



Issue 12 • June 2020

District 105A News

Pride of LIONS Service During Lockdown

DG Kamal Sharma



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Harpenden Lions Club lockdown initiatives

The Covid-19 lockdown have severely disrupted the activities of Harpenden Lions Club which, like many clubs, has resorted to virtual meetings and online fundraising and social events.

Aware that more families were visiting Food Banks, the services committee, under the leadership of Andrew Godden, applied for a share of the Community fund from the LCIF, inviting St. Albans Lions Club to do the same. Both clubs received grants of £250 which they used to make a donation of £500 to the St Albans and District Foodbank (a charity associated with the Trussell Trust).



Harpenden Lions Club followed this with a successful JustGiving appeal on behalf of the Foodbank, which has now received a further £2,500 (plus Gift Aid). Mark Pontin, a trustee of the Foodbank commented: "What a fantastic result. Thank you for organising and also to all your colleagues for their work in collecting on our behalf. Your donations will be used for both food purchase and the running of the foodbank. The sad thing is that the demand is still there and

we suspect will increase once business starts up and redundancies follow."

Lockdown came in to effect right in the middle of the Harpenden Lions Club annual Easter Egg Raffle, which normally raises more than £2,500. With most establishments closed down the Club feared a poor result and that the Raffle might even lose money. Thanks to some creative thinking by some Easter Egg hosts and some Harpenden Lions (such as conducting Raffles via their street's WhatsApp group), it was possible to donate £1,318 to the charity Mind in Mid Herts. A very creditable result in such difficult circumstances.

Another successful local community initiative was an Art Competition for young people organised by Lion David Shall, with the support of two members of The Arts Society Harpenden, Evening (TASHE), who undertook the judging. There was a choice of 6 themes, with 3 age categories between 7 and 16. 112 young people entered the competition. Nine prize winning entries are shown in the composite photo. The prizes of £25, £15 and £10 were funded by club members. More recently a Zoom Quiz Night was organised for members and partners by Lion Nigel Marriott.

Activities and fundraising events have been postponed until 2021 including senior citizens tea party, charity golf day

Winning entries to the Harpenden Lions Art Competition

1st prize winners



George Age 6

Chloe Age 11

Erin Age 15

2nd prize winners



Beatrice Age 4

Ted Age 11

Keilan Age 12

3rd prize winners



Aarav Age 6

Bibi Age 10

Coemy Age 13

and the Harpenden Lions Highland Gathering, which is the club's main fundraiser each year. The loss of income from the Lions bookshop in Hemel Hempstead, which the club ran every Friday prior to lockdown, is also severely impacting the funds available for charitable donations and the challenge now is to identify new fundraising opportunities within the constraints of lockdown and social distancing.

Lion David Cowan

..... NOTICE BOARD

WORKSHOP for 2020/21 Club Administrators and Secretaries.

This replaces the traditional secretaries workshop held in the past as part of the incoming officers' workshop with the aim of changing the emphasis from the pure secretarial function to the newly created position of a club administrator charged with the role of managing (along with the Club Secretary) the technology of reporting to LCI using MyLion and MyLCI, on 20 Jun 2020 at 10:00am.

Register now. Please submit any questions to: viresh@paul.co.uk



LCI Ethics:

*To Be Careful with my criticism
and liberal with my praise; to
build up and not destroy.*

Serving the local community

Lion Vinod Varsani, a very new member of **Lions Club of Wembley**, has volunteered his services to delivery of food and medicine to the front line workers as well as the self-isolating people. In addition he has donated time for essential building repairs to a tune of £1,500 in the last few weeks.

ZC Lion Sanjay Mehta has been very active in distribution to prepared foods and also procurement of food items for food banks through the lockdown period.

Each of them have clocked up in excess of 110 hours of service in the past 8 weeks.

Lion President Rohit Patel



Lion Sanjay with Director of Acton Homeless Concern

Disaster averted!



Ruislip Lions were devastated that our Annual Plant Sale had to be cancelled – this is one of our greatest fund raisers raising over £3,000 – don't panic came the answer from Lion Rick.

"Let's go for a click and collect approach to hanging baskets, a major part of our normal Annual Plant Sale."

We adopted all the social distancing and hygiene guidelines and advanced sales were taken by LP Jackie ready for click and collect. With the help of a local club loaning their car park we were up and running. Pre-sales of over 100 baskets and raised £600.

This will feed into our two Charities of the Year – MIND and Hillingdon Young Carers, both very relevant charities in this time of unprecedented changes in our everyday lives.

