

SENTINEL

JUNE 2020 SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 SPECIAL EDITION

A Special Edition of the District 105SC SENTINEL dedicated to the Lions Clubs and their members who have turned the problems caused by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic into challenges which the Clubs have met and overcome.



Never let this doggerel be true of Lions Clubs:

***“There was a thing that couldn’t be done.
With a smile he said he knew it.
But he tackled that thing that couldn’t be done.
And he couldn’t do it.”***

The DG's Overview...

My fellow Lions...

When the lockdown was first put in place, my fellow District Governors and I met (on Zoom, of course) as we were concerned that Lions Clubs and their members might struggle with being marooned in their homes and many might become overcome with a feeling of helplessness.

But I needn't have worried because my fellow Lions throughout 105SC have done an amazing job of not only keeping in touch with the vulnerable members in their own Clubs, but have at times stunned me into silence (*not something that happens very often – Editor*) with their ingenuity in coming up with ways to serve their communities.

There are times on a District Governor's journey especially when you come across difficult situations or individuals - you question your reason for undertaking the role and then you look at the creativity and effort that many Lions have put in over these troubling times and it brings you back to understanding why you became a lion in the first place. My fellow Lions you have done yourselves, your community and your District a great service and you have made me very proud to call myself District Governor of 105SC.

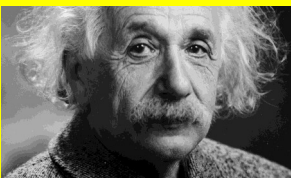
My heartfelt thanks to Lion Richard Keeley for his efforts in collating the stories from the Clubs and our esteemed editor Lion Peter for putting them together.



Lion Jarvis - DG 105SC

**In the
middle of
difficulty
lies
opportunity**

- Albert Einstein



Air ambulances across the British Isles will receive vital equipment for use in their battle against COVID-19 thanks to a generous £160,000 donation from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).



AIR AMBULANCES UK™
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#JoinUs
#LionsGetInvolved

“We have nothing to fear but fear itself.”

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Except if you're a fearless Lion!

When the government restrictions came into force for the coronavirus pandemic, many of us thought all Lions Clubs activities would be closed down indefinitely.

That thought has turned out to be far from the truth. Although the majority of fund-raising activities are cancelled, Lions throughout District 105SC have adapted magnificently to help their communities in many imaginative, generous and diverse ways.

A total of £147,000 from the MD105 Foundation Covid-19 Emergency Grant Fund was snapped up by 212 clubs nationwide, 14 of which were successful applications from Clubs in District 105SC.

Between the 25 clubs that responded to an information request for this article a magnificent £41,643 has been donated to directly support Covid-19 charitable causes in their communities. By the time this report is published that total will undoubtedly have grown. This includes £11,500 from the MD Foundation Emergency Grant Scheme. Further value to these direct donations is added by Clubs cooking meals for the elderly and vulnerable, helping with foodbanks and donating computers to help children of disadvantaged families. This added value is estimated at more than £30,000 bringing the total to more than £70,000 in just 10 weeks.

Lion Richard Keeley

Marketing & PR Co-ordinator District 105SC

SERVING SAFELY TOGETHER



Dear Lion

In these challenging times, community has become even more important. We are relying on each other more than ever, which is why your safe service is making such a big difference in people's lives.

Let's keep focused on the health and safety of our families, friends and neighbours. Let's find ways to keep our communities strong. Let's continue to be who we are and what the world needs now - Lions.

Regards

Lion Dr Jung-Yul Choi

International President

We're in this together...

How do you run a Santa float during Covid-19 restrictions?



Fellow Lions, lots of us have a Santa float that brings us a lot of income and lots of smiles from the young ones. But how will we do this under the inevitable restrictions that will still be in place in December? So how about working together across the District to develop the best ways to do this? There must be current ways that Lions run their floats that we can all learn from.

Fleet Lions have a real Santa on a float that we tow around with an SUV that can ferry all Santa's helpers. We work our way around the streets in the evenings and during the day we have static slots at our out-of-town supermarket and in our High Street. We collect cash donations. We advertise our routes on our website and Facebook.

