

District Governor: Lion David Merchant
Tel: (H) 01635 46495 (M) 07751 423771 Email: dg@lions105d.org.uk Website: www.lions105d.org.uk

“Service with Pride, Friendship and Enjoyment”



As I write my January Newsletter I realise half of my year as your District Governor has passed – in a flash! I was warned the time would go quickly and the first half year certainly has, but it remains great fun and we continue to thoroughly enjoy meeting Lions, their families and others as we visit Clubs and events around the District.

From a personal point of view there was little travelling to do around the District in December but I did manage



to find time for a stint as Santa for my own Club and we were fortunate to receive a personal invitation from the

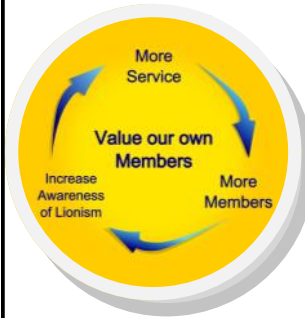
Mayor of Newbury and his lady to attend the town's Carol Service. This was a lovely event and was held in St Nicolas' Church where we held the District Service in October and again there was a procession from the Council Chamber to the Church.

I really must congratulate all of the Lions and Clubs which make up District 105D for the tremendous way you all responded to the Philippines Disaster Appeal. As I write this Newsletter the current total is in excess of £36800 a truly wonderful response and one which reflects so well on us as an organisation and you for your immediate and generous response. Some Clubs were able to arrange street collections at very short notice and the response of the public was excellent. Other Clubs made donations from their Welfare accounts. However you responded and however much you sent can I please, on behalf of Lions Clubs International and the people of the Philippines, express my heartfelt thanks for your generosity.

Reflecting on the first half of the year my one concern – and it is a big concern – is our continued loss of members. To date our net loss is 21 and yet you have 'badged up' 48 new members in this time a tremendous achievement for which I thank you. Of the 69 members we have lost in the first half of the year just 6 have passed to Higher Service and although some of the

losses will have been due to Lions moving away from the area could we have done more to keep those members we have lost? I have this month reproduced 'My Dream' in diagrammatic form and would draw your attention to the centre where the statement reads 'Value our own Members'. I also think it is worth repeating the Challenge I issued back in March 2013 at the District Convention when I challenged every Club in the District to end the Lionistic year with at least one more member than it began the

year. I hope this is still an aim for each and every Club – it certainly is for me.



Mention of the last District Convention brings me nicely onto Winchester and our District Convention from 28th to 30th March 2014. Have you booked yet? Please remember that the social parts of the weekend are booked directly via the District website – and here you can select to book for all of the



events or select those you wish to attend ie Host Night on Friday evening with entertainment from Lisa Faye, the Business Sessions on Saturday, the Banquet and Ball on Saturday evening and the final get together with PIP Jim Ervin on Sunday morning. The Business Sessions on Saturday are your AGM and provide you with the opportunity to ask questions, to vote on matters which affect you as a Lion and to take an active part in the Workshops.

I would also remind you that accommodation is booked directly with the Holiday Inn, Winchester on 01962 670700 and quote Lions 105D Convention in order to obtain the agreed price of £80 per night for a Double Room for bed and breakfast – an agreed rate which will only be kept until the middle of next month so it is in your best interest to book now.

Lion Diana continues to promote her chosen charity for the year, Missing People, and she is most grateful to those Lions who sent electronic messages of Goodwill for Christmas on the District website and by so doing donated to Missing People. Any Clubs wishing to donate to this most worthwhile charity should send their cheques to our District Treasurer, Lion Linda Picton, payable to LCI District 105D and endorsed Missing People. You will learn even more about this charity as there will be a presentation on Missing People at this year's District Convention given by its Chief Officer, Jo Youle.

This would also be an appropriate time to mention the Multiple District Convention which is to be held at the Palace Hotel in Manchester from 9th to 11th May 2014; full details are available on the Multiple District website.



I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Lions Club of Jersey for the excellent weekend of entertainment and enjoyment they arranged to help them celebrate

their 50th Charter Anniversary. Very nearly 200 sat down to enjoy the Charter Anniversary Banquet and Ball on the Saturday evening, which included some 50 Lions and partners who 'jetted' in from both the mainland and that island adjacent to Jersey, but that is only part of the story. We were so well catered for over the weekend, including collection from and return to the airport as well as being taken to a local hostelry for a meal and the chance to reminisce on Friday evening. Saturday saw a number of us being given an excellent tour of the island which included many historical sites as well as venues which exist thanks to the ongoing success of the Club's major annual fund raiser – their hugely successful swimarathons, including, of course, the Hotel Maison



des Landes, run by the Lions for the benefit of those with special needs and in need of a holiday. This tour was all the more interesting thanks to the excellent driving and commentary provided by Lion Peter Tabb – those of us fortunate enough to join Peter on this trip were truly grateful for his time and expert knowledge of the island. The Charter Anniversary Banquet and Ball was an excellent affair and the highlight for me was the honour of being able to make certain presentations. These were the Certificate for the Club signed by our Patron, HRH the Countess of Wessex and the current Council Chairman, Lion Phil Robinson, and 50 year Charter chevrons to the 3 Lions who remain members since the Club's Charter in 1963: Lions Alan Le Feuvre, Arthur Harrison and Colin Journeaux. Finally, on behalf of everyone who attended this wonderful weekend, I extend my grateful thanks to Lion Mike Labey for all of his hard work and dedication in making this a weekend to remember.



3 Chevron Awards totalling 150 years of service

New Members

I am delighted to welcome the following new Lions:

Alton: Michael Gwynne and Lorraine Stone
Blackmore Vale: Raymond and Wendy Cable
Westbury: Angie Fawcett
Woolmer Forest: Joanne Wilson

Thank you for being prepared to give of your time and efforts to help others and I sincerely hope you enjoy your own experiences of being a Lion.

David's Diary

January

Thursday 2nd GMT/GLT Conference Call
 Friday 3rd Observer at Council Advisory Committee at MDHQ
 Monday 6th District Convention Committee Meeting
 Friday 10-11th Young Ambassador District Final at Hinton Firs Hotel in Bournemouth
 Sunday 12th Meeting with PID Howard Lee and others, in Yeovil to discuss our Multiple District's New Club Development Plan
 Wednesday 15th District Governor Team Meeting
 Sunday 19th District Cabinet Meeting at Alton House Hotel, Alton at 10.30am
 Thursday 23rd Newbury OV
 Friday 24-26th Council of Governors in Solihull

Finally, Diana and I wish all of the Lions in 105D, along with their families and loved ones, a very peaceful and prosperous New Year

Yours in Lionism
David Merchant