



The International Association of Lions Clubs DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER District 105D - SEPTEMBER 2013



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“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”

My Fellow Lions



Writing this newsletter for September I realise the first 2 months of my life as a District Governor have flown by and judging by the comprehensive list of visits in my Diary this month will be just as busy.

In early August we were lucky enough to spend some time with the young people from 26 countries who made up the Youth Camp at Osmington Mills, near Weymouth. This wonderful experience would not have been possible without the persuasive nature of PDG Pat Nixon who first convinced the District Cabinet and then Multiple District that 105D would put on a magnificent event – so thank you, Pat. Grateful thanks must also go to those Lions who gave freely of their time and effort to be with the youngsters at the Camp: Lions John Apps (Camp Director), Frances Bond, Ron and Ann Twinning, Lynden McIntyre and Richard High - without their commitment there would have been no Youth Camp in our District. The PGL staff who provided the expertise and a most impressive variety of activities must be recognised for their efforts as well. Deep felt thanks must also go to those Clubs who arranged activities on Wednesday and Friday away from the Camp and thus gave the youngsters the opportunity to explore more of this part of our District, its history and its culture.



I visited the Camp, along with Diana, on Thursday and in addition to joining the teams for lunch we were able to watch a range of activities including street surfing, fencing, aeroball and watch full use being made of the climbing wall. Saturday we joined everyone at the impressive National Sailing Academy in Portland (built for 2012 Olympics)



where the teams were able to compete against each other in a series of 'dragon boat' races. Saturday evening saw the traditional

Gala Dinner, well organised by Wareham Lions, where after an excellent meal and the wonderful company of young people, we were entertained by the youngsters themselves. On a personal note Diana and I were surprised and delighted to receive a card signed by the whole group in recognition of our Wedding Anniversary celebrated during the Camp – a touching moment to end a truly memorable experience.

One particular point of note was the camaraderie and teamwork on display throughout the period of the Camp. This was testament to the willingness of these young people to join in fully with the opportunities available and who showed complete faith and trust in the PGL staff and our own Lions. I am sure each one of them has many special memories to treasure and will have made friendships, some of which could last a lifetime.



We enjoyed a wonderful day at Goodwood races, even if the weather was certainly not in our favour! We were joined by Lions from Districts A and SE; again an idea from PDG Pat Nixon, and what a truly memorable occasion this turned out to be with nearly 600 Lions and friends savouring this new event on our District Calendar. This was a novel experience for many of those attending and the opportunity to meet up with Lions from 3 Districts at such an event was certainly something not to be missed.



The weather was much kinder on Bank Holiday Monday when I visited the River Itchen; Diana and I spent some time with the Lions of Southampton Solent and Swanwick. The occasion was their annual Duck

Race and they also took the opportunity, with support from a number of other Lions from our District, to promote themselves and our wonderful organisation. There were plenty of visitors to watch their ducks make their way along the river and it was most pleasing to see our current Young Ambassador, Jake, and his family, still supporting Lions and in their canoes rounding up the ducks and keeping them moving.

We hope to attend as many different events throughout the District as possible, in addition to our Official Visits and attendance at Charter Anniversaries. Please let me know what you are doing and if our diaries permit we will be delighted to join those Clubs who are arranging events around our District.

I am looking forward to the Presidents' Lunch on 8th September at Alton House Hotel when I hope Presidents will have an opportunity to learn more about the District and the year ahead, to exchange ideas with other Presidents and also meet some Cabinet Officers.

We also hope to see as many Clubs as possible represented at the District Service to be held in St Nicolas' Church here in Newbury, along with your Mayors. This annual Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication is a special occasion for all Lions and their supporters and I am delighted that the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire has accepted my invitation to join us. There will be a short Civic Procession from the Town hall to the Church preceding the Service. Full details of the Service and the tea afterwards were included in the August District Mailing.

Shortly you will all receive details of a questionnaire. This is an opportunity for every Lion in our District to air their views about District Convention, District Cabinet and how we operate. Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire as it is important that the District Governor Team are aware of how our Lions feel about such things. There will be an Open Forum on the afternoon of Sunday 20th October at Alton House Hotel to discuss the findings and a summary of the results will be made available to all Lions.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention the District Convention. This will take place at the Holiday Inn, Winchester from 28th to 30th March 2014. The booking form for the social events and attendance at the Business Sessions, our District AGM, are on the District website. Please book for those parts of the weekend you wish to partake in: this can range from attending for the day on Saturday 29th March to the full weekend; arrangements to suit everyone's diary and pocket. Booking for bed and breakfast is made directly with the Hotel and the advertised price of £80 per room per night will be held until 6 weeks before Convention. This is *your* Convention, so please make every effort to attend as much as you can.

OBITUARIES It is with deep regret I have to report the passing to Higher Service of the following in the current Lionistic year: Jennifer Stallard of Eastleigh and Bill Palmer of Pangbourne, Theale and District. We extend our appreciation for their commitment to Lions Clubs International and offer our thoughts and prayers to their families and friends.

New Members

We welcome the following new Lions:

Aldershot	Oliver Wood
Bracknell	June Hale
Eastleigh	Daniel Clarke
Jersey	Jason Gleave
Salisbury	Maralyn Clash
Westbury	Stan Flukes
Woolmer Forest	Frank Avery and Jennifer Garrigan-Avery

Thank you for being prepared to give of your time and expertise for the benefit of others.

DG David's Diary for September

Monday 2 nd	Cosham OV
Wednesday 4 th	Lymington OV
Thursday 5 th	Hart OV
Sunday 8 th	Presidents' Lunch
Monday 9 th	Jersey OV
Tuesday 10 th	Guernsey OV
Thursday 12 th	Ventnor OV
Monday 16 th	Hook and Odiham OV
Wednesday 18 th	Loddon Valley OV
Thursday 19 th	Hythe and Waterside OV
Saturday 21 st	Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury CA
Monday 23 rd	New Milton OV
Wednesday 25 th	Farnborough OV
Saturday 28 th	Fleet CA
Sunday 29 th	Slough Senior Citizens event

1st VDG Mike's Diary for September

Monday 2 nd	Wareham OV
Wednesday 4 th	Dorchester & District OV
Tuesday 10 th	Sandown & Shanklin OV
Thursday 12 th	Alton OV

2nd VDG Alan's Diary for September

Wednesday 11 th	Cowes, Branch of Newport OV Date not confirmed
Thursday 26 th	Burnham OV

One last plea: if any Lion or Club is in possession of any equipment which belongs to the District please will you let Richard Keeley, our PRO, know. Richard will build up an inventory of equipment which is available to be borrowed and where it is currently held. This will save Clubs frantically ringing other Clubs to try to track down banners etc! Once we have a comprehensive list the details will be made available to all Clubs. Thank you.

Yours in Lionism David Merchant