

# 105D LIONS TIMES

AUGUST 2015 EDITION



## Sun shines on Swanmore Royalty

Photograph: Brian Pancott Photography)

## On Other Pages

- Sun shines on Swanmore Royalty—2
- Maidenhead Lions move people to places—2
- Laptops for special needs—3
- Welcome new Lions—3
- Lion Sue Balchin memorial—4
- News in brief—4
- Bridport's flying visit —5
- Wimborne & Ferndown get on their bikes —5
- VDG Partners' Project —5
- The Magnificent Seven —6
- Presidents' Lunch —6
- In Memoriam —6



## Alan's Month

The year has started very quietly with no real headaches on the horizon. At the time of writing this letter, 23 July, we have inducted and welcomed nine new Lions into the District but we have also had seven resignations to contend with and we now have a District membership of 1,229, still 21 members short of the of the required 1,250 needed to take us out of Transition. I am aware of other new members who have not yet been recorded. At this point I

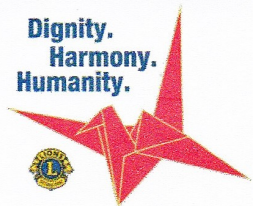


### The International Association of Lions Clubs District 105D

Incorporating Lions Clubs International District 105D Charitable Trust  
Registered Number 1072984

District Governor 2015—2016 · Lion Alan Chapman

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*“Teamwork with Friendship and Fellowship”*

would ask all Club secretaries to submit the monthly MMRs and Activity reports as soon as possible after the Club meeting. That keeps the records nice and tidy and stops the Zone chairmen having to chase up late reports.

The District Handover at the Stones Hotel was a wonderful experience for Anne and I for, unknown to us, the function room was decorated very subtly with a Hawaiian theme due to me being unable to go to the International Convention and DG School in Honolulu.



I have to thank the organising team and especially Juliet Brown for her artistic flair with the table decoration with flowers in hollowed out pineapples, sea shells and the International President's Origami Cranes (his logo) on each table.

The formal part of the evening started with the Loyal Toast given by the Salisbury President Lion Bryan Smith, this was followed by IPDG Mike who gave a résumé of his year for which he should be very proud and followed this with a toast to Lions Clubs International. He then called members of the Burnham and Bracknell Clubs and PDG Lion Brigid to the lectern where he presented her with a Melvin Jones Fellowship for her work and dedication she has given to both Clubs. This was a moving moment which was greeted with prolonged applause.

My swearing of the District Governor's Oath was an experience to remember. PID Lion Howard Lee kindly agreed to do the official part of the evening by conducting the ceremony exactly as the Lions Clubs International programme, even to the point where Anne and I had to pull each other's Red Ribbons from our new DG and 'Wife of DG' badges. We received much applause and were

## Sun shines on Swanmore royalty

Splendid weather blessed the Swanmore fête in July and brought a crowd of around 1,500 out for a feast of Lions' BBQ food, fun, dancing and musical entertainment. Meon Valley Lions Club, who have helped organise this event as a fundraiser for a number of years, were delighted to collect over £3,000 on the day.

In addition to the wonderful display of classic cars and bikes this year, we were lucky to have Hayward's Carriages present to provide a suitable mode of transport for the fête King, Queen, Prince and Princess. All pupils from Swanmore Primary School, the royal group looked a real picture in their beautiful horse drawn carriage.

*In the carriage (pictured on the front page) were, left to right, Princess – Freya Cole, Prince – Harrison Smith, Queen – Elysia Pateman and King – Harrison Stanilas.*



## Maidenhead Lions help move People to Places

Maidenhead Lions have officially handed over a new Citroën minibus to People to Places. The minibus cost just over £30,000 and replaces a 15-year old vehicle nearing the end of its useful life. People to Places is a local charity with 15 vehicles in use in and around Maidenhead.

Voluntary drivers transport more than 2,000 people annually, serving adults and children, disabled and elderly, to schools, hospital, social events, whatever!

Last year Maidenhead Lions benefited from a substantial legacy and this has provided the funding for the minibus. In addition the Club has purchased three mobility scooters for Shopmobility, also managed by People to Places. Two dozen scooters are kept in the town centre and are loaned to shoppers as required.

Pictured are (l to r) Maidenhead Lions President Bob Gugnoni, President-elect Lion Robin Butler, Immediate Past President Lion Brenda Butler, Peter Haley, general manager of People to Places and Jim Sloan, director and frequent user of People to Places.



presented with Hawaiian Leis and the Honolulu Convention pins by Lions Kris and John Smith of the Salisbury Club.

I then gave a short address after which, as is customary, I presented IPDG Lion Mike and Lion Brigid with a gift of crystal glassware on behalf of his 2014-2015 Cabinet who generously donated the cost.

I then presented the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors with their lapel pins and their official regalia.

The Handover was superbly organised and Anne and I wish to thank SAA Lion Dave and his team for making the evening a memorable event.

