



District 105SE

Reports to Convention 2022

Zone Team

Region 1 Chairman – Pete Dilloway

During the first half of the current lions year, I have made contact with and met via zone with the Zone Chairmen for 1B & 1C to establish a working approach with them, get updates on the position of clubs within their zones, identify any potential issues which need addressing and identify ideas for moving forward working together to support and assist the clubs. We have also discussed the scope for developing new branch clubs and explored where there may be opportunities for potentially developing these within the respective zones. While there were some potential areas identified, it was agreed by all that assistance from outside the zones will be needed to develop these as there isn't the necessary resources available within the zones to take this forward without assistance.

Zone Chairman 1A – Pete Dilloway

As it was not possible to identify a zone chairman from within the zone, I have agreed to cover the zone chairman duties as part of my role as Region 1 Chairman. This will include working with the zone clubs to provide advice, support & assistance when needed, to help increase membership and address any issues that arise, encourage continued collaboration between the clubs including participation in cross zone activities such as the Zone meetings, projects and socials and attend club Charters within the Zone where able.

However, I must offer my apologies to clubs in Zone 1A as due to other commitments, I have not yet engaged with the clubs within the zone in the way that I had hoped to do. I hope to be able to rectify this during the second half of this year and am intending to contact the club Presidents and secretaries shortly. As part of this I will identify any issues where support may be needed and explore whether there are any opportunities for developing zone activities and potential areas for new clubs/branches. However, if prior to my making contact there are any issues with which clubs need my assistance or support, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Zone Chairman 1B – Peter Wilson

Clubs within the zone have remained active during the first half of this year with increasing membership being a main focus. Membership numbers have remained relatively static although some clubs have attracted potential new members. Due to restrictions as a result of Covid-19, zone meetings have been held by zoom, but were attended by representatives of all clubs within the zone.

Clubs have been meeting either in person or by zoom including Midhurst who moved their meetings to 3pm during the day and were well attended. Consideration is being given to possibly retaining this approach going forward. Various fundraising and service activities have also been taking place including the Bognor Regis Octoberfest event which was well attended and santa sleighs/static collections by a number of the zone clubs. The spectacles recycling is still being undertaken by Chichester Lions with support from members of Midhurst Lions. Support is being sought by clubs to assist with increasing membership

Zone Chairman 1C - David Bishop

CLUBS	Total current membership	Change in Membership (-or+)	New members inducted since last report	No. of Prospective New Members
Chanctonbury	11	-	-	-
Lancing & Sompting	24	-	-	1
Littlehampton	23	+2	+2	4
Worthing	32	-	-	2

All four clubs within the zone currently remain active, with membership seeing an increase with three out of the four clubs having prospective members. Fundraising activities have taken place during the first half of the current lions year and included:

- Both of the Lancing and Sompting shops are doing well and a stall was held at the local Christmas Market. The Sleigh was out in December.
- Littlehampton held stalls at local markets and Christmas Fairs. Santa was out on Tour during December and have Store and Street Collections took place.
- Worthing successful Annual Firework Display was held on 5th November, the shop was open 6 days a week, and Christmas Street Collections were held throughout December including three Saturdays in the Town Centre.

Service activities during this period have included:

- the provision of another Defibrillator at a local Caravan Park and a £1000 donation to a local Doctors Surgery by Lancing and Sompting;
- the provision of 100 Christmas Goodie Bags to local Senior Citizens, collection of spectacles for recycling and distribution of MIAB's by Littlehampton.
- Worthing have also been collecting spectacles for recycling and distributing the MIAB's.

- Chanctonbury have made donations in excess of £3000 including contribution to 'Christmas Sacks' for needy in the community and Mary How Cancer Screening, in Pulborough.

In general, the main challenge and focus of the clubs is attracting new members especially younger members and based on the number of potential new members indicated above, this is currently looking positive.

Region 2 Chairman – Wendy Cattaway

Just when you thought that it was safe to go out, off we go again with a new variant. I am keeping my fingers crossed that 2022 will be better.

Firstly, I must thank the Zone Chairmen in Region 2 for what they have done this year. Their reports will follow this.

I have kept in touch with the Zone Chairmen and have been pleased that I have been able to help them when needed.

