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Into the Devizes Lions Den -
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SENTINEL

OCTOBER 2020 EDITION



**Is this how every Club
meeting will start in
future?**



The International Association of Lions Clubs

District 105SC

District Governor 2020 - 2021 ♦ Lion Steve Petty

✉ dg@lions105sc.org.uk ♦ www.lions105sc.org.uk

“Kindness Matters”



The DG's Leader...

"We are all volunteers and give of our time freely", let us enjoy ourselves and spread fun, joy and laughter as we do what we do best - We Serve"

My Fellow Lions

I reported last month that August had been eerily quiet as far as outdoor fêtes, etc., are concerned giving me, and my car, a break from some extreme mileages. In contrast September has brought many more meetings via Zoom which, while welcome, has left me with an uncomfortable sensation from sitting for far too long in front of my computer.

The first week of October brings our quarterly Cabinet meeting where your District Officers report back their activities and, while most reports are very short, I am pleased to say that our Leadership, Membership and Service Officers have been very busy. This Cabinet will be online and if you are interested in joining us, please go to the website and login to the membership section for information or contact our District Sergeant-at-Arms. All are welcome.

The autumn also brings opportunities to attend the RLLI and ALLI training sessions along with the New Members' symposium and Guiding Lion courses. At this time of year we are also looking for a 2nd Vice District Governor for approval at the spring Convention. Please don't be shy in coming forward and ask us about your opportunities to grow as a Lion.

(All face-to-face training sessions are in "Covid-safe" approved locations and should the rules change, will be conducted by video conferencing.)

Can I also thank my 1st and 2nd VDGs for getting out and interacting with Clubs and bringing those experiences back to our monthly DG Team meetings. One such report was with an initiative from Reading Lions Club called "Round up for Reading" which gives people a novel opportunity to donate to the club via their local shops and made the local TV news. *(Click on link above to view)*. If your Club is doing something special or different in these difficult times then please let us know and we will spread the news so others can learn and copy?

I have had many requests for information regarding our usual autumn activities and whether to hold these events. I understand the frustration and eagerness to get out. While it would be difficult for me to give advice on individual Club events, there is guidance on the MultiDistrict website with links at the bottom of the web page to the government information relevant to your area. This advice is updated regularly so please go back to these sites and check often. Another source of information that I have been using is my own local authority Health and Safety Officer. As the Clubs near my own know very well, they have in the past been known to stop events or recommend changes to bring an event into line with the current regulations. They can be very useful and supportive.

There is currently an avalanche of information from Lions Club International and if you find it difficult to navigate the LCI website, most relevant information is repeated on the Lions Global Forum FaceBook page. You do not need a FaceBook account to join in.

Stay Safe.



Lion Steve District Governor 105SC



The bigger picture

Global Service Team News

OCTOBER sees us still in the grip of Covid-19 with possibly more stringent restrictions to come. However we can still serve our communities and plan for the future. Lions Clubs are allowed to meet to plan charitable events but I know many are still using Zoom or similar because of their age profile and finding venues where social distancing can be maintained. If we do go back into lockdown I am sure, those of you who can, will once again be helping out as you did earlier in the year in your communities.

Developments and suggestions for service in each discipline of the **5 Global Service** areas are:-

SIGHT

If you are looking for bins to place in outlets where you collect used specs, London Central Host Lions Club have designed one which is now on sale from MDHQ for £5.

Further information is available from Lion Vijay Jain, mobile: 07887 710141

ENVIRONMENT

One way we can help to improve the environment for ourselves and future generations is to plant trees. The Woodland Trust will provide free saplings to schools and communities. Go to <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/> for more information. The Trust is currently looking at applications for packs for March 2021, so now is the time to get your application in. There are several different packs available for different purposes:- Hedge, Copse, Wild Harvest, Year Round Colour, Working Wood, Wild Wood, Wildlife and Urban Trees. You can also purchase these packs.

