

PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News, Issue 10
April 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

April is Environmental Awareness Month, If your club has done 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 10.



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DG KAVALJIT DEV

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NOTICE BOARD



Welcome to the team

Congratulations and welcome to the newest additions to our family of Lions. Visit page 9 to see who they are.

District Governor's diary for May 2023

02/05 – Edgware Lions Club

03/05 to 08/05 – MD Convention in Newcastle

11/05 – MK Stony Stratford, Coronation party for Senior Citizens, Osterley Lions Club

12/05 – London Covent Garden Lions Club, Whisky tasting event – Newport Pagnell & Olney Lions Club

13/05 – District Webinar “End of year duties”

14/05 – Cabinet Meeting

15/05 – District GAT meeting

16/05 – Bletchley MK Lions

20/05 – Harrow and Pinner Lions Charter

21/05 – Hatchend Centennial Lions Charter

Awaiting confirmation of other visits

To Coordinate the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.

– One of the Lions Purposes

Glasses collections

by Lion Tajinder Lotay, Seven Kings Lions Club

Seven Kings Lions Club has recently rekindled an initiative: glasses collections!

We were visited by DG Lion Kavaljit Dev at our monthly business meeting earlier this week, where we handed over 133 pairs of glasses that we had collected in a few weeks (pictured on the right).



A busy year so far

by Winslow Lions Club

Winslow Lions Club has had a very busy start to 2023 with the return of two of our largest attended events.

The Winslow 10km run made a return after several years off our calendar due to COVID-19. With over 200 runners pounding the local roads and completing the undulating course a significant amount of money was raised enabling us to help local charities over the coming months. As always a huge thanks must go to Furze Down School for hosting the latest version of our event.

The Winslow Beer Festival also returned with the invaluable help from The Bell Hotel. The four year absence gave us a change to make some changes and have our first Gin and Prosecco bar. We're finalising the finances and will be able to inform you how much we raised soon.



Helping the victims of the Turkey earthquake

How a Café owner, a full-time mum and a delivery driver helped facilitate a four-ton provisions drop off, to the Turkey earthquake victims.

On 6 February 2023, South-eastern Turkey and Northern Syria were hit by the most powerful earthquake in the region for over 80 years. This was quickly followed by a further earthquake and hundreds of aftershocks. The death toll was over 45,000 people (about half the seating capacity of Wembley Stadium)! The World Health Organization estimates that 26 million people (just under half the population of England) need assistance across both countries. This was one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the region in a century, prompting a global humanitarian response.

As per the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), when natural disasters, like earthquakes, strike populated areas, there is an immediate need for temporary shelter, ready-to-eat food items, and medical facilities. According to CNN, at least 105 countries and 16 international organizations pledged support for victims of the earthquake, including humanitarian aid. These included the British Red Cross, Nato, UN, UNICEF and WHO. The Lions Club International Foundation quickly awarded a \$200,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to Lions in Turkey.

Lions Club of Sudbury (UK) felt particularly compelled to support in this humanitarian cause, because many of us have had direct dealings with Turks in our businesses and professional occupations. We immediately made an appeals flyer, asking for donations of non-perishable food, medicines, toiletries, and clothes. This was quickly circulated on our WhatsApp group, to be shared with members of the wider public.

We expected this drive to receive a lot of attention and so we would need space to store the donated items. Our President, Lion Dharmesh, approached the Blue Room Sports Venue in Hatch End, who kindly offered their rooms for us to use as storage. This is where we would ask people to drop off their donations. Next, we needed to find a company that would transport the provisions from our hub, through to Turkey. We contacted various Turkish Community Centers, Community leaders and businesses, to see if we could collaborate with anyone for transportation. One of the barriers that we came across was the Transportation costs. We did not realise that it would cost about £5,000 to get our provisions sent across. This was money that could be better spent directly in the disaster zone.

Many charities had already pooled their donations and sent them off. Other leads started off all-promising but amounted to empty promises and no offer of help when it came to it. Some people even contacted us directly, offering to transport our provisions at a discounted rate of £7,000! By now, the Lions Club of Sudbury team had received huge donations. Many families had dropped off non-perishable food cans, medicines, toiletries, baby formula milk and nappies and clothes! We were reaching a point of no return and were in a fix! Blue Room had also booked an event, within the next few days, and would soon be needing the space we were using.