The Clubs in Region 2 seem to be ticking over quite well. Most have managed to meet face to face, but I understand that some decided to meet on zoom for their December meeting, due to the rising cases of Covid 19.

Clubs have started fund raising again, some Clubs have managed to do some of the things that had been planned for the previous year. Clubs are all doing something for Christmas, which I hope was successful.

We are about to lose another Club in Region 2, Crowborough Lions Club have decided to close, some of the Lions will transfer to other Clubs. We are sorry to see you go but thank you for all you have done over the years.

Our virtual Club, South East British Isles Virtual Lions Club, know as SEBI is going along nicely, they are planning to hold a Charter evening in April, date to be confirmed, where they will be presented with their new Charter.

We are still trying to start a new Club in Eastbourne, we have not had a lot of success, a promising start didn't come to anything. Undaunted though we are going to try again with new ideas in early 2022.

I would like to thank District Governor Ian for allowing me to do this role for another year.

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend Convention this year, but I would like to wish our District Governor Ian a successful Convention and fingers crossed that you will all be able to meet at Uckfield.

Zone Chairman 2A – Rose Carter

No updates at this time except to say that all Zone 2A clubs have been busy with Christmas activities. Some meetings have reverted to 'online' because of the ongoing pandemic. SEBI have arranged their inaugural charter for April 23rd at the Cumberland Hotel Eastbourne. All welcome.

Zone Chairman 2B – Paul Webb

Clubs on Zone 2B, Bexhill, Hailsham, Hastings and Uckfield have done tremendously well so far this Lion's year. With events & activities taking place within the Government Guidelines. Monthly meetings have been a mixture of Face to Face and Zoom meetings. Zone meetings have so far been Face to Face.

The Four clubs on Zone 2B have managed to continue raising funds and helping in their communities during these challenging times and have all been out Christmas Fundraising including Street/Supermarket Collections, Helping the Homeless and Christmas gift bags to name a few.

We are still trying to get the Eastbourne club up and running and will be trying some new things this year fingers crossed.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Convention and would like to wish District Governor Ian, Good luck for a Successful Convention.

Zone Chairman 2C – Neal Charlesworth

Suffice it to say we have all hit the ground running with a variety of events as previously mentioned and our now well into our Christmas programmes. We have enjoyed charter nights at Southborough and Sevenoaks and it has been great to see Crowborough represented despite the fact that they continue to move ever closer to "shut down". It is very pleasing to note that many of their members are in conversation with other clubs in and around our zone with a view to joining them as Crowborough finally closes. The procedure is proving a slow one but we have agreed that it will be much better to go slowly through the process and be sure that all eventualities are correctly covered than to be obliged to revisit something at a later date.

Official reports will show that in the zone we are sad to have lost several long serving members but this is being matched by a steady flow of new members, *many of whom are of much younger age groups!* Long may the latter continue. Given this fact it is good to know that the experience and expertise our Crowborough colleagues will be available to help and advise some of our new members as they join with new ideas reflecting the more modern life style they represent. In all the cases of which I am aware the recruitment has been in response to seeing the local clubs "*servicing their community*" which is, after all, "*our raison d'etre*".

Tonbridge club is, at present, a significant partner in setting up a new COVID vaccination centre co-ordinating a new team of marshals / stewards drawn from our area (and indeed providing the majority of them) thus giving time for the medical team to get on with their tasks unhindered.

Paddock Wood continue to develop their village rep system liaising closely with the parish councils and local school P.T.As. in their area. Southborough, encouraged by the enthusiasm of their new recruits, are working hard to strengthen their relationship with their "patch" finding much to do which keeps them "in the public eye." Sevenoaks are working hard to resurrect their popular community activities and some of their members have joined the bank of volunteers helping Tonbridge with the support work for the Vaccination centre in Tonbridge.

All in all a quite positive start to 2022 but sadly, COVID is, again, rearing its ugly head, or should that be spikes, and, sadly for some of us, immediate new year activities are coming under threat again! We can but plan then wait, with fingers crossed, and see what 2022 brings.

Region 3 Chairman - Steve Carley

At the time of writing, I have now visited most clubs in the Region and I am planning to visit Dover, Malling and Ashford (in person). Those clubs I have visited so far are all meeting in person and making great plans for fundraising and serving their community. The end of our Lions year is a concern for a couple of our clubs in the Region as they make decisions on whether they can continue to run or not. Can I ask all our clubs in the Region to keep in regular contact with their neighbouring clubs offering man power and even any expertise they may have – especially in social media and offer your local help to help them find new members or community volunteers to help in their fundraising and service activities as that may encourage them to continue.

