

Issue 11 • May 2020

District 105A News



#### DG Kamal Sharma



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# Let us Scrub for our NHS

A group of over 150 volunteer seamstresses in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire have been requested to make scrubs for different NHS hospitals and Care Homes. They have supplied Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, West Hertfordshire Hospital, Northwick Park Hospital, Barnet Hospital Midwifery department, as well as St Joseph's Care Home in Tring, Willen Hospice in Luton, the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted, Peace Hospice in Watford, Noah's Ark Childrens Hospice in Barking, Woodland Park Residential Home in Great Missenden, and additional care homes in Hillingdon, Southall, Aylesbury, and Milton Keynes to name just a few.

These requests have come directly from coordinators at these health care facilities and are increasing every week as the news travels between hospitals and Care Homes in our District and beyond. They have just received a request from Frimley Hospital in 105 SE.

Myself and my **LC of Tring** as well as a number of other Lions Clubs in our District have been supporting this project, by helping to raise funds. So far they have managed to fundraise, source and receive 520 precut scrub sets which have been distributed to their local seamstresses. Taking into



Scrubs for the NHS

consideration the scrub sets their volunteers have cut and sewn themselves, this will bring them to over 720 scrub sets they will have completed in the last month. Not to forget the 640 scrub hats and over 2800 scrub bags they have made, and have already been donated. What an achievement!!

They have also donated nearly 300m of fabric to Stylex (a very generous factory in Scunthorpe Lincolnshire who precuts their fabric for free) to make into over 100 scrub sets for their



Head coverings for NHS staff

local Scunthorpe Hospital Trust as a thank you for helping them.

In order to help fulfil these requests they will need to raise more money. It costs approx £10 to make each scrub set. Lions Clubs in our District have been very generous and in excess of £3,000 has been donated so far. Along with donations from the general public this has enabled the group to place another order for fabric which will enable them to make another 1000 scrubs sets. The fundraising will continue to help the group



Colourful head coverings

fulfil future requests which will inevitably come through. If your Club can help with any donation please contact me.

This is important!! By helping our NHS and care home workers stay safer, we are keeping our communities safer. Lion Mick Claxton



#### Lions passed to Higher Service

Lion Derek BeazleyLC of BedfordLion Doug WilsonLC of WinslowLion Jack MeetaroLC of Redbridge CentennialLions of District 105A send their condolences to their families.



LCI Ethics: To Aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

## **Bletchley Lions save the day**

ions Vic, Chris Bryant and Christine Bryant are helping to run a support team to help people in self isolation in the Parish of Soulbury. I am doing the administration and contacting people by telephone and keeping a register of people who may need help, as I should not go out. I also think this is only fair to the over worked NHS staff.

We are collecting prescriptions from all local doctors as well as animals' prescriptions from Vets and going to pharmacies. We are delivering urine samples etc to the doctors and all sorts of other medical units. We are collecting shopping for people who should not go out. This has become a little bit easier as the supermarkets have increased the number of items that can be purchased, and we have spoken to the supermarket managers explaining what we are doing. I am pleased with the number of younger people willing to take part, but it does worry me as a lot of the people have young children and they are queuing to enter the supermarket and pharmacies.

I have purchased Personal Protecting Equipment from Amazon. This has cost the Soulbury Helpers £ 315 so far and I think this situation will still be going in September for some people. The members of the **Lions Club of Bletchley** are fully supportive of this project and the 3 Lions from Soulbury are actively involved. I would like to thank MD 105 for donating £400 to pay for the PPE.

We are supporting about 50 people at the moment. We have opened up a telephone chat line with a professionally trained person on the end of the phone, as people are getting lonely after 7 weeks of being confined to their homes. Our team when delivering to people's homes say that the clients want to talk to somebody.

To reduce the amount of time the Soulbury Helpers and the Soulbury Parishioners leave the parish we have opened a shop in the Parish Hall on Thursday afternoons for 5 hours supplying fresh fruit and veg. We have introduced ready meals from a local restaurant. The shop has proved to be very popular and has over 60 customers with an average spend of £14. We do take orders for special items in advance for collection at the shop. Last week it was baking powder,the week before flour, lemons and cream have been asked for.

I am thinking of calling this The Arkwright's or Victor Values. You may need to be over 50 years of age to understand this joke.

Lion Vic Wright



# Zone Chair delivering to the local community

Zone Chair Zone E has been very active for 3 organisations, helping the community.

1) The Neasden Swaminarayan Mandir deliver food to people who are isolated. Lion Sunjay helps with the delivery for 3 hours, Monday to Wednesday.