If you'd like to work together to tackle this year's extra challenges, then please contact jim.storey@fleetlions.org.uk.

Lion Jim Storey

Fleet Lions

CORONA QUIZ NIGHTS Wokingham Lions beat the lockdown

Since Thursday 2 April, Wokingham Lions have been running weekly virtual pub quizzes with more than 250 teams taking part each week. That's more than 13,500 people participating so far.



Anyone can join in via the Wokingham Lions Club Facebook page at fb.com/wokinghamlions/video.

BBC Radio Berkshire heard about the pub quiz, inviting them to do three questions every evening for their listeners, culminating in a live link-up between the BBC and the quiz.

So far the Club has raised £3,200 from quiz participants, which has been donated to support individuals and families in need. In addition, the Club donated another £1,000 from a grant from the MD105 Foundation Covid-19 Emergency Grant Fund.

Gillingham, Mere & Shaftsbury Lions Club

Several Lions have volunteered for community roles including cooking Sunday lunches for elderly isolating neighbours, making cakes for Shaftesbury Cottage Hospital and delivering groceries from a local restaurant to the elderly in isolation. Lions are also working as community area volunteers, shopping, collecting prescriptions, etc.

Several members have also been keeping in touch with Club members and neighbours who are self-isolating. Regional Chairman Lion David Rose, has helped various Clubs set up Zoom meetings, including Clubs in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. They have also had an online Bingo game with our Caribbean members.

If you are going through hell, keep going.
- Winston Churchill

ACTIVE ALDERSHOT

Aldershot Lions Club have provided essential PPE equipment in conjunction with Fleet Lions, who have a 3D printer. They are producing 3D face mask Relievers - flexible head band fasteners that stop the elastic face masks from rubbing behind the ears and face over a long periods. These have been donated to key workers at the Aldershot Centre Health, local dentists and retirement homes. Hearing aid batteries have been donated to CSSEF, a local charity for deaf children.

An Aldershot Lion has knitted 'Angels' as a thank you for care workers in Rushmoor & Surrey. as well as placing them in the Chaplain's area of Frimley Park Hospital for patients and their family members.

Financial help has been given to Step by Step, the Aldershot charity for homeless young people. Also help given to a porter at Frimley Park Hospital and an Aldershot resident who had his motorbike stolen from the hospital car park. The Lions joined with community fundraising with a donation towards a new bike and leathers.

Support is ongoing for the Zone 2K IT Refurbishment Project, providing disadvantaged children in the locality with laptops/PC's for their home schooling.

Strange times motivate the Abingdon Lions

These are indeed strange times. The Abingdon Lions Club has a mixture of older members that, for their own safety, remain at home and some have to be wary of family members at high risk, while some of us who are younger are still able to help in some way. But others who are still working, have to work.

The Club has supported the food bank and the local community Covid -19 help website financially. Members are also delivering surplus items such as duvets and sheets to local teams that are distributing goods to the homeless living in shelters and billeted in hotel with spare textiles being converted to masks - members pitching in where they can.

ACTIVE ALTON

To date the Alton Lions Club has donated £3,000 to support Covid-19 work in the community.

These include:

Alton Covid-19 Mutual Aid - a donation to support the hospital/GP surgery transport. Sourcing a laptop for use by housebound resident ;

Alton Foodbank - a donation of £500 (which included an anonymous gift;

Alton Citizens Advice (CA) where the Lions have set up a voucher scheme with Sainsbury's to provide emergency and perishable food.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) - a donation of £1,475 to support those struggling with fuel bills.

Financial support to a local teenager for purchasing materials to enable him make 480 face shields for Alton Community Hospital and The Wilson Practice; and **Medstead Primary School** - sourcing lap-tops for pupils' home schooling.

Alton Lions have set up a Community Quiz, for Wey Valley Radio. The quiz is broadcast every Friday evening and on Facebook @weyvalleyradioalton. The quiz is free and open to all but If those taking part can make a donation through Alton Lions website the proceeds go towards the Covid-19 effort in the community.

