

Antony Wilkinson operates a diabetes retinal screening camera - see Meon Valley Lions' project on page 4

Combatting diabetes world-wide is a Lions Clubs International initiative



105D



TIMES

JULY 2016 EDITION



**The new DG - Lion David Taylor
and companion**



The International Association of Lions Clubs District 105D

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



District Governor 2016 - 2017 · Lion David Taylor
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“Celebrating a Centenary of Service”

Your money - back in your pocket

The DG explains...

In recent years your Cabinet has continued to make savings and keep the costs of running the District as low as possible. From this month, with only 31 members, our Cabinet is the smallest in the country, nearly half the size of some other Districts. Not every District covers the officers' costs however we believe, as volunteers, they should be reimbursed. Therefore we budget correctly for all our Zone Chairmen, Specialist Advisors and Co-Ordinators to claim the expenses involved in visiting and advising your Clubs (the District Governor's Team visits are paid for by LCI). However, many of them choose not to claim.

Consequently our Administration Fund has grown much larger than we need. It's too much cash in our bank account and it's YOUR cash! So this year, your Convention agreed to refund £5.50 per member back to every Club.

This is being done by simply not collecting the £5.50 due on 1 July. So your Club's accounts are healthier.

What should you do with this pleasant bonus? It's your money so you can do what you like.

- You could return it to your members;
- Some Clubs will keep it in their funds to cover the purchase of something the Club needs;
- Some Clubs will donate it to a charity - maybe the DG's appeal for the Special Olympics, maybe towards our Centennial project of buying a Hearing Dog, or maybe a local charity.

It's your money, it's your choice.

District dues are set and agreed by the Club delegates at each District Convention and take into account the expenses incurred by your District officers in performing their duties and the expenses of the business sessions of the District.

Multiple District Dues are agreed by the delegates at the MD Convention and cover the running expenses and upkeep of the MD office and the salaries of the two members of staff, as well as the expenses of the meetings, etc. necessary to ensure the smooth running of the MD. Costs include the MD insurance policy and MD public relations, together with a portion of the cost of *The Lion* magazine.

International Dues are set at the International Convention. They cover the upkeep and running of the office at Oakbrook, the general costs involved in running the Association including production of *The Lion* magazine, promotional material and the website.

Some new members are still unsure why we pay dues at all. Simply put, we can look the public in the eye and say that EVERY PENNY they donate goes to good causes because we, the members, pay for the running of our entire organisation.

Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

I am delighted to have a regular item in the future in the *105D Times* on LCIF matters. This will replace my monthly newsletter that was issued as part of the monthly mailing and will give Lions an easier route to reading it. Unfortunately due to serious broadband problems I was not able to issue a newsletter in the May mailing, so some of this month's news is a little old but I believe still newsworthy.

Disaster relief grants.

In April, in addition to the two major grants of £175,000 to Japan and £105,000 to Ecuador, both of which I referred to in my April Newsletter, there were four small emergency grants of £7,000 each made to Malawi, Uruguay (2) and Texas, USA all following severe flooding.

In May you will recall there was the very serious wildfire in the vicinity of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada. A major grant of £70,000 was made to the Canadian Lions to enable them to provide much needed assistance. Nine further grants were given to Thailand, Brazil, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. These were to assist following floods, windstorms and cyclones and totalled £55,000.

Refugee assistance programmes

In April LCIF approved grants totalling nearly £140,000 for refugee assistance. Lions in Macedonia, Turkey, Austria and the Netherlands are working diligently to provide refugees with food, water, shelter, clothing, medical supplies and even textbooks. These projects will benefit more than 13,000 people throughout the region. In total, LCIF has provided £417,000 for refugee relief and assistance programmes throughout Europe.

Measles and Rubella programme

I have written several times previously regarding the measles and rubella programme. Vaccinations are being carried out in a number of countries but, as an example of Lions involvement on the ground, in the African nation of Botswana local Lions helped the Ministry of Health conduct an intensive five days measles vaccination campaign by going door-to-door in the town of Selebi-Phikwe, where Lions talked one-to-one with mothers on their doorsteps to make sure they understood the importance of vaccinations.

The LCIF Measles and Rubella initiative is still continuing to prevent 400 children dying every day. I hope your Club is able to consider a donation if it has not given already this year. (Payments to LCI District 105D, marked 'LCIF Measles' and sent to the District Treasurer).