CHILDHOOD CANCER

A MD Officer has now been appointed and I hope that ideas on how we can help will be forthcoming very soon. In the mean time do not forget to help local Children's Hospices and other charities which help children and families who are suffering from cancer.

HUNGER

District 105CN have been supplying breakfasts for children in schools by using "Magic Breakfast". This organisation is aiming to end hunger as a barrier to education in UK schools through the provision of healthy breakfasts to children living with food poverty. There are children in our District who fall into this category so why not visit <https://www.magicbreakfast.com/> to find out more about how you can get involved and help provide these breakfasts which cost just 34p each.

DIABETES



world diabetes day

14 November

Remember World Diabetes Day is on Saturday 14 November and that there are estimated to be 12.3 million people in the UK who are at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes with all the possible complications associated with the disease. Doing risk assessments will help to find some of these people and could help to save their lives. Our new MD Officer is also very keen to help people reverse the condition and I will report on this initiative when I have more information.

Whatever you do please record it on Mylion and keep well and safe! As I have written in the September edition of the Sentinel, our reporting record is poor so let's see if we can improve it over the next couple of months.

Lion Judith Goodchild

105SC GST Coordinator gst@lions105sc.org.uk
Tel: 0118 981 2260

Matters of moment



For Clubs considering donations to the Lebanon Disaster Emergency Appeal

May I advise all Clubs considering donating to the Emergency Disaster Appeal for Lebanon to only make donations to LCIF through the District Treasurer.

After receiving a direct approach for funding apparently from a Lions Club in Beirut following the disastrous explosion, I have instigated an investigation through MDHQ and the MD Compliance Officer to ascertain whether this direct appeal from Lebanon is genuine. My limited due diligence investigation uncovered conflicting contact details given for that Club between their website and social media outputs from those given in the direct appeal.

However, the email appeal itself was very plausible and was sent through an IT server in Beirut. My suspicions have been further raised as a number of Clubs throughout MD have received similar approaches. They have voiced the same concerns.

Therefore, please trust only the tried and tested route for disaster relief donations which is through LCIF.

Lion Richard Keeley

Marketing and Public Relations Co-ordinator



Welcome New Lions!

I am delighted to welcome the following new members into Lions Clubs International and wish them a long and happy time as Lions.

GUERNSEY - Lion Natalie Guille

HAYLING ISLAND - Lions Nicholas

McCormick and Jean Roberts

ISLE OF WIGHT RYDE - Lion Theresa Bignell

READING - Lion Emily Crowson

DG Lion *Steve*

CAMPAIGN | 100



District & Club Community Impact Grant (DCG)

It is a bit of a mouthful and I wonder how many readers will know what it is?

It is a grant to help Lions support humanitarian activities in their own communities. It is based on cumulative eligible donations made by Clubs and District through the year. 105SC can apply for a grant for up to \$6,200 based on qualifying donations, if there was a project that needed support. Obviously if individual clubs wish to apply, they need to contact the District Governor. For more information about this and any of the varied grants that are offered by LCIF, please visit the International website, or contact me.

For any Lions interested in finding out more about Lions Clubs International Foundation, please visit the international website and search for Foundation Fridays. These are short seminars looking at the various aspects of the Foundation, you can also catch up on those you have missed.

Early notification - the Lions of Europe (that does include us!) are proposing a LCIF day next year. In the week of 12 June it is hoped that all Lions Clubs in Europe will host a fundraiser and awareness event to promote LCIF and maybe encourage new members to join this great association.

Further details will follow later.

Lion Ann Huntley MGF

District 105SC LCIF Coordinator

Good news from the Clubs

Into the Devizes Lions' Den!

The 2020 Devizes Lions' Den was held in the Town Hall Assembly Rooms on Wednesday 9 September by courtesy of the Devizes Town Council. This was the third Den run by Devizes Lions and, due to the malign Covid-19, for the first time at a Den event, one presenter gave a pitch using Zoom.

