

PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News, Issue 12
June 2024

THE FINAL POL OF 2023-2024!

It has been another amazing year for Lions Clubs under the dedicated leadership of DG Lesley Spence. As we reflect on the past twelve months, we are proud to share this summary of some of our achievements and impactful projects.

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Fundraising and service throughout the District

It's been another busy but brilliant year for the Lions. Across our District, every Club has worked hard to raise funds for various charities and serve our communities with passion and enthusiasm. While we wish we could highlight every single effort in this section, this issue of Pride of Lions would be super long if we did! Instead, we're excited to showcase a selection of the incredible fundraising and service activities that took place this year.



London Platinum Jubilee Lions Club sponsored Charity Walk and Picnic in September at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.



Waltham Forest Lions Club delivered food parcels (non-perishable food items) around the Walthamstow area.



Members of Harrow and Pinner Lions and partners in the five mile walk to raise money for Diabetes UK, raising £970.



Newport Pagnell and Olney Lions Club supported MK Food Bank in a successful attempt to break the world record for the longest line of cans of food, surpassing the previous record with over 100,000 tins.



Heston Lions Club delivered Hummingbird Bakery cakes to the children at Dormers Wells Junior School for their BBC Children in Need fundraising efforts.



Harpenden Lions planted 54 native trees to create a new woodland area in Rothamsted Park.

Fairlop Lions Club donated Sue's House, a cancer and holistic help centre based in Ilford, with a fixed garden gazebo.





Witney Lions Club assisting at the Carterton Christmas lights switch on, providing hot chocolate, beer and soft drinks at their stall to the attendees.



Redbridge Centennial Lions Club (CIO) planted 6 Dutch Elm resistant trees at Valentines Park, Ilford.



Members of West Drayton Lions Club and two other cubs took the challenge to climb Snowdon and raised over £1,400 for Noah's Ark Children's hospice.



St Albans Lions helped collect Christmas Trees to raise money for The Hospice of St Francis.



The Lions of District 105A delivered somewhere between 50,000 and 60,000 pairs of used spectacles to our friend Brigitte Green at MD HQ in Birmingham.



Enfield Lions Club adopted Masaipet Zilla Parishad School (India) and, along with local partners, have been executing projects to enhance the learning experience of the children.



Seven Kings Lions Club donating a £2,750 CADD pump to Haven House Children's hospice, a vital piece of equipment which the hospice required.



On behalf of Wembley Lions Club, Lion President Vinod Varsani joined the Swaminarayan Temple for their tree planting activity. The club donated £101 to this cause.



Bletchley Milton Keynes Lions Club Quiz Night raised £350 for charity.



This year, Fairlop Lions extended their international projects to Malawi, supporting the Bangwe HIV/AIDS Self Help Initiative (BAHASI), where member Raj Goutam has long been involved, providing essential items, building materials, and continued support for orphans and vulnerable children.



Banbury Lions supporting local cadets.



Sudbury Lions Club's health camp at Nutan Vidyalaya Radhu on May 5, supported by Dheeraj Hospital, Piplia, Waghodia, and Nadiad Lions Club, successfully provided free disease diagnosis, medicines, and specialized consultations to community members.



London Park Royal Lions Club donation to London's Community Kitchen.



Southall Lions collaborating with organisations in India to organise a medical camp.



Belmont & Hayes and Harlington Lions delivering toys to Northwick Park hospital children's ward.

District 105A events

This Lionistic year was also filled with amazing events. From the return of the Senior Citizens Party and the District Convention to the Lions Message in a Bottle initiative being featured on BBC Crimewatch, it's been a remarkable year! Here are just a few of the events.



After a four-year hiatus, District 105A's Senior Citizens Celebration made its triumphant comeback, filling the room with bursts of colour and energy.



The 7th Symposium was a dynamic weekend, full of learning and growth among Lions members.



DG Lesley Spence's convention. A weekend filled with fun, fellowship and laughter.

Lions District 105A Zone I Quiz brought together teams from across the region for a spirited competition.

The District 105A Youth Celebration event was a day filled with pure joy, fun, fellowship, and great camaraderie.



Fifteen-year-old Liliana Noor was District 105A's Lions Young Ambassador for 2023-2024 (sponsored by Harrow and Pinner Lions Club CIO).



"A successful annual Lions Clubs International District 105A Zone I Swimming Gala was held at Hitchin Swimming Pool for individuals with special needs.