It is great to see clubs many more clubs in the Region are exploring or already using contactless payments in their fundraising and discussing the benefits of joining the Lionsgiving website.

As with all our clubs in the District I have been talking with Region 3 clubs on the different resources and ideas available from LCI or MD to help or remind us of ways to recruit new members. Part of those conversations have also been to discuss possible locations of new or branch clubs. As we start the new year, I plan to hold further conversations to explore these options further so we can maintain a presence of Lions in our communities. As a District team we are also planning on sharing the MD Membership seminar video ran by MD Officer Sue Wilding. Where it focuses on the role of a club having a Membership Chairperson- it encourages all of us that we are all membership ambassadors and Sue gives some good examples of how we retain our existing members and find new ones.

Zone Chairman 3A – Richard Iles

ZONE: 3A

This report completed by: ZC RICHARD ILES

Date of Previous Zone Report - 4.12.21

Membership

CLUBS	Total current membership	Change in Membership since last report (-or+)	New members inducted since last report	No. of prospective New Members
Gillingham	18 + 1 assoc	None	none	1
Maidstone	19	None	none	1
Malling	18	None	none	0
Swale	17	none	none	0

PAST FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

GILLINGHAM - We have built planters out of used pallets and sold them. We attended Hoo Christmas fayre & Rochester Dickensian Christmas Festival.

MAIDSTONE – We have restarted our tin shakes at a local supermarket

MALLING - We have restarted our tin shakes at a local supermarket. We resumed our chocolate Santa exercise, with some 20 pubs and clubs supporting us. We ran some games at Holmesdale school's Christmas fete and at the separate E Malling Centre Christmas event.

SWALE – We have gained income from the “Easyfundraising” website, re-started our autumn quiz and tin shakes

PAST COMMUNITY NEEDS ACTIVITIES:

GILLINGHAM - We held Two harvest tea parties in October. We made various donations, including: PTSD treatment for veterans. We sponsored two schools in Roar21. Presented 85 Young Citizenship Award Certificates through 6 Junior schools in Medway. Despatched over 2500 pairs of spectacles to Chichester. Provided stewards for one of the vaccination centres in Chatham. Supported local cause “Hungry for the homeless” with food and financial donations

MAIDSTONE - Various donations made, including: help to set up a Life Café Project in Parkwood during the Summer holidays; Ipads for a primary school; Life camp funding. Transfer of 38 boxes for spectacles to Chichester club. (In conjunction with Swale). We are about to launch a ‘defibrillators for schools’ publicity project following news items regarding deaths to school children in the UK. Many schools in Maidstone haven’t got one. We purchased a heart monitoring device for a child. Purchased a hand held Oximeter Pulmolink device for a child. Recycling – we have continued to recycle crisp packets, milk bottle tops, postage stamps, ring pulls, spectacles, hearing aids, etc

MALLING - We have provided marshalling at the Leybourne vaccination centre. We have been doing this for eleven months now and are into our second winter. Assisted Paddock Wood Lions to marshal a 10Km run. Refurbished a defibrillator kiosk in W Malling High Street.

SWALE – We delivered 38 boxes of spectacles to Chichester Club. (In conjunction with Maidstone). We made various donations, including: Sateda (local Domestic Abuse Support); Women’s Refuge (6 x domestic fans provided); Umbrella Group [Faversham] (Community Support for people suffering with mental health issues); Freedom Centre [Sheerness] (providing daily meals for those in need throughout the pandemic). We paired local Litter Picks.

CLUB CHALLENGES (worries, issues, help needed?) Be honest. How can we support each other in the Zone with this?

GILLINGHAM - We need Zone support to form at least one more Lions Club in Medway over the next year or so. We need to resolve the increasing need to collect money electronically and to fundraise through our websites. With decreasing numbers of members, we need to examine ways in which we can pool our membership to be more effective and support larger projects.

MALLING – Sainsbury supermarket at Aylesford asked us whether we would like a tinshake in the run up to Christmas. As they confirmed that will continue to insist they take the money, we declined the offer. As this is the national company policy we cannot be the only club faced with this issue. Has anyone challenged Sainsbury? Do we have any information from District about it, or even MD? Should we ask for MD’s involvement?

