

LIONS' TALES



E A S T E R 2 0 2 1

Community Spirit 'Up and Running'

A new lockdown saw members of Dorchester Lions doing one of the things they do best - volunteering in the community.

food parcels on behalf of the Food Bank.

The Food Bank had made the decision to deliver food parcels rather than having clients come into the Dorford Centre to collect them, a much safer and secure method for all concerned. With between nine and fifteen food parcels made up for clients every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Bill, Andy and Tony were in the starting blocks, poised for the off, if and when required.

Organisations working together for the good of the people they serve has been one of the strengths of our community throughout all the lockdowns, and the Lions are always ready, willing and able to play their part.

Volunteers
are not paid,
not because they are
worthless
but because they are
priceless!



Wild Bill Billingham and his deputies, Andy Rose and Tony Howden, immediately put themselves forward to help. With Bill and his wife already helping the Dorchester Community Support group, one of their main tasks was delivering



Climbing Everest - the easy way?



Fundraising during lockdown has been difficult to say the least. But where there's a will, there's a way. Not always, though, an easy way. Lion **Anita Harries** decided a good way to raise money would be to take part in the Everest Challenge, a virtual ascent of the world's highest mountain. Asking people to pledge a minimum of £5.00, payable on completion of the challenge, off she went. And it turned out to be very much like the real thing. Torrential rain, high winds, ice and freezing cold temperatures helped her on her daily excursions up the mountain.

Hard work? Yes, at times, but well worth the effort. Her endeavours saw her raise the sum of £570, including donations from as far afield as Scotland. She said: "I can't thank everyone enough for their generosity, especially during a time when life is not easy for many. But this money will be used to help local people as and when needed. This makes everything worthwhile."

Help Continues During Lockdown...



They say that lions sleep for up to twenty hours per day. But not these Lions!! They just keep on roaring. A donation of £100 was given to the Dorset Echo Christmas Toy Appeal, making twelve years in succession that support has been given to this cause.

£200 was given, via Dorchester Citizens Advice, to a disabled lady who moved into a new property in Charminster. With concrete floors throughout, carpets were a priority, and a donation from the Lions helped secure the purchase of these carpets, thus creating a warm and comfortable environment for a very grateful person.

Moving house has been very much the order of the day. A gentleman was rehoused when his five year old son came

to live with him at very short notice. A donation of £200 was given, again via the Citizens Advice, to assist with the purchase of furniture from Dorset Reclaim. When the unexpected happens, the Lions are always there to help if they can.

And finally, for this part at least, a gentleman from Dorchester set up an organisation in the county town called the Dorset Carers Hub. A carer himself, the aim is to help other carers get support and advice, and provide a place where they can meet face to face in a secure environment. It is run entirely by volunteers. A grant of £89 was given to enable this gentleman to participate in a training course with Child Poverty Action, in which he would learn how to help and advise carers struggling to fill in benefit claims. Being a carer can

be a very stressful experience. Filling in forms equally so!!

Championing Eye Health
 If you have any spectacles to recycle, please pop them into your local opticians.
 Alternatively, contact Dorchester Lion:
Bill Billingham on 07543 536916,
 who can arrange a friendly face to collect them from you.

Solitary Remembrance

Covid-19, social distancing, lockdown... despite the restrictions, certain important occasions were still commemorated, although very different to those we are used to.

Remembrance Sunday was one such occasion, with 2020 seeing no parades and no mass gatherings at the cenotaph. But due respects were still paid by local organisations, with time slots allocated to those wishing to lay their wreaths in silent reverence to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. **Peter See**, President of Dorchester and District Lions, laid a wreath at the cenotaph in the county town, the lack of crowds, heads bowed, not detracting in any way from the solemnity of the occasion. No standards dipped in homage, no last post sounding, no Kohima Epitaph, but remembrance is equally poignant whether alone or with the company of many.



