

Celebrating  
**50 years**  
of the Dorchester Lions



**FEBRUARY 2020**

## Support for GAP Project

The GAP Project was created by Meyers Estate Agents, in partnership with Dorset Mind, to create a community garden eco-therapy project for local people who may need mental health support. As well as improving quality of life, confidence and self-esteem, therapeutic eco-therapy can help develop positive mental health through connecting with others while helping develop and tend the allotments. Dorchester Lions made a donation of £600 towards this project, helping fund a poly-tunnel where fruit and vegetables can be grown regardless of the wonderful British weather.

Louise Regan from the GAP Project said: *"This is an amazing donation and one which has made the poly-tunnel possible. I cannot thank Dorchester Lions enough for their help. They have been tremendous supporters of both Dorset Mind and the GAP Project."*

And Dorchester Lion, Tony Howden went one step further. He helped erect the huge poly-tunnel on an afternoon where the rain that fell almost continuously was matched only by the enthusiasm of the helpers!



### Message from the President

Hi, I am really pleased you are reading this latest edition of Lions Tales, our way of keeping you up to date with all the Lions Club of Dorchester and District has been doing recently. I hope you can spare a few minutes to look at the many activities, initiatives, people and organisations we have supported over the last few months, and maybe you will want to find out more about them.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer Dorchester Lions' sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have made our events possible, to the local businesses who sponsor us, to everyone who takes part in or supports our events, and finally to everyone who has donated to us.

2020 is a landmark for our Club, and I am honoured to be its President as we move forward into our golden anniversary year. It is 50 years since that first group of friends formed Dorchester Lions, with the aim of making the community in Dorchester and beyond just a little bit better. There is still far too much that needs to be done to assist disadvantaged groups within our community, so please help us make this a memorable anniversary year by joining us, volunteering for us, participating in and supporting our events, and trusting us to help deserving good causes locally with your donations.



# Successful Christmas collection at Tesco

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer gave way to Simba with not quite such a red nose, when Dorchester Lions held their annual collection at Tesco in the county town. Buckets rattled in unison with tills as seasonal shoppers gave their loose change – and the odd note or two – to help support local charities. This year the grand total raised was **£384.79**, and not a mince pie in sight! President of Dorchester Lions, Bill Billingham, said; *“Local people never fail to put their hands in their pockets and give to a good cause. There was plenty of Christmas spirit around, and this is another amazing sum donated at a time when money is tight for many.”*



## Community Service Awards

Dorchester Lions attach importance to every area of their local community, acknowledging the achievements and the dedication of both young and old. Since 2008 they have awarded prizes for Community Service to students from the Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester Middle School, St Osmunds Middle School, and St Mary's Middle School in Puddletown. These awards are for students who, in the opinion of teaching staff and fellow students, have made a significant contribution to their community. Each award comprises a trophy, which the student holds for a year, and a gift token. Trophies are engraved with the winners name and returned to the school trophy cabinet each year.

At the Thomas Hardy School, there is also an annual award made in memory of Mike Lillington, a past President of Dorchester Lions, for a student makes good progress in a practical way rather than academically. It is important that every skill is recognised for its contribution to society, and this monetary award is given for the purchase of tools or other relevant equipment.

The picture shows Rosie Stead from St Mary's School, Puddletown, with the award she received for donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust.



# Donation to Dorset Echo Christmas Toy Appeal

Each Christmas the Dorset Echo collects donations of toys and money from residents and local businesses, providing presents for Dorset children facing hardship during the festive season. Most businesses make a donation of £100 to the cause. But this year, Dorchester Lions doubled their cheque to £200. The community had been more than generous in their support of Lions charity events throughout the year, and they decided to reflect this generosity in their donation to the appeal.

Handing over a cheque for £200 to the Echo's Laura Gale, Andy Rose of Dorchester Lions said: "The amazing support shown by the public for our charity events over the last year has made it possible for this increased donation to the Dorset



Echo's brilliant appeal. We get huge enjoyment from putting on charity events and feel privileged that we can help at least a few people in our community who are disadvantaged for whatever reason at Christmas."