**DG Lion Alan**

## **DG Team Ramblings**

### **August 2015**

#### **DG Lion Alan**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
3 August	Woolmer Forest Official Visit
11 August	Sandown & Shanklin Official Visit
12 August	Fleet Official Visit
13 August	Hayling Island Official Visit
17 August	Petersfield Official Visit
25 August	Ryde (by invitation)
26 August	Wokingham Official Visit

#### **1 VDG Lion David**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
3 August	Henley on Thames Official Visit
4 August	Warminster Official Visit
5 August	Dorchester (TBC) Official Visit
10 August	Swanage Official Visit
13 August	Ringwood & Fordingbridge Official Visit
14 August	Southampton Solent Official Visit
18 August	Hythe & Waterside Official Visit
25 August	Woodley & Earley Official Visit
27 August	Burnham Official Visit

#### **2 VDG Lion Peter**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
19 August	Loddon Valley Official Visit
27 August	Slough Official Visit



Weymouth and Portland Lions are recycling laptop computers to be used as special needs learning aids.

Club president Lion Norman Stagles is pictured handing over a refurbished laptop to Jordan who has complex learning needs.

The new hardware will enable Jordan to access specific programs which will enhance the skills needed to learn, for example, memory games. These games support the cognitive processing system which allows children to think.

It is a common misconception that children already know how to think but the reality is that some children with learning difficulties have to be taught how to do this.

## **Welcome to new Lions!**

I am delighted to welcome the following 14 new members who joined in June and July into Lions Clubs International and wish them a long and happy time as Lions.

#### **DG Lion Alan**

**Bracknell** - Lion Gill Gardner  
**Bradford on Avon** - Lion Sue Galloway  
**Crofton** - Lion Janet Mist  
**Eastleigh** - Lion Sue Nash  
**Farnborough** - Lion David Brown  
**Fleet** - Lion Lucy Bardsley  
**Jersey** - Lions Sally Hardman and Damon Greber  
**Loddon Valley** - Lion Linda Neilson  
**Newport** - Lion Michael Downer  
**Swanwick** - Lion Garry Hlavaty  
**Westbury** - Lion Deborah Howells  
**Woolmer Forest** - Lions John Dalton and Catherine Dalton

## SUE BALCHIN MBE MEMORIAL BENCH UNVEILED



A bench in memory of Lion Sue Balchin MBE has been unveiled in Howard Palmer Park by Wokingham Town Mayor, Councillor Philip Mirfin. Inscribed in the bench are the words "Donated in memory of Susan Balchin MBE 1940-2015 who worked tirelessly for the local community." The idea for the bench came from members of the Wokingham Lions Club, who attended the unveiling, along with members of Sue's family.

The Mayor spoke of Sue's devotion to those less fortunate in the Wokingham community, and the many organisations and individuals she was able to help. Her stepson Roger Balchin said those who sit on the practical and beautifully crafted bench can think of Sue in a quiet and very pleasant location. He remembered Sue for her generosity, kindness and compassion.

In 2013, Sue was awarded an MBE for her service to the Berkshire community. In 1997, she became one of the first female members of the Wokingham Lions Club, and was the first female President of the Club in 2004, and again in 2009. Sue also served as Club Secretary, Social chairman and Welfare chairman for several years, May Fayre chairman, stalls organiser for both the May Fayre and Winter Carnival and Public Relations officer. Every year, she organised the Christmas carol singing round the restaurants and pubs in Wokingham. Sue recently became heavily involved with the Food Bank and the homeless in Wokingham. She was a great supporter of working with young people and encouraged the most recent youth project within the Club, the Creative Youth Collective.

"Sue touched many lives in Wokingham, and we miss her very much," said Lion Tim Hanton, Wokingham Lions Club president.

## NEWS In Brief



**The recent Blackmore Vale Golf Fun Day raised £1,436 for the Friends of Yeatman Hospital to help towards the cost of a new ultrasound scanner.**

## Weymouth and Portland Lions' Street Busk Day raises £831



**While handing over his chain of office to incoming president Lion Peter Bacon, Lion Graham Dix (left) announced that in his year the Lions Club of Alton had raised a record £33,000 for local and national good causes.**

## Blackmore Vale's Swimarathon exceeds expectations

**A total of 27 teams took place in this the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the Blackmore Vale Lions Swimarathon at Clayesmore School and the results this year well exceeded the previous year in every respect. In total teams swam 82 km and raised £7,171 in sponsorship – a fantastic effort. The Lions' beneficiaries were the NSPCC and Julia's House.**

*The manner of giving is worth more than the gift - Pierre Corneille (1606 - 1684)*





**Bridport Lions pay a flying visit to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance**

It was both a privilege and a pleasure for members of the Bridport Club to attend Henstridge airfield on 2 July. They were there to present a cheque for £500 raised from proceeds of their Blues Extravaganza back in March, to the regional air ambulance.

They were greeted by Leanne Colverson, fund raising co-ordinator, and taken straight to the Eurocopter EC135. There they were met by pilot Max Hoskins, paramedic Claire Baker and Doctor Ian Mew; the trio being the normal crew on an emergency mission. The three professionals spent three quarters of an hour explaining their respective roles and answering questions regarding the operation of the service. They also provided insights to the upgrading of the service at the end of 2016 with a new helicopter, an Agusta Westland 169, which is larger, more powerful and capable of night operations.

