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H A P P Y
N E W Y E A R



SENTINEL

JANUARY 2021 EDITION

2021 - A brave new post-Covid world?

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The International Association of Lions Clubs

District 105SC

District Governor 2020 - 2021 ♦ Lion Steve Petty

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“Kindness Matters”



The DG's New Year 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 hope that you have all had a good Christmas and now wish you all a Happy New Year for 2021.

I suspect that several of you have started your new year's resolutions and will no doubt be determined to stick to them until your goals have been achieved. I am sure that many Tail Twisters will be watching and helping keep you on track but will also be just as eager to swell Club funds should you fail. Can you really afford to fail?

Last month I was able to take part in some pre- Christmas activities and was impressed how some Clubs managed to adapt their December Santa runs, quizzes, parties, fêtes, etc. to fit in with the C19 regulations along with continuing to support the lonely and needy with gifts, good will and much appreciated food parcels. Well done to all and keep up the good work.

Over the past couple of months we have had five Lions take part in the Guiding Lion program and I can report that all five have been successfully certified and are ready to help Clubs in our District. My congratulations go to you all. The offer is still on the table if you would like to join them.

On the sad side, we have lost four Clubs. All four have struggled for some time with membership and their inability to attract new members. Most of the existing memberships have relocated to other nearby Clubs and will continue to serve. Some have chosen to retire after many years of service and our thanks go to them for their work over those many years of service. Losing the four Clubs is a reminder that we live in an ever changing world and we must constantly challenge ourselves and our ways to grow in new and previously unidentified directions in order to survive and serve.

Now that January 2021 has arrived, and the outside world is continuing to be difficult with no let up in the foreseeable future, we all need to start planning our way forward. This year it will be doubly hard as plans will have to include variants to a) cater for live events and b) virtual alternatives should things continue as they are at the moment. As far as District activities are concerned we have several meetings this month to decide what we are able to do in the next few months and the alternatives should we not be able to do them. We still need resolutions for the March Convention as well as candidates for 2nd Vice District Governor. These are needed whether we are able to go live or forced to go virtual.

Next month's *Sentinel* will have all the information.

Stay Safe



Lion Steve District Governor 105SC



The bigger picture

Global Service Team News

A Happy New Year to you all!

Let us hope that 2021 will be better and that we can get back to our normal service activities. Hopefully, many Clubs will have been able to take some Christmas cheer out and about in their areas with Father Christmas, although the changes in the Tier system, especially the introduction of Tier 4 will have curtailed some activity.

I was unable to take part in any Christmas Float activities as I had to self isolate as I was diagnosed with bowel cancer in late November. John also withdrew from all his normal activity as he needed to protect me. As I write this, I am looking forward to an operation on Christmas Eve which hopefully will be all the treatment that I need. Christmas will be late this year in the Goodchild household and will be limited to just John and myself.

Basically I will take January off from Lions duties but hope to be back, feeling invigorated and raring to go, in February.

I already have some entries for the Photographic Competition. To date I have received a few but I am sure that many of you could find some photos to send to me. I will make sure the winners get to MDHQ on time. **Entries need to be with me by Monday 4 January.**

Please remember to recycle as much as you can, especially your stamps, Christmas trees and cards. Not only does this reduce waste but in many cases can provide money for good causes.

As a District I will be asking you to undertake a Litter Pick or environmental project to mark World Earth Day on Thursday 22 April. More details later.

Diabetes continues to be a global problem and the need for screenings is as great as ever but these should be done by accessing risk rather than by blood tests. Diabetes UK will help Clubs carry out such screenings.

Did any of you help with feeding children during the Christmas holidays? Unfortunately children do go hungry even in our own District. Please let me know of anything you have done recently to help feed people, especially the young.

Looking much further ahead can we make World Sight Day in October a major event this year? Sight has been at the forefront of Lions concerns and activities since 1925 and is still as important as ever.

Once again I wish you all a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Service is what Lionism is all about so please remember our motto "We Serve" during the coming year and continue the excellent work that 105SC does.