Melvin Jones Fellowships

Please contact me if you would like to know what credits your Club has earned towards Melvin Jones Fellowships. It is quite possible one or two could be obtained at no further cost to your Club. Has your Club considered awarding a Melvin Jones Fellowship to someone in your town or village other than a Lion who has carried out humanitarian work or supported your Club in a major way?

Lion Patrick Hamblin

District 105D LCIF Coordinator (patrick.hamblin@btinternet.com)

Page Three - David's Diary

I've never considered myself Page 3 material, but here I am!

Rather than feature on the front page, I've asked our excellent editor, Lion Peter Tabb, to lead our magazine each month with something far more interesting than what your District Governor has been up to.

First, please let me pay compliments to Past District Governor Alan and last year's District Officers; Alan was handed a difficult year as redistricting seemed to divert our attention away from who we are and what we believe in.

The resolution at Eastbourne has landed my fellow District Governors and I the same issue, but with little time to complete it – we have four months to produce our first thoughts for consideration. However we have started by consulting members through the questionnaire; not ideal, but I hope it shows that our Council are listening before acting.

In the meantime let's concentrate on what we are good at:

- ♦ We ARE the largest service organisation in the world, all 1.4 million of us;
- ♦ We don't just help locally, our international foundation (LCIF) has helped millions and millions of people in sight, youth, disaster and humanitarian areas;
- ♦ Every penny we collect goes towards our service activities; and
- ♦ We are now in our 100th year and going strong

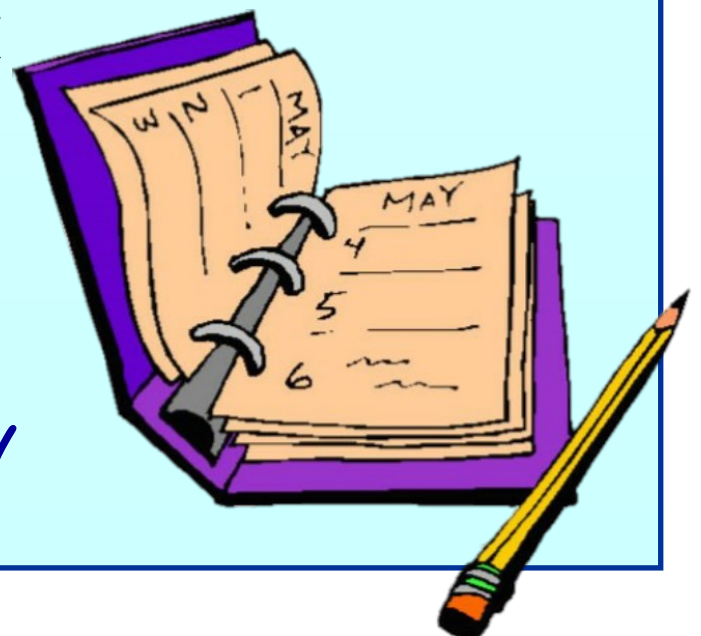
Let your friends and neighbours know, be proud of who you are, what you belong to and encourage them to help us achieve even more.

I'm going to ask the specialist officers in our District to amplify what we are achieving in future issues of *105D Times* but to start with I have given every incoming President a package that includes the New Members Handbook and LCIF leaflet for you all to refresh your memories of why we joined and what we do (many of them will tell you how I messed up the postage, sorry, and have fined myself with a donation to our District Special Olympics Fund!).

This brings me to our link with Special Olympics, a venture that has given hundreds of Lions a real sense of purpose and tears of pure joy. Please read the leaflet I sent your President, get involved if there is a club near you and consider making a donation to our District Special Olympics Fund - they will be guests at our Convention in March and I am hoping their ambassador, Lawrie McMenemy, will be with us to receive our donation to the national games in 2017.

Finally a big, big 'Thank You' to you all for the honour of being YOUR District Governor and to the members from our District at the MD Convention who made my entry into the Convention so welcoming and memorable. Wow!

