DG Dilip Shah

Pride of Lions

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Ride for Malawi – changing lives through sight

How often do we think about the gift of sight? Every day, we see the world around us – its colours, faces, smiles and emotions – how different life would be without it. Eyesight is something I will never take for granted.



On the bike ride

In March 2026, I visited a Lions eye camp in Adampur, Punjab, India. Meeting patients and hearing their stories was a deeply moving experience. It made me realise just how fortunate I am to see the world – and my thoughts immediately turned to Malawi, my birthplace, the Warm Heart of Africa. I asked myself: what can I do to help others experience the gift of sight? With the generous support of friends, I had previously helped restore the eyesight of a child. Seeing the joy on her face and her family was something words cannot describe. I decided it was time to do more.





Malawi child before and after eye treatment

As Vision is one of the pillars of Lionism, Helen Keller's enduring challenge to Lions came to mind: "Will you not constitute yourselves knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness?"

Then came an opportunity… With the support of Fairlop Lions, I undertook a demanding motorcycle ride through the foothills of the Himalayas, to raise funds for eye care.

Over 13 days, I travelled approximately 2,000 miles, crossing 12 motorable mountain passes, with the goal of reaching Umling La at 19,024 feet – the highest motorable pass in the world. It was an extraordinary challenge and an experience of a lifetime, just to give something back to humanity.

Malawi is one of the world's poorest nations, and its healthcare system faces significant challenges. Inadequate facilities, funding and lack of equipment. They depend on foreign aid and volunteers.

The Lions Sight First Eye Hospital in Blantyre, now handed over to the Government, is a lasting example of Lions' commitment to prevent blindness. It provides service to around 1,500 patients every month, including 60 cataract surgeries and 100 other eye-care procedures.

The Ophthalmic Department at Mulanje District Hospital has also appealed for assistance. Having previously supported them I know they need help. They serve more than 1,000 patients with cataracts, glaucoma and refractive errors.

Help Me Change Lives. My ride may be over, but the journey continues. Thanks to 70 generous donors from around the world, £5,413 plus Gift Aid has been raised so far. But we can do more. Every donation, however small, will make a difference. Every pound raised will improve eye care and change lives. Please share the appeal with your family and friends. Together, we can help turn darkness into light by the gift of sight.

Zikomo kwambiri – *Thank you very much.*
Mulungu akudalitseni nonse – *God bless you all.*

Lion Rajoo Goutam, Fairlop Lions Club (CIO)



Lions Eye Hospital



LC of Osterley Charity Walk

Osterley Lions had their annual charity walk at Osterley Park. Blessed with great weather, nature and followed with Chole Bhaturas at Gymkhana it was all fun with family and friends. Thanks to all the members for raising over £1,100 for good causes.

PDG Lion Meena Gupta

LCI Ethics:

To Remember that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

Fairlop Lions serving the local community

On Sunday 6th September, East London saw its annual Nagar Kirtan departing from Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Barking to Singh Sabha Gurdwara on Ilford High Road. **Fairlop Lions** took this opportunity to set up a stall and mobile Health Bus, conduct health screening while promoting Message in a Bottle, Message in a Wallet, and raise awareness of Lionism. We dealt with membership enquiries and collaborated with the Borough of Redbridge and the Mayor of Redbridge.

The event was very successful and there was an excellent attendance.Also attended by our District MIAB Officer, several Lions from Fairlop Lions Club, Redbridge Centennial and Heston Lions Club. The Nagar Kirtan was also attended by local Redbridge Councillors who have collaborated with us in previous projects.

The success of this has led Fairlop Lions to set up further clinics within local Gurdwaras in partnership with Redbridge Public Health to give free health checks, promote Lionism, MIAB and other local initiatives.

Lion Surjit Chhoda
Secretary, Fairlop Lions



Fairlop Lions at Nagar Kirtan event

Lions and Baby Life Line – a LCIF Endorsed Project

My training session attended by all European LCIF Co-ordinators in Prague was inspirational. One of the projects which gained amazing praise was BABY LIFELINE:

The Baby Life Line Midwife Home Birth Bag was created after training community midwives and paramedics together in managing emergencies.

Each bag is clearly organised, uses paramedic-style design and includes step-by-step emergency crib cards. Every bag contains the essential equipment needed to save a mother and baby's life in Ukraine and in other areas affected by disaster or war, where safe maternity services are no longer available. Healthcare facilities are being targeted, forcing care into underground bunkers. Midwives must work with limited resources in extremely challenging conditions.