The six judges, Lions Peter Blockley, Debbie Wilson and Jerry King, independents Nigel Grist and Richard Fry and Lion Jo Sheppard, had a hard time deciding between the merits of the four Den finalists before agreeing that the £2,000 on offer would make the most difference to the Little Bears pre-school project providing half of what they need to complete the

regeneration project for their well used dedicated play area. Pictured is Ginette Peach from Little Bears receiving the award from Devizes president Lion Jerry King.



Of the award, Ginette said: "This will enable us to achieve

our goal benefitting children in the early years' foundation stage for years to come. The award will go towards funding equipment which provides a rich learning environment covering all the curriculum areas thus encouraging imaginative play, creative and expressive, all of which builds self esteem."

The three runners-up - Carer Support Wiltshire, Devizes Men's Shed and Devizes Child Contact Centre - also received a donation from the Lions in recognition of their success in making the final four.

The Zoom presentation by Rachael Demery of Carer Support Wiltshire



Lion Nick Halford (left) celebrates 40 years of community service to as a member of the Wokingham Lions Club and receives a letter of congratulations from Dr Jitsuhiro Yamada, Past International President, Lions Club International, and a special 40-year chevron Lions pin from Club president Lion Nigel Page.

"I was introduced to Lionism by my father," Nick says. "He was a Charter Member of the Club from 1974. I supported him in various Club activities until he passed away suddenly in 1980, when I became a member of the Club."

President Lion Nigel Page says, "Nick is the epitome of what the Lions Club stands for – supporting those in need, raising funds for local charities, and helping the community. Over the years, Nick has always supported the running of the numerous Club activities."

Nick adds, "The social side of the Club has been very enjoyable for my wife Ann and me. Spending time with like-minded people is always stimulating. We have attended meetings of other Lions Clubs in different parts of the country, and have always been made very welcome. Participating in international exchanges with our twinned Clubs has been rather special too."

Lions doing what they do well...

LIVING UP TO 'TOGETHER WE SERVE'

In a massive logistical exercise, the Lions Club of New Milton has coordinated the provision of more than 1,000 food deliveries to needy families with children over the past 22 weeks.

Working in conjunction with The New Forest Basics Bank, the schools who identified the recipients and New Milton Town Council who provided the transport; every Friday an average of 45 deliveries to the most needy during these difficult times have been made. At the height of the pandemic, some 70 family deliveries were being made.

At the same time, an appeal was made to its members, to local Town Councillors and with a donation from Lions Club MD, a Cheque for **£5,050** was presented to help the Basics Bank in its on-going day-to-day operations.

At a presentation made at the Basics Bank in Lymington on Friday 11 September, chairman Oliver Stanley thanked all who had assisted in this project and especially Lion Peter Bousfield, the Lions Club Welfare Chairman, who ensured everything went smoothly. He also thanked those at the Basics Bank who had pulled out all the stops to ensure that their normal operations were maintained while this additional workload was handled efficiently.

Lions Club 'Certificates of Appreciation' were also awarded to all those who had been directly involved, including Mark Jeffries, the Estates and Facilities Manager at New Milton Town Council and his team of six ground staff who made the deliveries.



Presenting the cheque and certificates, Club president Lion Steve Merrifield commented, "the Lions Club was proud to have been involved in such an important project during the Covid-19 pandemic and to have been able to also make this financial contribution to the on-going work of the New Forest Basics Bank. It just shows what can be achieved if the community works together with a common goal. Lions Clubs respond to local needs as well as wider national and worldwide requirements, to work effectively and professionally to make a difference."

Reading Lions Great British September Clean Up



On a very sunny September morning, a group of ten Reading Lions approached the County Lock in their town centre, armed with every conceivable garden hand tool.

They spent the morning cutting back bushes and trees, clearing paths and removing debris. The result — an improved environment and a pleasant space for people to enjoy!



During these tricky Covid times it was great to get together and do something positive for the community - while enjoying each other's company.

