



Issue 1: July 2025

Pride of Lions



**WELCOME DG
HARVINDER
VIRDEE!**

WE HAVE ENTERED A NEW LIONISTIC YEAR

Let's continue to work together to make a difference and do our best to better our communities through service.

**A MESSAGE FROM DG
HARVINDER VIRDEE**

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DG Lion Harvinder Virdee

www.lions105a.uk



@LionsClubDistrict105A

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A message from DG Harvinder Virdee



Fellow Lions,

What an incredible journey it has been as your Vice District Governor and now, the real work begins. It is with great pride, deep humility, and a strong sense of purpose that I step into the role of District Governor. I am filled with optimism and energy and deeply committed to leading our district forward. With your continued support, I have no doubt we will achieve our goals and continue our legacy of service that defines us.

I have been inspired by the creativity, commitment, and care shown by so many of you. Your dedication is the heartbeat of Lionism. I want to recognize those doing exceptional work and reaffirm my support to those facing difficulties. Whether your need is in recruitment, fundraising, digital tools, or leadership my door is always open, and our District Cabinet is ready to assist.

Our theme for the year is **“Unity in Service.”** This is not just a slogan! It’s a mindset. While each club has its own identity and strengths, we are united by our shared purpose: to serve those in need with compassion, strength, and collaboration. Together, we are more impactful, more resilient, and more capable of transforming lives.

A major priority this year is **Membership Growth**. Lions Clubs International has launched Mission 1.5, aiming to increase our global membership to 1.5 million. District 105A has a vital role to play in this mission. Every new member brings fresh energy, new ideas, and greater capacity to serve. I urge every club to take an active part in this initiative.

We have already started strong. Within the first eight days of July, we established the London Metropolitan Lions Club. A shining example of what we can achieve with vision and collaboration as a model for future growth.

While some clubs face challenges, others are thriving. Our approach this year is clear: targeted support, prompt intervention, and shared accountability. Let us be there for each other. Assistance can be accessed from other clubs and the GM Team. The success of one club uplifts the entire district.

We are also embracing **Different Ways of Operating**. Our IT team is doing fantastic work in promoting our clubs and service projects through social media and digital tools. These efforts not only raise awareness but also simplify processes and increase engagement across all levels.

I am proud to say that Redbridge now has two one-hour slots on local radio to speak about Lionism and our projects, another step forward in community engagement. With “Unity in Service” as our guiding light, we can achieve lasting impact and grow together, not just in numbers, but in spirit and reach. So, let us push boundaries this year by strengthening collaboration between clubs, embracing innovation, and ensuring every Lion feels valued and empowered.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I am honoured to serve as your District Governor and look forward to walking this journey with each one of you.

In service and Lionism,

Harvinder S Virdee

District Governor, District 105A

2025-2026

DG Spouse's Charity: CHECT

by Karpal Virdee

As the wife of DG Harvinder Virdee, I am eager to support him and all of you in the upcoming year. When selecting a charitable organization, I sought a cause that was both modest and low-maintenance, ensuring that our donations would have a tangible impact. After thorough research, we discovered the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT). CHECT's mission is to directly benefit children affected by eye cancer. Their comprehensive approach includes providing support services, funding research, and raising awareness about retinoblastoma. I cordially invite you to join us in supporting this worthy cause at the upcoming Golf Day.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S
CHARITY GOLF DAY

IN AID OF
CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST
26 SEPTEMBER 2025
STANMORE GOLF CLUB
Gordon Ave, Stanmore Middx. HA72RL

COST
GOLF/BREAKFAST/DINNER - £90
STANMORE GOLF CLUB MEMBERS - £50
DINNER ONLY - £35

PRIZES
Winner
Runner Up
All nearest to Pin
Nearest to Pin in 2
Longest Drive

Registration : 10.30 AM
Breakfast : 11.00 AM
First Tee off : 12.30 PM
Dinner & Presentation - 6.30 PM

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A weekend of learning, laughter, and vision screening

An incredible weekend was had at the Upskilling and Vision Screening Train the Trainer workshops, with Lions from all eight districts across the British Isles (MD105) taking part.

The workshops were filled with energy and teamwork, as our members came together to strengthen their knowledge and skills in delivering effective vision screening. There was an amazing atmosphere, with plenty of laughter and learning as we prepared to take this important service further across our communities.

We're also proud to share that on 3 July, members from Lions Clubs District 105A and Letchworth & Baldock Lions Club officially launched the Lions Child Sight UK programme in District 105A - kicking things off with our first ever school vision screening session in Letchworth.



Celebrating growth

A moment of pride for District 105A in Orlando! Our District was recognised at the Lions Clubs International Convention for having chartered a new Club within the first 13 days of the Lionistic year.