CLUB HOPES FOR - THE FUTURE OR GOOD NEWS STORIES:

GILLINGHAM – We hope that a new club can be formed on the Hoo Peninsula and Isle of Grain to take some pressure off our resources.

MAIDSTONE - 100 club fundraiser which started on 1st January 2021 is continuing. A trailer of goods awaits our first boot fayre since before Covid.

MALLING – We have been asked to run two of our race nights in spring 2022; one for Offham parish council and one for a company. We shall also run our own club race night so we’ll be getting good value from the equipment.

SWALE – We have two members of the public who are interested in finding out about Lions. They attended the Autumn Quiz Night and were on the winning team.

QUESTIONS OR INFO FOR THE DISTRICT OR MULTIPLE DISTRICT FROM CLUB?	
TYPE OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM OTHER CLUBS FOR FUTURE EVENTS: GILLINGHAM – To help promote and establish a new Lions club within the Medway area.	
Date of Club Charters: GILLINGHAM – tba MAIDSTONE – tba MALLING – tba SWALE – tba	
ZONE MEETING DATES:- Meetings happen 1st Monday after Cabinet at Folkestone Yacht & Motor Club. Start at 8pm. Meeting 4 - No meeting as follows Convention Meeting 5 - 13 th April 2022 Meeting 6 - 15 th June 2022	

At the time of writing, I have planned to meet the clubs in my Zone in the New Year.

Zone Chairman 3B – Steve Carley

ZONE: 3B	This report completed by: ZC STEVE CARLEY
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Membership				
CLUBS	Total current membership	Change in Membership since last report (-or+)	New members inducted since last report	No. of prospective New Members
CANTERBURY	15	0	0	0
DEAL	9	0	0	0
THANET	21	0	0	2
WHITSTABLE & HERNE BAY	22	0	0	0

PAST FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

CANTERBURY- Our Club started our usual meetings in September and during lockdown were unable to fundraise. We are excited about the coming year and are discussing making changes in how we proceed with fundraising in the light of changes in numbers – especially with the development of our website.

DEAL – None at present

THANET – We have managed to fundraise during lockdown by placing hampers into local warden assisted homes and over Christmas into local cafes. We have run outdoor “Mug stall tombolas” in Birchington village. We also attended Christmas events running more mug stalls, tombolas and message in a bottle awareness in Ramsgate and Westgate. We were able to restart our quizzes. This our club took over the organising of the Advent Trail in Birchington. We have also managed to restart our Boot Fairs at Northdown a local school.

WHITSTABLE & HERNE BAY – We have restarted our Charity Car Parking at Whitstable Junior School and our boot fairs. This year we also started making and selling planters and plants.

PAST COMMUNITY NEEDS ACTIVITY:

CANTERBURY – Whilst we couldn't fundraise in person we still made donations across our community including the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre towards cost of replacement chairs. Donations to Thanington resource centre and to the Rising Sun domestic violence centre.

DEAL – Even though we couldn't fundraise we helped at many events across our area by helping with the British Heart Foundation 5K walk, Macmillan Nurses Coffee Morning. Distributing white goods which have been refurbished and PAT tested and handed on to families who have been able to make use of them. We have also helped in the caring for 2 elderly gentlemen who are struggling ie shopping small amount of cleaning. We also purchased a defibrillator in a BT phone box in Deal to refurbish.

THANET – In January 2021 we were asked to do marshalling for COVID jabs at 2 local GP surgeries and then at the ex Saga Centre in Broadstairs, which is still ongoing in 2022. As at Christmas 2021, 1,600 service hours have been given. As a result we were asked to serve at Birchington medical centre for their Flu Clinics.

WHITSTABLE & HERNE BAY – We have provided funding for Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Herne Bay High School. Donations to Strode Park for Christmas gifts. Christmas donation to Women's Refuge and food vouchers to families in need at Herne Bay Juniors. New bedding for family with disabled child. We also helped a nonagenarian to find a gardener. Sponsorship of Whitstable under 15's football club and help towards cost of a bed for a disabled child

CLUB CHALLENGES (worries, issues, help needed?) Be honest. How can we support each other in the Zone with this?

