

# PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News, Issue 4  
October 2023

**OCTOBER IS VISION AWARENESS MONTH**  
has your club done something for this month? If so, 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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# NOTICE BOARD



## Welcome to the team

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

Congratulations to:

- Mrudula Kothari, London Platinum Jubilee Lions Club
- Gopal Mekala, Sudbury Lions Club

## Don't forget...

### There's still time to register the Autumn Forum

Next week, Sunday 5 November, we have the Autumn Forum. A fantastic morning in the company of others and a great opportunity to learn more about the organization of our District, the events, services, and programs, and of course a place to be able to talk to and meet other Lions of our District. **Book your place today.**

## Roar National Awards Day 2023

The Roar National Awards Day can be viewed on Zoom on the 6 December at 10.30 am until 12 noon. Join us through [this zoom link](#). If your Lions club is interested in seeing how this exciting new youth programme engages children, then please join us on the day



***To hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.***

– One of the Lions Code of Ethics

## Confidence, Independence, Accessibility - VICTA

IPDG's partner, Pammy Dev, wants to thank all club members who generously donated to his chosen charity. The Lions Club of Chipping Barnet and Mill Hill gave £5000. VICTA has received, in total, £22251.51 which will help towards its mission to empower children and young people who are blind or partially sighted.



## Sponsored walk

*by Lion Ranjit Mudhar, Southall Lions Club CIO*

On Sunday 24 September, a typical cloudy day with intermittent sunshine, we held our annual sponsored walk to raise funding for charities. Over 45 people participated including children, grandchildren, family, and friends. Lions from West Drayton Lions Club also supported this event and picnic. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

Approximately £510 was raised and £100 has already been donated to Young Lives vs Cancer London. This can be used as a Registration Grant to support a family whose child, or young person has recently diagnosed with cancer.



## Food donations

*by Lion Tajinder Lotay, Seven Kings Lions Club*

Seven Kings Lions Club were invited to visit Chigwell Day Care and Pre-School to collect a large amount of donated food supplies which were collected by the children at the school as part of a Harvest Festival event which they ran.

With hunger being a key initiative for the Seven Kings Lions Club, the food was provided to a local homeless centre. Each week Seven Kings Lions Club deliver approximately £2000 of food to a local food charity.

Thank you to all the kind hearted team at Chigwell Day Care and Pre-School for the warm welcome and support and well done to all the children for collecting the donations.



# London Bridges Wellness Walk 2023

by *Lion Sunita Raman, Harrow and Pinner Lions Club CIO*

A seven-member contingent of Harrow and Pinner Lions and spouses under the banner of Pride of Lions participated in the five mile walk to raise money for Diabetes UK on Sunday 24 September and raised £970.



We set out on a beautifully sunny Sunday morning from Potters Field Park. There were several fellow walkers and even a group of Lions from Leicester who we were thrilled to meet. The circular walk took us across the four main bridges in Central London - London Bridge, Westminster, Millennium bridge and Tower bridge, and finishing again in Potters Field Park.



With a great sendoff at the start line, we headed off together soaking in the picturesque sights of London; the views from the bridges, the iconic sights of Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Westminster Abbey, Tower of London and many more. We reminisced of great times each of us had spent on our visits there, delving into a little bit of the history of when the bridges were built, wistfully recounting buildings no longer used for purposes for which they were built.

We were intrigued to witness a ceremony of the Freeman of London taking their sheep across London Bridge - a tradition dating back to the 12th century when traders were allowed to enter the city with the tools of their trade without paying a toll. They were given the status of 'Freeman' meaning they worked for themselves and were not committed to working for someone else under the feudal system.

With diabetics and pre-diabetics in the walking group, the experience was personal as much as it was for the wider community and at no point did we forget the purpose for which we were doing the walk and raising money. When we finally arrived at the finish line, we heard our names being announced on the tannoy (due to the chips on the lanyards we were wearing) and received finisher medals and that was indeed an Olympic style moment! However, the real prize being one step closer together for a healthier, happier future.

## Charity Golf Day

Freirn Barnet Centennial Lions Club held a very successful Charity Golf Day on 24 August at the Crews Hill Golf Club in Enfield. Some 75 golfers and diners enjoyed a fantastic day of golfing, plus an excellent evening programme which included prize presentations, raffle, auctions and musical entertainment.

Lion President Nisha Patel thanked Chairman Harish Vekeria and his Committee of Lions Nilesh Vaghadia, Dominic Fernandes, sponsors and all who helped to raise £5050 for the Charity, United Way of Baroda. The charity provides education and overall developmental support to orphans and destitute primary school children in India.

The event was well supported by other District Lions Clubs and guests who attended included PDG Lions Bharat Mehta, PDG Mina Mehata both of Bhuj Lions, India as well as PDG Lion Ramesh Parmar.

Friern Barnet Centennial Lions have a busy programme of events planned for this Lionistic Year.

## Ealing Lions Charitable Music Night

*by Lion Pervinder Singh Panesar, Ealing Lions Club*

Ealing Lions club held a charitable music night “Yaad Kia Dil Ne” on 23 September 2023, at Silverdine Banquating Centre, to raise funds for two charities helping babies with brain tumour and babies born premature. The event was well attended.

The live band played enthralling music of legendary Indian singers and composers. That took the guests on a melodious journey back to the golden era of 1960s with enchanting Bollywood music. For many guests this revived the memories of their younger days when highlight of the week used to be going to local cinemas on weekends to watch latest Bollywood movies and enjoy the songs.

Overall, it was an entertaining night with good music, delicious food, positive feedback and the club managed to raise £1000 for the two charities.