Supporting Dorset County Hospital Covid-19

The success of the Golf Day enabled a cheque for £700 to be presented to the DCH Covid-19 appeal. All the dedicated staff at the hospital, from doctors to domestics and nurses to porters, are at the forefront of the fight against this virus, caring for those most at risk from the pandemic. Unprecedented in our lifetime, frontline staff worked, and are still working, under tremendous pressure looking after patients, backed by those working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the community through this crisis. Each and every one of them stepped up to the challenge in front of them, and the aim of this appeal is to support well-being initiatives for all the staff, both during and

beyond the pandemic. This covers any immediate needs they may have, from skin care and hydration to nutrition and comfortable furniture for staff rest areas, as well as medium and long term needs also being taken into account.

The better the wellbeing of healthcare staff, the better the care their patients receive. £700 was a real boost for this appeal.

A "hole in one" for the Lions!!



Dorchester Lions Charity Golf Day 2020...

MAIN Sponsors: IAP/G3



This year's competition will be held on :
Friday 24th September 2021
at **Came Down Golf Club.**

All early enquiries as well as sponsorship details, please ring:

Andy Rose on 07815 873246

You can't hold a good golfer down!!

Despite covid restrictions and a hastily re-arranged date due to un-cooperative weather, Dorchester and District Lions staged their 3rd annual Charity Golf Tournament at Came Down Golf Club. At least it was dry, if not a little windy, as 54 entrants, playing in 14 teams, teed off, drove, chipped, and putted their way around the 18 holes. Competition was fierce, scoring difficult, but determination prevailed and everyone completed the course. Despite a reduction in entrants, an incredible £1244 was raised, the proceeds going to the DCH Covid-19 Appeal as well as other local charities and organisations.

Lion Andy Rose, one of the organisers, said: "we thank all those players who took time out to take part in our re-arranged Charity Golf Day. Their determination to take part, despite covid restrictions and a date change, ensured that valuable funds were raised to help good causes in and around Dorchester. It is also important to mention that without the continued support and co-operation of Came Down Golf Club and our sponsors, it would not have been possible to re-stage this event."

Dorchester and District Lions extend special thanks to Nick Rodgers, general manager and professional at Came Down, along with his committee and staff, for allowing the event to go ahead, ensuring all restrictions and social distancing were adhered to at

Competition Winners

Team competition -
RJS Clean Ltd

Runners-up -
Thales 1

3rd Place -
Travis Perkins

Nearest the Lion Challenge -
Rob Rolls, Travis Perkins

Yellow Ball Competition -
Team Porridge

all times. Thanks also go to the event's main sponsor, IAP/3G and their General Manager, Mike Puckett.

Other sponsors, equally important for playing their part, were David Upshall Insurance Services, Graham Curtis MBE (unfortunately no longer with us), the Blue Raddle, and Grassby and Sons. Cash donations also came from Warmer Home Improvements and Hearn & Sons. And Rob Mott from Keep 106 popped along to cover the event for the local Community Radio Station. Without people like this, events like this would not happen.

Team Porridge, winners of the Yellow Ball competition - 32 points



RJS Clean Ltd, winners of the team competition - 85 points (won on countback)



Travis Perkins - 3rd place in the team competition - 83 points



Thales 1, runners-up in the team competition - 85 points



David has his Trike...

Back in the socially-distanced summer of 2020, Gary Spracklen, headmaster of the Prince of Wales School in Dorchester, put out an appeal to raise £1,500 to help one of his pupils.

David has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a particularly severe form of muscular dystrophy which creates mobility problems and a reliance on family and friends to move from one place to another. Hey presto, up popped Dorchester Lions to the rescue, the money materialised thanks to the Lions and some very generous personal donations, and David has his trike.

When he has outgrown it, the trike will remain with the school to help and support future children with similar mobility problems.

As the picture shows, this has made a tremendous difference to David.

No matter your age, freedom and independence to move around without asking for assistance is so important and a real confidence booster.

Go David...



Long Service Awards...



After only two to three years, a male lion will leave the pride and set off for pastures new. The same cannot be said for the Lions of Dorchester. They come along, they join, and they stay, although some may transfer from one "pride" to another should their life direction alter course.