Alton Lions are in contact with all care homes, schools, the Community Hospital, GP practices, homes for adults and children with learning difficulties to find out how they are doing and if they have a need that the Lions can address.

What you can do for your community

Reading Lions Club show how to make a grand go a long way

Reading Lions Club was successful in obtaining a grant of £1,000 from the MD105 Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Grant Fund. This was used to support the following:

- ◆ **Berkshire Women's Aid:** to run a refuge and safe houses for women;
- ◆ **New Beginnings:** this Reading charity is dedicated to the relief of poverty, financial hardship and homelessness. During the pandemic opening times have increased providing food and living essentials to an average of 50 individuals and 23 families daily.;
- ◆ **Ox, Bucks, Berks and N'Hants Blood Bikes:** a donation to fuel a duty motorbike to transport samples of Covid-19 blood, blood products, medical supplies and medical equipment for the NHS;
- ◆ **Berkshire - for the love of scrubs:** a group with more than 1,000 people making scrubs, scrub bags and headbands. The donation will be used to purchase sufficient material to make and send out approximately 40 sets of scrubs;
- ◆ **Duchess of Kent Hospice:** a donation of £250 was made for PPE equipment;
- ◆ **Support the Reading NHS Covid-19 Front Line:** a donation of £200 to ICU and Community District Nurses 'grab & go' healthy food appeal for staff who don't have time for a full meal.

In addition, the Club used its Christmas float suitably decorated with rainbows and renamed 'the Food Donation Heroes' to collect non-perishable foodstuffs from the public for 'New Beginnings'. This involves social media appeal with downloadable 'Stop Here' posters for the public to donate food during the regular collections.



The food collecting team on the road

Reading Club is also launching 'The Round up for Reading Appeal'. Participating local businesses and trades people will be asking their customers if they wish to 'round up their bill'. Any difference is donated to Reading Lions, allowing them to continue their direct grants for COVID-19 relief.

Westbury Lions Club

Westbury Lions received a grant of £1,000 from the MD Covid-19 Emergency Grant Fund which they matched to give £2,000 to Westbury Town Council - who have set up a centre to assist with distributing food and clothing for individuals and families in need. A further £1,000 was earmarked for donation to this worthy cause over the next few months.

The Lions have also been busy around Westbury, shopping for the elderly and vulnerable and delivering prescriptions.

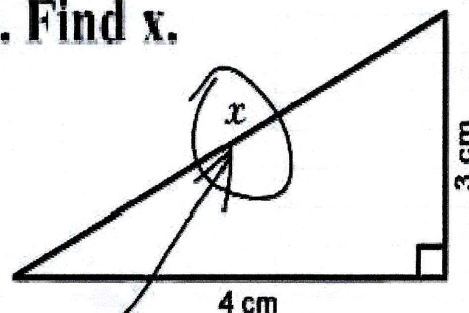


DG Lion Jarvis said, "After many weeks of holding Zoom meetings and encouraging other Lions to assist the less fortunate in our communities, I have finally joined my

fellow Westbury Lions doing something practical to assist in the fight against Covid-19, delivering emergency medicines to elderly residents in the Westbury area".

The benefits of home-schooling!

3. Find x .



Here it is

The secret of getting ahead is getting started

Farnborough Lions go 'Step by Step'

Farnborough Lions Club responded to an appeal from Step by Step with a £500 grant to the young people's charity in Aldershot who care for 16 to 25 year olds going through hard times. Their services range from providing accommodation for homeless young people to giving personal development opportunities and counselling with specialist support services. These services are all under threat while their fundraising opportunities are shut down.

As part of the Zone IT Refurbishment Project Farnborough Lions also funded the Microsoft Licenses for computers donated to less fortunate families enabling their children to continue with home education.



Yateley loads the hardware

Yateley & District Lions have received a £1,000 grant from the MD Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Grant Fund.

It will use the grant for the computer refurbishment programme being run by all Clubs in Zone 2E, including Aldershot, Farnborough, Fleet, Hart and Hook & Odiham, to refurbish, upgrade and repair redundant computers. These are then donated to disadvantaged families to help their children maintain their education on-line while schools are closed.

