



Issue 3
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PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News | DG John Savell



I.P.D.G = Important Person Delivering Grub!

It seems to me, that as Lions, we are very fond of acronyms, DG, MJF, ZC,CC, SoA etc etc. Well, on Friday 27th July, the Lions of Eaton Bray & Edlesborough launched their FREE fish and chip delivery service for local, housebound residents and came up with a brand new acronym.

We were initially contacted by the Bedfordshire branch of social services and made aware of a number of elderly residents in our area who were no longer able to get out and about. They asked if there was anything we could do to support these people and from that the idea of a monthly free delivery service for fish and chips was born.

A tentative advert was placed in our village news letter detailing our plans and from the day it was published, our phone started to ring with enquiries and orders.

Many of these people have no remaining family so as much as anything, they were delighted to have a 'normal' conversation with someone. We visited each of these residents before the night of the delivery to introduce ourselves, explain how we planned for the scheme to work and to go through some basic security plans, ie, look for the Lions logo before you open your door etc. We were welcomed into their homes and were charmed by some wonderful stories from some truly amazing people - they really did want someone to talk to as much as

the service we were offering - chips were simply an added bonus.

One of the gentlemen we met first, came across the Lions when he was a prisoner of war - in a heart wrenching coincidence - a Lion brought him food when he was in a concentration camp so it was all rather emotional when we delivered his



food on the night.

The day after the delivery, we contacted each of the residents again to get some feedback and check that they were happy with the service. At this point we secured orders for the next 2 months from every single person along with assurances that 'friends were also keen to take up the offer'.

One resident has even gone as far as writing to the local newspaper and has also completed her own article for the

village newsletter talking about her experience, the kindness offered and urging anyone who is contemplating the scheme to make contact. We had advised the residents that this was initially a trial to see how popular the service would be... it worked so well that we have now committed to a regular monthly delivery

service and our list of housebound residents is growing.

When IPDG Andrew heard about our scheme he made it clear that he wanted to be involved in any way possible - hence our new acronym was created. Andrew was, as you can imagine, a real hit with the elderly ladies - there will certainly be some disappointment if he isn't with us next month!

So what started out as a 'trial' has already evolved into a commitment to continue this small act of community service to a rural community that would otherwise

have no means of enjoying a simple fish supper. We plan to develop this further and offer each of our residents a 'Message in a Bottle', bringing another Lions project to this group of individuals. We know the list of people wanting to enjoy this service is already growing - the biggest concern anyone raised about this project was 'what will happen over Christmas?'

Lion Rachel

President, Eaton Bray & Edlesborough
Lions Club

... NOTICE BOARD ...

The Lions Club of Bletchley, Milton Keynes - 43rd Charter Celebration
On Saturday 27th October 2012 at the Hilton Milton Keynes Hotel, Timbold Drive, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK7 6HL
Drinks from 6.30pm with dinner at 7.30pm - Carriages at Midnight.

5th DISTRICT YOUTH CELEBRATION
Sunday 18th November 2012. Allum Hall, Elstree. For bookings and more info please contact Lion Vijay Arora: victory801@hotmail.com or 020 7323 0580

LCI Purpose:
To take and active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.



Lions by the Seaside

The Watford Lions coach trip to Clacton-on-Sea happens annually on the first Sunday in July. This year residents of Abbots Langley were treated to a trip to the seaside, courtesy of Watford Lions. The Club laid on a coach and took 42 senior citizens to Clacton-on-Sea.

The visitors indulged in a walk along the Essex pier, souvenir shopping and sitting in the sunshine in the beautiful memorial gardens. There was also quite a lot of ice cream eaten. The trip, one of many organised by the Watford Lions, was paid for

following numerous fundraisers since the beginning of the year. Cheryl Peacock, Watford Lions President, said:

"We had a great time and the rain held off although it was rather windy. The Lions Club of Watford paid for the coach and gave each person £5 towards their lunch. We try to do this trip every year taking people from various local areas. It gives some of our older residents a chance to get out and about".



Lions Environmental Photo Contest

Lions Environmental Photo Contest is among Lions worldwide. The entries will be by a Lion on behalf of individual club. The deadline to submit to Lions International HQ is 1st March 2013.

