

The International Association of Lions Clubs

DISTRICT 105D - DECEMBER 2011



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"Make your mark on the world"



Hi Fellow Lions.

Well, it is now the start of December and the run up to the Christmas festivities and what is looking like a quieter month for Ann and I (apart from doing Santa Clause as usual for the Steam Railway and actually doing some fundraising for our own club).

What a great month November has been, even the weather

has been good to us. October finished with the Council of Governors weekend in Birmingham, then into November with 11 club visits, 1 charter night in between the Lord Mayors Show and Remembrance Parade, both



of which were firsts for Ann and I, although we have walked the Lord Mayors Show 7 times, it was a real privilege to sit with other D.Gs and actually watch the parade. There was no time to linger afterwards, because it was back to the hotel for a quick change, then drive to Wimborne for their Charter, and then back to London for the Remembrance Parade. This was another first – to be able to mix with all the veterans and walk in the parade and be saluted by Prince Charles a really memorable day.

It was also a special privilege to be at Wimborne

Charter and help the President award 3 Melvin Jones Fellowships to 3 very deserving Lions, one of which was our own District Secretary Godwin, Well done to all of you; they were well and truly earned. It was also a privilege as always to attend the Melvyn Jones Lunch one Sunday in Bournemouth.

The other big highlight was the weekend with International Director Gudrun from Iceland. PCC and PDG John and Judith Goodchild agreed to host her and her husband Past International Director Jon over the weekend, putting up with Ann and I as well. May I say a big thank you to John and Judith. See separate article re hosting.

Then came Sunday and the open cabinet meeting, quite a few none cabinet lions attended as did the majority of cabinet. I hope they enjoyed the experience and enjoyed Gudrun's talk and question and answer session. Gudrun and some of the ladies judged the peace poster competition and I am told it was a very hard job – the District winner going up to MD is from Swanage, 2nd place was from New Milton and 3rd place from Sandown & Shanklin. The other winners in our District only competition were from Blackmore Vale and from Yateley for the Computer created picture.

The partners that morning were entertained by Lion Barry Kemp and his wife Claire, showing their exploits of Deep Sea Scuba Diving around the world.



During the afternoon Gudrun presented some International Presidents Certificates of Appreciation to a couple of lions, one to George Jeremiah for his service to Lions and his excellent start to what I hope will become a district wide project – the Prostrate Cancer Awareness Seminar, also one to Yorky Tuke for all his work over the years within the youth sections, and one other, but the recipient was not present, so I will have to present it at a later date.



Then came the mad dash get Gudrun back to the airport – in the fog. Although we had her there in time, the plane was delayed by about 5 hours – meaning she did not arrive home until 4a.m. Anyway it was a wonderful weekend for John, Judith, Ann and I and according to Gudrun's

e-mails she and Jon enjoyed it too.



With Fun and Fellowship

Many of the questions or queries she was asked she has taken back to the International Board of Directors – so we may hear some more on them in the future.

The month ended on another high at the Meet the Presidents Lunch in Burley. Another sunny day in the heart of the New Forest, an excellent meal in great company who were all in high spirits. Our morning started on the early ferry from Yarmouth and going onto New Milton with me helping the local Mayor to open the New Milton Craft Fair – it was their first one and well done to President Valerie and team for their hard work, - when we left (ahead of Santa – alias Nick Mussert) to get to the lunch, the fair was really buzzing with people, looking for those special gifts.

So my thanks to all the Lions we have met so far on our visits – well done to you all for your excellent work, I hear some of you are actually beginning to plant some trees, please put the numbers planted on your Activity Reports to Oakbrook.

Ann and I wish you all a very busy December and a prosperous fundraising season and a very Happy Family Christmas – listen out for the lions being mentioned on Classic FM our new partners.

Ann and I are having a quiet Christmas, ready for a very busy start in January, to the second 6 months of our year, and looking forward to meeting many more friendly Lions on our journeys.

Remember I am your DG and if you want my help or advice, just ask, and if I can be of help I will.

