



Dg David Merchant addressing a Charter Anniversary

I continue, with Lion Diana, our rounds of Official Visits to Clubs and as guests at Charter Anniversaries where we meet very friendly and very busy Lions. Every Club is different but every Club is working to our motto of 'We Serve'. And as a District we are serving those who need our help and support in so many different and interesting ways. It

is a genuine pleasure to visit Clubs and hear about their work. We have also found time to visit events being held by Clubs where we have the opportunity to see Lions 'at work' and to chat with them about what they are doing and to chat to those on the receiving end. Two recent examples were the Senior Citizens Tea Party and Entertainment laid on by the Lions of Slough and the refreshment being organised by the Lions of Hart for the Model Railway Exhibition Weekend at Connaught School in Aldershot. These were very different experiences but both are fine examples of 'Fellowship' and really did sum up the principle of team work which is so vital in everything we do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those Lions (388 in total) who completed the District Questionnaire. The use of this questionnaire has proven to be a success in a number of ways. It has provided the District Governor Team, in particular, with a snapshot view of the concerns of individual Lions and will be an invaluable aid to helping plan the future direction of our District and in particular how we focus on Cabinet, Convention, Competitions and Projects. We will, as a team, formulate short, medium and long term plans to reflect the views we have received. Obviously there were wide ranging and at times conflicting views on certain topics but it is hoped some of the ideas suggested will be incorporated in Convention 2014 as well as in subsequent Conventions and Cabinet structures. The whole exercise has also shown us we can reach a large proportion of our members directly and this is an avenue which, I am sure, will be explored further in the future. It was also helpful to hear additional comments and suggestions at the Open Forum held on 20th October when a summary of the main points was aired. The Power Point presentation used at this time is now on the District website with the complete list of responses, please

click the link below:-

<http://lions105d.org.uk/results/>

I would urge every Lion to visit this and spend some time thinking about other ways we can make our District a more inclusive part of our Lionistic lives.

There are a number of individuals I must thank for their help and efforts in making this novel exercise here in 105D a success. Godwin Micallef and Mike Hendy for collating and checking all of the responses, Mike for preparing and giving the presentation at the Open Forum and Tom and Owen Sayers for all their IT expertise.

The District Service, held at St Nicolas' Church In Newbury on 6th October, was another successful



event for the District. I thank all of those involved and whose efforts contributed to the day including all of those who took part in the Service, my own Club – Newbury – for the organisation on the day,



Eight Bells for Mental health for the superb refreshments and those people from the Church and Newbury

Town Council. I was honoured that the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mrs Mary Bayliss, was able to join us and I have since received a personal note of gratitude from her which includes the phrases "I very much enjoyed coming to Newbury to meet so many of the Lions Clubs who were also there", "a splendid Service, thoughtful and inspiring" and "the tables were groaning with delicious food".

On Thursday 10th October we visited the Lions of Chichester for their Open Day in respect of Spektrek. Although the spectacles we collect go to Midhurst the organisation is exactly the same and to see the work which goes into sorting and dealing with so many spectacles before they are shipped to France for grading is very humbling. I would urge everyone who has ever collected spectacles to visit either Chichester or Midhurst to see the next stage of the process and to realise just how many pairs of glasses Lions are shipping to France for onwards transportation to the developing world. Both Clubs can also deal with hearing aids and mobile phones so please ensure these are included next time you are ready for dispatch – one note from the Lions in Chichester ‘please do not pack too many glasses into each box and preferably use a number of smaller boxes rather than very large boxes’. Clubs should also be aware it is possible to seek grants from both of these Clubs for Sight related matters.



It may seem a long way ahead but I would like to take this opportunity to mention the District Convention.

Firstly it is my pleasure to announce that our International Guest will be Past International President James (Jim) Ervin; it is a number of years since 105D has had the honour of a Past International President as its official guest and as a renowned public speaker I am sure many Lions will wish to join us for this special occasion.

As you know this will be held at the Holiday Inn, Winchester from 28th to 30th March 2014. Accommodation is booked directly with the Hotel – by telephone if you wish to use the agreed Convention rate of £80 a night per double room to include breakfast (0871 9429188). The AGM and social aspects are booked via District and all of the details are now live on our District website. The booking has been subdivided into each component part to allow Lions to book for those elements of the weekend that they wish to attend.

CABARET

Friday night will be the Host Night when we will be entertained by Lisa Faye – a wonderful singer who has promised us an evening of songs to listen to and to dance to. Many of these will be from popular shows hence the theme of ‘cabaretshowtime’ and although I hope many of you will dress up for the occasion this will be a matter of choice. Saturday is our AGM - the Business Session of the Convention and I hope as many as possible of the Lions in our District will be able to join us. I intend to start the day no earlier than 9.30am to allow those who visit for the day not to have too early a start and I aim to make this an exciting and memorable occasion. Saturday evening will be the Banquet and Ball – speeches kept to a minimum – to allow time for relaxing and enjoying the occasion. Sunday morning will be an Open Forum to include our International guest and will end with bacon rolls! I hope to see many Lions from 105D attending at least part of the Convention – if you have never attended a District Convention before make this your first one.

Obituaries: It is with deep regret I have to report the passing to Higher Service of Ian Imray of Fleet, Alfred Corall of Henley on Thames and Alan McIntyre of Slough. Our prayers and thoughts are with their loved ones and all those who knew them; we are grateful for all they did in the name of lionism.

New Members: We welcome Andrea Johnson of Bracknell, Lawrence Edward of Bridport, Tim Nicholls of Burnham, Alan Watson of New Milton, Joan Evans of Henley on Thames and Marilyn Templeton of Reading. Thank you for being prepared to give of your time and effort for the benefit of others.

David's Diary - November

Monday 4 th	Convention Committee Meeting
Tuesday 5 th	Havant OV
Wednesday 6 th	Swanwick OV
Saturday 9 th	Wimborne and Ferndown CA
Sunday 10 th	National Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall
Monday 11 th	Fareham OV
Wednesday 13 th	Yateley OV
Saturday 16 th	Guernsey CA
Sunday 17 th	Bracknell CA
Monday 18 th	Windsor OV
Tuesday 19 th	Ryde OV
Saturday 23 rd	Hayling Island CA
Monday 25 th	Reading OV
Saturday 30 th	Jersey CA – celebrating their 50 th Charter Anniversary

Yours in Lionism David Merchant