

# The International Association of Lions Clubs

## DISTRICT 105D - APRIL 2014



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*“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”*



March has proved to be our busiest month to date culminating, of course, with our District Convention and it will probably prove to be the busiest of the whole year. However, it has been great fun with a number of different opportunities and events which Lion Diana and myself have found absorbing in so many ways. Wow! What an incredible Convention weekend. It was a truly wonderful and exhilarating experience which will live with us for ever. I am so grateful to everyone who was involved especially those who organised our annual get together and to those who joined us whether for part or all of the weekend. It was this support and involvement which made such a difference and helped make our District Convention the success it was.



Our International Guest, Past International President Jim Ervin, along with his wife Sharon Dillard, arrived at the Holiday Inn around 2.30pm on Friday in the company of Past International Director Phil Nathan and lion Heidi-Ann

Nathan. After introductions and a chance for our visitors to freshen up and settle into their rooms it was time for a Cabinet Meeting whilst the partners enjoyed tea with Lion Diana. Friday evening was a wonderful evening of entertainment, led by the superb Lisa Faye whose singing was appreciated by everyone. She completed a cabaret slot with songs from popular musicals and then sang more songs for dancing to and the dance floor was still full when the evening came to its resounding conclusion.

The Business Sessions were very well attended, as were the Workshops, and it was also the inspirational presentations which added to the weight of the day. These were from Past President Jim, Past International Director Phil, Young Ambassador Winner Jenny Hull and Mr Brian Higgins from Missing People. The usual Business was conducted with enthusiasm and interest and the new District Governor Team of Mike Hendy, Alan Chapman and David Taylor were all duly elected into office. I had made some changes and amendments including the placing of roses into vases as the names of those Lions who have passed to Higher Service were read and this seems to have been appreciated by many. The Workshops centred on the preparations for our Centennial Celebrations and you will hear much more of all this in due course. I was honoured to welcome Senior Lions from other Districts to our Convention – a

sure sign we know how to celebrate Convention here in 105D.

Saturday evening saw the usual Banquet and Ball which was another success and a sell out – a rare occurrence for our Conventions in recent years. Again, many were still on the dance floor at the end of another enjoyable evening during which the formalities were kept to the absolute minimum. Around 75 Lions and guests were



in the Hampshire Suite for 10am on Sunday morning – despite the clocks moving forward and it being Mother's Day. This included a recap on the Workshops, further presentations of awards which had been kept to

a minimum on Saturday and a lively Question and Answer session in which Jim Ervin, Phil Nathan and Council Chair Phil Robinson had agreed to field questions. We concluded with our now customary bacon rolls to end our weekend's festivities.

We had all experienced a Convention full of fun and friendship (my aim for this year) and I sincerely hope everyone who joined us had as much enjoyment from their weekend as both Lion Diana and I did. The tremendous support we received, and everyone joining in, combined to make the whole event so successful – thank you again to you all for making this year's Convention such a success.

There has been the usual collection of Official Visits and Charter Anniversaries which



DG David presenting a 30 year chevron to Mervyn Clark of Wokingham Lions Club during their 40th Charter Anniversary

have included awarding a number of long service chevrons and some Club Excellence Awards – which have all been much deserved by the individual Lions and Clubs concerned. I have also been very pleased to be involved in the induction of a number of new Lions, none



DG David with the new Lions and their sponsors after the induction at Aldershot Club Branch

more so than at Aldershot Club Branch where, along with Lion President Julian Behmber of Fleet, 4 new Lions were inducted. These had all made contact with this particular Club through their Facebook Page – a triumph for modern social media.

In addition to these events Lion Diana and myself were extremely proud to attend 2 events at the Palace of Westminster during March. On the first day we had been invited to a reception in the Attlee Room of the House of Lords along with a number of other guests including our International President, Barry Palmer, and his wife Anne. This was to hear a presentation by Lord Loomba CBE on behalf of his own Charity, the Loomba Foundation. This Foundation is currently promoting its project to empower widows in India by providing them with sewing machines. Our International President, along with senior Lions from within our Multiple District, has agreed to a partnership with the Loomba Foundation to provide sewing machines for this initiative – more details will be released shortly to all Clubs throughout our Multiple District.