Don't forget that at this time of year, many people buy a dog as a present please remember that they are for life not just Christmas. But for some people they can be a means of getting their life back. So this is why Ann has chosen for her charity this year "Canine Partners", this is a group who train and provide dogs to disabled people. The dogs are trained to assist the disabled person by doing things the person can not do. They really are remarkable and have to be seen to understand what the dogs can do and mean to their partners. Demonstrations are planed for future events. But in the mean time if you would like to make a donation please send cheques to our District Treasurer made out to 105D Lions and marked on the back for Canine Partners. Ann thanks you all in anticipation of your support.

Now is also the best time to book in for the Convention, where we will all be "Carrying on across the Solent". This is the time to start planning your costumes. There will be a prize for the best club and the best couple, so get you're thinking caps on now. Booking forms are available on line, it "really" is a good deal for 3 days of fun and fellowship on the Isle of Wight, the price for the car is excellent as well.

Membership I would like to welcome to our district and to Lionism the following new members, as reported to Oakbrook by 30th November 2011:-

Philip Spearey, of Eastleigh Lions. Dinah Weberstadt, of Meon Valley Lions. Ray Kressinger, of Poole Lions. Tim Guttridge, of Reading Lions. and Benjamin Bullard, of Salisbury Lions.

I wish them all the best and hope that they have many happy years ahead serving with the family of Lions.

In Memoriam The following Lion has passed to higher service, I am sure we all have his family in our thoughts. Lion David Hatton, of Reading Lions.

D G travels over the month of December and start of January are as follows.

December

- 3rd Christmas Dinner, VSC, Havenstreet.
- 4th Santa Claus, Steam Railway Havenstreet.
- 6th Funeral, Lion David Hatton, Reading.
- 6th Convention meeting, Yarmouth.
- 7th Swanwick Lions club visit.
- 10th Shanklin Fun Day.
- 11th Santa Claus, Steam Railway, Havenstreet.
- 12th Fundraising, Morrisons, Lake.
- 12th Southampton Lions, club visit.
- 13th Sandown & Shanklin Lions, club visit.
- 16th Fundraising, Coop Shanklin.
- 17th Northampton, visiting grandchildren.
- 18th Santa Claus, Steam Railway, Havenstreet.
- 21st
- 22nd
- 24th Fundraising, Sandown Fun Day.
- 28th Mince Pie Steam Special, Havenstreet.

January 2012.

- 4th Lymington Lions club visit.
- 5th Newport Lions, club visit.
- 8th Leave Southampton for Jersey .
- 9th Jersey Lions club visit..
- 10th Guernsey Lions club visit.
- 12th Leave Guernsey for Southampton.
- 12th Hayling Island club visit.
- 13th /14th Bournemouth, District Young Ambassador finals.
- 15th Cabinet meeting, Salisbury.
- 16th Portsmouth Lions, club visit.



DG Lion Ron and Ann



New Club in Aldershot

Zone K last year, under my chairmanship set up a working Extension team (Farnborough, Fleet, Hart and Hook & Odiham) to try and establish a new Lions Club in Aldershot.

Initially this promoted by visiting the local shopping centre and Tesco's with membership stands and talking to members of the public. This then led to an open meeting held at the end of July, at the Princes Hall in Aldershot, at which 8 prospective members attended. I am delighted to say that all 8 have continued to meet, plus some 4 or 5 others, and now are meeting every second Tuesday at The Excelsior Club in Gordon Road, Aldershot. We very much hope to have sufficient members to form the new Club by January. They carried out there first 'fund raising' event on Saturday 19th Nov at the Wellington Centre, with a soft toy tombola and raised some funds. They were delighted to have also seen the Mayor of Aldershot Councillor Alex Crawford, who has agreed to join the Club. More news to follow.

PDG Lion Fred Zone K Extension Team



With Fun and Fellowship



INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS 105D

International Director Gudrun Bjort Yngvadottir and her husband Past International Director Jon Bjarni Thorsteinsson visited 105D over the weekend of 19-21 November. Originally, District Governor Ron had hoped that Gudrun could have been his guest at our District Convention in March, but

unfortunately she is due to accompany our International President on one of his visits that weekend, so had asked Ron if it was possible to make a brief visit at some other time.