The morning was not without other rewards either — a passenger on a passing pleasure boat gave us a £5 donation and we found a Fender guitar in good condition in a bush! This was a great improvement on the usual rusty bikes and supermarket trollies we have had to clear away in the past!

Clearing up the lock area is something we have been doing twice a year for the last eight years, but it seemed particularly appropriate this year as part of the Great British September Clean Up.

Like all Lions, we are committed to helping to improve the local environment and to have fun doing it!

Clubs living with Covid-19

LIONS POPPING UP WITH A FLOURISH IN THE SWAN CENTRE

On Saturday 26 September the Eastleigh Lions, in conjunction with Flourish and One Community, set up and manned a Pop-Up Shop in the Swan Centre in Eastleigh. This was a free facility promoting the work of Eastleigh Lions and specifically giving away free *Message in A Bottle* packs to passing shoppers and people who had specifically come to collect a bottle. Lions were on hand to explain how the *M.I.A.B* scheme works and how the possession of one of these bottles could be a life saver.

Obviously given the nature of potential visitors to the shop, all the Covid19 safety measures were in place including a non-touch thermometer, hand gel, facemasks and appropriate distancing. During the day more than 100 *M.I.A.B* packs were given away and at least one member of the public was encouraged to become a Lion.

A huge thank you to One Community and Flourish for allowing the use of the facilities. And, of course, a big thank you to the Lions who gave their time to man the shop.

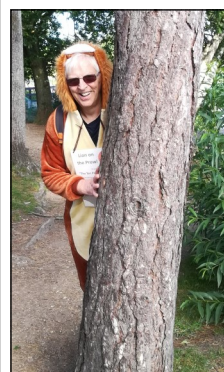
Since engaging with the *M.I.A.B* scheme in 2003 Eastleigh Lions have handed out more than 27,000 bottles to vulnerable members of the community.



THE TEN PERFORMING LIONS

A fantastic day for the Petersfield Lions Club was held on Saturday 5 September raising more than £1,050 for deserving causes during this current pandemic.

The Ten Performing Lions each chose a personal sponsored challenge including Lion Clive who cycled up six hills around Petersfield, Lions Mary and President Jo who were sponsored to stay silent, Lion Sandra a 10,000 hula-hoop challenge Lions Steve and Jennifer litter-picking, Lion Dee a static bike cycle, Lion Jo walking up Beacon Hill twice and Lion Trevor walking around Petersfield and the Pond in a Lion costume!



Meeting by ZOOM

District 105SC now has its own Zoom account, which may be used by Clubs who don't have their own account. Just email zoom@lions105sc.org.uk to request a meeting, giving date and time and name and email address of the member who will act as host.

More Club news

WINDSOR LIONS CANCEL 2020 SWIMARATHON



Once again Windsor Lions have had to cancel one of their big annual fundraisers due to the Covid-19 pandemic. After the recent axing of their Annual Horse Ride, the Club has announced the postponement of their

Swimarathon due to be held at Windsor Leisure Centre on Sunday 11 October. The event is now scheduled to take place on Sunday 10 October 2021 and be a bigger and better event than ever before.

Event organiser Lion Mike Sells tells how he tried every which way to save the event but restrictions and safety precautions made it unfeasible to go ahead. At the time of postponement 32 teams had entered and they have been advised of the postponement to next year.

Lion Mike reflected that a combination of stringent cleaning requirements between each team swimming, reduced capacity and the possibility of future lock-down measures made the event impossible to stage.

During lockdown Windsor Lions have continued to support the local community with a variety of projects such as the introduction of home testing kits for prostate cancer, Windsor Foodshare and Driven Forward.

Swindon Lions appreciate their local community

Swindon Lions have awarded Certificates of Appreciation for services to their community. To date 20 certificates have been presented to organisations and individuals who have helped the community during the pandemic crisis in so many ways: making PPE, collecting and delivering food, meals and prescriptions to the elderly and vulnerable.