CANTERBURY – Recruitment of new members is always concerning, and we are updating our website to this end.

DEAL - Just to get back on track as soon as possible obviously making sure that all local and mainland Government practises are adhered to

THANET – recruitment as with most clubs

CLUB HOPES FOR - THE FUTURE OR GOOD NEWS STORIES:

CANTERBURY – developing our website to recruit new members and assist in our fundraising

THANET - To encourage any new members to assist with not only fund raising and service but to be interested in taking up leadership roles in the club.

QUESTIONS OR INFO FOR THE DISTRICT OR MULTIPLE DISTRICT FROM CLUB?

NONE

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM OTHER CLUBS FOR FUTURE EVENTS:

ALL CLUBS – to support each other with activities and membership campaigns

Date of Club Charters:

DEAL – May 2022 tba

THANET – 19th March 2022 North Foreland Golf Club, Broadstairs 7.30pm

WHITSTABLE & HERNE BAY - Lunch at Faversham Golf Club date 3rd April 2022

ZONE MEETING DATES:- Meetings start at

Meeting 4 - No meeting as follows Convention

Meeting 5 - Thursday 13th April 7.30pm venue Deal Royal Marines Club The Strand

Meeting 6 - Thursday 16th June 7.30pm venue Bat & Trap social at Golden Lion Canterbury

Great to see clubs many more clubs are exploring or already using contactless payments in their fundraising and the Lionsgiving website. The first 4-6 months of this Lions year caused problems for some of our clubs meeting, but they have now overcome some of those challenges and are still serving their local communities.

Zone Chairman 3C – Dave Harvey

ZONE: 3C **This report completed by: ZC DAVID HARVEY**

Membership

CLUBS	Total current membership	Change in Membership since last report (-or+)	New members inducted since last report	No. of prospective New Members
ASHFORD	14	0	0	0
DOVER	14	0	0	0
FOLKESTONE & HYTHE	20	+3		3(from Hythe to come)
TENTERDEN	19	0	0	1

PAST FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

ASHFORD - We got asked to call at a local pub to empty their Bar Collection Pot. Contents amounted to a fantastic £535 34 which was donated to our charity account. We took part in a community park clean event in Ashford.

DOVER- Christmas Bucket Collections at the local supermarket has gone well and promotion of MIAB. Christmas float around Dover with Father Christmas. We attended Folkestone & Hythe Donkey derby with a stall.

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE – We have restarted our Quiz nights. We re-held our Boxing Day dip. re-started our Donkey Derby which was a great success.

TENTERDEN – We had a very successful clay pigeon shoot event and a golf day.

PAST COMMUNITY NEEDS ACTIVITY:

ASHFORD - Lions collected just shy of 2,000 glasses for the lion's national appeal and were delivered to Chichester. Lions attended this year's Remembrance Day ceremony where our president laid the wreath for the club. Members volunteered for the East Kent Memorial Babies Gardens 'Wave of Light' event. Members built a Scarecrow and raised environmental awareness during the Victoria Park Scarecrow Trail event in October. Christmas Hampers went out to 6 local pubs. Donations have been made to Football for the blind fund, Guide Dogs Ashford and LCIF Disaster appeal.

DOVER - The following donations were made to the Royal British Legion, South Kent Mind, Dover Street Pastors. Carers UK to provide appropriate clothing for a carer and her daughter. Removal expenses for an elderly vulnerable gentleman. Seniors Christmas Lunch held. Christmas Hampers delivered to needy and vulnerable families.

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE – Lions collected glasses for the lion's national appeal. Lions

volunteered at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony where our president laid the wreath for the club. Donations have been made to the Mayors Christmas Fund, Ashford Baby Memorial Charity, Pilgrims hospice in memory of Vera Neaves a former lion, support to a local family. Members are collecting/ donating toiletries/ items in boxes over 100 to Age UK, Rainbow Centre and the Salvation Army. Donations have also been made from Hythe club as part of the club closing to Homestart, Hythe Blind Club, Salvation Army, Rainbow Centre, Royal British Legion, RNLI Lifeboat Littleton & Dungeness. We held our Children's Xmas party and a Christmas pensioners lunch.

TENTERDEN - Pledge of £1000 has been made towards the Tenterden Light Trial 2022. We also planted out flower bulbs around Tenterden.