Thanks to all who supported the different approach to the Plant Sale.

Lion Lynn Kauffmann

Hendon Lions during the lockdown

During the pandemic, whilst many charities await the lockdown to be lifted, **London-Hendon Lions** have been actively helping wherever we can.

Since mid April our Club has assisted in ensuring food supplies reach front line key workers, NHS staff, the homeless people in London and Acton Homeless Centre and those very vulnerable people who rely on generosity of well wishers.

Our club was fortunate to be granted £600 from MD Emergency Funds for the cause. Mostly with help from our members Lions Jagnesh, Parag, Bharat, Shanker, Sri, Jayesh, myself and our Leo's and Leo-Lions who have participated in some of these services in one way or another. Funds donated £871 in total.

Lion Minesh Mehta



What a scalp!

Lions Club of Hendon's Charter member Shanker raised over £2,500 with a novel idea in the lockdown. He decided to go bald by shaving off all his hair to raise money!!!

The beneficiaries were 2 charities, NHS Heroes Support & North London Hospice. Both have requested funds during the pandemic for PPE for the front line nurses and staff working in NHS and Nursing care homes.



This was Lion Shanker and Hendon Lions way of saying "Thank You NHS staff & all Care Home / Hospice Nurses for all your hard work." We Serve.

Lion Minesh Mehta

Adieu... but not Good Bye

Amystery has surrounded The Mistry Man... our District Treasurer PDG Lion Vanmali Mistry. How has he managed to do the arduous task of managing the District 105A's finances so diligently and for so many years?

PDG Lion Vanmali, a charter member of Lions Club of London Finchley has been a Lion for more than 42 years. During that time he has been the Club President (twice), Club Secretary (12 years), Club Treasurer as well as a District Governor (1991-92) and Secretariat Liaison Office (at Multiple District) and other District posts.

He has been the District 105A Treasurer for 19 years, as well as the Multiple District Treasurer for 4 years. Together with the many other District Offices that he has held, Lion Vanmali has served the District 105A for more than 35 years. To do this job, for so many years, always with a smile and always helpful, is no mean achievement. His motto as District Governor was "Service with a Smile".

I know he gets into his office by 7am in the morning and spends the first few hours with Lions' accounts and queries. I guess that is when he finds new ways of saying NO to various requests from Lions for funds... and not loosening the purse strings.

He retires as District Treasurer at the end of this Lionistic year. Lion Kunal takes over but Lion Vanmali will be there to help and guide him where necessary. Lion Vanmali will, of course, continue to be an active Lion, as always.

DG Kamal has said in his report "I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Treasurer, Lion Vanmali for his unconditional commitment and dedication to the District for nearly 35 years". I am sure most Lions of District 105A concur with those words and sentiment and join in thanking PDG Lion Vanmali.



Lion Shirish Sheth

Southall Lions take the lockdown head on



Southall Lions Club looked at the challenge of the lockdown and took it head on!

Under the leadership of LP Jatinder Kaur, Southall Lions have conducted many activities.

Our LP used her good offices around the community to secure 18 tons of drinks and food items from McDonald's who had to remain closed due to the government guidelines. Southall Lions always happy to be a team players, offered these drinks and food to other Lions clubs in the area. The clubs that took advantage and collected the pallets of free drinks, included Lions Clubs of Wembley, Hendon, Sudbury and Fairlop for distribution to the needy in their areas.

A few of the Lion ladies and their friends got together and revived their stitching skills and stitched Scrubs for the front line. Yet another group showed their culinary skills and cooked meals for distribution to the local community. Southall Lions and friends donated funds to Akshaya Patra to enable them to prepare meals in bulk.

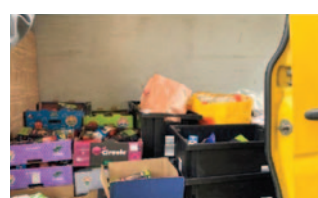
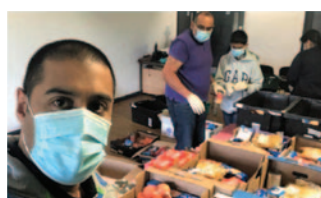
LP arranged a special cake on the occasion of Eid, to present to NHS III offices in Ealing in appreciation of the fine work they do. She also negotiated with local Fruit and Veg importers to donate their stock in large quantities.

Southall Lions Club has raised and spent £4,505, distributed 4,100 meals all this using 865 Lion hours. As the saying goes, "When the going gets tough - the tough get going".