## Dorchester Lions: Serving the Community

### The Plugster

So, what is a Plugster? A Plugster is a simple invention you can wrap around a plug to make it easier to remove from its socket, a great help to the many who find moulded plugs especially, a real problem. It has been utilised by various Councils to promote energy efficiency, using it to label appliances that can be unplugged safely. But maybe more importantly, Fall Prevention teams also promote the use of the Plugster, discovering that it helps reduce the number of falls involving the elderly. The balance of an elderly person is affected when gripping and pulling a plug. If their grip fails, the resulting fall may have serious consequences. This device has been backed by organisations such as the fire brigade, the police, the NHS, housing associations, Arthritis Care and Age UK to name but a few. Dorchester Lions help many people, including the elderly and the disabled, so it comes as no surprise that this is an initiative they are keen to put their weight behind. Think you may find one useful, or know someone who could benefit from the Plugster? Seek out a Dorchester Lion...

# Message in a Bottle...

Message in a Bottle, a simple idea designed to incorporate your personal and medical details on one form and in one location – the fridge. Should the emergency services be called to your home, they will be able to locate your Bottle. How will they know you have one? Two labels will be on display, one on the inside of your front door or main entrance to your home, the second on the door of your fridge. One of the great things about this scheme is that it is completely free to the user. And although the focus may be on the most vulnerable people in our community, anyone can fall downstairs or suffer a stroke or heart attack. Message



## Lions Message in a Bottle

Get a free

# Message in a Bottle



### It could help save your life

in a Bottle saves the emergency services valuable time, all your details and those of your contacts being readily available. Special medication, allergies, pacemakers ... the form contained in this Bottle is a

potential lifesaver. If you have problems locating Message in a Bottle, contact your local Lions Club. They will be only too pleased to help – and it could save your life or that of a family member.

# Dorchester Lions Charity Golf Day 2019



Dorchester Lions Charity Golf Day at Came Down Golf Club saw twenty three teams compete in brilliant sunshine. Generous handicap allowances, coupled with great course condition and a plethora of "before, during and after" refreshments ensured plenty of good humour and some impressive scoring. Neil's Lions, the final team to tee off, won the team trophy. A "nearest the lion" drive, placed strategically on the 18th fairway, added an additional challenge, as did the Yellow Ball competition at which the team from Rolls Landscaping emerged victorious.

This was the second year the tournament was held, and again it proved to be very lucrative, with almost £2,000 being raised for charity. A cheque for £1,000 was presented on the day to Mike Bartlett, a trustee from the event's main beneficiary, Mosaic, an organisation providing much needed support to bereaved children.

But it is not just the players that create a successful outcome...

*The cheque handover to Mike Bartlett (trustee of Mosaic, who also played for the Crane Valley team).*



## OUR SPONSORS...

Sponsors help ensure as much money as possible goes to charity. This year's Event Sponsor were **P.J. Aiken Insurance Services**, along with Main Sponsors **IAP/G3** and **David Upshall Insurance Services**.

Individual hole sponsors were **C. Mendes Fitness, Grassby and Sons, The Blue Raddle** and **GMS Plumbing and Heating Supplies**. The management, committee, staff and members of **Came Down Golf Club** also deserve sincere thanks for their help and commitment.





**Top Left:** Neils' Lions being presented with the Dorchester Lions Charity Golf Day winning team cup

**Top Right:** Bill's interview with Rob Mott (Keep 106 community radio.)



**SPONSORS**

**1:** PJ Aiken team **EVENT SPONSOR**

**2:** IAP/G3 team **MAIN SPONSOR**

**3:** David Upshall team **MAIN SPONSOR**

# Dorchester Lions Out and About

It is not just their own events that Dorchester Lions support. If you keep your eyes peeled, you may spot them volunteering at other sporting occasions – although probably not taking part!! And the weather this past year has not been kind to the hardy souls who pitched up to give a hand.

Several Lions turned out to help at a very soggy Dorchester Dash on Sunday 13th October, while others had a slightly drier although just as chilly experience assisting Weymouth and Portland Lions at their Beach Motocross on the same day.

You can't say they aren't keen to help, whatever the occasion, whatever the conditions.