Gudrun and Jon Bjarni (the first husband and wife from Europe) to have both served on the International Board) were met at Heathrow on the Friday evening by DG Ron and PCC John Goodchild. Unfortunately, Heathrow Airport was gridlocked at that time and it took over half an hour just to get out of the car park and a further half hour to get to the M4. The problem was a crashed Police vehicle on the Emirates roundabout by the tunnel exit from the airport. Eventually, the party arrived back in Tadley, where they were being hosted for the weekend.

Saturday dawned grey and foggy, but undaunted the party set out to see some of the sights of 105D, starting with Stonehenge. This proved to be of great interest to our visitors and fortunately, the sun had broken through by that time. Salisbury Cathedral was the next stop and our visitors were shown around the interior for over an hour, before being taken to the Refectory for a snack lunch. After a leisurely lunch, the tour continued through the New Forest and on to Portsdown Hill to take in the magnificent views over the Solent and Isle of Wight, before returning to Tadley and an evening meal at a local hostelry.

Our guests had to be up early the following morning for the journey to the Inn at Highpost for the District Cabinet Meeting. This meeting was joined by a number of club Lions as observers as well as our very own PID Philip Daubeney and visiting PID Howard Lee from 105SE. Unfortunately, there were a few thorny items on the agenda, and the meeting took a little longer than hoped. Once the meeting was over, ID Gudrun addressed those present, talking about the reasons why people joined Lions, Women in Lions (she was part of a 'Task Force' on this matter and had recently visited symposia in Kenya and Japan, as well as Europa Forum in Maastricht). Gudrun went on to talk about the International President's Tree planting initiative and was pleased to note some of the projects that were either planned or had already taken place in MD105 and, particularly 105D.

After lunch, there was an Open Forum, with an opportunity for anyone present to ask Gudrun or Jon Bjarni questions about all aspects of Lionism. Gudrun expressed her pleasure at the variety of questions asked, which had raised a number of interesting issues. She said that some of these would be passed on to the International President and The Board for further consideration. A full list of the questions and answers will be published in the near future, the details will be

published in the District Mailing and on the 105D Website, as soon as available.

The afternoon concluded with an exchange of gifts between DG Ron and Gudrun, which included a framed print of Salisbury Cathedral, before returning to Tadley to pack the bags for the return flight to Keflavik in Iceland. Unfortunately, this was not without its problems, as Heathrow had been fogbound for most of the afternoon and evening. As a result, the flight, which should have departed at 8:30pm did not get airborne until after midnight, with our guests finally arriving home at 4am. We guess it was a somewhat bleary eyed Jon Bjarni who reported for work at 8am the following morning!



ALTON LIONS PEACE POSTER WINNERS 2011

Alton Library provided the venue for the Alton Lions annual Peace Poster competition prize giving ceremony. Part of an international competition, children were asked this year to produce a poster

with the title of 'Children Know Peace'.

Youngsters from Anstey Junior School, St Lawrence Primary School and Medstead Primary School submitted entries for the competition in three different age groups. Local artist, Pam (Pell) Jones and Alan Thomas, Head of the Arts Faculty at Alton College, judged the finished posters. All nine winners came to the library to receive their prizes from Alton Town Mayor, Cllr Robert Saunders, and Alton Lions President, Peter Bacon.

The winner in the 7-8 year old class was Medstead pupil Sophie Voller, with runner-up Mira Jamias and third, Katie Griffiths, both from St Lawrence.

Winner of the 9-10 year old class was Sara Eccott, with second prize going to Elisha Kanwar and third prize to Amelie Budd - all from St Lawrence.

Anstey Junior School produced all three winners in the 11-13 year old class, which was won by Seren Irwin, with runner-up Conrad Janjawa and third Neelesh Prasad.

Commenting on the high standard of the posters, the judges said that the theme, 'Children Know Peace' had been difficult and open to a very wide interpretation. They had been pleased to see that the children had ventured into other media and were particularly impressed with the delicate detailed drawings and the use of chalks and pastels.