CLUB CHALLENGES (worries, issues, help needed?) Be honest. How can we support each other in the Zone with this?

CLUB HOPES FOR - THE FUTURE OR GOOD NEWS STORIES:

ASHFORD - Perspective member attended our November meeting who is a current member of the Dominica Lions club. We have purchased a new Rudolf vehicle to tow our Santa's Sleigh as our former Reindeer went out to pasture.

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE- The merge between Folkestone and Hythe clubs has gone well which has increased our enthusiasm to get fundraising and serving.

QUESTIONS OR INFO FOR THE DISTRICT OR MULTIPLE DISTRICT FROM CLUB?
NONE

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM OTHER CLUBS FOR FUTURE EVENTS:

Date of Club Charters:

ASHFORD – Tentative 21st of May 2022

DOVER – 50th Charter Friday 08 April 2022 at Marina Hotel, Dover Waterfront, Waterloo Crescent, Dover CT17 9BP

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE – 23rd April 2022 – Folkestone Indoor Bowling Club

TENTERDEN – tba

ZONE MEETING DATES:- Meetings happen 1st Monday after Cabinet at Folkestone Yacht & Motor Club. Start at 8pm.

Meeting 4 - No meeting as follows Convention

Meeting 5 - Monday 11th April 2022

Meeting 6 - Monday 13th June 2022

At the time of writing, I have planned to meet the clubs in my Zone in the New Year.

Region 4 Chairman – Mike Barty

It has been very much an up and down year for region 4 with covid affecting every club in both positive and negative ways. Most clubs have taken on some form of vaccination volunteering which in turn has produced greater contact with the public and for a lot of clubs and has either created a volunteer pool or at least provided contact with other

volunteers, this has given rise to an increase in potential members. While the year started on a positive note with all clubs starting to hold face to face meetings and holding fund raising events, this has now due to the large number of infections around started to go back to Zoom meetings and events being cancelled. Hopefully this will be just a small blip and we will back up and running as near normal as possible in the next month or so. I have managed to attend zone meetings for Zone 4B and 4C in both zoom and face to face meetings which have been attended by most clubs, but it has to be said that at least for zone 4C the numbers are a little down on previous years, I unfortunately have not been able to attend a Zone 4A zone meeting this year so far. A meeting with the Zone chair has also not occurred despite some attempts to get one going, this is due in part to other Lion's commitments of both myself and the zone chairs. I have managed to attend the last business meeting of Surrey Borders Club who closed down in December and also a Guildford Business meeting which was very well attended, I will attempt to visit more clubs in the new Year in either zoom or preferably in face to face meetings, Covid permitting. On another sad note Swanley and north Downs club also closed in December. With 2 clubs closing in the year to date it could be assumed that the membership numbers have dropped considerably, but so far we are only down by 5 members since the beginning of the year, and with many clubs having large numbers of potential new members and interest in re-opening Godalming lions club continuing there is optimism that Region 4 may end the year with more members than it started with.

Zone Chairman 4A – Ranjit Deogun

Zone Chairman 4B – Andrew Henwood

Two Zone meetings have been held, the first via Zoom and the second face-to-face with PID Lion Howard Lee giving a presentation on Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex. DO Lion David Skinner will be giving a presentation on ROAR2022 at the third Zone meeting and DO Lion Val Roberts will be guest speaker at the next one telling us all about the Young Ambassadors scheme. Two Club visits have been made and the remainder will be carried out over the coming months. All Clubs have made donations to LCIF appeals and Lions' charities.

Sadly Surrey Border Lions Club closed at the end of 2021. At their last formal Business meeting in November all of the six remaining members were present, who between them had 205 years of membership of Lions Clubs International. On behalf of District Governor Ian, I was delighted to present Certificates of Appreciation to all of the members - Lion President Barry Auty, Lion Eric Julius, Lion Paul Maddison, Lion David Pollen, Lion Geoff Mitchell and Lion Rob Gibson. Their final act of community service was to give Store Gift Cards to elderly residents and needy families in their three villages (Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham), coming to a total of £2,720. Since being formed in 1980 the Club had raised over £250,000 which had been used to support organisations and residents in the three villages and also many donations to District, Multiple District and LCIF appeals.