Yateley Lions are playing a pivotal role in collecting and refurbishing these computers. Since the start of the government restrictions 200 pieces of computer hardware have been donated to families in need. That represents approximately £18,000 worth of recycled computers. Among the generous donations are 35 PCs given by Surrey Heath Borough Council and 60 computers by Broadmoor Hospital.



Cooked meals funded by Burnham Lions

The Burnham Club is small with a number of members who have to shield themselves from Covid-19 have not been able to do much in the active sense but have helped the community financially. The Club has made donations to Burnham Parish Council for their COVID19 Neighbourhood Fund, a project started by a local councillor to provide cooked meals to local elderly people who are self-isolating, together with the £1,000 grant from the MD105 Foundation Covid-19 Emergency Grant Fund for the cooked meals project.

Facing up to Covid-19

Eastleigh Lions Club have, with the help of Court Moors School's Design and Technology Department, produced laser cut PPE visors to help counter the Covid -19 pandemic.

The first batch of 70 were delivered to key workers in Pharmacies and Doctor surgeries in the local area.



The best way to predict the future is to create it - Abraham Lincoln

Devizes Lions defy Covid-19

Despite the current coronavirus restrictions the Devizes Lions Club held a virtual presentation event to distribute their annual contributions to local organisations and groups. Some of the 23 recipients, who shared £6,850, included:

- ♦ Support following closure of frontline services of Alzheimer's Support Devizes and Carer Support Wiltshire.
- ♦ Cookery classes for older male carers for who have limited cooking experience prior to their caring role so struggle to prepare healthy, nutritious meals. on a daily basis. The cookery class was piloted in January 2020, receiving helpful coverage on BBC Radio Wiltshire, the *Gazette & Herald* and *Community Matters* and will go 'virtual' to during the current restrictions.
- ♦ Devizes Opendoors supporting homeless and other vulnerable adults in the Devizes area. Guests are given cooked meals, food parcels, laundry tickets, showers, clothing items and bedding and access to secure accommodation.
- ♦ Dorothy House Hospice Care to provide at home care to those patients and families who cannot safely visit. This includes remote care to vulnerable patients who are self-isolating by using the phone and video technology to maintain vital contact.

Hart Lions use MD Emergency Grant to support charity helping young homeless people

Hart Lions successfully applied for a grant from the MD105 Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Grant Fund resulting in a further £1,000 being donated to Step by Step, the young homeless people's charity. They have also been involved with the Hart Response Hub alongside Fleet Lions.

Shock for Swindon Lions helps hospice

Shocked to learn that the local Prospect Hospice was desperately short of PPE, Swindon Lions Club members applied for an MD105 Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Grant.

While that was unsuccessful, the Treasurer had obtained a refund from HMRC under the revised Gift Aid scheme. The refund of £1,656 was raised to £1,680 from Club funds enabling the grant needed for PPE for the Prospect Foundation.

MD grant enables Woodley & Earley Lions to help fund new premises for foodbank

The Club successfully applied for £500 from the MD105 Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Grant Fund for their local food bank. The food bank donation has been put towards establishing new premises in a trading estate unit. The old council-owned premises could not be used during lockdown.

A £300 donation was made to the Woodley First Responders to fund much needed hand cream in bulk. Berkshire Women's Aid organisation were given a Club donation of £2,000. They do invaluable work to alleviate the suffering of abused women.

One joy scatters a hundred griefs



Fleet Lions Club have co-ordinated the Zone 2E IT Refurbishment Project since its inception last year.

Originally set up to recycle and refurbish computers and IT peripherals for charities and voluntary organisations, it now supplies computers to a large number of disadvantaged families so their children can continue with home education. A further £3,000 has been granted jointly between Vivid Housing who look after the Social Housing needs in Rushmoor and in Basingstoke and HIWFC - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Foundation Charity - plus donations of 100 used laptops and 50 mice from companies in Southampton and Basingstoke.