This was an appropriate moment to hand over the cheque, take photographs and pledge continuing efforts to help raise the £2,000,000 needed each year to keep the service running. Since its inception in 2000 there have been more than 10,500 missions, which gives an indication of the difference to so many people's lives that such an operation can make.

# On Your Bike!

## Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Family Cycle Ride

Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Club staged their inaugural Family Cycle event on Sunday 28 June. This was considered a great success despite the weather, with more than 50 riders joining in. The ride (not a race) started at the Barley Mow Inn at Colehill and took riders 15 miles through the quiet Dorset lanes north of Wimborne to finish back at the Inn.

Families, leisure cyclists and others (including a pink rabbit!) all took part. The event concluded with a grand prize draw with some 15 generously donated prizes. One lady cyclist, Faye, said "I really enjoyed it. It didn't seem like 15 miles".

Fund raising chairman Lion Peter Burnett said "This format has the potential to be big and should become an annual event".



Proceeds from the event will go to Lions chosen charities including the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, Riding for the Disabled and the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation.

## VDC Partners' Project



While their partners have been at training weekends and Council meetings, the Vice District Governors' partners have been knitting squares for blankets. The results of the project were displayed at the MD Convention on a stall that explained where the blankets were going. They will be taken to Belarus for children in orphanages who are still victims of the Chernobyl disaster that happened almost 29 years ago.

The children sleep on beds that are destroyed by night-time wetting. Two of the blankets were raffled over the weekend which raised £500 which will buy three new beds for the children. A very pleasing result!





PDG Lion Fred Massey, a regular supporter of the popular HYPE event in Fleet, presented Lions Young Leaders in Service awards to seven young volunteers who between them have committed to more than 1,000 hours of community service.

This magnificent seven have helped with projects in the Hart area, such as community events including the Food Festival, Christmas Festival, Lions Carol Concert and the annual Lions Fireworks Fiesta.

The Gold Award recipients were Grace Darmanin, Hannah Neil, Scott Bell, Helen Chatterton and Holly Hood while Silver Awards were made to Caitlin Thomson and Rebecca Roberts.

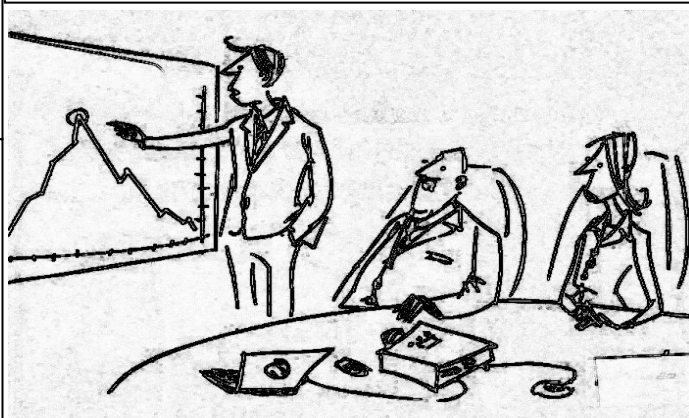
Lion Fred Massey presented the awards on behalf of the Lions and hoped that the recipients would continue with their good work and motivate others. Simon Collen from Fleet was the first UK recipient of the Gold Award in 2002 and was on hand to help with the presentation.



## Presidents' Lunch

The Presidents' Lunch will be held on Sunday 6 September at the Stones Hotel near Salisbury.

*Further details and a booking form are on the District website from 1 August*



Can't you show Transition somewhere else?

## In Memoriam

Passed to higher service, Lions William Dewar (Bradford on Avon Lions Club), Michael Kirby (Newbury Lions Club) and Ernest Strassmann (Havant Lions Club). The 105D Times extends its sincere condolences to their families, friends and Lions colleagues



# TAIL TWISTER

## *The Editor has the last word*

It seems that July's 'Tail Twister' struck a few chords but if proof was needed that the organisation I joined more than 40 years ago has changed dramatically is revealed on page 3 where the DG has welcomed 14 new Lions, nine of whom are female and there is no doubt whatever that without the enthusiastic input of the female membership, Lions Clubs International would both be very much diminished and very much weaker.

If there is a downside to mixed membership and equality in general it is, in my view, the existence of 'phraseological political correctness'. Among the very welcome contributions to this edition was one which used the word 'chairperson' several times but, dear reader, you will be hard put to find out where because wherever it occurred it was edited into English as the non-gender specific word 'chairman'. Similarly the word chair is either a verb or it's something to sit on. It is never, in the 105D Times, or anywhere else for that matter, a person. Here endeth the lesson.

*Lion Peter Tabb*

## Lion's Tail...



Please send all articles and pictures for publication in the

### **DISTRICT 105D TIMES**

to the Editor, Lion Peter Tabb, e-mail : [news@lions105d.org.uk](mailto:news@lions105d.org.uk) and/or [pandttabb@localdial.com](mailto:pandttabb@localdial.com)  
at least a week before the end of the month