Godalming & Villages Lions Club ceased to be active in June 2020 and a social media campaign and flyer distribution started in August 2021 in an attempt to reform it. One Open Evening has been held and currently there are nine people expressing an interest. Contact and interest is trying to be maintained during a pandemic and over the busy Christmas/New Year period.

Cranleigh & District Lions Club: [53 members] – could not again run one of their major events ‘Classic Car Show’ but managed to adapt it to ‘Cars on the Drive’ with Classic Cars displayed on driveways in residential roads. With social distancing being observed and a couple of refreshment stalls it showed that Cranleigh Lions was still very active. Bonfire and Fireworks were held and well supported by local residents. Market stalls were held when possible and in the lead up to Christmas through selling secondhand toys, games, books and hand-made decorations £3,066 was raised for their community welfare fund. Santa's Sleigh had seven outings and collected £1273 and gave children the opportunity to have selfies taken with Santa. Two collections outside local supermarkets on Saturdays raised £1249 towards their Christmas Appeal. Food vouchers were distributed to local vulnerable families to a total value of £8145.

Farnham Lions Club: [44 members] – having been unable to hold Beerex (an indoor event) again they organised a ‘Cider and Sausage’ open air event (note alcohol involved again) and this raised £15,000. Replicating a project run by their twinning Club in Germany an Advent Calendar was produced and sold and raised in excess of £9,000. Project Wenceslas has raised over £7,000 to assist with fuel poverty. Over 600 bags of food were distributed pre-Christmas to local schools, churches and other groups. A great deal of marshalling carried out at Covid vaccination centres and refurbished laptops provided to local schools and families.

Guildford Lions Club: [44 members] – after holding virtual and online fundraisers, the Fireworks Fiesta on 6th November was their first major fundraiser for 18 months. A completely reworked event with no Torchlight Procession and instead some live music on Stoke Park and a ticketed event. After all costs paid, approx. £42,000 raised for their Community Account but the organising committee still resting in darkened rooms! All three local supermarkets allowed a pre-Christmas Collection for a day outside their stores and £3500 was raised in cash and contactless donations. 250 x £20 supermarket Gift Cards were distributed to local needy families and individuals prior to Christmas. Club funds have been supplemented by applying for grants and donations from companies and organisations.

Leatherhead & District Lions Club: [18 members] – many donations made to local groups and organisations including the purchase of a mobility scooter. Santa sleigh toured the local area collecting funds for their Christmas Appeal and bringing some Christmas cheer to local families.

Woking Lions Club: [24 members] – members completed sponsored walks to raise funds for Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex and Lions Brain Tumour Research whilst unable to hold public events. Other virtual fundraising events held including wine tasting via Zoom. Distribution of MIAB [Message in a Bottle] continues and fuel poverty accounts paid via their local CAB offices from funds raised through Project Wenceslas. Gift bags including £20 supermarket vouchers distributed and 200 Goody Bags made up to be distributed on Christmas Day by Woking Borough Council Meals on Wheels service.

Zone Chairman 4C – Michael Balcombe

Overview

In the first 6 months of the Lions’ year all four Zone Clubs have been able to commence face to face Club meetings

start more regular face to face community activities

start face to face fund raising activities albeit, due to the uncertainty and timing of lock down restrictions, most of the usual Spring/Summer activities were unable to take place
hold successful Christmas fund raising and community events

induct new members

The general view for 2022 is one of uncertainty across all the Clubs. Whilst planning is being undertaken for 2022 events it is with a certain amount of trepidation that, even if further restrictions are not imposed, events may still have to be cancelled due to the spread of the virus

Fund raising

Bromley – the Club were able to restart their regular Quiz fund raisers in July and have now held them each month (6 in all) with average attendances between 50/60. 2 Organisers switching their Summer events to September meant they were also able to dust off their Luck Dip Stall which, in addition to its attendance at a local Christmas Fair, resulted in some welcome additional income for the Charity Account. A Macmillan Coffee Morning was held and a Santa Christmas Collection undertaken for 5 evenings at Bromley South Station.

