

PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News, Issue 2
September 2023

NEXT MONTH IS VISION AWARENESS MONTH
October is Vision Awareness Month. If your club will be doing something for this month, please send in your article to be featured in the next issue. Our contact details can be found at the bottom of page 9.



DG LESLEY SPENCE

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NOTICE BOARD



Welcome to the team

Below are the names of the newest additions to our family of Lions as of 1 September.

Congratulations to:

Naznin Dhanji, Bletchley Milton Keynes Lions Club

Jenny Vestal, Harpenden Lions Club

Narinder Chadha, Hayes & Harlington Lions Club

Paresh Pau, London Hendon Lions Club

Manoj Sangani, London Hendon Lions Club

Manoj Bharania, London St Johns Wood Lions Club

Mei Sim Lai, London St. James's Lions Club

Jaime Law, London St. James's Lions Club

Jintao Yu, London St. James's Lions Club

Vini Prakash, Milton Keynes Central Lions Club

Rahul Krishnan Radhakrishnan, Milton Keynes Central Lions Club

Jiban Samal, Milton Keynes Central Lions Club

Callum Benbow, Newport Pagnell & Olney Lions Club

District Governor's diary for October 2023

06/10/2023 – Gala Evening in aid of Breast Cancer

07/10/2023 – Biggleswade & Sandy Charter

08/10/2023 – Cabinet Meeting

09/10/2023 – London Hendon Club Visit

10/10/2023 – Belmont Lions Golf Evening Event

13/10/2023 – Watford Charter

20/10/2023 to 22/10/2023 – Council Governors Meeting, Redditch

To encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

– One of the Lions Purposes

CanSupport

by Lion Surjit K. Chodda, Fairlop Lions Club

CanSupport is an organisation in Delhi that provides palliative care for cancer patients who Fairlop Lions Club have a longstanding relationship with. Previously, we were able to make a generous donation towards a much needed ambulance to CanSupport. With generous support from donors and members, we were able to run successful screening cancer camps. We currently have funding for five camps, they have been conducted in June, July and two more have been conducted in August. The photos are a testament to the necessity of this screening and the turnout of people attending is significant.



CanSupport quoted: "I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support and dedication to the cancer screening camps on behalf of CanSupport, I extend my deepest appreciation to Fairlop Lions Club for your unwavering support. You will be provided with the reports of all upcoming screening cancer camps, and after the project is completed a comprehensive final report will be submitted. Through your kind support, a total of four cancer screening camps were successfully conducted."

Charity walk and picnic

by London Platinum Jubilee Lions Club

London Platinum Jubilee Lions Club sponsored Charity Walk and Picnic on Sunday 24 September was held at Rickmansworth Aquadrome. A group of almost 40 Lion members did one of the two walks. Jaykishan Wala, our guide, provided binoculars and a running commentary about the Nature Reserve and the many species of wild birds. The walks were followed by a picnic and an opportunity to socialise. A thoroughly enjoyable morning with fun and fellowship for Club members raising to date, in excess of £1000.



Food bank

by Waltham Forest Lions Club

Food Bank is serving vulnerable community members with disabilities or restricted movement with the need of food. Four food parcels (non-perishable food items) were delivered today within the Walthamstow area, as mostly were referred by the NHS Social Prescribers on a regular basis.



ROAR competition

by London Hendon Lions Club

London Hendon Lions Club were invited to the launch assembly of the ROAR 2023 project at St. Joseph's Primary School in Hendon - the school that our club has sponsored!

The ROAR competition is an amazing way of giving children the opportunity to learn real life skills, be creative, learn team building skills and so much more! The children were amazing on a hot afternoon as they watched the video explaining the competition, and listened to Immediate Past President Lion Parag Bhargava tell the children all about what the Lions do, and Lion Smita Shah talked about the project. It was even more exciting that the children already started coming up with ideas!



Eye donation

by Lion Sunita Raman, Harrow and Pinner Lions Club CIO

On my recent trip to Chennai, India, where I grew up, I got the opportunity to visit Central Madras Lions Club. This club holds a very special place in my heart as my father is a Charter member of the Club and my mother was the President of the Central Madras Lioness Club.

They run an eye donation awareness programme at RKM Sharada Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School jointly organised with famous eye hospitals. The project on 7 September was part of the National Fortnight for Eye Donation Awareness initiative.

The event was attended by approximately 100 students from the senior school. The Club President briefed the students on the importance of eye donation and its impact on improving the lives of those visually impaired. A technician from the leading national eye hospital, Sankara Nethralaya, explained to the students the process from when they are notified that a registered donor has sadly passed, to the time of safe deposit of the cornea in the eye bank trust.

I shared with the audience my first-hand experience as a young girl witnessing my father answering calls (as District Chairman Sight First and then for several years) when a registered donor had passed, and accompanying the clinical staff to ensure the cornea was collected in time and deposited safely. These events had a lasting impression on me and inspired me to join Lionism.

In India, eye donation is still an opt-in programme. I shared with the students that in England it has been an opt-out programme since May 2020. My plea to the students was to spread the message to their parents and neighbours and request them all to register for eye donation. The students were extremely receptive, curious, and amazed at the potential impact by someone who has pledged their eyes after their passing.