Lion Judith Goodchild

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Since PDG Lion Judith penned this report she has had her operation which was very successful. She is currently resting at home and being waited on, hand and foot, by PDG Lion John.

Matters of moment



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.

GILLINGHAM, MERE & SHAFTESBURY -
Lion Karen Rhys

GUERNSEY - Lion Suzanne Cowen

RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE -
Lion Alastair Ward

DG Lion *Steve*

Living with Covid-19



I am going to give you some facts and figures to try and get your head around. As many of you know, (I hope!) LCIF just celebrated its 50th birthday.

Since it was brought into existence LCIF has awarded \$1.1 billion in more than 15,000 grants. This has meant funding for 9.1 million cataract surgeries, \$134 million in disaster relief and allowed over 100 million children to have the measles vaccination.

These are huge numbers to try and get our heads around and when you stop to try to think how many individuals this money has helped, it is impossible.

Just in the last fiscal year 798 grants totalling more than \$40 million has been awarded to help Lions worldwide act where they see a need. That is \$14,252,317 in grants for vision projects, \$2,293,573 in the fight against diabetes, \$4,714,790 in disaster relief and \$14,929,955 in humanitarian grants.

Without donations from the Clubs and individuals, LCIF could not support all these various projects. Therefore, the LCIF Day has been put forward to help Clubs in Europe plan an event that can raise funds for the Foundation and hopefully gain membership and awareness in local communities for the Clubs. It is difficult to think about planning an event for June 2021 when we are all trying to survive during this terrible pandemic, but if your Club is interested, please do get in touch.

Thank you and I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2021.

Lion Ann Huntley M&J

District 105SC LCIF Coordinator

Don't tell the kids! There's more than one Santa!

Windsor Lions bring Santa cheer to Windsor folk

The Windsor Lions brought some much needed Christmas cheer to the people of Windsor by visiting the streets of the town with their Santa sleigh and elves. During the evenings leading up to Christmas, the sleigh patrolled the streets and at the weekend could be found in Peascod Street. This was, for many, their first glimpse of Santa Claus due to his need to shield and the furloughing of his helpers!

Although one aim was to raise funds to pay for the works carried out in the community by the Windsor Lions, lighting up children's faces was also a delightful objective.

Commenting on the project, event organiser Lion Paul Maxwell said: 'This year in particular both adults and the little ones seemed delighted to see Santa. Due to the pandemic, many stores and garden centres usually visited by Santa couldn't welcome him so 'our' Santa was very welcome. People gave very generously and we raised more than £5,000, but the biggest reward was to see the surprise and delight on the faces of so many children.'



With a little help from his friends

Fleet Lions President Lion Bill Petley presented Nicola Painter and the volunteers at the Lions Community Store with a festive Certificate of Appreciation (see picture below).

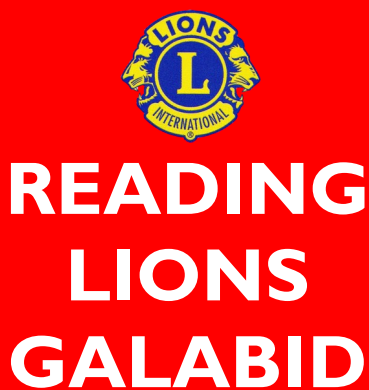
With foodstuffs, toys and monetary donations from local Lions and others, they were able to distribute 430 food hampers and 912 children's Christmas gifts, hopefully making this Christmas a little happier for many families.



Santa spreads good cheer in Old Windsor



Make your own sunshine!



The usual fundraising activities being out of the question this Christmas gave Reading Lions the opportunity for some blue-sky thinking. With an ear to the ground, the name Galabid began to be bandied about.

Having decided to contact them, it was discovered that they are a mobile fund-raising organisation which provides UK causes with an easy to use online silent auction for non-profit making fundraisers. Its service is free for more than 30 lots.

The auction took three weeks to organise and by 22 November 52 lots had been donated, ranging from a 50" Smart TV and an X Box to Pampering Kits and bespoke jewellery, as well as annual subscriptions to local sports clubs.