Three Dorchester Lions recently achieved awards for outstanding service. **Ian "Bill" Billingham** notched up fifteen years as a Lion, while this year's President, **Peter See**, reached a landmark thirty years. Not to be outdone, **Rick Rogers** surpassed them both by taking "pride" of place with an impressive forty years service.

Congratulations must go to all three for their dedication and commitment to the cause.

'Socially Distanced' Santa Claus

Tiers from Boris turned to tears of laughter for the children from the Prince of Wales School when Santa dropped in to spread some Christmas cheer. With social distancing strictly adhered to, every child who came along received a present from the man himself as he shared jokes and Christmas wishes. Unable to leave his sleigh, all the gifts were handed out by Elf Tom, parents had the opportunity to take photos, and for a few hours all was well with the world. Chairman of the Governors, Kevin Tatchell, made an excellent Santa, a role he appeared to be born to fill. The Best Caretaker in the World, Paul Bascombe, along with parents from the Prince of Wales School Association, lent a hand, greeting people at the door, ensuring guidelines were followed, and selling tickets to win three Christmas hampers. All toys for the children, along with the hampers, were kindly donated, with special thanks to Waitrose of Poundbury, and Diana Rose for their generosity. Visits to Santa were by donation, a decision which worked incredibly well. These donations, along with the raffle, raised £300 which was shared between Dorchester Lions and the Prince of Wales School. Sincere thanks must go to the school and its headmaster, Gary Spracklen, for the use of their superbly decorated hall. Anita Harries, the Lion behind the project, said: "The three sessions we held at the school were

incredibly well received by children and parents alike. We wanted to end the year on a high, to show that the magic

of Christmas was alive and kicking, and that nothing can dampen the festive spirit".



If you'd like to know more, just ask...

Lions Clubs help local communities in a number of ways with every penny collected going direct good causes. Not one penny is spent on administration*. We focus on good deeds and help those who are less fortunate. Just ask to join in the fun friendship.

*Any running costs are funded by members.

Just ask how we help:

Health

We believe everyone deserves a healthy life

Youth

We empower the next generation

Sight

We want everyone to see a better tomorrow

International

We serve local communities and protect the planet



Championing Eye Health...

In 1967 Chichester Lions started an innovative recycling scheme, enabling around 300,000 pairs of spectacles every year to have a second life. An experienced team of Lions and volunteers gather in a small workshop to sort and select spectacles that are suitable for recycling. The lucky glasses are dispatched to the Medico France facility in Le Havre where those in perfect condition are cleaned, calibrated, labelled and bagged. The final stage of their journey takes them across the globe to health professionals, eye clinics and dispensaries, as well as other Lions Clubs, where they will benefit both adults and children in need of spectacles. It gives them the opportunity to read, write, study, and live their lives to the full. No one should be blind or suffer visual impairment from avoidable causes, and everyone should have the chance to participate equally in society.

Despite lockdown, the public in and around Dorchester have again shown their generosity. Over 3,000 pairs of spectacles have been donated over the past year, many collected from local opticians. These are already in the process of being sorted and boxed up by volunteers before making their way to the sorting centre at Chichester. Looking good, Dorchester Lions...



Dates for the Diary...

Lions plan ahead. And this is planning ahead!!

Sunday 5th December 2021, 11.00am - 4.00pm, Borough Gardens, Dorchester. Festive Frolics with Dorchester Lions and Keep 106 Community Radio Station. Bring your children to visit Santa in his grotto. Take part in a radio show. Enjoy Christmas entertainment. Win an adult's or children's Christmas hamper. Sleighs, snow machines, inflatables ... More details will follow closer to the time, so keep your eyes peeled.

Sunday 19th December 2021, 2.00pm - 4.30pm, Pavilion in the Park, Poundbury. Another opportunity to visit Santa, win a hamper, enjoy some festive entertainment. In aid of Dorchester Lions and the Alcohol Education Trust. Again, more information will appear later in the year.



Just ask how your Lions Club is involved in your local community:

Dorchester & District Lions

Tel: 0845 833 2836 • info@lionsdorchester.org.uk • www.lionsdorchester.org.uk



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