

PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News, Issue 11
May 2023

STRENGTHEN MEMBERSHIP MONTH

This month Lions Clubs around the world are working to increase membership. If your club has done something for this month, please send in your article to be featured in the Pride of Lions. Our contact details can be found at the bottom of page 11.

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MEETING THE LIONS OF
MOMBASA

LONDON AIR AMBULANCE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GB
TEAM

AND MORE



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:

London Platinum Jubilee: Chhaya Dagli, Praful Mehta, Vibha Mehta, Jayshree Shah, Jitendrakumar Shah. **London Seven Kings:** Daninder Nota. **London St. James':** 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 Lions Club:** Kishore Agravat. **St Albans:** A.G. Chamara, Priyani Gamage. **Wembley:** Reena Sharma, Harmit Vyas. **Witney:** Ian Ranscombe.

District Governor's diary for June 2023

02/06 – Greenford Willow Tree Lions Club Charter	13/06 – Wembley Lions Club
03/06 – Witney Lions Club Charter	15/06 – Hatch End Centennial Lions Club
04/06 – DGE's Garden Party	16/06 – Kenton Lions Club Charter
05/06 – Chipping Barnet and Mill Hill Lions Club social evening	18/06 – Luton Lions Club
07/06 – Watford Lions Club	21/06 – GAT meeting
10/06 – Formation of West Drayton Lions Club	24/06 – Heston Lions Club Charter
12/06 – Lions Club of London Platinum Jubilee	25/06 – Incoming Officers Training
13/06 – Hosting of Hertfordshire SACRE meeting at Letchworth Sikh Temple	25/06 – Letchworth Garden City and Baldock Lions Club Charter
	30/06 – Flight to New York for a break and then Boston for International Convention

To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.

– One of the Lions Purposes

Joint Charter Night 20 May 2023

On 20 May, Southall and West Drayton Branch Lions Clubs decided to hold a joint charter night. Southall celebrated its 53rd charter and West Drayton commemorated seven years of being established. We were pleased that 17 Lions Clubs and 8 PDGs

attended this event. PDG Dr Surjit Bhalla was the master of ceremony and guided the festivities in his usual imitable style.

Six lions were named as recipients of the Melvin Jones Fellowship and awards were given to those present. The generosity of people resulted in £3500 approximately being pledged for charity and the raffle raised £500.

Music by Uma and Durgesh got people on the dance floor.



Whisky tasting night

by Lion President Trevor Aldred

This month, Newport Pagnell and Olney Lions Club ran a 'Lions Toast' event – which saw us finding out more about the first, and only, Kosher Whisky, from the Tel Aviv distillery, 'Milk & Honey'. This handsome drink has just been declared "The World's Best Whisky" for 2023 at the influential London whisky awards.

The event was held at the Carlton House Club, in Olney. We had great support from around 50 of our fellow Lions, Supporters, and Friends - (many out of shot!).

Thanks to everyone involved - especially Shilton Almedia, our fabulous guest speaker and European brand ambassador for the 'Malt and Honey' distillery. Also a big 'Thank You' to our Event Manager for the evening, Lion John Ferris.

The smaller picture shows hard working Lions Angela and Jon, after carefully pouring around 250 shots! Ticket sales, and a whisky auction, helped the event to raise a little over £900 profit – which will go to local charitable causes.



Special Olympics GB Team

by Lesley Stansfield, Harrow and Pinner Lions Club CIO

In the Fuller's HQ, on the banks of the Thames near to Kew Bridge, on a beautiful sunny weekend, 4 members from Harrow & Pinner, a Hendon member and a Stanmore member, spent a back-breaking weekend counting, checking, packing and boxing up sports kits for Team GB – in preparation for their appearance at the Special Olympics in Berlin, 17-25 June.

We had been called at short notice to assist the Special Olympics organisers – and we answered that call, in true Lions can-do attitude. Each kit of backpacks, shirts, shorts, hoodies, raincoats, caps, bum bags and sports holdalls were checked against each competitor's requirements to ensure Team GB's spectacular turnout at the Olympics.

It was hard work, but the thought of seeing the faces of our exceptionally talented sportswoman and men as they train and play in these kits, spurred us on.

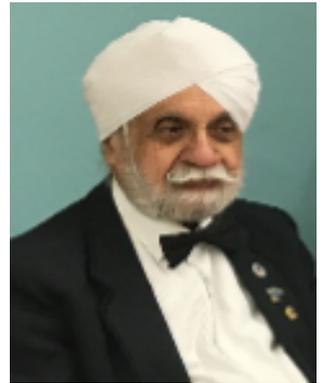
We were dead chuffed to be part of these Special Olympics, dead chuffed to ensure our Special Olympians would be kitted out in their Team GB finery.