Over the lockdown Fleet Lions have also been heavily involved with a contact helpline which directs appropriate support in the local community through Hart District Council and Hart Voluntary Action, with voluntary groups such as Fleet and Hart Lions, Churches Together in Fleet and Hart Food bank.



3D printing production in conjunction with Aldershot Lions has been under way with the help of Westbury Lions Club to make 'Ear Relievers'. These are plastic flexible bars to hold PPE face masks around the back of the head rather than front line workers having to use uncomfortable ear bands.

Left: An 'Ear Reliever' in place

Easter eggs?

Newbury Lions Club took delivery of 20 Giant Easter Eggs 2 days before lockdown. All usual venues, bar one, couldn't take them they so they creatively covered their costs and made a surplus by donating them to three charities.

They were raffled via online donations to a match funding site raising over £1,000.

One village-bound member has co-ordinated volunteers and set up a Facebook page to keep the villagers informed while recruiting more than 40 volunteers to support elderly and vulnerable residents. She also runs a curry club once a week. Another member has been sewing scrubs for the NHS.

A multi-agency approach

A highly successful multi-agency approach by New Milton Lions, the New Forest Basics Bank, local schools and the New Milton Town Council has ensured that local children do not go hungry during these difficult times.

Deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables, tinned goods, toiletries and some surprises have been most welcome.

This has only been possible through funding provided by the MD105 Foundation Covid-19 Emergency Grant Fund, supplemented by grants from New Milton Lions and the generosity of many local Town and District Councillors.

**Act as if what you do makes a difference.
It does**

Finding where the help is needed

Hook & Odiham Lions Club have set up a Coronavirus Response Group to investigate where help is needed.

Members are delivering medicines to people unable to leave their homes.

Financial help given to Rachel Baker for the 'Love your Neighbour' scheme as a float to pay for shopping for those who cannot leave home. Money has also been pledged for the Hart Food Bank.

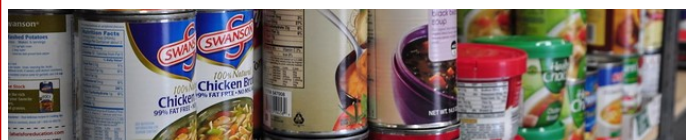
Funds into vouchers

Havant Lions have allocated an initial £2,000 to help to alleviate the lack of money due to delayed benefits to those in need locally. The funds have been converted into £50 food vouchers which are routed via Social Services and Citizens Advice to ensure the vouchers go to the most needy in the area.

Meon Valley Lions fund food bank replenishment

Waltham Chase foodbank runs a small operation supporting local families. Meon Valley Lions have made a £250 donation to fund replenishing their supplies.

They also regularly assist the Meon Valley Food Bank, based in Bishops Waltham.



Marlborough & District Lions Club successfully applied for a grant from the MD105 Foundation COVID-19 Emergency Grant Fund receiving £1000 which was matched with a further £1000 to be used by the Community Volunteer Help Scheme for shopping, collection of prescriptions and walking the dog for those needing assistance. This purchased PPE equipment to keep them safe, plus giving funds for essential shopping items for the most needy.

Supplying packs of essential items to the Great Western Hospital for frontline staff dealing with Covid patients weekly since lockdown.

A business donation of £250 to the Lions has been spent on PPE for local Care Homes.

Petersfield Lions' donations

Petersfield Lions Club are serving their community by donating £500 to The Kings Arms, Petersfield, to purchase a laptop computer to help a vulnerable student, £130 via Age Concern for a cooker and a further £250 to PACT Food Bank.

Coming back to Covid-19

In the six months since Basingstoke Lions PRO Lion Philip Wilson's last report, the world has changed...

I scraped back into the country on Monday 16 March, just as things started to go pear-shaped, and immediately self-isolated. Along with many others in the Club, I am classified as "vulnerable". There are those among us who are not as well as we might be, but for the most part we are as tough as hobnail boots (particularly the women). So it will come as no surprise that, while following social distancing guidance, we remain active.