Certificates have been presented to the Great Western Hospital and two outstanding nurses and to Sharon Toombs of Dressability who make and alter clothing for people with disabilities. They have also produced more than 5,000 items of PPE for surgeries, Prospect Hospice and Swindon Women's Aid.

The presentations were also attended by the Rt Hon. Robert Buckland QC, the local MP and Secretary of State for Justice.

Petersfield Book and Bric-a-Brac



On Saturday 26 September, Petersfield Lions manned a "Book and Bric-a-Brac" stall in the Market Square raising money and awareness for the Lions' Brain Tumour Research Fund. It was a great day and a pleasure meeting so many people, some of them sharing their own stories with the Lions.

Thanks to everyone who visited the stall for enabling the Club to raise more than £280. The money raised will go towards the £1,000,000 that the Lions Clubs of Great Britain have pledged to raise over the next four years.

And there's always more news...

250 join Wokingham Walk and raise £3,676

The fifth annual Wokingham Walk on Sunday 6 September was a great success, with all proceeds donated to Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service, which provides essential support to children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their families, across Berkshire.

"We are very pleased with the turnout, as well as the weather, for the annual Wokingham Walk," said organiser Lion Andy Slay. "People of all ages took part, walking different routes of five, ten and 15 miles, starting and ending at Elms Field - a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beautiful countryside around Wokingham and support a worthy cause.

"We raised £2,715 for the event, and all of it has been donated to the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service. In addition, a number of walkers raised their own sponsorships for different charities. Two walkers set up team sponsorship pages for Alexander Devine and raised an additional £961, bringing the total to £3,676. The teams were the Moving Mamas (£385) and the Lloyd Family (£576)."

Alexander Devine's CEO and Co-founder, Fiona Devine, said: "Our deepest thanks to the Wokingham Lions Club for all their hard work in organising such a wonderful and fun event. It is no mean feat to organise an event like this in such challenging time. We really appreciate all the effort that went into making sure the event went ahead, and the amazing amount of money it raised for our charity. This will make a real difference to the seriously-ill children and their families that we support. It will help fund over 100 hours of much-needed respite for our families."



A worthy Blandford Clubs initiative

Blandford Lions, Blandford Stour Rotary and Blandford Rotary Clubs came together to fund a panic button and staff training to enable a new pupil safely to attend Handy Paws Durweston pre-school.

The picture above shows, from left to right, Durweston CE School headteacher Nicola Brooke, Handy Paws deputy manager Helen Stacey and Lindsay McKinley-Nichols, Rtn Nic Nicol of the Blandford Rotary Club, Rtn Graham Collin, president of the Blandford Stour Rotary Club and Blandford Lions president Lion Gordon Cox, overseen by three children from Handy Paws. Below, the Blandford Lions president presents a cheque for £200, the Lions' share of the project.

Rtn Nic Nicol said: "It gave us tremendous pleasure to join forces to fund an essential child safety requirement without which a child with special needs could not attend Durweston pre-school. We all enjoyed our visit and give our best wishes to Nicola and her staff."



IN FOND MEMORY

Bournemouth & Christchurch Lions Club are sad to inform of the passing to higher service of **Past President Lion Shirley Tatchell**. Shirley was a dedicated and a hardworking Lion who had many friends across continents, was always positive and fun, supporting numerous activities whilst serving her community. She will be sorely missed by her fellow Lions and friends who send our sincere condolences to her family.

The *105SC Sentinel* also records with sadness the passing to higher service of **Lion John Harrold** of the Lions Club of Windsor and **Lion Catherine Dalton** of the Lions Club of Woolmer Forest

Each of these Lions will be a sad loss to all who knew them and the *105SC Sentinel* sends sincere condolences to their families, friends and fellow Lions.

And finally...

THE BASINGSTOKE BUGLE!