The programme concluded with a bannerette exchange and an invitation to attend mutual club events and collaborate on future projects.



Existential fulfilment while serving the community

by *Lion Sonya Singh*

My journey with Lions Club International, which I am very proud of is a testament to my commitment to community service, kindness and the desire to make a positive impact



on the lives of others. It's evident that my involvement in Lions Clubs aligns with my core values and provides me with a sense of fulfilment and purpose. I am just 3 years old in Lionism but my journey has been very exciting and interesting so far. I was destined to serve from day 1 of my joining and I feel fortunate enough to be able to take up the responsibility of Club Secretary of my club, London Central Host, in the first year of joining. Thereafter I was chosen to serve the district as New Voices District Officer. I have taken every opportunity which came my way to learn more about the Vision & Mission of the organisation and its operations. Besides making some great connections it has been a great learning experience for me which has enriched not only my profile but my personality as well. As I celebrate my 3 years anniversary in Lions, I feel elated to be chosen by my club to serve as Club President for the year 23/24. For anyone who has joined new, here are some key takeaways from my experience:

- **Supportive Community:** Lions Clubs often creates a supportive and nurturing environment where members can come together to work towards common goals. The connections and friendships formed within the club is great source of encouragement and motivation.
- **Service to Humanity:** My belief in serving and helping others reflects the humanitarian spirit that Lions Clubs embody. Being able to contribute to community work aligns with my values and allowed me to make a meaningful difference.
- **Connecting to Faith:** Many individuals find that community service and acts of kindness resonate with their faith and spiritual beliefs. It's a way of living in accordance with one's principles and values.
- **Existential Fulfilment:** Contributing to the well-being of others often brings a deep sense of existential fulfilment. It's a reminder of our interconnectedness and the positive impact we can have on the world.

Overall, my journey with the Lions charity showcases the transformative power of community service and the profound sense of purpose it can provide. It's a reminder that acts of kindness and service to humanity have the potential to enrich our lives and the lives of those we touch.



Out and about with DG Lesley

Find out what our DG has been up to recently

The end of August and the beginning of September have been busy times for everyone. Making the most of those last days of sunshine, taking the last of the holiday breaks, visiting friends, and getting ready for the new school term seem to have an effect on everyone. Suddenly, summer is over, and we find ourselves returning to our regular routines. It is a time when many Lions Clubs hold their first meetings after a summer break, and it feels good to get together to renew friendships and exchange stories of holidays and family celebrations. September also seems to be the time when the different committees come together to flesh out more of the plans for the coming months. The District Governor Team, the Global Action Team, the Convention Committee, the Finance Committee and various District officers have been doing the same. Hence, the list of meetings in the diary this month.

Our Global Action team was invited to the Constitutional Area 4 Zoom meeting with Second Vice International President AP Singh to introduce and discuss the membership Challenge Mission 1.5.



A P Singh's suggestions and comments -it begins with us and we need to have a plan, think about sponsoring new clubs and/ or branch clubs – every member to Just Ask One. At the end of the session , A P Singh challenged us once again, "can we do it, will we do it", and the answer was yes we can! "Be the Change – we want to see!"

Our workshops, training and information events have got off to a good start. The Social Media presentation introduced the different media platforms and focused on ways in which we might improve and develop our use of those platforms to enable Lions to grow service and membership. The New Lions Orientation workshop was also well received, as was the first of the new Drop-In sessions - open to all Lions.

There have been some memorable events to celebrate - like the Youth Exchange Farewell Dinner Evening. This was a lovely evening spent with three incredible young women, part of the group of young people hosted by our District. All three had wonderful things to say about their visit, and the hosts that had



looked after them during their stay. Each told us a little about their home countries and their aims and ambitions for the future. Thanks go to Lion Kam, Moor Park, Lion Peter, Harrow and Pinner, for hosting the youngsters and all the many clubs who sponsored and gave their time to entertain the young people whilst they were staying in our District. Special thanks also go to Lion Razza (and Yasmin) London Hornsey and Lion Doreen (and Andrew) MK Stoney Stratford for the time and effort spent in ensuring that the muddle that was handed to them in July was transformed into such a positive visit to our District for the young people.

I attended the Chipping Barnett Lions Handover Celebration. It was such an honour to install Lion Nila Solanki, President of the Club 2023-2024. The first woman president for Chipping Barnet – "Be the Change"



I am proud to be involved with the LIONS ROAR program for primary school children and attended the MD meeting, which oversaw the final arrangements to ensure all schools and Lions Clubs have what they need to begin running the competition in the Autumn term. Thank you to all those clubs who have sponsored schools this year – save the date 6 December - National Awards Day.

Autumn has brought an awakening and a renewed vibrancy about what we are doing and want to achieve as individuals, and as Lions through our Clubs, our District, and our Foundation. The recent natural disasters around the world the local and international news certainly gives a focus to who we are and what we stand for. Clubs and individuals are always ready to swing into action to help where it is most needed. Please continue to record that service on MyLCI. When shared, those for your club and our District give others such a good reason to join us. Thank you on behalf of those who benefit from your care and dedication.