DG Lion *David*



News from the Clubs

DG Team Visits

July 2016

DG Lion David

Date **Activity**

1 - 7 July: Japan
13 July: DG Team Meeting
17 July: Cabinet and Handover
29—31 July: MD Council Meeting,
Birmingham

1 VDG Lion Peter

Date **Activity**

4 July: Woolmer Forest LC
13 July: DG Team Meeting
17 July: Cabinet and Handover

2 VDG Lion Ken

Date **Activity**

12 July: Maidenhead LC
13 July: DG Team Meeting
17 July: Cabinet and Handover
18 July: Wareham LC
19 July: Hythe & Waterside LC



A Meon Valley Lion brought to the Club's attention the fantastic work being done by the Southampton Diabetic Eye Screening Service, to provide a mobile service all over southern Hampshire. Their diabetic eye screening programme, has five mobile clinics, providing regular appointments at numerous rural locations across our extensive patch. Having discussed with them the Lions' Eye Health Programme, a set of special kit bags was donated to the screening teams – items they need to carry their equipment and materials safely and securely. Recently, a small group of Lions met with Antony Wilkinson, a Diabetic Retinal Screener, at Wickham, to see just how the bags were being used and understand the screening process. Patients have their eyes screened annually to identify changes as they happen, alerting the medical authorities to possible risks of a condition escalating. This gives patients the best possible chance to address the situation and make appropriate decisions to protect their vision, with the support of the diabetic healthcare team.

Pictured (l to r) President Lion Roger Morfill, Antony Wilkinson, Southampton Diabetic Eye Screening Service, Lions Sue and Ed Barringer.



Future Roots in the Zone with local Lions Clubs

Lions Clubs from Blackmore Vale, Bridport, Dorchester and Weymouth & Portland presented a cheque for £2,000 to Julie Plumley, CEO of Future Roots, at their headquarters in Rylands Farm near Holnest on Friday 17 June 2016.

Each year the four Lions Clubs choose a local charity to benefit from their Zone Project. This year the Lions selected Future Roots as this year's beneficiary after a superb presentation by Julie to their Zone meeting in March.

Julie established Future Roots as a project at Rylands Farm near Sherborne and at Whitfield Gardening and rural skills centre near Dorchester where stability is provided to those who are struggling to cope with life, especially children excluded from main stream education. Future Roots Countrymen's Club also provides superb activities and social contact for older men facing the challenges of ageing and health problems.

Zone Chairman Lion Peter Oswick presented Julie with the cheque accompanied by Lions Ian Simpson, David Birt, George Wagland, Dave Woolford and Derrick Buswell. Also taking part were teenagers from Future Roots and members of the Countrymen's Club showing their skills at wood pyrocarving.

The Lions hope that this cheque will help Future Roots achieve their dreams and we wish Julie and her team every success for the future.

More news from the Clubs

GMScellany

It has been a while since GMS press officer Alastair McKechnie put pen to paper so here are few things to mention in a round up of what has happened to the GMS Lions Club, here to serve its triple community of Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury.



In April the Club completed its annual glasses collection for the charity SPEKTREK which collects used spectacles and recycles them, before sending them off to less fortunate countries. Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury Lions Club hosted Clubs from Warminster (also brought specs from Westbury), Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Blandford, and Blackmore Vale, to a collection lunch. A total of 26,332 pairs of spectacles plus 698 sunglasses and 23 hearing aids were handed over to Petersfield Lions Club who took them all into the regional collection centre for onwards processing. A big thank you to all the local opticians and surgeries in the Clubs' areas who kindly allowed collection boxes to be placed in their stores.

A lot of people will be familiar with the wonderful work done by Guide Dogs for the Blind. Fewer have probably heard of the equally fantastic work of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. At a recent Club meeting members were privileged to have a presentation on what a life changer they can be. Many people are curious about what Hearing Dogs can do for people who are deaf or hard of hearing when they're in public. The most important thing a Hearing Dog provides is an increased awareness of his or her handler's environment. A Hearing Dog isn't specifically trained to be alert to sounds, such as a siren or honking horn, but when a person who is deaf or hard of hearing takes a Hearing Dog out, he or she will gain an awareness of the environment by paying attention to whatever the Hearing Dog is reacting to. When the dog hears something and looks, the person will notice and turn to see what's happening as well. This can be life changing and is why Lions District 105D and GMS Lions Club are trying to raise the £15,000 it costs to train one of these dogs. GMS Lions have contributed some of the Club's charity fund towards achieving that target.

