



SPRING 2022

Money comes in... Money goes out...

The charities and organisations that Dorchester and District Lions support are many and varied. A donation of **£250.00** was made to **Longmead Summer Camp**. Held at Longmead Community Farm, and forming part of **Summer in Dorset**, this provides enriching and fun activities for children and young people of different ages, needs and abilities. Partaking of life outdoors, they learn about healthy eating, healthy living, and the countryside around them.

of free school meals, **Longmead Community Farm** being an approved provider for Dorset Council's Summer in Dorset programme. This programme brings outdoor fun and nutritious food to children eligible for benefit-related free school meals during the summer holidays. The range of activities offered and their inclusion policy means additional funds are always very welcome. Enter Dorchester Lions and their generous donation.

Keep 106 is the community radio station for Dorchester and the surrounding towns and villages, and operates on a not-for-profit basis. The station broadcasts 24 hours a day and is run by a group of enthusiastic volunteers with a wealth of broadcasting experience. Providing an important link between local organisations and the general public, donations towards the running costs are always welcome, ensuring the station can continue its free service to the community. Up pop Dorchester Lions with **£200** to boost their bank balance.

£250 made its way to the mental health charity **Dorset Mind**, supporting their work with the under-25 age group. This has been difficult times for many suffering from poor mental health, and every penny from this generous donation will go towards relieving the problems faced by many of our young people, both over the last twelve months and in the months to come.

It's not just about raising money...

Need a hand? Don't bother calling Ghostbusters, search out your local Lions Club. Not here purely to raise money, they can be spotted lending a helping hand whenever and wherever called upon.

The last few months have seen members of Dorchester Lions hard at work decorating classrooms at the Prince of Wales School, assisting with the Marie Curie Swimathon at 1610, and volunteering at the recently established Park Run on the Great Field at Poundbury. As if this was not enough, a few brave souls were spotted assisting their counterparts from Weymouth and Portland Lions at the Motocross event held on Weymouth beach in challenging weather conditions!! Road closures to man? Enlist the help of a Lion. Dorchester Christmas Cracker saw members doing just that. So if you need help, you know where to go. They even provided, courtesy of President Bill Billingham, 100 paper cups to the Covid Vaccination Centre at the Atrium when supplies ran out.



Activities on hand include horticulture, woodland skills, and animal care. Trained professionals are in attendance to lead the activities, and 1-1 support is available for children who would otherwise be unable to access such events. Many of the places at Summer Camp are free to those in receipt



Here comes Santa Claus...

Being a Lion does have its advantages. One of those is a hotline to Santa. Despite December being his busiest time of the year, he popped up in the **Borough Gardens, Dorchester**, to give local children a treat. Escorted by the local **Town Crier, Alistair Chisholm**, and an army of elves from the **Prince of Wales School**, he arrived at the Gardens in style. Abandoning his usual form of transport, he turned up in a colourful tuk tuk driven by an equally colourful reindeer better

known as **Spencer Cheung**. It was cold, it was windy, but Santa was kept busy, a Christmas hamper was raffled, and a mini train trundled around the bandstand. **Katie** and **Summer Parker**, ably assisted by their family, turned up to sell an amazing range of sweet delights, and the lovely ladies at the Kiosk kept everyone supplied with hot drinks. Thank you Santa, and thank you everyone who turned up to help or support. Aware of the rising cost to families at Christmas, entry to Santa was

by donation, and all the mums, dads and grandparents were more than generous.

Santa, this time with his sleigh in tow – literally – popped up again, this time at the **Dorchester Christmas Cracker**. Presents were handed out to all the children in the **Fancy Dress Parade**, courtesy of the Cracker Committee, and the Lions raffled a large Christmas hamper and a sack full of toys. Bulging at the seams, Santa was glad he didn't need to deliver that one!!



Santa left his sleigh at Tesco...

The closer it gets to Christmas, the busier Santa gets. He couldn't join Dorchester Lions to help with their Christmas collection at Tesco, but he did lend his sleigh to bring some festive cheer. Shoppers entered into the spirit of the occasion and the generosity of the people of Dorchester and the surrounding villages once again came to the fore. Despite many no longer carrying cash due to the ongoing covid situation, nevertheless the collection buckets filled and the sum of **£549.81** was raised. Local folk never disappoint when it comes to raising money for good causes. And coffee and mince pies courtesy of Tesco certainly went down well with the collectors.



Helping at the Heart of the Community

Lions are ordinary people who attempt to do extraordinary things to help others. When there is a need in the local community, the Lions do their very best to fulfil that need.

When a 19 year old young left supported accommodation to move into her own flat, help was needed to furnish her new home. Hey presto! Up popped a brand new divan bed, including storage, mattress and headboard courtesy of Dorchester Lions. It is always a pleasure to help a young person when they are doing as much as possible to help themselves, and that is exactly what this young lady was doing. At least she was assured of a good night's sleep.

Another care leaver, working hard and with aspirations to take a degree in structural engineering, also required

help. Moving into an unfurnished flat with his girlfriend and young baby, a flat for which he had worked hard to save the deposit, one item required was a tumble dryer. Yep, you guessed it. Hey presto! And a tumble dryer appeared. As a bonus, **Liz See**, wife of the then **Lions**

President Peter See, donated a cot quilt to the couple on behalf of **Project Linus**.

If you are a scout, tents come in handy. But they are not cheap. **Martinstown Scouts**



were looking for help to buy one. And help they received. A cheque for **£420.00** was presented to **Sue Gower** from Martinstown Scouts for the full cost of buying the tent they were after. Scout camp here we come!