An outstanding and stalwart Lion like no other

Southall Lions Club CIO have lost the last of its Charter members in Lion Ajit Dhanjal. MJF.

- A dedicated Lion with 53 years 100 % attendance - a Lion like no one
- His sudden passing away conveys a powerful appeal to our hearts, a loss like no one.
- A wonderful human being with sound judgement strict morals – like no one.
- He had contentment -, like no one.
- He had satisfaction - patience like no one.
- He had very high principles - like no one
- He has sharp wit and wry humour - like on one.
- He was a true companion - like no one.
- A remarkable gentleman par excellence - like no one.



Lion Ajit was born in Kisumu in 1931, in a family of five brothers and five sisters. He left Kenya 1964 to come to the UK. During his time in Kenya he was a science teacher and on arriving in the UK he studied electronics and became an Executive Electronics Engineer with BT until he retired in 1990, the rest as they, is history. He was a Charter Member of Southall Lions Club, and president of the club from 1973-74 and again in 1996-97 and in 2014-2015. He had served, with distinction, as Zone Chairman on two occasions, in 1990-91 and 2005-06 and served as a Deputy District Governor in 1991-92. His appetite for serving as a Lion was not being satisfied, so he was the Secretary for several times during his time as a Lion and has held this important post with dignity, efficiency, and total commitment for the last 16 years. (Taking a year out to be the President). Lions were awed by his capacity for hard work and efficiency and by the 'presence' he brought to the office. He portrays firm but totally fair administrative eloquence. He was always in time to send the monthly reports to Lions Clubs International. He had stepped down as our Club Secretary from July 2022.

If that was not enough, he had earned 51 years of 100% attendance (is this a record?) and was the recipient of Melvin Jones Fellowship in the early years of his Lionistic journey. This world has lost a truly blessed person in Lion Ajit – our loss is the gain of those up in heavens.

Meeting the Lions of Mombasa

by Lion Ramesh Parmar

IPDG Karanjeet and PDG Ramesh Parmar had the opportunity to visit Bahari Lions Club and Pwani Lions Club – both in Mombasa, Kenya. These Lions do a lot of charity work for the nearby villages, including running a Lions Eye Hospital.



London Air Ambulance

by PDG Lion Kamal Sharma

We're up against time to replace your life-saving helicopters. Can you help fund your new fleet?



The London Air Ambulance saved the life of our nephew. We were at a wedding and unexpectedly there was a commotion outside that a little child was not breathing properly

When the emergencies services were called. The ambulance would have taken over an hour to get to the location, hence why, the London Air Ambulance was contacted and they arrived within 35 minutes and had all the necessary medical equipment on board and were able to revive the little lad. I believe and it does happen everyday people getting injured on the roads, train etc, this is where, London Air Ambulance makes the difference for those who require urgent treatment.

On average, five critically-injured Londoners need our help every day. Our helicopters bring medics to the scene at the roadside within minutes to provide life-saving care. The current helicopters are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. Now, we're up against time to raise £15 million to replace your helicopters by the end of 2024. Without the support of the London community, there is no life-saving air ambulance service, because we are a charity. So please give what you can afford today. together, we can fund these life-saving helicopters and protect our city for years to come.

Gurdwara

by Lion Surjit K. Chodda, Fairlop Lions Club

Fairlop Lions (CIO) have a long standing relationship with Hargreaves Scout Camp, this is where we host the annual easter egg hunt and duck race. On Thursday 4th May, we were able to arrange a visit for the 4th Chadwell Heath Cubs to a local Gurudwara. Celebrating and understanding differences, including differences in faiths and beliefs, is an important part of the educational and development side of Scouts & Cubs. Lion Bob & Lion Surjit arranged the visit and accompanied the group. Over 20 cubs between the ages of 8 to 10 and their leaders joined us, parents dropping off their children were also very intrigued and at least half a dozen parents also joined us on the day!. After a brief chat with the cubs about Sikhism and the values, we conducted a tour of the Gurudwara, a visit to the langar hall and our evening concluded with them witnessing the closing ritual. This ceremony is the closing of the Guru Granth Sahib at night and placing it in a well decorated panaquin. The visit was so enthralling as well as educational for the youngsters – the scout leader thanked us at the end of the evening quoting “that everyone is still buzzing from the experience”.