The second event was the annual Lions and UN Day held in Committee Room 14 of the House of Commons. As always this was an extremely well attended event with Lions from across our Multiple District where we had the opportunity to hear a number of speakers including PDG Roger Handcock on how the link with UN days and the Palace of Westminster came about, the broadcaster Sue MacGregor CBE who as a trustee of UNICEF talked about the many links which exist between UNICEF and Lions, Mary Ware of Help2Read outlined the new partnership with Lions to empower young people in Malawi to become more self reliant and, of course, our International President. To round off this most interesting and informative day I had been given the honour to propose the Vote of Thanks to our speakers – a challenging but really rewarding opportunity and one which will remain as one of those defining moments in a year of so many such occasions.

To return to Convention some of the changes followed from the District Questionnaire and if anyone wishes to make further observations or suggestions please do so and I will ensure they are passed on for successive Conventions.

**New Members** We welcome the following new Lions to District 105D and trust they will each find their experiences in serving others both rewarding and enjoyable:

- Aldershot Branch - Andrea Boulter, Becky Hammond, Daniel King and Natasha Windebank,**
- Blackmore Vale - Phillip Bennett**
- Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury - Alastair McKechnie**
- Gosport and Lee on Solent - David Andrews**
- Lymington & Brockenhurst - Mish Frampton, Diana Young**

**Higher Service**

I regret to have to report the sad news of Lion Malcolm Wilson of Havant Lions Club who has passed to Higher Service. I extend the sympathies of the District to his family and colleagues with the Havant Lions.

**David's Diary for April**

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>** 'Meet the Lions' Event in Southampton
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup>** Lymington and Brockenhurst 25<sup>th</sup> CA
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>** Ryde CA
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** Swanage CA
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** Warminster 50<sup>th</sup> CA
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>** Havant CA
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** Bridport CA
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** Solent OV
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** St George's Day Event organised by Sirius Lions
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** Yateley CA
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>** Bournemouth CA

**Yours in Lionism David Merchant**



Bournemouth Lions Club's collecting at the Bournemouth Tesco Store for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Total collected was £369 and had great fun wearing the hats provided by Marie Curie!



At the February 10th dinner meeting of Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club President Alan Lovegrove presented a cheque for £2,500 to Ellie Hughes, Community Fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Society (Berks, Bucks & Oxon). The

Alzheimer's Society was the Lion President's chosen charity to be the main beneficiary of profits from the Lions 30<sup>th</sup> Annual 10k Charity Road Run held in January this year. This donation is enough to run five sessions of Singing for the Brain® which brings people together in a friendly and stimulating environment and uses singing to enhance communication, confidence and well-being."



**HOOK AND ODIHAM'S DREAM COMES TO FRUITION**

Last Lionistic year, Lion President Terry Cheesman had a dream to install a defibrillator in our club's area. This followed learning about one being placed in an unwanted telephone box in another part of the

country. Alas, we had no such telephone boxes in Hook, but the club decided to find an alternative site in Hook. The South Central Ambulance Service were contacted and they came to the club to talk about defibrillators and suitable sites. The Parish Council were approached and were delighted with our offer to purchase the equipment. Indeed they were happy to supply the board to mount it on and agreed that we could use their electricity supply. The defibrillator and case were ordered and Lion Graham, a certified electrician was ready to do the necessary electrical connections. The site chosen was near the main shops in Hook, an area well known to all Hook residents, should they need to find it in an emergency, and near a power supply owned by the Parish Council. Then came the problems as outlined in the News paper article!

Eventually all the questions were answered and the defibrillator was in place and Terry's dream was partially fulfilled. Partially, because he wants to provide more for our other villages, in our area. The club are with him on this, and await the results of discussions with South Central Ambulance, as the next best venue for positioning another one.

We do not know how many people this will save but if only one person is helped by this initiative the club will be very satisfied that it's money has been well spent.