Caterham Oxted and Godstone – Godstone Fete & Donkey Derby went ahead in August and the Club held a Trivia Quiz in September. An Italian Meal & Cabaret Meeting fund raiser was held in November. The Christmas Santa Collections went on throughout December with static collections at 2 supermarkets and mobile street collections and proved to be the Club's most successful ever raising £6,900

East Grinstead – some of the Club's normal major fund raisers (May Fair and Sponsored Swim) were again disrupted due to Covid restrictions but the annual Donkey Derby was able to take place and the book stalls in Martells, the local Department store and 2 local rail stations continued to provide some income. The Club provided refreshments at the East Grinstead Music Event, the East Grinstead 10k Run and the local schools' Cross Country Event. A very busy December with Santa in the local Department store, supporting the local Rotary Club with their Tree of Light event and 7 days of ticket selling for the Christmas Raffle raising £3,500 to fund the Senior Citizens party in January – interestingly, roughly 1/3rd of the takings were via card machine rather than cash.

Horley – similar to other Clubs some major fundraising events were disrupted however the Club's skittles week and Dog Show were able to go ahead. The Bonfire and Fireworks event was also successful with circa 4000 people attending raising £16,500 (£10,000 net) and all by way of pre-booking via credit/debit cards so no cash was involved. 17 Christmas Collection routes and 2 store collections undertaken resulting in donations totalling £10,460

Community Activity

Bromley

Regular collection and forwarding of spectacles and hearing aids has taken place. Presentations to various organisations on MIAB has resulted in new MIAB users. Attendance at the local Remembrance Day Ceremony along with a donation to the British Legion. Various donations to amongst others Macmillan Cancer Support, Chartwell Cancer Trust and Christmas donations to seven local Charities. The Club also attended Christmas lunches arranged for Senior Citizens by the local Community Care Organisation and presented 50 Christmas food bags for the Senior Citizens.

Caterham Oxted and Godstone – providing volunteers to help with Covid vaccination centres in Crawley and Caterham. Ensuring MIAB outlets kept stocked up. Collection and forwarding of spectacles. Organising a 40th Birthday Party for Tandridge Lions Talking Newspaper.

East Grinstead – held a Diabetes testing day with 280 tests completed. Ongoing assistance at the Covid Vaccination Centre with members/volunteers covering 10 hours a day Monday to Friday with shorter days at weekends – Lions have been on duty when over 55,000 vaccinations have been administered. Delivering hot meals to senior citizens for Age UK two days a week. Prostate PSA screening day – 516 tests undertaken. Donations made to various organisations including Riding for the Disabled, special needs families, Nature Nurture Sussex CIC to run Summer sessions, Being Neighbourly, pantomime tickets for children in need and providing food parcels for struggling families via local primary schools. The Senior Citizens' Party which would normally be held in January is being reviewed with a view to postponing it due to the rapidly spreading virus. Horley – delivered 120 food parcels to people in the area. Help for a struggling family relocated to the area. Assistance with a holiday for a struggling family. The Club are developing a partnership with the Charity Reengage which assists older people to meet other people and/or have weekly contact supported by volunteers and jointly they are planning an afternoon tea event for local groups in the area to progress this partnership. The Club's Warm Over Winter (WOW) initiative whereby individuals donate their annual Government Fuel Payment to the Club which then goes to support individuals/families, referred by Citizens Advice because they need help with their fuel bills has so far raised £3,000 and will be continued in Q1 2022

Membership

Throughout lockdown the Clubs managed to retain members and over the last 6 months we have seen a net membership increase across the Zone of 8, with all the Clubs successful in inducting new members. We have already seen the benefit of the new members with the introduction of new skills assisting some of the Clubs with developing their social media presence and using online booking systems for selling tickets to events and taking advantage of using card machines and QR codes for taking payments for events and for donations.

Looking forward

All the Clubs experienced an active Christmas which has boosted their Charity funds. Whilst the Clubs are already planning for events in 2022 this is still with a general feeling of caution as, based on experiences over the last 12 months, COVID may still result in some disruption to events as, even if further restrictions are not imposed, we still have to exercise a duty of care in protecting the community and our members/volunteers against any further spread of the virus.

The Clubs are cautiously optimistic that most of their prospective members (9) will be inducted as Lions during the second half of the year.

Conclusion

All of the Zone Clubs continue to be active with both fund raising and community activities. There has been a net increase in membership across the Zone in H1 and the indications are that a fair proportion of prospective members can be inducted into Lions. In all the circumstances the overall position is satisfactory and I am confident therefore that all of the Zone Clubs are strong enough to overcome any further disruptions due to COVID.