

# PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News, Issue 7  
January 2024

## **HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH**

January is Hunger Awareness Month. If your club has done something for this month, 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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DG LESLEY SPENCE

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# Fundraising activities

*by West Drayton Lions Club*

On 17 December 2023, 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. This charity helps young people with life-threatening conditions and their families make the most of every day.



On 23 December 2023, West Drayton Lions Club donated over 30 toys to children's Ward at Hillingdon Hospital, including an Xbox, TV, pool table, and many other gifts all wrapped. We also donated drinks and chocolates to the staff.



# Teamwork makes the dream work

In October 2023, Southall Lions Club CIO worked with Rishikesh Lions Club in India on three activities: 1) helping in the marriage of a girl who's father passed away and she therefore didn't have any support, 2) medical help to the mother of 15-year-old girl who was suffering from high blood sugar levels, 3) medical help with medicines for cattle. Lion Mahendra Gokani helped organise this medical camp with the local Lions Club.

On 30 November 2023, an eye camp was organised by Sultanpur Lodhi Clubs and Southall Lions Club CIO, sponsored by PDG Lion Dr Surjit Bhalla's family. It attracted a huge gathering of 700 people. Lion Baldevjit Saini helped organise the camp. We'd like to thank all those who were involved.

Finally, in December 2023, Southall Lions Club CIO sponsored eye and diabetes check camps held in India by Golden Temple Lions Club. Nearly 245 people came and 50 were detected for cataract surgery. This camp was sponsored by IPP Iqbal Suterwala and family. Lion Baldevjit Saini helped organise the camp. Well done to all Lions involved from both clubs.



# District Young Ambassador Final

by Lion Doreen Allen

On Saturday 14 January, the District Young Ambassador Final took place alongside the Cabinet meeting. After a late withdrawal, we had five excellent candidates with very diverse projects.

The morning started with all candidates giving their presentations to the Judges and attentive audience. Max, aged 17 and sponsored by Northwood Lions Club, had extensive and consistent volunteering at a weekly Food Bank in Hounslow taking a particular role with the dietary needs of clients.

Erika, aged 16 and sponsored by Fairlop Lions Club, is a Youth Councilor and has organised sleeping bags, warm clothing, and food for the homeless. She also served weekly at a Food Pantry and a community café, is a football coach and raised thousands of pounds for various charities.

Keeley, aged 16 and sponsored by Letchworth & Baldock Lions Club, fundraised via Facebook. She sang, did sporting trials, joined a community choir, and had sponsored haircuts for young cancer sufferers.

Hukam, aged 15 and sponsored by Heston Lions Club, served food weekly to needy people, helped start a registered charity (including building the website and organising marketing to give grants for equipment for Parkinsons sufferer's in memory of his grandfather).

Liliana, aged 15 and sponsored by Harrow and Pinner Lions Club CIO, is a Youth Councilor. She organised an anti-violence event, supported Ukranian refugees, was a member of the Model UN Conference in Maastricht, held fundraisers within her school, and helped initiate the Youth Pathway Service in her Borough.

Fellow Lions all five young people are still in education which does and rightly should take precedence.



The three independent Judges - Neil Connolly, Denise Poore and Sir Tim Wilson - spent the morning listening to the candidate's presentations, interviewing them, and teasing out more about their volunteering achievements. The standard was so high that they had to have a working lunch in order to finalize the result.

After lunch, all the candidates, supporters, and District Lions returned to hear the Judges result. The Chairman gave positive feedback to all candidates and emphasized what a difficult decision they had to make. The District 105A Young Ambassador for 2023-2024 was revealed as...Liliana Noor! She will represent the youth of our District at the MD Final in February, and will also attend our Convention in March. My congratulations to Lion President Lesley and the Harrow and Pinner Lions Club CIO for sponsoring such a worthy winner.

Fellow Lions, there are young people like these in YOUR communities – the search starts now. Open your eyes and give them the recognition they deserve and enter next years Young Ambassador Award. As always I am here to help.

## Multiple District 2nd VDGs meeting

*by Lion Harvinder Virdee*

Multiple District's 2nd VDGs meet once a month on Zoom to learn from each other and exchange views. This time, we decided to meet in person in Birmingham. During our visit, we decided to visit Lions HQ where we met the staff. CC David Pope, wife of 2nd VDG Richard from District SW, and PCC Stewart Sherman-Khan MJF gave us a lot of valuable information. 2nd VDGs were accompanied by their partners for a very pleasant weekend in the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship.



## Exchange of banners

*by St Albans Lions Club*

Marianne who is a Lion in Buenos Aires in Argentina visited us on Monday 8 January 2024 and exchanged banners with Lion President Gill.



We help the Annual Christmas tree collection which is supported by St Albans businesses and community groups. This activity ensures trees are recycled into compost. The St Albans Lions helped collect Christmas Trees to raise money for The Hospice of St Francis. This initiative helps residents in St Albans to retain their title of being the best recyclers in England for recycling over 64% of household waste across the district.



## Winter care packs distribution

*by Redbridge Centennial Lions Club (RCLC)*

RCLC members and club branch Aria members spent an evening assembling winter care packs to be distributed to the most vulnerable people of the community to help them get through the harsh winter months.

Each care pack contains winter essentials like warm clothes, beanie hats etc to help them withstand the winter months. These packs are being distributed by members of RCLC and Aria at various venues in partnership with other charities like SEVA (Sikh Empowerment Voluntary Association). We have till today distributed winter care packs at St Giles Church and also at Ilford town centre. A big thanks to all members of RCLC and friends who contributed to this via donations and also spending time to arrange and assemble the care packs.