I have to send the winning photographs to MD 105 no later than 15th January 2013. Interested Lions should take up this challenge to produce the best photographs and send them to me by 15th December 2012. The timescale is quite tight as we received this information from Lions HQ only last week. Please do your best to represent your club and District by taking part. We may use these photographs in PR Events.

Please send the photographs to me with your name, explanation and club details for the entry. Should you require any further information feel free to contact me.

Lion Ram Jaggi
District Environmental Officer



From the Editor

The front page story in this issue is a touching and heart-warming example of what Lions can do to help others. I am sure that many other Lions Clubs are doing equally worthwhile service activities which should be shared with other Lions. Unfortunately the stories and experiences are not shared. No articles are sent from these Clubs and the wonderfully humane acts are lost within that Club or Zone.

POL is your forum for the exchange of such stories. Please use it and in sharing them you will make all of us proud as Lions.

Lion Shirish Sheth

Nominations

Nominations for the positions of District Governor and 1st Vice District Governor 2013/14 have been received from the only eligible candidates - 1st VDG Lion Sarbjit Assi and 2nd VDG Lion Ramesh Parmar respectively.

Lion Meena Gupta of the Lions Club of Osterley is the only nomination for the position of 2nd Vice District Governor for 2013/14.

Lion Colin Davies
CNR&C Officer

Silver Award from St Luke's Hospice

Zone K Chair Lion Kadu Shah received a Silver Award from St Luke's Hospice, in its 25th year, for her long standing service and commitment.

Now a Milton Keynes Central Lions Club member, Lion Kadu was previously a Harrow resident when her work with St Luke's began. With Milton Keynes Central Lions she continued her charity work and organizes the Annual family five mile Walk. The funds raised go to a nominated charity.

This year the MK Central club chose St Luke's Hospice in Harrow and Willen Hospice in Milton Keynes as joint benefactors. A total of 35 walkers raised £2,150 for each of the two charities.

In July, St Luke's Hospice held a glittering teatime celebration in Harrow attracting 200 guests, each receiving a commemorative book and a silver supporter badge.



Lions Sight First Hospital

The Jain Social Group - Nairobi has been involved in Charity work for years. Their "Eye Care Project" for cataract operations for needy patients now averages one operation a day. During the last five years they have managed to do 1650 operations, amounting to a total contribution to Lions Sight First Eye Hospital of 20 million Kenya Shillings (about £165,000).

The Certificate of Appreciation awarded by the International President of LIONS has given due recognition to their worthwhile charity work.

Lion Shirish Sheth



Malt and More...

Last year, Newport Pagnell & Olney Lions Club ran an event called "Malt and More" which allowed me to introduce the 'international' aspect of my own upbringing - I am Scottish for those who don't know me!

The evening consisted of a tutored Malt whisky tasting in which the gathered 'honorary Scots' took a tour around the output from 5 of Scotland's distilleries via their respective products. We also 'experienced' some 'variations' from other parts of the UK making the evening truly International albeit within the confines of our own shores. It was an extremely enjoyable and educational evening and despite me deciding I was not repeating the exercise, I have bowed to demand and will be running a further event on 26th October at the Carlton House Club in Olney.

We will have Dr Andrew Forrester from The Balvenie Distillery in Dufftown, travelling down to run the event and will be sampling a number of drinks from The Balvenie range. The objective will be to highlight the different drinks which can come from the same simple distilling process. Andrew is the UK Brand Ambassador for The Balvenie and we are, once again, fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and experienced person coming along to help educate us in further aspects of the Malt Whisky Industry and his Company's products in particular.

If you or any of your members may be interested in joining us for the evening, please simply let me have an email address which I can make contact with once the tickets are available - an indication of potential numbers would also be helpful as we have an upper limit of 60 for the event. At present, I am not yet able to confirm the price of the tickets but these will not be any more expensive than last time (£20).

Further details of the last event can be seen at www.npolneylions.btck.co.uk

Lion John Ferris

Palace Of Westminster Lions Club needs you

The Club's new President has recognised the need for a club bannerette. Alec Shelbrooke MP, realised that the creative and artistic skills needed to come up with a design for the Palace Of Westminster Lions Club bannerette might not be found within the Palace of Westminster.