## Project Wenceslas

by *Lion Keith Collard*

Do you receive fuel allowance and don't need it? Do you know someone who does?

Project Wenceslas - as the line in the popular carol says - is about 'gathering winter f-u-e-l'. Leatherhead Lions of District 105SE have been running this project successfully since December 2013. During this time, they have asked better-off pensioners who don't need their winter fuel allowance to donate it. These donations are then ring-fenced and every penny is then used to support those less fortunate and in fuel poverty or simply can't put food on the table.

Since its inception, they have helped over 200 households to keep the lights on and stay warm. They work very closely with their local Citizens Advice Bureau and Christians Against Poverty to identify the clients needing help.

Often, it is serious illness that tips a family into difficulty. For example, one family was helped when the main breadwinner fell seriously ill and had to give up work and his partner had to curtail work to care for him. From having two incomes, the family became dependent on benefits and fell into arrears. Project Wenceslas offered a lifeline to pay off energy debts and keep them warm.

Maybe your Lions Club could consider running a similar scheme?

## Walk on fire challenge

by *Lion Ranjit Mudhar*

On 29 September, six members of West Drayton took the challenge to walk on fire to raise funding for St Luke's Hospice (Harrow & Brent). This is the first fundraising event organised for this Lionistic year. This Hospice offer free service to care for people whose illnesses are no longer curable, enabling them to achieve the best possible quality of life during the final stages of their illness. It was a brilliant experience for a worthy cause. So far, we have raised approx. £1,400 and more is still expected.



# Breaking a World Record

Newport Pagnell and Olney Lions Club Support MK Food Bank in Breaking a World Record.

On Monday 16 October, in Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, NP&O LC supported a major effort, organised by MK Food Bank, to smash the current world record for the longest line of cans of food.

The official world record for the longest continuous line of cans of food was set in Canada in 2014 with a line of 45,000 cans (3.8km). MK Food Bank, along with 400 business and community supporters, aimed to smash this record and had an ambitious target of over 100,000 tins – that’s a line of cans about 10km long!

As a whole Milton Keynes effort, the effort attracted wide-reaching, positive publicity for Milton Keynes, and surrounding towns and villages, and put our new city and its supporters, including Lions, on the international map. A major public celebration event followed, with the public invited to “walk the line” and enjoy a range of entertainments on the way.

NP&O Lions committed to a 25 metre stretch of the total line – about 350 cans worth. We supplied all the cans - and the volunteers to staff our section.

Together with approximately 100 businesses, 20 schools, 30 churches and faith groups, 50 community organisations and 25 charities were involved, with an additional 11,000 cans funded by the general public. All together, we collected, stacked, counted and packed thousands of tins of food which will help support our local community over the winter months!

We are now all officially Guinness World Record title holders.





# Out and about with DG Lesley

Find out what our DG has been up to recently

October already and it is certainly feeling like we have left the summer behind. However, between the rain and misty mornings, we have also been lucky enough to enjoy some lovely sunshine. Sunday 8 October was one such day and a great day to welcome members and partners to the second cabinet meeting of the year.

Partners enjoyed an arts and crafts session and quiz, whilst the cabinet members discussed a wide-ranging set of reports and information about our own District and Lions International. Just before the close of the meeting, we were able to present a surprise and well-deserved medal to PDG Kav for goals achieved in raising funds for LCIF.



October has flown by, and I have had the honour of joining both club celebrations and charity events in the last few weeks.



Spending time with my own club - Lion Lara and myself at a car boot sale.



Attending Zone E Meeting



Breast Cancer Unit Charity Evening, PGG Kav and I proudly accepting the plaque for those Lions Clubs sponsoring the event.



Biggleswade and Sandy Lions Charter



The Mid Autumn Festival – a lovely afternoon spent with the Lord Mayor of Westminster and members of London St James' Lions Club



Stanmore Lions Club Charity Lunch



Watford Charter Night was such a lovely evening with friends with time to exchange Banners with Lion President John Watt.



What a privilege for me to be part of the Induction Ceremony at London Hendon Lions Club and to be able to personally welcome new Lions into our pride.



# Out and about with DG Lesley

Find out what our DG has been up to recently

In the background, things continue to move forward, the Global Action Team and DG team meet on a regular basis. Our focus is on service, support, and growth because we know that one doesn't happen without the other. At the moment we are gently reminding clubs about dues payments and offering support in where to find the International Invoice /Statement in MyLCI. To be in "Good Standing" and to be able to have voting rights at our District Convention, International District, and Multiple District, all dues must be settled in full by 31 January 2024. Many members are on holiday during the Christmas period, so it would be helpful to your club treasurer to arrange payment of your dues before you go.

The GLT lead Robert has been very busy organising different workshops, and this week saw the second of what are to be the regular monthly Drop-In sessions. The first part of the session will have a focus, and then the floor is open for questions. The sessions are open to all and we have had Lions from different parts of the world and Multiple District attending which makes for varied and interesting questions.

Last weekend both I and VDG Kadu attended the second face-to-face Council of Governors meeting in Redditch where the eight District Governors and Vice District Governors look at, discuss, and share issues and success stories from our Multi District and beyond. Mission 1.5 and membership were high on the agenda, as were Service and the ever-increasing needs within our communities, LCIF Grants and youth or, more specifically, our youth programs and the ways in which all of these topics can and are generating membership and PR opportunities within schools and the wider community. Membership numbers across our District and the Multiple District are on the rise.

Brilliant news for us and the communities we serve – congratulations to all!



District 105A Lions



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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](mailto:pol@lions105a.org.uk)