Lion Surjit Bhalla



LP Jatinder, LP Rajay, Lion Daljinder and family members helped pack 45 food cases in response to Lion Prakash of LC of Hendon for the Nepalese Community



London Central Host responds to NHS Scrubs Project

A community group in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, South East Crafts for Causes, responded to the COVID 19 crisis by sewing hospital scrubs, scrub hats, scrub bags and other items for local hospitals and care homes to help their staff stay safe.

They had sewn 520 scrub sets plus thousands of other non-scrub items such as scrub hats and bags. Following on from their initial success, they further supplied 851 scrub sets, 746 scrub hats and 2941 scrub bags to Watford General Hospital, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Barnet Hospital, UCLH, St Bernard's Hospital Ealing and several local hospices, GP surgeries and Care Homes.

The need for scrubs has continued as supply chains are still not up and running. They appealed for



funds to buy materials to meet further demand. Club Secretary Lion Manji Kara, whose wife Shantaben volunteered to sew scrubs and wash bags, led the appeal to members to donate funds.

LONDON CENTRAL HOST LIONS CLUB responded very generously by raising and donating £1000 to the NHS SCRUBS Project. Total donations to the South East Crafts reached a new target of nearly £16000; enough money to sew many more scrubs.

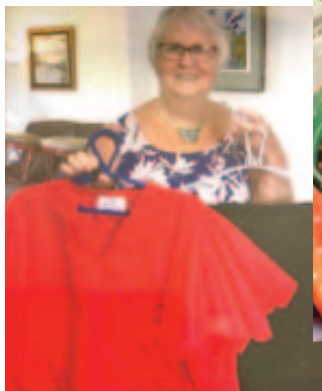
More fabric was purchased from supplier in Belgium and has been delivered to Stylex for cutting. Sewing 700 more scrub sets began first week of June. These next scrub sets will be distributed to West Herts Trust, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice London, Peace Hospice Watford and the Norwood Charity.

Lion Manji Kara, Secretary, London Central Host

Ruislip Lions go for the 2.6 Challenge!

On 26th April **Ruislip Lions** took up the challenge of going for gold – no, not the real marathon but our home grown version. We ran, we baked, we made, we planted, we mowed, we trampolined, we did the stairs.... but all in multiples of 2.6 or 26. Donations were sent our individual favourite charities. The real marathon next year... maybe!!!

Lion Lynne Kaufmann



London Central Host serving a community food bank

London Central Host always looking for ways to serve the local community, identified food as a need by vulnerable and needy community during the pandemic Lockdown. Club President Lion Paresh Modasia identified North Paddington Food Bank (NPFb) and Pepper Pot Community Centre (PPCC) who could benefit. Both organisations provide food parcels to the needy and vulnerable in the local community.

Lions of LONDON CENTRAL HOST responded by pledging immediate donation of £500 to NPFb, with a pledge of £500 at a later date. "THANK YOU" to MDI05 grant of £500 which was used towards this project. PPCC had sufficient funds to meet immediate needs.

Our initial donation of £500 helped buy 50 food parcels serving 200 people. Our pledge would serve further 200 needy people.

Lion Manji Kara

From the Editor

The Pride of Lions publication for the Lionistic year 2019-20 has been very different from the normal due to exceptional circumstances that we are going through.

Normally, we print 8 issues and have 4 issues as digital ones. However, this year we have had to make the April and now, this June issue digital as well. In consideration of the fact that almost all Clubs are not having a physical face to face meeting, distribution of the printed copies would have been impossible. Thus with the approval of the DG Kamal, as well as DS Parveen and DT Vanmali, it was decided to make these issues digital.

I keep getting asked for printed issues, but having spoken to DGE Alastair it is likely that the July and August issues will also be digital only. We hope to return to some sort of normalcy by the September issue.

In the meantime, keep sending in your stories of service during this pandemic. Stay safe.

Lion Shirish Sheth



DG Kamal's Chronicle



Dear Lions,

I trust you are all well and keeping safe.

As I approach the last few weeks in office, I wanted to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to you all for your support, hard work and efforts for delivering the goals and objectives which also includes District 105A leading in service, providing comprehensive training and gaining membership.

I recall that only last year in July when taking oath of the office of District Governor, one realises, the magnitude of responsibility and the aspirations of clubs and members who rely on the DG to take the right decisions and also give direction where and when required.

Let us not forget the British Isles was completely transformed following the redistricting and it was reduced from 12 to 8 Districts. Our District had its own challenges where 4 clubs and nearly 58 members transferred to the new districts.