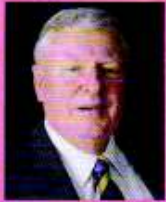
Due to this he is running a competition through Lions Clubs across the Multiple District to give someone the chance to design the official bannerette for the Palace of Westminster Lions Club.

So if you put Picasso to shame and make Monet look bad then send in your entries for a Lions Banner with a Parliamentary theme. The winner will be announced at the Lions Charter Dinner and the bannerette made ready for the UN Day in 2013.

In the meantime, Lion Alec would like to encourage all Lions to contact their local MPs and encourage them to become a member of the Palace Of Westminster Lions Club and represent the achievements of Lions across the Multiple District.

Entries can be sent to alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk or by post: Alec Shelbrooke MP, House of Commons, London.





DG John's Journal



Well I can say that the year has now started with the first Cabinet of the year having taken place 12th August. It was an interesting meeting, with a lot of very good contributions and reports from the District Officers who have so much to give. On this aspect can I make a plea to all clubs please invite District specialist officers to your club meetings, they will be more than happy to attend if a suitable date can be made available.

The Cabinet meeting Minutes will be on the website for everyone to read including the public. We should not be afraid of submitting ourselves to the scrutiny of the public gaze; it is their money we raise and spend.

The District Public Relations officer is looking at the front page of the website, with the District IT Officer, to make it more immediate with articles and reviews of events throughout the District. I would ask that clubs submit articles to the PR officer Naresh and he will either pass through to the Lions Magazine or put on the website. The website needs to be interactive reflecting the District and Clubs.



At the District handover

I had also said that I would be encouraging more Lady Members and the team responsible for this aspect working with GMT have met and formulated the start of a program to make the idea a reality.

Whilst I am talking about GMT, part of this program is the Signature project consisting of Young Leaders in Service and the Lions Eye Health Program. Details have been made available to clubs through Zone Chairmen earlier in the year. These two projects will be spoken about at the Winter Forum, so another reason for attending.

The take up on Young Leaders in Service (YLis) in District 105A has been very low compared to other Districts. This program is an opportunity to get involved with young people in positive and active manner. It is from these young people that clubs will find candidates for the Young Ambassador competition and an opportunity to involve schools and teachers. The program can be what a club makes of it, creating an opportunity for membership, for Leos, to show what we

do and how we interact caring and being at the centre of our community. Please contact Lion Brian Dickey for more information. The program is at no cost to the clubs, a bonus if there ever was one.

Don't forget the LEHP program is equally an important project and one which has had less visibility over the last few years but still central to the Lions and their service within the community and the wider world.

My diary is starting fill up with club visits and charters. Most of mine start after I return from a short break to the wilds of Northumbria with my grandson, and I better mention that Linda and his parents will also be going as well. The Vice Governors have also been making club visits on my behalf and this is working well, as are our monthly meeting, the DG Team in action.

DG John Savell



Awards at the District handover

I said at the beginning of the year that I wanted to improve the communications between District and members. Shortly, club secretaries will be asking everyone if they would like direct mailing of links to articles on the website, similar to the MD wordpress. So every time a new article appears on the website which will be updated on a regular basis, you are then immediately up to date.

The GLT has set the date and time for the Winter Forum as 21st October at Woodall School. A lot of work has gone into making it a more interesting and user friendly event, so I urge as many as possible to attend. Again this is your opportunity to be involved as well as being brought up to date in the world of Lions. The GMT Road Shows are proceeding, bringing the membership support closer to you and local events. If you have a large public event in your area bring it to the attention of the GMT and they will assist. Look out for the bright Pink polo shirts of the GMT team.

My Diary September 2012

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|---------------|---|
| Mon 3 | Parish Council Meeting |
| Tue 4 | Carterton Lions Club - Queens Award to Voluntary Service presentation |
| Wed 5 | OV Aylesbury |
| Fri 7-Sat 15 | Holiday |
| Fri 21-Sat 22 | Thame Club Event |
| Sat 22 | Luton 40th Charter |
| Wed 26 | Convention Meeting |
| Thur 27 | OV Hammersmith |
| Sat 29 | Thame Food Festival club event |

OV = Official Visit