The auction was live for one week and was promoted via social media and raised £2,677 raised. There was, however, one disappointment – one lot had a bid of £125,000, which was, sadly, an error on the part of the bidder - who only wanted to offer £125! Luckily for him that Reading Lions Club is a charitable organisation!

A lot of fun was had in organising this event and it will definitely be added to the Club's list of fundraising possibilities. The success of this activity is threefold – it has increased Club funds and those of several local charities invited to participate. And, against the background of Covid-19, raised the Club's spirits.

Help for groups from Romsey & Waterside Lions

Romsey & Waterside Lions have been able to help three local groups who, despite the coronavirus restrictions, were helping the homeless and also young people to access the internet.

With the help of a local IT company prior to the last lockdown, the Club gave a refurbished laptop to a charity helping homeless people to assist their clients with accessing benefits and other Government sites online. With the Covid restrictions in force, it was difficult to use iPads which require close person-to-person contact. The group was also assisted with the cost of WiFi usage for a year at their premises. The picture below shows Lion Maureen Geere presenting the laptop to Andy Clarke, project manager of the Crossing Charity for the Homeless.



Another group works with young people helping them with filling in forms and compiling CVs to get them out into the workplace; their requirement was a printer and the Romney & Waterside Lions were able to source one for them.

Donations were also given to a local young carers group towards Christmas presents which provide a boost to morale for youngsters for whom the Covid restrictions have meant they could not enjoy the fun and friendship they have by attending their usual meetings and Christmas parties.

All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make, the better.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Blandford Lions join with Stour Rotary to support Blandford Food Bank



Following the successes of the last two years, the Lions Club and Stour Rotary Club kicked off this year's appeal to support the Blandford Food Bank with donations of £300 each. A further £1,000 was raised on Facebook and Matos butchers added vouchers for £50.

Gail Del Pinto, manager of the Blandford Food Bank enthused: "This is an amazing gift and we will ensure that all our vulnerable families will receive a meal voucher along with their Christmas food parcel. Our very grateful thanks to all those who have donated so generously."

Pictured above (l - r) are Lion James Mayo, Gail Del Pinto, Rotarian Grahame Colis and Heidi Roberts, deputy Food Bank manager, at the presentation of £1,650 worth of vouchers for fresh meat for the Food Bank.



EASTLEIGH LIONS DELIVER CHRISTMAS CHEER

In conjunction with Eastleigh Age Concern and the Silver Charity, the Lions elves were out and about to deliver festive goodies to elderly residents of Chandler's Ford, Hedge End and Eastleigh. The Silver gift bags were distributed among willing volunteers at Wessex House to deliver to the recipients' homes.

Normally Age Concern holds a Christmas Party but for obvious reasons that wasn't possible this year so these Christmas bags were put together to let the erstwhile partygoers know that they had not been forgotten.

And almost finally...

MEON VALLEY *VIEWPOINT*

From our Hampshire Correspondents



A special delivery for the Foodbanks

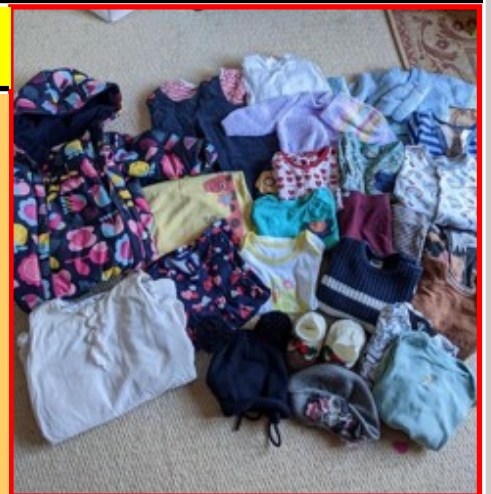
Let's face it - it's been a really, really naff year and sadly the Foodbanks in this area are being used more than ever. The Meon Valley Lions were pleased to make a special delivery to the Foodbanks to bring a little extra smile for those receiving deliveries this Christmas. So there really is No naughty list - this year at least!

More help for the little people

Meon Valley Baby Bank goes from strength to strength - and it's only their second month. Pictured is just a tiny sample of all the excellent quality clothes that they have.