Feeling dejected, we decided to reach out to the local community. Finally, the answer came in the form of a local café owner – Rafat. He informed us that he had just travelled back from Adiyaman (a place close to the affected areas). Rafat had sadly lost some of his extended family members in the quake and had gone back home to offer help. We explained our predicament to him, and he immediately mentioned Evesen - a full-time mother of three. Her parents own a Logistics company in Tottenham, North London – London Express Cargo. Rafat contacted Evesen and she immediately offered to help. She explained that they had pledged to send 20 lorries to Turkey, with donations from various local charities. The cost of this was part met by the business and part met by local communities.

Things started moving quickly hereafter. On Saturday 26th February, a few Lions' members met up to sort out through the stockpile. They worked flat out from 11am to 6pm, with lunch being provided by the venue. Of course, we would need a vehicle to help with transportation to Tottenham. This need was met by another local business – World of Foods. The business owner very kindly offered up his 1.5-ton truck and his driver Jay. Jay turned out to be one of the main stars of the show. A mild-mannered man, resembling the Resting Buddha, he sacrificed his day off and resting time and made three visits to the Tottenham hub.

Our donations were received, sifted through, and organised by the London Express Cargo team of volunteers, before being loaded onto their 25-ton truck. Overall, we managed to send 4 tons worth of stuff over to Adiyaman. We received updates from the team and even pictures to show that the delivery had been made and was being dealt with by the local community! This experience taught us the importance of the power of genuine human connection and local communities, in helping to work together to make things happen. Also, no matter how small or big, everyone can make a difference!

A visit to Kenya

Members of Redbridge Centennial Lions Club and Redbridge Aria Club Branch visited our twin club, Nairobi Degoretti Lions Club (Kenya), from 15 March to 27 March. Our members were hosted by LP Balpreet Matharu and her family, who all hold high positions in Lions. PDG Ravi Matharu is the first VCC, IPP Sharanjit Matharu is Zone Chair, PP Manraj Matharu was the DS and Mrs. Matharu has also a PP. We were able to meet club members at dinner hosted by members and at the Banquet held for DGs visit. We learned a lot from their wisdom. The club did us proud by honoring late Lion Narinder Singh Mann with the above banner as we were donating food parcels worth £2000 in his loving memory. In addition, Redbridge Centennial Lions Club (CIO) donated £5000 to spend mainly on the school renovation project and some share in the service activities we were involved in during our visit. It is estimated that during our visit between us we served over 5860 people and our total combined donations are around 2 million KSH (£14000)



Donation of Food Parcels

Donations to Buru, Garissa included: 500 food hampers, 300 sanitary pads, underwear for girls, 500 oral rehydration salts, 300 x300 ml water bottles, 1000 trees in batches -200 delivered, clothes, wheelchairs, clothes, 60 solar lamps, 2 x water tanks, 2 x pillow water tanks & water purifying tablets.

School Renovation Project

We kickstarted the joint long-term project with Nairobi Dagorotti Lions Club and Redbridge Centennial Lions Club (CIO). Renovation of the school includes:

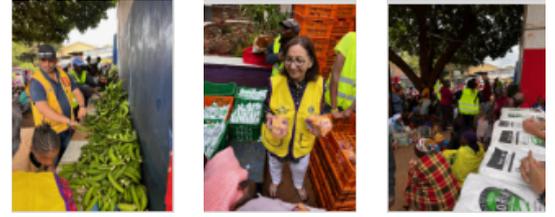
- Hard level floor
- Hard footpath from children to walk from one classroom to another.
- Better solar lighting for darker days.
- Provision of desks
- Provision of Library books

On the day we visited we planted several trees within the school grounds, provided Secure lockable Cabinet for books, and Donated 300 plus books.



Hunger Projects

We assisted in serving food to needy families to consume on the premises and gave food to the people to take away. The food is served all day every Sunday from 8am to 7pm free of charge. The centre is run by swami ji of Ananda Marga Mission.



A special project of completion of Renovation of kitchen at Anand Marg, in partnership with Chande Freemason's Lodge. Renovation of their Kitchen with 4 new Eco Jikos, Tiling the kitchen and corridor, fabrication of a new roof with ventilation was also handed over.



