

# A "Wheelie" Good Job by Dorchester Lions

When an appeal came in from the Prince of Wales School to assist one of their young pupils, a shake of the mane and a flick of the tail saw Dorchester Lions to the rescue. Headmaster Gary Spracklen requested help in raising the sum of £1,500 to purchase a trike. No, not for him to ride around the playground, but to make life easier for David, a student at the school. David has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a particularly severe form of muscular dystrophy, creating mobility problems and a reliance on parents, friends, and staff at the school. The trike would have him up and running, able to move around at ease and give more independence.



The Prince of Wales School is a fully inclusive Mainstream First School and vastly experienced in successfully meeting the needs of children with significant barriers to their learning. Excellent training and a positive attitude by staff members inspires children to learn in a welcoming and resourceful environment. Despite the restrictions of lock down, Dorchester Lions made a donation of £250

from their coffers. This kick start led to generous personal donations of £1,250, and with a mighty roar, a cheque for £1,500 was presented to Gary, socially distanced of course!!

Gary said: "We are very grateful to Dorchester and District Lions for supporting our appeal. The funds will be

well used to support David get back on his wheels with the purchase of a new specialist trike." Lion Andy Rose added: "We were pleased and proud to help with David's Trike Appeal, and play a small part in his future development." When David has outgrown the trike, it will remain with the school to help and support future pupils with mobility problems.

## Dates for the Diary...

Circumstances permitting, please make a note of these dates, keeping an eye out for further details closer to the time. All events are subject to change.

**Sunday 22nd November 2020. Borough Gardens, Dorchester, 2.00pm - 5.00pm. An afternoon of fun with Dorchester Lions and Keep 106 Community Radio. Watch out for Santa and his sleigh...**

**Saturday 5th December 2020. Brewery Square, Dorchester, 11.00am - 3.00pm. Santa and his sleigh collecting for Dorchester Lions charities. Plus all the fun of Brewery Square at Christmas.**

**Friday 29th January 2021. Pig Racing Night, Brownsword Hall, Poundbury. Mechanical pigs of course!**



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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Celebrating  
**50 years**  
of the Dorchester Lions

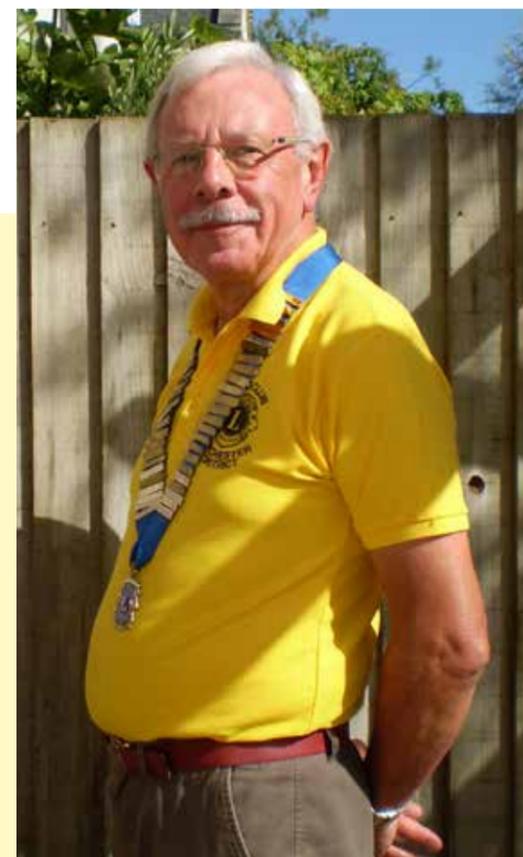
SEPTEMBER 2020

## New President Takes the Reins

Despite lock down and all its implications, life for Dorchester Lions continues, albeit a trifle restricted. No virus stops a new President taking over, and in this instance the new President for 2020 - 2021 is Peter See. Peter has been a Lion for over thirty years, initially in Suffolk before moving to Dorchester two years ago. Taking early retirement from BT Research Laboratories, Peter then spent fourteen years working with charities, social, and community businesses as a business advisor.

Peter says of his time in the Lions: "Every Lions Club is different, responding to the needs of its community and making the most of the skills and experience of its members. A common factor, though, is the spirit of friendship, as strong in Dorchester and District as in all Lions Clubs. What stood out for me when I first came to this Club was its ability to form beneficial partnerships with other voluntary organisations and commercial sponsors. That approach will be a valuable asset as the voluntary sector faces an unprecedented increase in demand and limited resources post-COVID19."

There will be undoubted challenges ahead, but Peter and his Pride of Lions will face them with their usual good humour and will to succeed.