They are also trying to get in the draw for Ecclesiastical's 12 Days of Giving. The draw's £1,000 would make a real difference to the work they do.

The best of luck going into the New Year!



IN FOND MEMORY

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions advise, with sadness, the peaceful passing to higher service of **Lion Chris Grant** (68) in the early hours of Friday 18 December at Christchurch Hospital. Lion Chris was a long serving member having joined in 1977 and was active until taken ill only a few weeks ago. He served as Club President 1990-1991 and Zone Chairman 1992-1993. He was a true stalwart of the Club and will be sorely missed. The Club's thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

The **Lions Club of Wantage and Grove** reports with sadness the passing to higher service of **Lion Roy Murrell**.

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.



Sentinel's eye on...

The season to recycle



Another joint venture for Windsor Lions and Thames Hospice sees the two prominent local charities join to offer a recycling service for real Christmas trees, linked with the chance to raise money for Thames Hospice. From 7 to 10 January the charities are collecting real used Christmas trees from outside residents' houses in exchange for a donation.

Once collected the trees are being chipped by Blue Acre Stables who will be offering the chippings for sale and putting any profits towards the upkeep of their rescued horses.

This is not the first time the two charities have worked together as in 2019 Windsor Lions held a black-tie ball at Windsor Racecourse to raise funds for the Hospice new centre which opened in October 2020.

Speaking about the project, event co-ordinator at Thames Hospice Care, Margaret Thomas enthused: 'We are very excited about this recycling project and hope the good people of Windsor, Ascot and Wraysbury will take advantage of this opportunity to 'go green' and help Thames Hospice. It's also great to be able to work with our friends at Windsor Lions again - as far as we are concerned it's a win-win situation all round.'

One of Santa's sleighs

"Should we, or shouldn't we?" Much of one of the Reading Lions' Zoom business meetings in November was dedicated to the most popular event in calendar – the Santa Sleigh! With the Covid restrictions was it too risky? But how could the Club bring itself to disappoint the hundreds of children (and adults!) who rely on the sleigh to start off Christmas for them?

Thus the Club decided, despite Covid, that they really wanted to bring Christmas cheer to the town and, if possible, raise some much-needed funds. So a risk assessment was duly prepared.

Following the Government and Lions MD guidance and after seeking permission from both the local Council and police, it was agreed that Santa and his sleigh could take to the streets. There would be no door-to-door collections and no contact with the public or among the helpers. Any donations would be made to the Club website. Santa would not be able to get off his sleigh and talk to the children in his usual cheery fashion, but his waving and 'Ho-Ho-Ho-ing' were on good form!

The Club's co-organiser Lion Ian Henderson said, "The event exceeded expectations and although cut short by two days due to Tier 4 restrictions, we managed to raise over £4,000 to help those in our community in need." The event was Covid safe with the Lions, volunteers and the public following social distancing.

The Club received fantastic feedback from the community on social media. One happy resident of Tilehurst said, "You know Christmas is here when the Reading Lions visit with Santa. They never fail to cheer us all. Thank you."

The Club thanks all those who donated on line and say, "Above all we are so glad that we followed our hearts and made the right decision."



OLD MONARCH

The Editor has the last word...

At this time last year, after wishing readers a happy one, I suggested that the 'New Year will bring many challenges' and looking back I am not quite sure what I really meant.

What I certainly didn't mean was seeing the world being nearly tipped off its axis by a coronavirus called Covid-19. Did anyone?

As ever Lions Clubs adapted and coped, learned to live with Zoom instead of meetings and Conventions and how to cut their community service coat according to their available fundraising cloth. I suspect that there are even those who actually enjoyed the challenges posed by Covid-19 and all strength to their elbow.

Therefore my wish to all Lions is for a peaceful, happy, prosperous New Year in whatever form it may take.

Remember not to look backwards, that is not the way we are going.

Lion Peter Tabb



**Lions
tail...**

I've got the hat. Now
where's the rest of
the costume?



Eastleigh Lions about to spread some cheer

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