We also assisted in serving 500 of the 1000 children served on the day. Food is cooked for 2000 children. After feeding children, the remainder is packed and distributed to the needy families. After being fed, the Children receive a loaf of bread, a packet of milk, packet of biscuits, Crisps, ice cream and lollypops etc to take away. A recycling bin for plastic bottles was also provided by NDLC that will also generate income for the mission from collected waste.

DG Visit Banquet

At the DG banquet, members of NDLC received over 10 accolades and LP Balpreet received the 3rd highest International Presidents recognition of distinguished achievements fulfilling the Mission of Lions Club



International. LP Dr Ranjan Adur and myself were honoured to be seated on the head table and DG presented us with his pin, tie and district information booklet.

Visit to Lions Sight First Hospital Nairobi

This is an impressively run efficient hospital and contains eye bank, spectacles making, Diabetes care center and Hearing center. They carry out routine cataract operations and more complicated operations such as removal of eye tumors, eye cancer treatments and so on.

Visit to JK Hospital Childhood Cancer for abandoned children.

In this special ward the children are suffering from cancer and have no carers and are often abandoned as the parents cannot afford the treatment costs. They are treated free of charge from public donations. We provided a donation, books, and some food to the children.

New members

- Hemel Hempstead: Joseph Tam
- London Kingsbury: Jayna Vadher
- London Platinum Jubilee: Tusharbabu Bhatt, Jayantkumar Dattani, Shirishchandra Kothari, Jayshree Madlani, Subhash Madlani, Renu Mehta, Bharat Parekh, Kiran Patel, Mahendra Rajani, Dilipkumar Shah, Shrikant Sheth, Smita Sheth, Ajaykumar Vasa, Chhaya Dagli, Praful Mehta, Vibha Mehta, Jayshree Shah, Jitendrakumar Shah
- London Seven Kings: Daninder Nota
- London St. James'S: Frazer Brooks, Valerie Chang, Sarah Kwai Tong Chin, George Cockram, Jeremy Cummins, Rie Hamaguchi, Peng He, Aquyen Ho, Yingjie Hoang Sun, Min Hu, Wendy Huang, Ranjidam Kent, Peng Kang Koe, Edmond Kuen Yeo, Yimei Ouyang, Gareth Owen, Eileen Qin, Sarah Rana, Shaida Sheikh, Wenli Song, Anthony Tang, Desmond Sai Loi Tang, Michael Tang, Simon Thomas, Christina Ting, Phu Truong, Simon Truong, Elizabeth Tsai, Shuoguang Wang, Phoebe Wong, William Wong, Zhe Zhang
- London Westminster: Howard Cousins
- London-Finchley L C: Kishore Agravat
- Wembley: Reena Sharma, Harmit Vyas



Out and about with DG Kav

Find out what our DG has been up to recently

“Sweet April showers Do bring May flowers.” by Thomas Tusser

Dear Fellow Lions and Leos, the month of April started with a flourish as I attended the Palace of Westminster along with other Lions for the Lions Day with the United Nations. It was a pleasure to see our District named as the UK winners of the Peace Poster (Harini) and the Peace Essay (Dazie), who received their certificates.



On Easter Monday, we were delighted to participate in Zone B Lions annual Easter egg hunt and duck race. This is a fantastic service project that bought a smile on the faces of many families.



Pammy and I have attended meetings of Lions Clubs of Newport Pagnell and Olney, London Finchley, London Seven Kings , Winslow, London Platinum Jubilee, Northwood and Biggleswade and Sandy. It was my honour of inducting new members and present long service chevrons to Fellow Lions.

After the visit to London Seven Kings Lions Club, we took the opportunity to visit a food hub. This clubs works in partnership with the 3Food4u.



As you all know, fellowship and fun is part of being a Lion. There were several events that we experienced this month, and it was delightful to join Hatch End Centennial Lions Club for their race night, the Lions Clubs of Kingsbury and London Central Host for their fundraising event, Isleworth Lions Club for their 39th Charter celebrations and our District’s LCIF walk.



Do you have a story that you would like to share in the next issue of Pride of Lions? Please submit your article to: pol@lions105a.org.uk