When choosing the winning entries, five criteria were used: expression of the theme, originality, creativity, artistic merit and skill. In congratulating the winners, the hope was that the children had enjoyed creating the posters as much as they had enjoyed judging them.

The Alton Lions Peace Poster Competition was organised this year by Lion Sarah O'Donoghue, with the help of Pam Jones. The posters are currently on display in the children's section of Alton Library.

The picture includes: The winners of the Alton Lions Peace Poster Competition with Alton Town Mayor, Cllr Robert Saunders, Alton Lions President Peter Bacon, competition organiser, Lion Sarah O'Donoghue, and judges Pam Jones and Alan Thomas (although the judges may not be in it).





BEACH MOTOCROSS MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER

Lions President Trevor Stratton hailed this year's Motocross event as the most successful ever. With over 250 riders, record crowds and a sunny week-end, lots of spectators, whether they be motocross enthusiasts from far and wide, visitors to the area or local families with children enjoyed some great fun on Weymouth Esplanade. Trevor added 'the range of attractions we have added to our motocross event in recent years - including this year Danter's Funfair and speciality food stalls as well as an ever widening range of stalls catering for the specialist motocross enthusiast means that it has grown to become the Autumn's premier event in Weymouth.

Picture: 'Courtesy of Sarah Flann' Lion Norman Apps



Wimborne Charter

Wimborne & Ferndown Lions club Charter dinner this year was particularly memorable as no less than three club members were presented with the coveted Melvin Jones Fellowship plaques.

Lions Godwin Micallef, Ken Taylor and John Wilson have between them amassed just on 100 years of service including a total of 6 spells as Club President.

Pictured are (from left) John Wilson, Godwin Micallef and Ken Taylor flanked by Derick Smith, the current club President and District Governor Ron Twining

HAYLING ISLAND LIONS COMMUNITY SHOP

A few months ago an opportunity arose on Hayling island for the Lions club to negotiate the lease on a shop. The incentives were obvious. Investigation of shops which are colloquially known as charity shops suggested that an income of £1000 a week is feasible and perhaps even average. However one also has to look at the risks and part of this report is to ask that should any other Lions club wish to follow our example, please come and talk to us first. With the fiscal situation as it is there will undoubtedly be shops becoming vacant and staying so for some time. This will be an opportunity but the situation needs care.

We surveyed the premises and there was much needing to be done in order to create a shop worthy to carry the Lions Emblem. We tried to estimate the costs and prepare a budget. Despite the fact that Lion members and friends carried out much of the manual work and

the public also helped with gifts and assistance we still overshot our anticipated budget. The end result however was superb. The Mayor came with the District Governor to open it. The public gave, often very good quality clothing and bric-a-brac to the extent that the storage capacity we provided was quickly full. Our District Governor's wife found a hat of such excellence that she not only bought it but wore it next day to a wedding and was the toast of the event (second to the bride of course).



The mayoress was so impressed that she returned in the afternoon to select and buy clothing and the public have been great. Our first six weeks have been all that we could have desired. Having said that we have many hurdles to jump before we can sit back and feel that we have a stable source of revenue and enjoyment. The fact that we publicised that the whole of the net profit from the project would be given back to

needs on the island undoubtedly has gone down well.

The encouraging sign is that the fundraising committee are carrying on as though the shop and its revenue does not exist. That is so important. The same applies to the social committee and the improving membership looks healthy. We still get requests for help and as yet there are no signs of this substantially increasing. That we will be able to increase our Service to the Community, District, MD and International projects through our normal fundraising activities seems highly likely.

We end this article by suggesting that there are real opportunities ahead for many clubs in many ways, mostly revolving around the fact that local shops may well shut and the premises become available. We do advise that you get as much information and experience as is available before making any decision to follow in our footsteps. Having done so it may be very rewarding

Lion Derek Knight



Weymouth & Portland Host Commemorative United Nations Day Ceremony.

The Mayor was joined by members of Weymouth and Portland Lions Club along with representatives of local business groups, friends of the parks and gardens, Borough Councillors and members of the public.