The defibrillator case has our name and logo on it so it is probably the best PR that we could wish for in Hook



### District 105D District Convention 2014.

The weekend started on the Friday evening with the Host Night Cabaret and supper with the theme of

'Showtime'. Delegates were able to settle in and enjoy the singing of Cabaret Star Lisa Faye.

The morning of Convention started with District Governor David Merchant with Lions and their partners welcoming the International Guests Past International President Jim Ervin, a member of Albany Lions Club, Georgia, USA and Past International Director Phil Nathan. Following the opening ceremony a short act of remembrance was held to commemorate Lions who have passed to higher service in the last 12 months.

Lion Mike Hendy was formally nomination for District Governor 2014/15, Lion Alan Chapman nominated as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor and Lions David Taylor and Peter Burnett nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor 2014/15. Each candidate outlined their plans for the coming year if successful at the ballot.

Past International President Jim Ervin gave an enthralling talk to Convention inspiring members to promote club growth and Lions membership.

On the close of the morning session the ballot boxes opened and the Lions dispersed to 3 Convention Workshop sessions to discuss plans to commemorate the centenary of Lions Clubs International in 3 years time.

The afternoon session began with Past International Director Phil Nathan giving a presentation about the Lions Europa Form which is being held in Birmingham from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November this year. He explained how the Europa Forum gives the opportunity for the members of Lions Clubs from all over Europe and guests from all nations worldwide to share ideas and experiences and learn from each other. More details can be found at:

[http://lions105c.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/EF\\_2014\\_Update\\_1a.pdf](http://lions105c.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/EF_2014_Update_1a.pdf)

Awards and certificates of appreciation were presented prior to the adoption of reports from the various district teams and committees. The Lions Wives and partners returned to the Convention Room. This year's Young Ambassador Award winner Jenny Russ sponsored by Jersey Lions Club was introduced to Convention. She gave an inspiring presentation about the work she carries out in the community helping those in need. Past International President Jim Ervin formally presented the Young Ambassador Award Trophy to Jenny as Convention gave her a standing ovation.

A proportion of the District Competition Awards were presented with some being held over until the Sunday morning Forum to save time.

The Keynote Speech was then given by Brian Higgins from the charity 'Missing People' which is supported by Lion Diana Merchant as this year's DG partner's designated charity. Brian spoke about 'Missing People' being the only charity dedicated to bringing missing children and adults back to their families. He detailed the support given 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by their dedicated team. A cheque for £2674.05 was then presented by Lion Diana.

The result of the ballot for next District Governor, the First and Second Vice District Governors was announced and District Governor elect Mike Hendy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District

Governor Alan Chapman and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor David Taylor went to the stage to address Convention. The host Committee led by PDG Fred Massey was thanked for their hard work.

Next year's Convention Host Committee dressed in seaside regalia paraded into the hall to publicise the 2015 District Convention to be held at the Wessex Hotel, Bournemouth from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March next year.

A summary of the day was given by Past International President Jim Ervin before the traditional closing ceremony. To compliment the formal convention business Saturday was rounded off with an impressive Banquet and Ball which enabled all attending to enjoy each other's company in the true spirit of Lionism.

The Sunday morning Forum had Cabinet Members in attendance to review the discussions held at the Convention Workshops 24 hours earlier on ideas and plans for the Lions Centenary from July 2016 to December 2017. Click on the District website link below to see the online convention report and picture galleries.

<http://lions105d.org.uk/about/convention/convention2014.html>

Richard Keeley 105D Marketing & PR Co-ordinator.



Certificate of Appreciation  
Lion David Firth



International Certificate of  
Appreciation  
Lion Godwin Micallef



Young Ambassador Award winner  
Jenny Russ Cup presented by  
PIP Jim Ervin



Past International President  
Jim Ervin and his  
wife Sharon Dillard



Past International Director  
Phil Nathan and his wife  
Lion Heidi-Ann



International Certificate of  
Appreciation  
Lion Linda Picton



Convention Committee 2014  
Fleet Lions Club



Convention 2015  
Wessex Hotel  
Bournemouth

## Lions donate three special radio sets for use by local blind persons

Lions John Braithwaite (L) and Les Board present a cheque for the purchase of the radios to BWF Regional Manager David Loveridge.