On 20 May the Club hosted a quiz night at the Grove in Mere which was a great success raising £450. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported a great night.

However that was eclipsed by another brilliant, brilliant 'Gillingham in Gear' classic car show on the meadow in Gillingham on Saturday 4 June. The GMS Lions, who once again co-hosted this event, were showing off their brand new gazebo (see at the top of the page) which was hard to miss. Our friendly Lion in a suit was there to entertain the kids, who may not have been as



interested in the cars as their dads were. There was also a new Lions Tombola raising money for the charity fund, but also producing plenty of winners benefiting from a flutter. There was a host of classic and newer cars, bikes, fire engines, tractors and the children's favourite, a bouncy castle. And as if that was not enough the local brass band provided a musical back drop to a glorious summer's day. With Hidden Pizza, burger vans and an ice cream van keeping everyone sustained, what was there not to enjoy? It really was a triumph. roll-on next year.

More news from the Clubs



Local residents and visitors alike flocked to Weymouth town centre for the weekend to be entertained by more than forty different acts on five stages throughout the town.

The **Out Loud Festival**, organised by the **Weymouth and Portland Lions Club**, supported by the Weymouth BID is now in its second year and the Lions believe that it is now firmly in the town's annual calendar of events and is now one of the Club's major fundraisers. The entertainment ranged from choirs, dance troupes, brass bands, vocalists and a host of musicians who all gave their time freely.

This is a busy time for the Club as they have an all-day **Street Busk** in Weymouth town centre in July, are also selling programmes at the Sea Food Festival in a couple of weeks and their **Charity Golf Day** in August (details at www.weymouthlionsclub.co.uk).



Twenty-five teams took part in the 29th Blackmore Vale Lions Swimarathon held at Clayesmore School. Although no records were broken the customary enthusiasm was displayed by swimmers and spectators alike and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The number of laps swum by teams ranged from 35 to 108 equalling last year's figures. In total teams swam 71 km and raised £4,473 in sponsorship. The total sum raised in 29 years now stands at over £213,000.

At the Awards Ceremony Blackmore Vale Lions Swimarathon organiser Lion David Birt thanked everyone for their splendid efforts and achievements and recorded his gratitude to Clayesmore School Sports Centre for the continuing use of their excellent facilities.

Half of the money raised goes back to the participants' chosen charities and the other half goes to Blackmore Vale Lions' chosen charities.

The Lions Charity beneficiaries this year were the Children's Society and Dentaaid and cheques for £1,250 were presented to Mrs Ann Faulconer of the Children's Society and Jacqueline James of Dentaaid by Lion President Ian Simpson and some of the school teams who took part.

In Memoriam

Lion John Wilson MJF (75) - Wimborne & Ferndown Lions Club sadly report the passing of Lion John Wilson MJF in June 2016. Lion John was the second longest serving member of the Club having joined in May 1971. Among other Club positions, he was President in 1977/8 and 1999/2000.

He was a committed Lion who continued to support the Club right up to the end.

Lion Bob Ashenden PZC MJF (89) - Sandown and Shanklin Lions Club is sad to report the death of Charter Member Lion Bob, who served in all Club offices. He was responsible for building our Day and Community Centre, which is now in its 30th year.

In honour of his work in Lionism, he was made a Privileged Member last year.



TAIL TWISTER

The Editor has the last word

When I became Immediate Past President of my Club, this month, July, as I handed over the chain of office I had very mixed feelings; relief at the conclusion of what I had thought of as a job reasonably well done (although I was hardly the best judge of that) but moreover the feeling that there was so much I had thought I had wanted to achieve and had not because time had been so short...

Much has changed since I donned my Past-President's pin thirty years ago but as we enter our Centennial year I realise that much that is good has remained the same and above all our ethos of serving our community is unchanged as is manifest on these pages. Hopefully all the shenanigans around restructuring will have a minimal impact on what we do on the ground at Club level. If it ever does, I for one will be very cross!

Happy new year

Lion Peter Tabb

Lion's Tail...



Pupils from St Andrew's School, Fontmell Magna, receive the President's Shield at the Blackmore Vale Swimarathon

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 and/or peteretabb@gmail.com
at least a week before the end of the month