanently murky and hardly anything could live in it. The Pond Society had been lobbying for many years to get the situation rectified and finally a new piece of legislation, The Water Framework Directive required that it was sorted out. Major funds were made available by the Environment Agency and Natural England to allow the Pond to be partially dredged and the Pond's owners, the local (Hart) council, also made money available from that they had collected from housing developers. And the MoD also got stuck in with new measures to stop further silt ingress into the lake. So far the best part of £750,000 has been spent dredging and creating new islands for water birds with the silt and the project has won a sustainability award from the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Fleet Lions had been involved with the nature reserve for years after Linda Picton from Hart Lions had introduced us and our former Leo club to their conservation tasks (slash and burn generally!). We saw all the amazing things that were going on to help restore the Pond in the last few years and as a major voluntary group in the local community we felt we needed to do our bit too. We asked what was on the Pond Society's wish list that they didn't have funding for. A new viewpoint was the reply. The cost was expected to be around £12,000 just for the materials. Our members were keen to help provide this major improvement for people's enjoyment at the Pond which is one of our biggest local amenities. But there were no viewpoints to enjoy the scenery and wildlife from the side of the lake where in the past Geoffrey de Havilland had tested his floatplanes. So we agreed to fund the cost of construction materials. It's been amazing to see how all the Society's volunteers have cleared the area (we did a bit too!) before constructing this major piece of engineering. We know the suppliers well, Cove Industries, because they built our Christmas float. And what a great pleasure it was for us to hear that the Pond Society had decided the new platform would be named Lions' View. The public are already using the viewpoint which is fully accessible to prams, wheelchairs and

mobility scooters. And they are very excited and appreciative of the new views it has opened up. It is a fitting tribute to our work in Fleet in our 40th year and with the Lions International centenary on the horizon.



Lion President Julian officially opening the viewpoint



Chairman of Fleet Pond Society thanks the Lions for their generous donation.

Boom Box For Odyssey Majorettes



Weymouth & Portland Lions step up the tempo with the presentation of a 'Boom Box' to 'belt out' the music for Odyssey Majorettes which will be particularly useful when performing outdoors, keeping everyone in step.

Lions Les Board and Norman Apps are 'put through their paces' when the volume is turned up to try out the new system with Odyssey.

My Final Message as Editor

This is my final issue after producing the newsletter for over 15 years I have decided to step down, so would like to thank everyone for their contributions over the years, and the countless friends I have made. Lion Peter Tabb of the Lions Club of Jersey is my successor.

His details are:- Tel 01534 726704
Email: pandttabb@localdial.com and wish him every success.

Lion Peter Garlick