British Wireless for the Blind Fund's spokesperson David Loveridge said: "I really want to thank members of



the Weymouth & Portland Lions who have given up their time to raise money which has allowed us to provide blind and partially sighted people in Weymouth and

Portland with specially modified radios. These unique audio devices allow the recipient to listen to talking books and newspapers, CD, cassettes, digital radio and much more. They are designed so that it is easier to use for those with sight loss, meaning independent use on a daily basis. We know from feedback from existing recipients of our radio sets that having the loan of a specially adapted radio can make a difference to blind and partially sighted people's lives by keeping them informed, occupied and entertained.



## Reeling in money for a worthy cause

In January, Meon Valley Lions Club once again supported the Ford Charity Open Sea Fishing Festival on Weston Shore,

Southampton, managing the event set-up, marshalling and weigh-in. Despite the much-publicised closure of the Ford Transit plant, the Sea Angling section of the Sports and Social club is still very active, as it approaches its 40<sup>th</sup> year promoting this great fund-raising event.

Remarkably, given the atrocious coastal weather we have seen in 2014, we were blessed with blue skies and relatively fine conditions on the day. In total we had 117 senior competitors and 11 juniors participating this year and through entry fees, a raffle and some rounding-up from our own funds, we now plan to make a £1,250 charity donation to the Naomi House/Jack's Place Hospice charity in Winchester.

The overall prize winner this year was Neil Wetherby from Southampton with a catch totalling 2lb 2oz. Second



place was Ant Buik from Dorchester (1lb 6 ½ oz) and third was local fisherman Shaun Royal (1lb 5 ½ oz).

We will be formally presenting the cheque to representatives of Naomi House at the prize-giving ceremony in March, bringing the amount

raised from this and previous years' involvement in the Fishing festival to around £37,000. It's a great result and our thanks go to the Ford Sea Angling section of the Sports and Social club, the Transport and General Workers Union and all the fishermen for their support.

## Blues Extravaganza



Ben Waters

Over 200 people danced the night away having a thoroughly good time at the third annual Blues Night put on by the Lions Club of Bridport. It was a brilliant night made so by the musicians C Sharp Blues, Ben Waters with his



band including talented son Tom on saxophone and Fat Marrow Blues. Of course everyone was especially pleased to hear Hamish Maxwell (Picture left) in great voice, alongside Ben, after his recent stay in hospital. We are pleased Hamish is in better health, long may it continue, we look forward to future great evenings with



these local, and not so local, legends. The members of the Lions would like to thank the musicians, all at Freshwater Entertainment Centre and everyone who bought a ticket and supported the raffle enabling us to raise over

£1500 most of which is going to EDP and the Young Musicians Fund. Our next Blues Extravaganza will be in March 2015 and we look forward to seeing you there.



## Lions give to Scouts

By way of thanks and appreciation in return for help provided by Goring Heath Scouts, Guides and Beavers during two recent local fund raising events the Lions Club

of Goring, Woodcote & District have just donated them a total of £500.

At a Scout meeting on Tuesday evening 28<sup>th</sup> January Group Scout Leader Ruth Hubbard received a cheque from Lion President Alan Lovegrove. Shown in the attached photograph also present at the formal presentation were 22 young Scouts along with Assistant Scout Leaders Cathy Gordon and Claire Mayo.

In thanking Lions on behalf of the Scouts, Guides and Beavers Ruth Hubbard said, "Various Beaver Parents and I enjoyed helping the Lions, acting as Santa's Elves, during the Lions pre-Christmas tour of local villages. The Scouts and Guides had a great time supporting the Lions' Charity 10k Run on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. It was certainly a bit parky at our half-way watering station, but the Scouts loved it. The Guides also enjoyed running their water station at the finish."

A Message from your Editor - Firstly sorry for delay of this issue as I wanted to wait for convention photos and writeup. Many thanks for your articles the next issue will close for input on the 22nd May. Peter