**WEYMOUTH BEACH MOTOCROSS**  
**SUNDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**  
Practice starts at 1200 -First Race 1300

FREE to watch.  
Programme Only £2

THE PURBECK MOTO-CROSS CLUB LTD  
THE HOME OF THE WEYMOUTH BEACH RACE

Dorset ECHO

WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

LIONS CLUB

Weymouth bd  
Business Improvement District

wessexfm  
96 & 97.2

Find us on: facebook

[www.weymouthlionsclub.co.uk](http://www.weymouthlionsclub.co.uk)

## Even Lions can twin...



September 2019 saw members of Dorchester Lions and their partners pop across the Channel to visit their counterparts in Bayeux. As well as taking part in official twinning events between Dorchester and Bayeux, there was plenty of opportunity to “do their own thing.” A tour of Bayeux with a local guide, a meal at a local restaurant as well as taking in the French café culture, and a trip to the Bayeux Tapestry all formed part of a very relaxed itinerary. And there was also time for the Bayeux Military Museum, Gold Beach, a tour of the American cemetery, and the D-Day museum at Arromanches.

No trip to France is complete, of course, without a trip to the hypermarket to stock up on essentials. At the end of the visit, it had to be done!!

This year will see a visit to Dorchester by the Lions of Bayeux and an opportunity for Dorchester Lions to return the amazing hospitality they received in France.

# Presentation to YOU Trust

The YOU Trust is a charity that supports vulnerable people across Dorset, Hampshire and West Sussex, working across a wide range of specialist areas. The work they do ensures the people they support can have the life they would like. Dr Margaret Barker approached the Lions on behalf of the YOU Trust, requesting help for the Dorset Young People's Service which is run by this charity. One of their aims is to provide a proper family-style Christmas dinner for young people in residential accommodation across Dorchester. This expense was originally covered by the Local Authority itself, but alas this is no longer the case. So up popped Dorchester Lions with a cheque for £200 to help dish up a dinner to be proud of. The cheque was presented to Karen Phillips from the Young People's Service. Her manager, Michaela Parkes said: "Thank you so much for this donation, giving our young people a lovely Christmas. It really is very much appreciated."

During the December Dorchester Community Lunch, a further cheque for £300 was presented to Karen Phillips, re-endorsing support for the Dorset Young People's Services. A Dorchester Lions representative said: "We are proud to make another donation to the You Trust and look forward to supporting them again in 2020."



## Donate Your Old Eyeglasses

[lionsclubs.org/recyclesight](https://lionsclubs.org/recyclesight)

Lions Clubs International  
RECYCLE FOR SIGHT  
Donate Usable Eyeglasses Here

## Sight for all...

It is believed almost 700 million people across the globe suffer from blindness or impaired vision that is completely avoidable and could be easily helped with a pair of glasses. A high percentage of these people are living with "functional blindness", poor eyesight creating problems with basic everyday tasks such as reading, writing, cooking and entering the workplace. Dorchester Lions collect used spectacles and eyeglasses from opticians and clinics across the town.

Transported to sorting and grading depots, they are sent overseas for use by those who do not have access to the optical healthcare facilities we enjoy in this country. This Sight for All campaign is so important and one we can easily contribute to by donating our old glasses. Just one pair could give a person a healthy, independent life, a child doing better in school or an adult improving his chances of employment. Everyday tasks could be better accomplished. And all with the help of a pair of recycled glasses.

**The Lions Fun Swim on 14th & 15th March will include raising funds for local sight-related causes.**

# Camping Contribution...

When it comes to swimming, Cerne Abbas Scouts certainly lead the field. The 2019 Fun Swim saw them overall team winners, swimming more lengths than any other participants. And this achievement earned them a cheque for £214, this being half the sponsorship raised by their swimmers. And what would scouts do with any money that came their way? Buy camping equipment? And that is exactly what these intrepid youngsters did, christening their acquisitions at a Scout Camp in Litton Cheney.



## Dates for the Diary...

**Fun Swim 14th and 15th March, Dorchester Sports Centre.**

**Eyes peeled for the Easter Eggs which will be appearing around town a little closer to Easter. Stump up some cash, buy a raffle ticket, and win some choccy.**

**Fun Run, 2k and 10k, 17th May, Dorchester Middle School**

**Lions Charity Golf Day - Late September. Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester**

*More details for the above will appear in and on local media, on facebook, and the Dorchester Lions website. So you can't say, you didn't know!!*

## 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

**Sight**  
We want everyone to see a better tomorrow

**Youth**  
We empower the next generation

**International**  
We serve local communities and protect the planet



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

**Dorchester & District Lions**

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