The ceremony took place at the Memorial Tree in Lady Diana Gardens at 12 noon and included the raising of the UN Flag followed by a recognition speech by the Mayor and the President of the Weymouth and Portland Lions Club, Mr Trevor Stratton. The anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter on 24 October 1945 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. It has traditionally been marked throughout the world by meetings, discussions and exhibits on the achievements and goals of the Organisation.

Lion Norman Apps



INCIDENT at a Recent Large Store

A woman visited the toilet at her local store and hung her handbag on the back of the toilet door. As she carried on about her business, a hand suddenly appeared over the top of the stall and grabbed her bag clean off the hook!!! She immediately reported the incident to the head of security, who in turn informed the manager of the store. A couple of days later she had a call from the head of security to say her bag had been found without her purse. So she arranged a convenient time to go and meet the manager to collect her things. On arriving at the store at the agreed time, the manager was not expecting her & neither was the head of security. No one from the store had actually called her as the bag had still not been found. When the lady got home, her house had been burgled with no sign of forced entry. The Police believe the robbers had used her Driving Licence for the address and her keys to let themselves in! This is real - it isn't just a scaremongering story. Many will be so shocked at how complex bag snatching crime has become. Please be extra vigilant ladies AND gents (with your main bags) there are a lot of desperate criminals out there!

I received this from a fellow Lion and thought it was worth passing on especially at this time of year—Editor



Bracknell Lion Abseils Reading Blade

Brave Lion Brigid Hendy surprised member of her local Lions Club in Bracknell then she told them she was going to be Abseiling The Blade in Reading for charity!

Brigid teamed up with Lion Lesley Robinson from Reading Lions Club to take the daring jump to raise funds for the Alexander Devine Trust, a cause that is close to Brigid's heart. Before the jump she said on her Just Giving page *"This is something that I have never done before and so it is literally for me a leap into the unknown but I passionately believe the cause is worth it"*. The Alexander Devine Trust describes it's self as "Berkshire's very own local children's hospice service". The trust raises money to support both the families of children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and the children themselves.

Both ladies were nervous before the jump but put on a brave face and did a great job on their abseils- looking confident all the way to the bottom.

Brigid is hoping to raise a huge £1,000 from her abseil, and is well on her way to that target. If you would like to support this cause please visit:

<http://www.justgiving.com/brigid-hendy>. Lesley is also fundraising for the Trust – and it is a cause which local Lions have supported for some years.

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Vice District Governor Roger Munday stepped in for District Governor Ron at Guernsey Lions Club 44th Charter Anniversary on Saturday 12th November. On the Sunday Christine and I attended the Island's Remembrance Day Parade with Lion President Brian Gaudion. The Island makes a big effort on this day every year and 80 Wreaths were laid at the memorial. As you know the Channel Islands were occupied during WWII and they even arranged to have 4 Chelsea Pensioners at the parade.



"Weymouth & Portland Lions have donated a pride of 'Cuddly Lions' to the local ambulance service for distribution to children that they are tending to help ease the stress and pain of trauma". Picture shows Lion President Trevor Stratton and club members handing

over the 'Pride' to the ambulance service in Weymouth.



Mayor's Blindfold Walkabout

International World Sight Loss day was marked in Wimborne when the Mayor, Robin Cook, was escorted blindfold around the town by members of the Wimborne & Ferndown Lions club.

The walkabout highlighted the importance of sounds and smells (no problem identifying the bakery!) and the many obstacles in a busy town centre such as people, bollards and advertising A-frames on the pavement.

In addition to the walkabout, the Lions also marked the occasion with the presentation of a braille to Tina Douglas who is registered blind. The braille is essentially a typewriter which produces the raised dots of the Braille alphabet using a special 10-key keyboard.

The presentation was made courtesy of Waitrose in the entrance to their new superstore in Wimborne.

A Message from your Editor Firstly many thanks for the wonderful articles and Pictures.

I notice that sometimes pictures are put inside a word document, could I please ask all photos to be attached separately as Jpeg files as otherwise they can lose a bit of definition extracting them from word.

Because of the size of this newsletter I have held over a couple of articles for the February issue.

May I wish all my readers a very Happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year - Lion Peter Garlick



With Fun and Fellowship