## Easter Egg-less

With the approach of Easter, thoughts turned to the annual Easter Egg Raffle and the arrival of the choccy favourites. However, no sooner had they been distributed to the pubs and cafes that always willingly take part by selling tickets, than the virus came knocking and the raffle was abandoned. But the eggs did not go to waste, nor were they consumed by chocoholic Lions. One egg found its way to the Kingfisher Ward at Dorset County Hospital, where it was greeted with much enthusiasm by staff and patients alike. The financial rewards this year may have been lacking, but choccy enjoyment was not.



# Lions In Bloom...

Thanks to Dorchester Town Council and the green-fingered staff of the Borough Gardens, the 50th anniversary of Dorchester and District Lions has been celebrated in style. A flower bed has been created in the Gardens, resplendent for all to see, to commemorate this auspicious occasion. The brainchild of Lion Tim Harries, the display is a fitting tribute to the horticultural genius of the gardeners, and a reminder that Dorchester Lions have been going for fifty years .... and will be going for many a year yet!! If you visit the Borough Gardens take a look at the Lions in bloom and admire the talents of its creators.



# Lions Just Keep Giving...

Where there's a Lion, there's a way... And this has been more than evident during the recent lock down days. Dorchester Lions have been quietly going about what they do best – helping local good causes. Despite the lack of fundraising events due

to covid restrictions, various local charities have been given a helping hand during what has been difficult times for everyone.

£570 was donated to Asthma Relief, enabling them to purchase three nebulisers to be used locally. The ability

of this charity to place and maintain mains operated nebulisers makes a huge difference to local families, and can be the deciding factor as to whether a patient remains in hospital or can safely return home. These three nebulisers will all be used in the Dorchester area to benefit Dorchester families and make their lives a whole lot easier.

The Weldmar Hospicecare Trust received a cheque for £500. The loss of many fundraising events left a gaping hole in their budget, creating problems in the day to day running of the hospice. This donation went some way to helping them continue with the amazing care they provide, both in the hospice and the wider community.

£250 was awarded to Keep 106, Dorchester's local Community Radio Station. When "confined to barracks", many turn to the media for information, relaxation, and local news stories. Dorchester Lions are pleased to work with Keep 106, helping keep them on the airways and provide a much needed service for local folk.



# Lions Hands-on at the GAP Project

The GAP Project, created by Myers Estate Agents in partnership with Dorset Mind, provides a community garden eco-therapy project for local people who need mental health support. Dorchester Lions initially donated the sum of £600 towards this project, funding a poly-tunnel where fruit and vegetables can be grown regardless of the unpredictable British weather.

But it is not just financial help that the Lions hand out. On an extremely wet day, Lions stalwart Tony Howden risked drowning to help erect the huge poly-tunnel, the second of two sessions. Now that is dedication to the cause. More recently, he was accompanied by fellow Lions Bill Billingham and Peter See to continue the good work, providing some of the materials needed to move the project forward. With plastic here, netting there, cutting and hammering everywhere, hanging one door and starting on a second, another day of hard but worthwhile work was completed. This has brought project poly-tunnel to near completion.

With Dorchester Lions aware of the importance of the GAP Project, especially in the current climate, emerging from lock down and the presence of COVID-19 difficult circumstances for those with mental health issues, a further £450 has been donated. This will enable the purchase of a greenhouse to further enhance the allotments – and I am sure there will be a Lion or two in the vicinity to help put this up. Tony Howden said: "We view the GAP Project very highly and support what they are trying to provide and achieve for the community."



# Where There's a List, There's a Lion



In times of crisis, the community spirit which abounds in Dorchester is second to none. And if volunteers are needed to support those unable to support themselves, there will always be a Lion in the mix. Although many were confined to barracks, there were a few Lions out and about in the community willing to help where needed. Dorchester Foodbank had their work cut out, with many local families desperate for help. With a steadily rising number of mouths to feed, they were grateful for all the help they could get. From the outset of lockdown, you could find

a Lion standing patiently in a supermarket queue, buying much needed items for the food parcels, seeking out the more difficult to find items, and delivering food parcels to those unable to get to the Dorford Centre – headquarters of the Foodbank – to collect these for themselves. This is what being a Lion is all about. Serving others, finding the time to help – and having the heart to help.

# Simba in Isolation

It wasn't just the good folk of Dorchester and beyond that found themselves in isolation, courtesy of the coronavirus. Poor Simba, guardian of Dorchester Lions, found himself in isolation at 1610, a victim of the quarantine laws and with no escape. Wheeled out to promote the Dorchester Lions Fun Swim, the cancellation of the event left him high and dry inside the leisure centre. And with the Fun Run also falling foul of the virus, Simba had no choice but to relax in his solitary confinement until the release of lockdown. But never fear, both the Fun Swim and the Fun Run will return. So dust down those trainers, seek out those water wings and keep your eyes peeled for news about where, when and how... We'll be back!!