Albeit, making changes to the cabinet structure and placing emphasis on training, membership and service with the view all five core pillars were prioritised. Certain changes were required and it was important every member of the cabinet participated and took ownership of their remit. It was also good to see Dent Aid, Water Aid, Cancer, physical learning disabilities, DBS making significant contribution to the debate and making a difference. The advisory committee (Zone Chairs) went the extra mile to ensure clubs received the support required and service activities.

The Clubs responded to the call of recruiting one member per club to supplement the shortfall. Within six months membership increased by 75 but it was noticed there were some historical discrepancies on how some clubs had been reporting numbers. It was decided for the benefit of reporting true status of actual numbers every detail was checked and cross referenced and numbers adjusted accordingly. Park Royal was deleted and we have yet to hear from the Palace of Westminster as these numbers have been omitted from the count.

It was also important to ensure Clubs who were required to enrol as CIO members did so. Today there are about 49 clubs which have registered and 9 are on route and about 5 clubs below the 5K threshold. Subsidised training for club trustees was also provided by the District and to-date 9 more members were trained to be certified Guiding Lions.

There was representation at the Council of Governors meetings and issues such as supporting members and clubs during COVID 19 were discussed including International and MD dues. Lions International responded by providing emergency grants and support in helping clubs and members by lifting deadlines on fees including providing additional grants for the Air Ambulances across the UK. It should be noted that the International Convention due at the end of June in Singapore, as well as the MD Convention were cancelled. The present Governors have put forward proposal to ensure DGE's are recognised.

After having spoken to the District Treasurer Vanmali Mistry, it was decided that the District will support each Club

and member during these difficult times. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Treasurer, Lion Vanmali for his unconditional commitment and dedication to the District for nearly 35 years. He is retiring from his post and will continue to mentor Kunal Vyas who was appointed as his deputy at the start of the year.

Today despite the challenging COVID-19 circumstance facing us and by helping each other, it is amazing how you the members have taken this in your stride. Many clubs have adopted the change by having conducted ONLINE Meetings and almost all clubs finalized the new teams for year 2020/21.

I believe it was important to open communication channels with members and clubs and on my part, it was imperative the link to the District was maintained at all times. It was good to note many of you called for support, advice and importantly keeping safe.

During the year, it was good to be a part of many club's achievements and celebrations. Here are some of them:

- Donation of £5,500 towards a mini bus for the ELHAP.
- Equipment to Little Heath School.
- Over £13,000 raised from various clubs for Spot Camera - we should be able to purchase 4 cameras for the district.
- Helping the Fulham Scouts Club with a donation.
- Engaging with Young Farmers to promote membership. GMT lead now actively involved to ensure a working partnership can be developed.
- Senior Citizen Party - The biggest showcase in our District which once again put a smile on all those who attended and may people very happy.
- Eye Sight Projects in Surat India and supporting widows and families in Surat and Punjab.
- New waiting room called the Lion's Den opened in Milton Keynes General Hospital.
- The 55th District Convention exceeded all expectation and we have raised the bar. For all those who attended the three events which were booked on line for the 1st time were very complimentary and I want to thank the entire convention team for delivering such a wonderful event.
- 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.

- The Pride of Lions for the month of May was dedicated to Lockdown where clubs were able to present their articles. Every Pride of Lion represented our success.
- Many clubs using the guidance of how to cope during lockdown and useful links to how to use Zoom meetings, LCI Website, Quiz Programs have continued to interact with their members.

For me it has been a great honour to lead this great District because you the members made it special. 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.

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 three Lion medical practitioners who came out of retirement are continuing with the excellent work. Many clubs who continue to supplement food banks, front-line teams with food parcels, food shopping for members and communities pharmacies etc.

Do share your wonderful stories on social media.

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. I was able to see my granddaughter after nearly two months and I know many of were in the same boat either looking after your dear ones or isolating.

DGE Alastair takes over on the 1st July. I do know he will lead our District to a different level and from all of us in the District, we wish both him and Gemma the very best for the future and our support.

Anita also sends her sincere thanks to all those clubs who donated towards the London Air Ambulance. We missed out on charters and being with you.

From both us THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH.
GOD BLESS.

DG Kamal

MY DIARY June 2020

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

A valiant effort

Lions Club of London Covent Garden is pleased to report that our club has donated over 1000 much needed face masks to each of the two organisations, North London Hospice and Barnet Carer Centre during the challenging lockdown time.

LP Ping Hayward has single-handedly made these meaningful donations possible from obtaining the funding to delivering the goods.

LS Monita Hung



Masks for North London Hospice



Masks for Barnet Carers Centre

Memories of the Year