My memory from my holiday in India

by Lion Arnawaz Amaria, Hatch End Centennial Lions Club

We visited Pune in India for a family wedding. On our last day there, my sister wanted to buy some strawberry biscuits and cakes - Pune is very famous for Iranian biscuits and cakes. The shop was very crowded, so I decided to wait outside. After few minutes, I felt a little pull of my skirt. I turned around and saw a young boy of six or seven. Sad faced, I asked him if he was hungry. He shook his head to say no. I asked if he wanted some money? He shook his head. He pointed at a vendor selling helium balloons and a bubble making toy. The vendor told me that for both it will be Rs.100 (£1). I gave him the money and asked the vendor to hand over the items to the boy. The boy heard me and all of a sudden his face lit up. He did not wait a second and ran off with his toys looking up towards the sky. I stood still, and noticed on the horizon the balloon. My feelings were very mixed. I did not know if I felt sad or happy. A thought came to my mind – few lines from our Grace. “Grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change and courage to change the things we can.” The happiness of that boy stayed in my mind.



Tee Off and Mehfil

Lions Club of Edgware on 19th May 2023 spent the day at Stanmore Golf Club to fund raise for the children's cancer ward at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Thirty-two Lions including two ladies enjoyed a round of golf.

In the evening they were joined by 100+ guests including DG Kavaljit and Pammy. All were delighted to listen to the melodious songs performed by Alap Desai and partake in a delicious meal.

A big thank you goes out to all those who attended and supported our Lionistic cause - childhood cancer.



6th Charter Celebrations

by Hatch End Centennial Lions Club (CIO)

On 21st May Hatch End Centennial Lions Club (CIO) celebrated its 6th Charter and the chief guest was District Governor Kavaljit Dev, Lion Paramjit Dev accompanied by District Governor Elect Lion Lesley Spence. The event was held at Aroma Banqueting in Hayes and approximately 71 guests and we were pleased to see PDGs, District Officers, Zone Chairs, Lion Presidents, and Lion members from 16 Lions Clubs in the District 105A.

All the guests thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon with music and food and three guests of Lion Vandana Radia-Patel were inspired with what Lions do in the community and are interested in finding more about us. The District Governor presented long service awards 15 years and 35 years to Lion Mukesh Desai and Lion Narendra Patel. She appreciated the Club's solid contributions to the LCIF funds, Childrens Cancer and Hunger. The Club held Race Night in April and raised £892 for Lionistic Charities plus made a generous donation - £151 towards the DGs partner

Charity Victa which helps blind and partially blind children and young adults. This year the Club took part in the District LCIF walk and donated £816 for the LCIF vision fund. This qualified for a Melvin Jones award and the Club decided that this should go to Lion Kiran Devani.



Borehole Report For Projects in Kenya 2021-2022

by *Lion Karanjeet Kaur Assan*

Although I was in Kenya last October 2022, I could not attend the opening of the Boreholes personally, due to my health. On 22 October the Borehole in Machakos was opened and on 28th October the borehole in Makindu was opened. I am grateful to Past ZC Lion Bhupinder Singh Jandoo for taking on the projects to represent District 105A. My heartfelt thanks to PZC Lion Bhupinder and the team for successfully accomplishing these projects. 2021/2022 Convention Bags and Appreciation Certificates were given out to all who were involved in getting the project finished. A letter was received from Ramgarhia Youth Association (RYA) to District 105A for contribution towards this project which has brought fruitful results, and impacted the lives of many.

Borehole Report for Makindu Borehole

Location: Manyatta Sub-location, Makindu Sub- County, Makueni county, Kenya

Beneficiaries: Approximately 13,566 community members and students in 11 schools

A semi-arid and frequently drought-stricken area in the lower eastern region of Kenya.

Seven primary schools and four secondary schools will also have access to the borehole thus improving access to water and consequently improving impacting school hygiene.



Borehole Report for Machakos County, Kenya

Location: Kalama Sub-County, Machakos County, Kenya

Beneficiaries: 120 pupils and teachers at Kwa-katheke primary school. Over 3,000 community members and students in 10 other schools.

A solar pump system was installed for a more affordable and sustainable solution. Sufficient water will be used to irrigate new school farms which will provide nutritious school lunches to all the schools that are in the location.

The sale of water to the community will generate income to maintain the borehole for more long-term project success. This will be managed by the project partners. If anyone wants a more detailed report on these projects please get in touch with me.