A wonderful time was had by all at the Melvin Jones Gala Dinner, where Melvin Jones Awards (the highest honour a Lion can receive) were given to over 70 Lions.



PDG Lion Kavaljit Dev is the new Council Chairman for 2024-25.



Lions Message in a Bottle was featured on BBC's Crimewatch back in March.

New members, to years in service

And of course, we have welcomed some wonderful new faces to our Lions family, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm. Additionally, we proudly celebrated our seasoned members, honouring their years of dedicated service. Here are just a few of these Lions.



Gurnam Singh and Harpreet Singh, Bedford Lions Club.



John Taylor, Laura Taylor, and Craig Gibson, Luton Lions Club.



Tatiana, Newport Pagnell & Olney Lions Club.



Marlene, Hemel Hempstead Lions Club



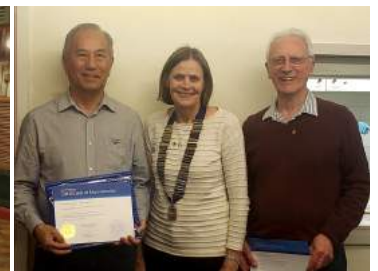
Roma Kealy, Bedford Lions Club.



Kamalpreet Loyal, Harrow and Pinner Lions Club.



Lion Mike Moroney, Harpenden Lions Club



Barney Ng, St Albans Lions Club.



Lion Peter, Witney Lions Club, with his 40 years of service chevron.



Dave Price with his 45 years of service chevron, Harpenden Lions Club.



Lion Arthur with his 45 years of service chevron, Witney Lions



Pam and Mike received their 3 year membership award, Witney Lions



Certificates for 5 and 10 years of service were given to Lion President Sharon Patel and Lion Ketul Joshi respectively from Hatch End Centennial Lions Club.



LP Iqbal Suterwala presented 45 years pin to Lion Amarjit Sagoo



Out and about with DG Lesley

Find out what our DG has been up to recently

Dear fellow Lions and Leos,

I have some catching up to do; I missed last month's write-up, so perhaps I should begin with the fun-filled Multiple District Convention held in Western Supermare. Although the sun and the sea were hiding when we first arrived for the Council of Governors meeting on Thursday, the weather gradually improved, and the day of the Convention couldn't have been more perfect with blue skies, gentle waves, and sunshine. The AGM - the business side of the Convention - was completed, and it was great to spend time with our fellow Lions from the different Districts. Sunday morning saw the very special introduction of the incoming District Governors, District Governors Elect, from all eight Districts. A fun-filled time with lots of noise and party poppers to welcome them all, including our own Council Chair Elect Lion Kavaljit Dev and District Governor Elect Lion Kadu Shah, to their new role.



On Sunday 11 May, the last Cabinet meeting of the year was held. The morning session continued with the completion of cabinet business, approval of minutes, consideration of reports, and lastly, discussion and adoption of a Lions Code of Conduct. The final version will be with clubs soon. In the afternoon, DGE Kadu Shah introduced her cabinet and shared her vision and goals for the coming year July 2024 to June 2025. The month of May continued at its busy pace, with Charters, Zone meetings and the LCIF Golf Day.



Last meeting of the year for Zone G and the final event of the year, the social evening for Zone E.

If you're offered a seat on a rocket ship, don't ask what seat! Just get on – Sheryl Sandberg

Many thanks to PDG Lion Vijay for her dedication in ensuring Lions of 105A understand that their donations and fundraising efforts enable the Lions Clubs International Foundation to make the grants to carry out service and support around the world.



District 105A has again been a top contributor this year, raising over \$66,700 – well done, and thank you to all Clubs and individual Lions who have been part of that magnificent effort.



Saturday 18 May saw the Harrow & Pinner Charter Anniversary with the presentation of the 60 year certificate from LCI, and the presentation of a Melvin Jones Foundation Award to an amazing member of the community: Peter from South Harrow Methodist Church. Peter worked with Harrow & Pinner Lions Club to distribute food at what started as a short term warm hub for the Church, and developed into a very successful partnership with Harrow & Pinner Lions and a much appreciated weekly Food Hub for local people.

On 19 May a brilliant weekend and lovely fun filled lunchtime Charter was held for Hatch End Centennial Lions Club.