## Charity Christmas Celebrations

*by Friern Barnet Centennial Lions Club*

A Christmas Bollywood-themed dinner and dance event was held on Saturday 16 December 2023 at the Everest Abercorn Lounge in Stanmore, Harrow. This was a very successful event with 110 Lions, families, prospective members, and guests enjoying a wonderful evening in lovely ambiance of the venue with excellent music and mouth-watering Indian cuisine. Lions from Redbridge Centennial, Greenford & Willowtree, Enfield & other Clubs were in support. The evening's fundraising was for The Lions 5 Pillar Project of Childhood Cancer; £3377 was raised for Haven House Hospice in Woodford Bridge and The Great Ormonde Street Children's Hospital.



## Santa Clause is coming to town

*by Witney Lions Club*

A few photos of Santa's visits to Aston & Cote Day Centre, Aston Brownies and Carterton Town Hall before the Big Day. He was extremely busy visiting various locations in Witney, and thanks to the generosity of the public, the Lions raised a substantial amount of money which will be distributed towards the Dream Scheme and other worthy causes around the area. A massive thank you to everyone.



## A new member of our Pride

*by Newport Pagnell & Olney Lions Club*

This month, we were delighted to welcome a new member into our pride – Lion Tatiana!

She brings a massive amount of energy, enthusiasm and fun to our meetings and fund-raising activities. It's great to have her on board!



# Donations from Slimming World members

*by Northwood Lions Club*

Thank you Slimming World members at Lowlands Tennis Club, Eastcote. A fantastic effort which resulted in a car full of donated food and toiletries - organised by SW Katherine pictured with District Hunger & Homelessness Officer, Sue Carr.



# Food collection

*by Heston Lions Club*

We collected food from our friend, Anna at Lidl GB and took it to the team at Ealing Soup Kitchen Monday night drop in. Thanks to Simone, Emma and all the heroic angels who make a difference to so many people in need. You're all saving lives!



# Recognition for years of service

*by Hatch End Centennial Lions Club*

First meeting of 2024. Membership certificates for completion of 5 and 10 years were handed out to Lion President Sharon Patel and Lion Ketul Joshi respectively.

We also had a talk from #actforchange charity by Lea Misan and Talia Misan, who gave us an insight on the work they do.







# Out and about with DG Lesley

Find out what our DG has been up to recently

Hello, and a belated "Happy New Year" to all those members I haven't seen or spoken to in the last three weeks. So here we are in 2024; how odd is that? Some of us might still be getting used to writing the new date, but one thing we are not behind in is getting back to service. Not that I'm tied to my computer, but when I visit a club, I look at MyLCI to see where we are as a District and discover a bit more about the club I'm visiting. It's great to see so many more clubs regularly reporting service and letting us know what they are doing. Many of you were holding Diwali celebrations and parties; some were out with Santa and his sleigh, others were delivering presents and food parcels, some were holding Christmas parties for vulnerable groups, and yet others were hosting pantomimes or organising local festivities and Carol Services.

Today, as I write this, we, the Lions of District 105A, have given a little bit of hope and help to well over three hundred and two thousand people. We have given over sixty thousand service hours and donated over \$254,000. We can all take a moment to feel justifiably Proud of our record. #KindnessMatters, our service matters, and you all individually and collectively make a difference in your own community and the wider world,

On 8 January, I had the pleasure of attending Kenton Lions Club meeting. It was a lively, productive meeting, which combined the completion of the records of the previous year's events with planning for those taking place in the next month or two. One of the two guests visiting the club that evening has since become a Lion – Congratulations to all.



On 11 January, I attended Friern Barnett Centennial Lions Club's productive, vibrant dinner meeting with lots of discussion. I was honoured to be asked to induct two new members to the club, Lion Suman and Lion Varun. I also met three more prospective members, and presented three-year and five-year certificates and a Club Excellence award for the Lionistic Year 2022-2023. Congratulations, well deserved on all counts.



It was a busy week, Saturday 13 January I joined the CIO training in the morning with John Savell and in the evening joined St John's Wood Lions for their Charity Dinner and Dance at the Everest Abercorn. The music and the food were enticing and I stayed late even though I had the Cabinet meeting the following morning.



Sunday morning off to the Cabinet meeting with partners, first time guests to the cabinet and our Young Ambassadors and eminent judges. The youngsters did well, and one Liliana will soon be on her way to represent us at the final, which will take place at the Village Hotel in Dudley on the weekend of 16 February.

Friday 19 January was a unique evening with some worthy recipients receiving Melvin Jones awards. The surprise on some faces as their names were called, was brilliant to see. We were honoured to have PID Sandro Castellana with us to present the Melvin Jones Fellowships and Progressive Melvin Jones Awards with PID Geoff Leeder.

In his speech, PID Sandro congratulated District 105A for the continued support for LCIF. He urged clubs to consider applying for an LCIF Grant for service activities. For information go to the International website – Member Resource Centre - Grants and Awards or contact District LCIF Officer Lion Vijay.



### Thoughts and possibilities

Last year, we started the New Passport to encourage New Lions and their sponsors to discover more about Lions and the Club and District they had joined. Any members who have completed the actions in New Lions Passport can send a scanned copy to the DG of the day, in this case, me. Your effort to gain a greater understanding of what it is to become a Lion and be part of the amazing organization of Lions Clubs International will be recognised at Convention if returned by 14 February. There will be a second recognition of success later in the year.

Many clubs were successful in applications for a Club Excellence Award last year. Many more clubs will be eligible to apply this year. Start by looking at the criteria – are you able to tick the boxes? Perhaps you have one area missing – so start planning what your club can do to get there. You have until 30 June to do it. Applications need to be with the DG Lesley Spence by 25 August to be sent on to Oakbrook.