News from our Hampshire correspondent Lion Philip Wilson

Covid-19

Covid-19 is making us work harder. But people are remarkably resilient, inventive and supportive and the problems which we try to address are local, generally involve families or individuals, and can generally be fixed quickly.

Welfare

We had a case of a young girl in need of a specialised wheelchair for which her parents had been unable to raise the balance of funds needed. We and the **Loddon Valley Lions** (Tadley) made up the difference.

Fund raising

We ran another Zoom Quiz which was well received and more profitable than the last one. But it was somewhat marred by technical problems. We'll try a different approach next time. In spite of the fact that all participants managed to score within eight points of each other there were the usual complaints about the questions being too hard, too easy, too young, too old, wrong subjects etc. Fortunately the Question Master wears duck feathers.

(Right) The one with the grumpy expression was the one who thought he was going to get to drive the mechanical sweeper rather than wield a broom!

"No such luck. It's empty!"



Reboot IT

Basingstoke Voluntary Action and our Club are co-operating in this scheme to revamp old computers to be passed on to people who cannot afford new ones. Our Fundraising Chairman is so keen on the project that he went to Upton Grey to pick one up.

So if you have a redundant computer you would like to donate for re-cycling please contact BVA on 01256 423816 or email contact@bva.org.uk with your details and they will arrange collection.

Community

We nearly lost two of our members who went out to support the Keep Britain Tidy campaign on a particularly windy day. But they returned fitter and hungrier than when they went out.





Sentinel's eye on...



Out and about

Meon Valley Lions were getting concerned about our lack of visibility in the community over recent months. Did everyone know they were out there to help those in need at this difficult time? Never being a group to shy away from a challenge, they have run a programme of communication sessions in their local communities: Wickham, Swanmore and Bishops Waltham.

During our programme they met old friends, but also had the opportunity to talk to members of the community who were not fully aware of the range of charitable activities Lions undertake. It also made them think a little more about anyone they knew who could do with a helping hand.

Their key message has been, **who are the Lions, what do they do** and **importantly do you know anyone who would benefit from their help?**



The Lions and Brain Tumour Partnership

To date District 105SC has raised nearly £12,000 for BTR. In total the Multiple District has raised nearly £5,000 and as you can see we still have a long way to go to reach the million pound target.

The good news is that due to the pandemic we have been given another year to raise the million pounds.

If you are keen to host an event, please let me know and I will do all I can to support you.

One way Clubs can raise funds is by buying co-branded Christmas Cards. The designs are in the process of being finalised and as soon as I have the details I will email the Zones with the information.

The cards will cost £4.00 for ten and £2.70 of that will go towards the Brain Tumour Research Fund. A good way to raise money and do your Christmas card shopping at the same time!

Lion Sandra Manktelow

Brain Tumour Research Officer

District 105SC

zonec@lions105sc.org.uk

or

s.m.manktelow@gmail.com





OLD MONARCH

The Editor has the last word...

I find the picture on the front page quite disturbing. How long will this be a norm and could this even be the future?

I am fortunate perhaps that, so far, where I live is not under the same restrictions that we see on television and read about every day. Nevertheless, having had to cancel our own Swimarathon (with just hours to advise the 464 teams taking part) I can feel for Windsor Lions that, like my Jersey Club, they have now had to cancel two major fundraisers for we too have just cancelled our annual Muddy Fun Run for much the same reasons.

Notwithstanding, this issue illustrates just how resourceful and resilient Lions are and how, despite all the restrictions, we are still able to fulfil our founder's maxim and serve our communities at what is a time of great need.

Well done, everybody! What we are all doing makes me proud to be a Lion.

So keep keeping your distance and keeping safe.

Lion Peter Tabb



**Lions
tail...**



Please send all articles and pictures for publication in the

DISTRICT 105SC SENTINEL

to the Editor, Lion Peter Tabb, email : news@lions105sc.org.uk and/or peteretabb@gmail.com
ideally at least a week before the end of the month