2) Go Dharmic charity also deliver food to people who are isolated. He does 3 hours every Thursday to Friday.

3) For Brent Council I pick up medication from their pharmacy and deliver to the people who are isolated. Every Tuesday and Wednesday for 2 hours. Stay safe

ZC Sunjay Mehta

Lion Sunjay making deliveries



### Pride of LIONS • Issue 11, May 2020

#### Editor Lion Shirish Sheth

## **Chipping Barnet and Mill Hill Lions serve NHS**

e are forever indebted to the frontline workers of our NHS, who serve us day in day out every day of the year but in particular with their work in the current trying time. Kindness matters and we Lions whose motto is "We Serve" are



pleased to serve them a snack to show our appreciation.

Lions Clubs of Chipping Barnet and Mill Hill supported both medical and admin staff at Mount Vernon

Hospital in Northwood with food packets over the period of 6 weeks. We ensured through Ranjena Verma that all the different departments with all their personnel were recipients of the 300 snack packets,



Mount Vernon food packets



LC of Mill Hill and Chipping Barnet donation

delivered every time.

We thank all the golfers and supporters of our 12th Mill Hill & Chipping Barnet Golf Challenge, including Star Tours and SNK caterers, which enabled us to spend over £5,000 on this project.

LC of Mill Hill and Chipping Barnet

Happy Staff at Mount Vernon Hospital

## Fairlop Food4NHS

he Lions Club of Fairlop are assisting a local organisation with providing hot meals and soft drinks to two local hospitals, King George in Ilford and Queens in Romford.

Every Sunday 400 hot meals, veg and non-veg, and 100 sandwiches are prepared, labelled, and delivered to provide much needed nourishment for our doctors and nurses on the front line. In addition, a large number of soft drinks are also delivered on a weekly basis to both hospitals.





FAIRLOP LIONS

The next best thing to sharing food, is a drink!

Providing fuel for NHS Heros & Heroines



Lion Amarjit Soora from the club is pictured taking a delivery of one pallet of drinks and together with his wife Kulwinder and son Amrit has been leading the club's efforts with this project. Also pictured are images of the food that has been prepared. The club will continue to assist with this project for as long as it is necessary.

Delivering Tropicana juice

Lion Bob Singh

## Mill Hill Lions help in UK and overseas

**C of Mill Hill** has been very proactive during the lockdown, seeking out those who were in dire need of help, or those workers that we, along with the rest of the nation, wanted to show our appreciation to.

We arranged for 500 meal boxes to be distributed over 5 weeks to the front line NHS hospital staff, as well as Fire Service, paramedics and Police Stations in the North London area. We chose different locations each week. The food packets were happily received and enjoyed. This was in addition to the joint project with LC of Chipping Barnet, reported elsewhere in this issue.

The Club members volunteered contributions to help a project in Ahmedabad in India to provide free food rations for



Our thanks to NHS front line Staff



Food bags for distribution near Ahmedabad

the very poor. Basic food items are provided for a family of 4 to last one week. We have sent  $\pm 1000$  which will feed about 200 families.

Kenya has been badly affected by Covid 19. To add to that some areas have had floods which washed away crops. The local Hindu Council is helping the poor people and farmers with food and seeds for crops. Mill Hill is donating £500 towards that worthwhile project.

Closer to home, we have sent a donation to the Scrubs for NHS project, the headline article in this issue.

london-fire.gov.uk

Lion Shirish Sheth, Mill Hill Social Services





# DG Kamal's Chronicle



### ear Lions,

I now approach the last few weeks of my tenure as your DG. I will look back from a perspective that despite the challenges of redistricting and now Covid 19, how did we manage to get majority of the goals completed and the District business accomplished.

We are facing an unprecedented time for Lions and humanity. The world has literally changed right before our eyes, and we are all adapting the way we live, work and serve in response to this global health crisis.

Great challenges like this will test us. But they will also unite us. We are part of a global team, so let us rely on each other. Let us continue to find ways to safely continue with our important work and let us not forget we are Lions You, the members of this great District will hold a special place in my heart because it is you who continued to strive in the spirit of Lionism to serve and importantly ensuring that the five core pillars were at the forefront of our vision and delivery.

Until the end of this month we were the leading District in the British Isles reporting service at 70%. We took the unprecedented decision to completely evaluate the reporting structure. This dropped the membership to 1304 just as where the count stood after the redistricting when 54 members and 4 clubs transferred to the new Districts. I set out as one of my goals requesting clubs to recruit one member per club to supplement the shortfall incurred during redistricting. This was achieved with 75 new members recruited. I inducted 17 of them.