As soon as it became clear that we could no longer hold our Business Meetings at the normal venue, our President got to grips with Zoom and got us set up to conduct our business that way. It is not ideal, but we had an 80 per cent turn out at our last meeting which is about normal. But minute taking is a challenge. One cannot bang one's fists on the table to restore order when things get out of hand (And do they get out of hand!). Men for the most part have minds that run on rails – solid and predictable. Women are multitaskers *par excellence* and have the vociferous communication skills of a flock of starlings in flight – they all manage to get on the same wave length almost at once creating a stunned silence among the men.

Welfarewise the inability to contact people face to face has not so far been too much of a problem. Recently the Red Cross got in touch with us about a man who had just left hospital and was in sore need of a new mattress. We managed to supply one thanks to the good offices of the Basingstoke Community Furniture Project. We have also donated to Spotlight, who are running their own foodbank, and to a group of seamstresses to enable them to buy more material to make scrubs for the NHS. One of our members has been accepted as a food parcel deliverer for the foodbanks on the strict understanding that she does not wear her "Lennie the Basingstoke Lion" suit. We don't want any heart attacks!

Another of our members is a nurse at the hospital. So we asked her if there was anything that was in short supply on her ward. She said that the only thing they were short of was hand cream which got used up very quickly due to the excessive amount of handwashing that is now required and the resulting chapped hands. So we're supplying some additional hand cream and then we'll see what more we can do.

We have recently been joined at our meetings by two members of the Basingstoke Voluntary Action (BVA) team and they are proving to be worth their weight in gold. The Fleet Lions Club project to recycle redundant computers which can, after a general makeover, be re-cycled for use by children and in schools has tweaked their imagination and they have been locating redundant equipment, picking it up and delivering it to Fleet. They are also a fount of useful information and pointed us in the direction of Easyfundraising.org.uk. In these difficult times, when our normal means of fundraising are impossible, this is a godsend. All you have to do is register on line with the organisation and nominate Basingstoke Lions Club as your charity. Then, when you want to make an online purchase, you access your supplier (there are over 4,000 registered) through the Easyfundraising website and make your purchase as normal. There is no additional cost to you. Easyfundraising then collects whatever the percentage agreed with the supplier is and credits it to our account.

With five members signed up we've already been paid £8.88. Not exactly a fortune, but with all you readers signed up it could be. So please remember us the next time you are about to make an online purchase. We do help many of the most disadvantaged people in Basingstoke.

The coronavirus is dreadful. But it has demonstrated how many caring people, kind people, brave people are around us. We salute them all! Bravo Basingstoke!

You too can help to make a difference to the lives of others by joining us via www.basingstokelions.org.uk

Lion Philip Wilson

PRO Basingstoke Lions Club

And last but not least...

Business as usual for Poole Lions

Despite the lock down and apart from physical meetings and fund-raising - it's been business as usual.

Grants approved so far via Zoom Meetings are:

- ♦ £800 to Homestart South East Dorset who look after vulnerable families
- ♦ £200 to Poole Food Bank
- ♦ £150 to Upton Young at Heart Club to sponsor a home delivered Sunday lunch for 30 people
- ♦ £150 for second hand furniture for a very vulnerable family.

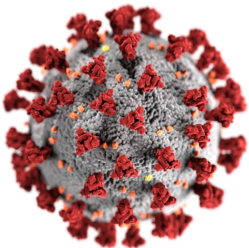
PPE action for Woolmer Forest Lions

Woolmer Forest Lions have been able to source and donate face shields to over a dozen local care homes.

Members have also been producing items of PPE to help the NHS – face masks, drawstring bags and protective hats.



They have also supported local families with food.



OLD CORONA

The Editor still has the last word...

It's not usual for me to have two last words in one month, but this edition has been special in many ways. Proof indeed that when there is something that cannot be done, there will always be Lions who can do it.

Congratulations to one and all for once again living up to our founder's maxim—"We Serve".

Lion Peter Tabb

More details of the activities of the Clubs in District 105SC can be found by clicking on:
<https://www.lions105sc.org.uk/clubs/prteam/may2020sentinelarticlebackstories.html>

DISTRICT 105SC SENTINEL

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