Undesignated LCIF Monies in District 105A

At the last Cabinet meeting, the Past LCIF District Officer proposed that the accumulated pot of undesignated LCIF funds i.e. monies donated by Clubs without a specific designation should be distributed equally among our Lionistic causes. These funds had now been donated to LCIF, and recently, Clubs in District 105A received a letter from Dr. Patti Hill, Chairperson of LCIF, acknowledging a donation of \$271.84 per Club. This amount was credited equally to all Clubs, regardless of whether they had previously contributed to LCIF or had only recently been formed. District Secures LCIF District Community Grant.

District Secures LCIF District Community Grant

Last year, the LCIF District Officer successfully applied for a District Community Grant, with the application approved and signed by the District Governor. The grant secured approximately \$18,000 in funding that was earned over many years by all Clubs whose annual contributions were each under \$5,000 over multiple years. These contributions count toward the District's eligibility for this grant.

A district is eligible to apply for a grant equal to 15% of its cumulative donations to LCIF, built up over many years. These funds can be used to support specific humanitarian projects and promote the presence and impact of Lions within their local communities.

At the last recent Cabinet meeting for 2024/25, the LCIF Officer proposed that these funds be used to purchase chairs for Allum Hall & Manor House, that we use annually for the District Youth Celebration Party. This proposal was approved by the majority of Cabinet members. As a result, 500 chairs were purchased at a cost of £13,260

Making a difference through donations

At their most recent business meeting, members of Newport Pagnell & Olney Lions Club demonstrated their ongoing commitment to community service by agreeing a number of generous donations.

£1,000 was donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association, representing the entire proceeds from the Club's recent Motorama event - rounded up slightly to make an even greater impact. The funds will support those living with motor neurone disease and contribute to crucial research into this life-shortening condition.

A further £200 was given to Harry's Pals, an organisation that provides emotional support to families navigating the challenges of a life-limiting illness or disability diagnosis. The charity also campaigns for better care and services for carers and disabled individuals, offering a vital lifeline at a time when it's needed most.

The Club also contributed £100 to the Children's Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT) - the UK's only charity focused solely on retinoblastoma, a rare form of eye cancer that affects children under six. CHECT offers lifelong support to families, funds important research, and raises awareness of the condition.

Finally, in response to an appeal from a family in Newport Pagnell struggling with the cost of an autism assessment for their child, the Club agreed to donate £150 towards the cost. The decision reflects the Lions' continued dedication to helping individuals in need access vital services and support.

Singing for memory

Members of St Albans Lions Club, Emma and Christina, recently attended the Singing for Memory group held at a local synagogue in St Albans. The group provides a warm and supportive environment for individuals living with dementia

Emma and Christina joined in with the singing and shared Message in a Bottle kits - an important Lions initiative that helps emergency services access vital medical information quickly in the event of a crisis.

It was a joyful and meaningful visit, filled with music, connection, and a shared sense of community.



17th Annual Charity Golf Challenge Raises £12,000

The Lions Clubs of Chipping Barnet and Mill Hill hosted a hugely successful 17th Annual Charity Golf Challenge at the iconic Hartsbourne Golf and Country Club.

The day began with a full English breakfast before 72 golfers took to the course under the blazing sun, raising funds for an orphanage in Eldoret, Kenya. Cold water stations, a gourmet halfway house by Ragasaan, and delicious cake from the London Next Generation Club kept everyone going strong.

After 18 holes, players enjoyed a wine reception followed by a roast dinner, trophy presentations, and a moving appeal for the orphanage, raising over £1,500 on the night alone.

In total, the event raised approximately £12,000. A heartfelt thank you to Lions Sanjay Shah, Manish Chotai, Parveen Verma, all volunteers, sponsors, and players for making the day such a success.



Young carers honoured by Fairlop Lions

On Monday 14 July 2025, Fairlop Lions Club had the honour of recognising young carers at Valence Primary School with Young Leaders in Service certificates and badges.

In the presence of Lion President Charanjit Singh and Past District Governors Lesley Spence and Doreen Allen, an astounding 66 certificates were awarded, representing 21,090 hours of caring in the past year alone.

These remarkable young people are a shining example of compassion, dedication, and resilience. It was a truly humbling and heartwarming experience for all involved.





Out and about with DG Harvinder

Find out what our DG has been up to recently



Met International President AP Singh at our training in Chicago.



Also met up with Past International President Brian Sheehan in Chicago.



Met 3rd Vice President Manoj Shah at Mission 1.5 summit in Warsaw.



Met up with Past International President Douglas Alexander at the UN day in London.



Met up with Past International President Patty Hill at LCIF training and LCIF dinner.



Out at the MD Convention.



The Handover Ceremony for London Central Host Lions Club on 3 July.



London Central Host Lions Club.



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

Editor
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