Chipping Barnett and Mill Hill Golf Day was another great day for Lions Charities and successes all round for the many golfers taking part.





Sunday 26 May was a beautiful day to be at Blackfriars Bridge and the first Charter Anniversary of the London St James Lions Club.

The last two months have sped by, and with the passage of time came the realisation that although there are still many daily responsibilities and decisions to take care of as "the chief administrative officer" of the District, the time as DG is coming to an end and so June has also been a busy month.

The last Global Action Team and District Governor team meetings were held earlier in the month to allow members of the teams to leave to travel to the International Convention. The interactive drop-in sessions continued until the end of June, ensuring that even though a lot of time had already been spent introducing the Lions Portal, everyone with officer positions was able to ask questions to competently access the new Portal. Please note, officer positions for 2024-2025 should now be added. There are videos on the portal to help; click "videos" and look for "How to assign an Officer."

I have continued with club visits, catching up with Greenford Willow Tree Lions Club, Hornsey Lions Club, and Barking Lions Club - all of which have a history of great service to the District and their communities. I was very pleased to induct three new members at Barking Lions Club, seven in all this year, and also had the honour of inducting a new member at London Hornsey. I returned to the club on 23 June to celebrate their very special 40th Charter Anniversary.



I spent the morning of World Environment Day at Headstone Manor Park. I was proud to see the changes that Lions and others have brought about to encourage and grow the diversity of the flora and fauna of the park in an environmental way. Later, I joined District Governor Elect Kadu Shah for the DGE's Garden Party. A lovely day and a lovely venue; congratulations to DGE Kadu and the team.



I also found time to "serve" with my club and Zone. We decided to work together to raise the profile of Lions with stalls and a membership table.



Later in the month I had the pleasure of attending St Alban Lions Charter, along with Lions from their twinned Clubs of ST Omer (France) and Siebengebirge (Germany). The "Jumelage" is a wonderful exchange of Lionistic news and ideas. The twinning has been going on for many years.



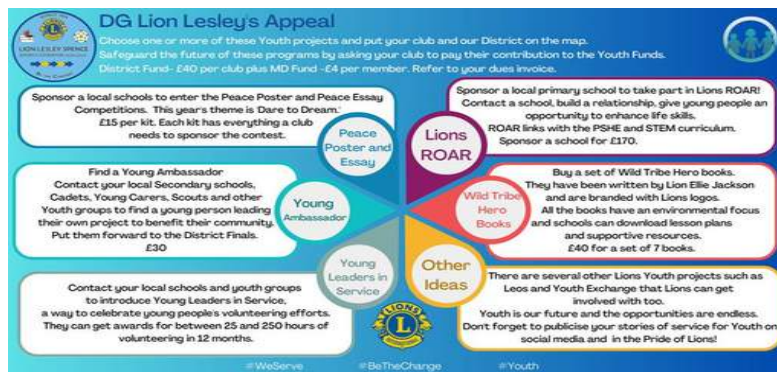
Zone F had their Handover meeting and last social meeting of the year on 9 June – lots of fun and fellowship to be had.



On 15 June, I attended Witney Lions Club Charter. I was honoured to present a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award to a very surprised Lion President Wyn. My first Charter in jeans, exactly what I wore at college in the 60's - brilliant!



The end of the Lionistic Year is upon us and this is the last time I will be writing the "Out and About" piece for the Pride of Lions. My last official engagement as District Governor 2023-2024 was 29 June when I attended West Drayton Lions Club Charter. As the emails and calls tail off, you find yourself reflecting on the year as an individual, as a leader, and as a part of the team that is our District. I can say that I have had the most fantastic year, in fact the whole experience as 2nd Vice, 1st Vice, and then as DG has been the most amazing, humbling, and uplifting experience. As you know, I did not have a charity for you to donate to this year, but instead asked that each club support one or more of our Lions Youth Projects. Thank you for your support - there is still time to act and to register a school (see Lions [ROAR website](#)).



I have learned so much about myself as a person, about Lions International as a whole, our District, and the Lions Clubs and members within. We may not have reached all the targets we set ourselves but we can be very proud of our many achievements. Our District service record is amazing, and your generosity is outstanding. I would like to thank you all for what you and your Lions Clubs have achieved this year. I would like to wish DGE Kadu an enjoyable and successful year ahead and thank the members of 105A for the support, trust, and friendship and for the many wonderful memories of my three-year journey – thank you,



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

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