One thing that has not changed is our need to help each other and efforts to find ways of how we can continue to keep safe, protect our members and family but importantly how to continue serving. Today despite the challenging circumstances facing us and by helping each other, we as a District did not waste time to change and adapt to new ways of working and communicating as the only way forward.

I have continued to provide updates from the District, MD and LCI. You will note the overall message is that we keep in touch with all our members with the view to ensure somehow the communication channels remain open and where help is required this can be provided.

- Many clubs have adopted the change by having conducted ONLINE Meetings and almost all clubs finalized the new team for year 2020/21.
- Many clubs using the guidance of how to cope during lock-down and useful links on how to use Zoom Meetings, LCI Website, Quiz Programs have continued to interact with their members.
- Over 12000 people served, 852 services completed, 1421 voluntary hours completed and 105,000 dollars donated to LCIF.
- Nearly 40 clubs have achieved CIO status and 15 on route, 5 are below the 5K threshold.
- 8 New Members have been certified as Guiding Lions.
- I personally inducted 17 new members and to date visited 32 clubs.
- · We were in dialogue with a group of students to open a



Councillor Christine Harris Kelsey and Eden Park Ward LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Beckenham Building Supplies

Dear Amarjit Singh Soora and Amrit Jnr

Kelsey and Eden Park Ward Councillors, Peter Dean, Christine Harris and Diane Smith would like to join the Mayor of Bromley, Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA, JP, in thanking you both and all your staff, on behalf of our residents for your public service to our local community during the current "lockdown" due to the Covid 19 crisis.

Please find enclosed with this letter of thanks, a certificate from the Mayor thanking you for the valuable and important part you have and are continuing to play in serving the residents of our community here in Kelsey and Eden Park.

With best wishes. Cllr Peter Dean Cllr Christine Harris Cllr Diane Smith

Members Room, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bramley BRI 3UH christine.harris@bromley.gov.uk

#### A letter of appreciation

speciality club and completed 1st phase meeting. Further to them visiting our District Convention the 2nd stage meetings were being planned to take this matter forward.

- All training dates with venues provided from the outset were completed within timescales.
- Cabinet Meetings started and completed in time and described by those visiting members and visitors as well organized, setting high standards with substance and transparency.
- The GST, GMT & GLT lead officers and team completed all targets and objectives.
- Regular meetings with the DG & GAT team to continue bolster matters arising from club visits, COG and cabinet meetings. Any sensitive issues were addressed head on within guidelines.
- Due to the current Covid 19 circumstances the next cabinet meeting scheduled in May will be ONLINE and it is also agreed the incoming governor will introduce his new team and present his goals.

- The handover ceremony is being planned within similar lines.
- The 55th District Convention was a showcase and have raised the bar. The team led by Peter Cordrai has been described by the International Director as a winning team. They made us immensely proud, because simply the team wanted us to have a great time.
- For the 1st time the conventions bookings for all events were completed on line.
- Every Pride of Lion portrayed our success and why we belong to this great institution.

I do sincerely believe by adopting an open and transparent policy of discussing pressing matters related to the wellbeing of the District and its members has made us more coherent, sympathetic, mature and realistic of our challenges and objectives.

I do know going forward the very able DGE Alastair Joel will lead and take our District to a different level and I wish him and his team every success. My gratitude to the entire cabinet team for their unconditional support and in executing their duties diligently.

Let us share our thoughts and prayers for those who are sick and wish them a speedy recovery and our heart goes to all those who have lost their loved ones.

From the entire District we applaud and salute the many Lions who joined the front line to help NHS and as such have clocked so many hours helping with the cause. The 3 Lion medical practitioners who came out of retirement are continuing with the excellent work. Many clubs continue to supplement food banks, front-line teams with food parcels, food shopping for communities and collecting from pharmacies etc. Some clubs do share their wonderful stories on social media. Our heart also goes out to the many frontline NHS and Care workers who gave up their lives to help us.

For me it has been an honour to lead this great District because you made it so special. It is a shame that I have missed out on charters, club visits and sharing your thoughts and success.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH. GOD BLESS and STAY SAFE.

DG Kamal





Sandwiches galore! Part of the Fairlop Lions LC donation



Ready for distribution, part of the Mill Hill LC donation

#### MY DIARY May 2020

Isolating at home, communicating with Lions by digital means and phone calls.

**Editor Lion Shirish Sheth**