



Lion Diana and myself continue to be involved in Lions' events around the District and yet time now seems to be moving on even faster! We are rapidly approaching one of the real highlights of every Lionistic year – our annual District Convention. This year it is to be held at the Holiday Inn, Winchester from 28th to 30th March. Currently the numbers attending are positive but there is still room for more. Those of you who have not yet booked to join us at Convention this year, now is the time to do so – as always all the details and information are on the District website.



The Business Sessions will run from 9.30am through to 5pm and include the opportunity to attend two Workshops designed to allow Lions the opportunity to help shape how our Clubs will celebrate the fast approaching Centenary celebrations. There are 5 Resolutions to be debated and a choice of whom to elect as the incoming 2nd Vice District Governor. Full details are on our District website – please remember there is to be no published Convention Book from this year onwards; if you require copies of specific elements of the Book remember to bring your own copy with you. Details of the Nominations and Resolutions will be displayed on the screens in the Hall.



The social aspects of the weekend, in addition to the opportunity to meet up with old friends and to make new ones, centre around Friday and Saturday evening. Friday evening will be a relaxed evening of entertainment courtesy of the singer, Lisa Faye, and a 2 course meal. Lisa will sing songs from various Musicals and in the first set it will involve a cabaret style as Lisa moves among the tables, whilst the second set will be for dancing the evening away.

Please dress up as a character from a musical – choose your own favourite – as this will add to the atmosphere of the evening; otherwise smart casual attire, please. Saturday night is the Banquet and

Ball with music provided by the band 'WHY' – and I will ensure the formalities are kept to a minimum. The aim for both evenings is to provide a relaxing and entertaining experience.

In the first week of February I was able to attend a Prostate Cancer Screening in Reading – organised by the Lions Clubs of Reading and Woodley and Earley. Such events are attracting a great deal of publicity and attendance – this is the second Screening I am aware of in the District this Lionistic year with at least one more to follow. When I left Reading the number of men who had registered for a test exceeded 360; I was also one of those who felt such an opportunity to be tested was not one to be missed.

The floods and high winds throughout the country have dominated the news over the last couple of months and our travels around the District have seen many flooded fields, damaged trees and a fair amount of water on the roads. I hope that those Lions directly affected by this weather are coping with the difficulties and not finding it all too much of a strain. I would like to thank those Clubs and individual Lions who have responded to pleas for help; these have included providing assistance for individual families who have requested help and in at least one area, helping to 'man' the telephones at a local call centre set up to coordinate help.

At the same time I extend my thanks to all those Clubs who have responded, or who are planning to respond to the Multiple District Disaster Appeal. As usual the Clubs in 105D have donated in a magnificent way to this Appeal. As you will be aware the Appeal needs further funds so that the Trustees can respond immediately and positively when there is a Disaster within our own Multiple District. I know that within 12 hours of receiving an appeal for funds last month from District 105SW to assist those in difficulties in the Somerset Levels the Trustees had committed £10000. It is anticipated much of this money will be used for vulnerable families and groups, especially when the floods eventually subside and it is a case of Lions helping families to dry out properties, redecorating and replacing damaged items.



**Blandford and District Charter Anniversary
Mayor of Blandford Forum and his wife,
Councillor Bob Brannigan and Carole,
The President of Blandford and his wife,
Tony and Rosie Ives and
DG David and Diana**



**Weymouth and Portland Charter
Anniversary includes Mayor of Weymouth,
Ray Banham and Pamela Nixon,
Lion President Russ Woolley and
Pauline and DG David and Diana**

Many Clubs will have been approached by the local representative for Marie Curie asking Lions to assist with the Great Daffodil Appeal again this year. If you have been approached please do your utmost to respond positively to this request – even if you can only provide a few volunteer collectors for a short period of time –any help will be much appreciated both by Marie Curie and those individuals who need and rely on Marie Curie Nurses.

For every £20 collected by Lions during this appeal, Marie Curie will provide 1 hour of nursing care. None of the money we collect will be used for administrative purposes. This Appeal is part of a Multiple District Partnership and we will receive local publicity for our help. Clubs have been given publicity material to use and as this was a most successful event in 2013 let's hope for it to be even better in 2014.

New Members

I am pleased to be able to report there has been a more positive look towards membership in the past month or so and it is my pleasure to welcome each of the following, who have recently joined us here in 105D:

Havant, Rob Waddington
Hayling Island, Cathy and Terry Shoebridge
Henley on Thames, Chris Varnals
Lymington and Brockenhurst, Paul Bevan
Maidenhead, Tandra Forster and Clive Veevers
Meon Valley, Hilary White
Reading, Tony Perkins
Ringwood and Fordingbridge, Vanda Small
Salisbury, Darren Chandler and Nicola Scott
Wimborne and Ferndown, Carolyn Polden
Woodley and Earley, Brian Starr

Thank you for offering your time, expertise and service for the benefit of others. I hope you enjoy your experiences as a Lion.

David's Diary for March

Saturday 1 st	105A District Convention
Sunday 2 nd	Trowbridge CA.
Tuesday 4 th	Aldershot OV
Wednesday 5 th	Fleet OV
Saturday 8 th	Hook and Odiham CA
Sunday 9 th	Pangbourne, Theale and District CA
Monday 10 th	House of Lords Reception with International President
Tuesday 11 th	UN Day at Westminster
Wednesday 12 th	Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury OV
Thursday 12 th	Bournemouth OV
Saturday 15 th	Poole CA – Lunch Dorchester CA – Dinner
Sunday 16 th	Newport CA
Sunday 23 rd	Wokingham 40 th CA
Monday 24 th	Portsmouth OV
Wednesday 26 th	District Governor Team Meeting
Thursday 27 th	Fleet Cheese and Wine to Celebrate their 40 th Anniversary
Friday 28 th	105D District Convention
To Sunday 30 th	

**Yours in Lionism
David Merchant**