

LIONS 105SW DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Aim : HEART

Humour, Experience, Appreciate, Respect, Trust.



By Jim P-H

Last night I attended a meeting, planning your Convention for 2020 and was very disappointed by what the committee were told by the booking officer. It is your convention, which is the AGM of the South West District. We have 1220 lions in this District but only 60 Lions are attending with 1 attending on Saturday only, this is less than 1%. When I took over as your District Governor, I promised to put you first.

My District Officers have tried to do this, but we can only do so much as it takes input from you all. Decision are made at Convention that affect you all; are you willing to let 1% of the membership make these for you. So, come on book for your Convention and help shape the Lions future in the South West.

The next letter in Heart is "Appreciate"; everyone is a volunteer, so appreciate that they do what they are able for the benefit of Lions, no matter how much or little they do in your eyes

We have managed to lose more Lions than we gained in January, this may be Clubs dropping Lions at the time dues are to be paid. We need to retain more of the Lions we recruit. I still have several Clubs to visit and will be in touch with Club presidents about this.

February diary:

- 1st Cabinet at Okehampton 9.00 am start for GAT meeting.
- 3rd Club visit to Yeovil
- 8th Seaton Charter Anniversary
- 15th Crediton Charter Anniversary
- 17th Club Visit to Plymouth
- 22nd Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Charter Anniversary
- 23rd Sidmouth Charter Anniversary

David Fitzpatrick 1st VDG Diary February 2020

- 1st Cabinet Meeting Okehampton
- 10th – 13th DG Training LCI HQ Chicago
- 14th – 28th Holiday

From 10th up to 28th I will be available to be contacted on a limited basis but only via e-mail.

Apologies for any inconvenience as replies may be delayed.

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Peace Poster Contest

“Journey of Peace”



There was an enthusiastic response to this year's Peace Poster Contest, “Journey of Peace”, with 17 Clubs in District 105SW taking part. The winning poster and runners-up have now been chosen. Congratulations to **Seaton & District Lions Club** for sponsoring the winning poster; Tavistock **Lions Club** in second place and **Minehead and District Lions Club** winning third place.

The winning poster has been sent to MDHQ to be judged at the Multiple-District level of the Contest, so we keep our fingers crossed! All three District winners will be presented with their awards at District Convention on Saturday 21st March.

Thank you to all the Clubs who sponsored a Peace Poster Contest this year. I'm sure those who took part will agree it's a great way to make contact with local schools and youth groups, and a great opportunity to promote the work of Lions Clubs in the local community.

Kits for the 2020-21 Peace Poster contest will be available at Convention or by post (from me) after Convention.

Theresa Warrell

District Peace Poster Officer

The Lions Club of Launceston have donated £100.00 to Ella Stephens of Tregadillett Guides towards her trip to the International Jamboree of Scouts and Guides, which is being held in Gdańsk, Poland this summer.

She is one of the lucky ones to be selected to represent this country at the International event.



The Lions Club of Launceston have donated £200.00 to the Little Red Bus and Moira Wilding accepted this. This was the proceeds of the Christmas Bingo and will go towards the running of the Community asset.

This is the Launceston Community Transport Partnership, setup to fill some of the void in public transport in the Launceston area.

This provides a Dial-a-Ride service for all ages from villages, hamlets and communities in and around Launceston, that have a poor or non-existent bus services. The service can be used to go into town, visit the Library, Leisure Centre, Health Centre, Hospital, Co-op, Tesco as well as Launceston Town Centre. There are also regular excursions from Launceston to other towns and events.



During this Christmas Season the **Lions Club of Truro** launched a new initiative by placing 3 Christmas Hampers in the Waitrose Store, Pannier Market and Lemon Street Market. A massive thank you to the general public for most generously supporting our Hampers and raising the magnificent total of £3,283!! towards our 50/50 project for Cornwall Hospice Care and Children's Hospice SW.

Also, many thanks to everyone involved in making this happen in particular Waitrose, Tesco, Roach Fine Foods, Golden Cafe Lemon Street Market and Cigs R Us in the Pannier Market. Finally our Lions and their partners for selling the squares.



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LION John Martin (left), President of the **Lions Club of Ivybridge**, hands an award to club member Lion Andy Vincent in recognition of his efforts promoting the Message in a Bottle project.

Message in a Bottle is a simple but effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency on a standard form and in a common location such as the fridge.

Nationally, more than six million Message in a Bottle kits have been distributed by Lions Clubs to people with conditions such as diabetes, allergies, disabilities and life-threatening illnesses. Message in a Bottle kits are supplied by local clubs to members of the public, as well as to health centres, doctors' surgeries and chemists.

Lions Clubs may also work with organisations, such as neighbourhood watch, Age Concern and housing associations, to make bottles widely available.



THE generosity of shoppers visiting Sainsbury's store at Marsh Mills, Plymouth, on the pre-Christmas Saturday (December 21) enabled the Lions Club of Ivybridge to raise nearly £500 for charity.

Club President Lion John Martin said: "Our collection that day raised a total of £466, and we are grateful for the generous donations by local shoppers. The sum raised will mainly benefit the Plymouth Women's Refuge and we will also be making a donation towards the Lions' national fund in support of efforts to assist victims of the Australian bush fires.

"Internationally, the **Lions Clubs International Foundation** (LCIF) has awarded 143,000 US dollars in grant funds since November 2019.

"This funding has purchased water tanks and provided immediate assistance to those affected. Additional LCIF grants are expected to be awarded in the coming weeks. "The destruction caused by the bush fires will have a devastating environmental impact for years to come and LCIF is working closely with Australian Lions to provide continued relief and support."