There are over 500 healthcare centres in Ukraine needing support – many not reached by larger aid organisations. 500 bags = Nationwide coverage for mothers and babies.Each bag costs £1,000 in total - can your club help ?

Donate via the LCIF Refugee Fund – Baby Lifeline Appeal OR give through your Club via the District Treasurer. Donations count towards MJF CREDITS

PDG Lion Parveen Verma

Lions get hands on with vision screening

I am delighted to report that 15 Lions from Zones E and F attended a lively and interactive District 105A Vision Screening training session at private area of Sara's Restaurant in North Harrow.

We were pleased to welcome Past International Director Lion Geoff Leeder and 2nd Vice District Governor Lion Robert Spragg, who joined us for the training.

This hands-on experience helped participants build confidence and connect what they had learned with the equipment they would use. Questionnaires, followed by discussion of the answers, reinforced key points and encouraged everyone to contribute.

The feedback reflected the enthusiasm generated by the session. One Lion expressed his eagerness to use the equipment to support early years pupils. He also welcomed opportunities to take part in future screening sessions and continue learning. One of the comments described the presentation as comprehensive, interesting and well organised. He said it had increased his enthusiasm and highlighted the keenness of fellow participants for further training – adding, with a smile, that he had enjoyed the biscuits!

The programme had begun at 10 am with a fun icebreaker, helping everyone relax and get to know one another. Participants then explored vision screening through presentations, practical activities and discussion, before concluding with a light lunch at 2pm.

My sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed so positively. It was encouraging to see Lions learning together and preparing to put their new skills into service, supporting children's vision. On a personal note, the session also enabled me to complete the presentation required for my Faculty Development Institute (FDI) training.

Zone F Chair Lion Hasmita Solanki



Vision training

DG Dilip's Dialogue

My Family of Lions & Leos,

Warm congratulations to Zone Chair Lion Hasmita Solanki on successfully completing the Lions International Faculty Development Institute (FDI) training course and its post-institute assignment, achieving recognition as an FDI Graduate.

Since publication of Issue 2 of District 105A Pride of Lions I have attended following events:

LC of London Soho business meeting on 11 Sept.

Lions International Portal & Dist website training on Sunday 13 Sept.

Dist 105A Convention committee meeting on Tuesday 15 Sept.

LC of Enfield Golf day on 16 Sept.

MD 105 Council of Governors meeting on Thursday and Wednesday 18 and 23 Sept respectively.

Dist 105A GAT meeting on Monday 21 Sept.



▶ LC of Waltham Forest (CIO) business meeting on Friday 25 Sept where principal officers were installed.

May I draw attention of Club Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers to the following:

One club still requires to update Lions portal for its principal officers for 2026/2027.

Only 44 clubs out of 70 have reported its service activities on Lions portal, others please do so.

Quite a few clubs still have balances owing to Dist 105A, MD105 & Lions Clubs International. Kindly please settle these dues at the earliest.

Thank you all for your wholehearted support afforded to our District and working alongside each other.

WE SERVE IN HARMONY and GROW TOGETHER.

DG Lion Dilip Shah

My diary

Dates for October:

Zone E meeting on Thursday 1 October.

Council of Governors meeting on Friday 2 October.

Lions Club of Luton 54th Charter anniversary on Sunday 4 October.

Lions club of Heston Charter anniversary on Friday 9 October.

Lions club of Watford 56th Charter anniversary on Wednesday 14 October.

Lions club of Enfield Garba night on Saturday 17 October.

District 105A Cabinate meeting on Sunday 18 October.

Bletchley Milton Keynes Club (CIO) 57th Charter anniversary on Saturday 31 October.

Lions strike up fun and friendship!







LC of London Next Generation joined its mother club, LC of Chipping Barnet, for an evening of tenpin bowling at The Hollywood Bowling Centre in Finchley, North London, followed by dinner.

Twenty members and friends enjoyed plenty of laughter, friendly competition and some decidedly unpredictable bowling! With three VIP lanes and a few drinks to help everyone relax, the scene was set for sporting greatness – or at least some enthusiastic attempts.

The proposed fine for landing a ball in the gutter was soon forgotten as even our champion bowlers appeared determined to give it regular target practice. Fortunately, enthusiasm scored much higher than accuracy!

The fellowship continued over a delicious Turkish meal, where bowling triumphs grew ever more impressive in the retelling.

An evening that proved you don't need a strike every time to be bowled over by Lions friendship!

ZC Hasmita Solanki
President LNG Club

New Lions



Lion Nimish Sheth inducted at Mill Hill Lions Club

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