Out and about with DG Kav

Find out what our DG has been up to recently

Charles III by Chrissie Saunders:

Celebrations for a Coronation abound with the Spring,
Honouring the man born to be King,
As in our Country is the tradition,
Regal respect his due recognition.
Laughter and tears like us he has known,
Emotive days as he accedes to the throne,
Serving the Nation, a new era begins



Dear Family of Lions Well what a start to the month of May! Filled with memorable historical events. We also had the MD Convention in Newcastle. During the four days of Council meetings and the Convention programme it was great to spend time with our fellow Lions. I was totally taken back totally when our Immediate Past International President Lion Douglas X Alexander presented me with the Global Action Team appreciation certificate.

On Sunday 14th May, the last Cabinet meeting for this year was held. The morning session dealt with the business of the current Cabinet. In the afternoon, DGE Lion Lesley shared her vision and goals for the coming year July 2023- June 2024.



This month has been busy month for Pammy and me as we have visited Clubs and taken part in the celebration of Charters.



It has been my honour to recognise long service Lions and to present them with Chevrons and Melvin Jones Fellowships.



We were also able to support Club fundraising events, including the Whisky tasting by Newport Pagnell and Olney Lions and a Mehfil night held by Edgware Lions.



I also had the pleasure to join Zone E last meeting this Lionistic year on 24th May. All the eight Clubs attended this social gathering. ZC Mayur Mehta thanked all the current Presidents and introduced the New Zone Chair and the incoming Presidents and Secretaries.



**The Coronation of their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla
An Unexpected Guest – Simon Armitage**

She's treated herself to new shoes, a window seat on the fast train, a hotel for a night.

She's been to the capital twice before, once to see Tutankhamun when



she was nine and once when it rained.

Crossing The Mall she's just a person like everyone else but her hand keeps checking the invitation, her thumb strumming the gilded edge of the card, her finger tracing the thread of embossed leaves. In sight of the great porch, she can't believe the police just step aside, that doors shaped for God and giants should open to let her in.



She's taken her place with ambulance drivers and nurses and carers and charity workers, a man who alchemised hand sanitiser from gin, a woman who walked for sponsored miles, the boy in the tent.



The heads of heads of state float down the aisle, she knows the names of seven or eight. But the music's the thing: a choir transmuting psalms into sonorous light, the cavernous sleepwalking dreams of the organ making the air vibrate, chords coming up through the soles of her feet.

Somewhere further along and deeper in there are golden and sacred things going on: glimpses of crimson, flashes of jewels like flames, high priests in their best bling, the solemn wording of incantations and spells, till the part where promise and prayer become fused: the moment is struck; a pact is sworn.

And got to the abbey . . . raised in the middle . . . Bishops in cloth-of-gold Copes . . . nobility all in their parliament-ropes . . .

The Crowne being put on his head a great shout begun.

And he came forth taking the oath

And Bishops . . . kneeled . . . and proclaimed . if any could show any reason why Ch. . should not be the King ..that now he should come and speak The ground covered with blue cloth . . .

And the King came in with his Crown . . .and mond . . . and his sceptre in hand. . .

She'll watch it again on the ten o'clock news from the armchair throne in her living room: did the cameras notice her coral pink hat or her best coat pinned with the hero's medal she got for being herself?

The invitation is propped on the mantelpiece by the carriage clock.

She adorned the day with ordinariness; she is blessed to have brought the extraordinary home. And now she'll remember the house sparrow she thought she'd seen in the abbey roof arcing from eave to eave, beyond and above

After the success of their Platinum Jubilee party last year, Stony Stratford Lions Club entertained 75 senior citizens to a Coronation afternoon of fun, food and friendship. Helped by fellow Zone Clubs MK Central and Bletchley MK plus DG Kav and Pammy, the guests were treated to a freshly cooked fish n chips lunch, Royal Bingo with interesting facts about the history and the monarchy, a free raffle and a sing a long finishing with afternoon tea and cakes. Everyone received a MIAB and wallet. The Mayor of Milton Keynes mingled with our guests and echoed their appreciation. There was also a competition to splat plastic ears on a poster of King Charlesand the winner was DG Kav. Everyone received a goodie bag containing Coronation souvenirs plus a packet of wild flower seeds to plant locally.



The Chinese Information and Advice Centre arranged for afternoon tea to celebrate the Coronation. DG Kavaljit and Pammy felt honoured to represent the Lions family at this event and enjoyed the fellowship of the Lions Club of London Covent Garden.