In the past many Clubs will have made donations to School Aid but after 21 years of great work School Aid closed its doors in November.

To quote their final communication "During these 21 years we have been advancing the causes of education and literacy in Africa. School Aid can be very proud of their achievements with the support and help of Lions Clubs in Multiple District 105.

During its time School Aid has built 25 managed libraries, trained over 45 librarians, supported over 45,000 learners in our libraries, resourced over 1000 schools, reached over 800,000 children and distributed over 1.6 million books.

Thank you on behalf of the children that we have supported over the years." David Atkins



As with many Clubs the Christmas period is a busy time for Club Treasurers. **Exeter Lions Club** held their Supermarket Christmas Appeal over 3 day just before Christmas, poor Peter the treasurer did a double shift collecting, gathered together the money at the end of the day, took it home, counted it all, just under £1200.00 and then had to transport to the bank. The collection this year was in aid of the Children's Hospice South West.

Thanks to Peter and all hard working Treasurers

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Yeo Valley Lions



At the end of another busy calendar year Yeo Valley had a successful Santa Claus float charity collection.

The residents of the villages of Yatton, Congresbury, Wrington Langford, Cleeve and Claverham are very grateful to the Lions throughout the year and they show their appreciation with their support for Lions events.

This year Yeo Valley raised nearly £10,000 on the carol float alone and this money will help to support the Club's community minibus, the special needs children's playground, the Wrington Dementia hub and support for schools and individuals with specific requirements

The ongoing project of a community orchard is Yeo Valley's commitment to the environment.

Lions help brighten up hospice

Nailsea Lions have helped to brighten up the Children's Hospice South West near Bristol by presenting them with two colourful planters.

The planters were specially prepared by a local garden centre with plants especially chosen for the location, which would be attractive throughout the year. The Lions transported the planters to the hospice and installed them in the garden outside the Family Room.

The funds for the planters were raised by a garden party hosted by Friend of the Lions, Sue Routley, earlier in the year.

In thanking the Lions for their donation, hospice fund-raiser Emma Parker said the hospice had wanted the planters to brighten up a corner of the garden, and they would be enjoyed by the children, parents and staff throughout the year. President of the Lions, Pam Hunt, said the Lions were delighted to help the hospice, and thanked Cadbury Garden Centre and its staff for all the help they had given.

Nailsea Lions have been regular supporters of the hospice ever since it opened.

– Nailsea Lions with Emma Parker (centre)



Sue Routley and Pam Hunt with the planters



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Plymouth Lions' Ladies held a very successful Quiz Evening at the Royal British Legion Club in Crownhill, Plymouth, on Saturday 11th January, to raise funds for a specialist piece of equipment for Woodlands Special School. The Scoot (see picture) enables children with physical disabilities to move around freely and join in play with other children outside.

A total of 19 teams took part and the incredible sum of £710.00 was raised. This will enable Woodlands to purchase one Scoot and will provide a good start towards the funding of a second Scoot, which would be ideal so children can interact with each other while out to play.



The Quizmaster for the event was Phil Bees, who put together a very challenging and enjoyable programme of Quiz categories in addition to a Music round, Dingbats and a Picture round. Phil gave his time freely as the quiz was for charity, and he enjoys doing it. Many thanks to him. It was a great evening with a lovely atmosphere. Several people have already asked when it can be repeated. Many thanks to the British Legion for their organisation and catering. Everything ran very smoothly. The evening was organised and run by Kathy Turvey and Pam Greenwood, who are grateful for all the help and support they received. They will be happy to hold another similar event in the future.



The President of the **Lions Club of Plymouth**, Lion George Poad, made a presentation of a cheque valuing **£250.00** to Tracy Dixon of the Bereavement Counselling Service Plymouth. The donation is to assist with the services general overhead commitments and has received match funding from The Friends of The Bereavement Counselling Service.

The service provides counselling from therapists with specialist knowledge and experience. It assists people who are experiencing 'complex grief' and also those people who have suffered a traumatic bereavement. This may include the death of a child, violent death, suicide or an unexpected/sudden death. Traumatic loss and complex grief can have a profound affect and can prevent people from being able to function normally. Sometimes they may see no hope for the future.

The service is valued highly by The Lions Club of Plymouth and we wish the Plymouth Bereavement Counselling Service and their clients every success through the following years.



L/R Lion Roy Russell, Tracy Dixon & Lion President George Poad.

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The **Lions Club of St Austell** enjoyed an interesting and informative talk from their Guest speaker Helen Pierce, Dispensing Optician with Boots. Who talked on the importance of early diagnosis of sight problems in children. Helen informed us that there are an estimated 1-1.6 million UK children who are currently living with undiagnosed eye/vision problems. This needs addressing as soon as possible so that they may achieve their full potential. Some eye conditions have symptoms that parents/carers can look out for others are harder to discover without a test. For more information visit www.abdo.org.uk/eyecarefaq/childrens-eyecare-basics.

Picture shows Lion President Tony Pickup thanking Helen Pierce.



PORTISHEAD LIONS THANK THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AT CHRISTMAS

Portishead Lions President Roy Shaw and all the club members would like to thank the members of the public who gave so generously to our annual Christmas Carol Float collection in December.

The total raised was an amazing £5142 - well done Portishead.

The Lions would also like to express their thanks to the members of the Portishead Army Cadet Force and the Volunteer Police Cadets who assisted them on several evenings.

Monies raised will go towards furthering our work and help us support local organisations and individuals who need assistance throughout the year.

We had lots of fun going around with the float; if you enjoyed seeing it and you would like to be involved, why not consider being a member and get involved in this and many other activities throughout the year.