Lions 10k Run a 'resounding success'

Taking a stroll around **Maiden Castle** helps blow the cobwebs away. Taking Maiden

Castle in as part of a **10k run** does more than blow away a few cobwebs. But that is what happens as part of the **Dorchester Lions 10k Run**. Starting and finishing at **Dorchester Middle School**, the 2021 event saw **119**

runners take part. It was very cold. They warmed up. It was still very cold. But these folk are made of stern stuff, and they relish the challenge. The race was started by the **Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Gareth Jones**, accompanied by his wife, **Anne**. Everyone that finished is a winner, but there is only one first and second place to be had. This went to **Mike Parrott** and **Steve Noble** for the men, while the first two ladies home were **Kelly Matthews** and

Sharon Shaw.

Lions President, Bill Billingham said: "I want to congratulate everyone for helping to produce another high quality fundraising event. I am impressed and astonished at the level of professionalism our club members show in organising their events, and today was no exception." **Dorchester Lions Race Director, Tony Howden**, and **Riot Chairman Martin Mustoe** spend a great deal of time planning and organising the event, and were ably assisted on the

day by an army of volunteers. A good turnout means a magnificent sum in the charity coffers. Just under **£2,000** was raised for the main beneficiary, **Mencap Mid Dorset**, specifically for their mental health café in Dorchester.

Thinking of doing a run? Love a challenge and love raising money? You could do worse than join Dorchester Riot running club in the next 10k run... or perhaps even further. Keep your eyes peeled on the media and your legs in readiness for future events.



Dorchester Lions Charity Golf Day 2021...

Tee Time for MYTIME...

Friday 24th September saw the staging of **Dorchester and District Lions Fourth Annual Charity Golf Day**, fittingly held in Ryder Cup week at **Came Down Golf Club**. A popular event in the Club's calendar, this year saw a 2-tee start for the first time, with fifteen teams comprising sixty players all competing for the prestigious **Dorchester Lions Golf Trophy**. The

course was in great condition and the competition fierce but friendly. Bacon butties greeted everyone on arrival, whilst excellent refreshments, courtesy of **David Upshall**, were provided on tees one and eleven. The newly-refurbished club house saw all competitors enjoying a post-round meal, as well as housing the raffle, prize-giving, and cheque presentation.

The generosity of players and sponsors saw in excess of **£1,500** raised, all of which was donated to charity. A cheque for **£1,000** was presented on the day to **Penny Day** of **MYTIME Young Carers**, whilst the remainder of the money will go to supporting various local charities and good causes. **Rob Mott** from the local community radio station, **Keep 106**, was in attendance to provide live coverage of the event.

Sincere thanks must go to the event's main sponsors, **IAP/G3** and **Manor Plumbing and Heating**. Other sponsors were **David Upshall Insurance Services** who are long-standing sponsors and event supporters, **Grassby's Funeral Services**, and **The Blue Raddle**. Companies coming forward to give sponsorship enables more money to be awarded to charity. Many thanks must also go to **Came Down Manager and Head Professional, Nick Rodgers**, along with his staff and committee, for the smooth running of the day.

Winning team - **IAP/G3**



Team Runners Up - **Fourmidables**

Competition Sponsors:



Presentation of cheque to Penny Day of MYTIME Young Carers by Bill Billingham, President of Dorchester and District Lions.

Yellow Ball Competition - **Porridge**



Competition Winners

Overall team winners:
IAP/G3

Team runners-up:
Fourmidables, captained by David Upshall.

Yellow Ball competition team winners: Porridge

Other individual prizes were awarded for on-course competitions on holes 2, 8 and 18, as well as the Lions Challenge on hole 10.

This year's competition will be held on :
Friday 23rd September 2022
at Came Down Golf Club.

If you would like to sponsor this event, or would like additional photos of the 2021 Golf Day, please ring:

Andy Rose on 07815 873246



ROAR-ing success for POW

ROAR is the Lions education programme run by the award-winning education company **8billionideas**, aiming to “*inspire children to think big and dream big.*” Their competition, run in 2021, encouraged schools to develop an idea which could change the world. **The Prince of Wales School** in Dorchester jumped at the opportunity to give their Year 4 children the chance to use their imagination and come up with their own “world changing ideas.” Working in teams, the children came up with a whole range of concepts to help improve the world we live in, from vaccine-giving robots to ways of dealing with wildlife hunters!! This was just step one. These ideas were presented to a panel of judges, who had the difficult task of finding a winning team to pass on to the district final. A formidable panel awaited the children – **Mayor of Dorchester Councillor Gareth Jones, Dorchester and District Lions President Bill Billingham, Lion Anita Harries** who had been co-ordinating with the school, and presenter **Rob Mott** from **Community Radio Station Keep 106**. And the victors? **The Three Litter Pickers** with their innovative way of removing plastic pollution from our seas and oceans.

Second step – creating a video of their pitch to present to the district finals. They produced an excellent video which brought

more success, emerging victorious from this final. This achievement was recognised and awarded at a **National Digital Final**, hosted by **Lions Clubs** and **8billionideas**, in December. The cheer from the children, and the adults, was ear-shattering when they heard the news they had won one of the national awards. A great achievement



for a school up against children who were several years older than themselves.

Gary Spracklen, headmaster at the Prince of Wales School, had this to say: “*ROAR has been a brilliant project to be involved with, and aligns with our vision to inspire all children to learn. It has equipped them with a range of real-world skills that will be invaluable as they move forward. We are very grateful to our local Lions Club for supporting our involvement in ROAR. And knowing that the Mayor of Dorchester was going to judge their work gave them an extra focus. Winning the competition was the icing on the cake of an already brilliant and worthwhile project. We are proud of each and every pupil who took part.*”



EVERY PENNY HELPS...



The **Lions 2020 Fun Run** fell victim to the pandemic. But before it fell foul of covid, some folk had begun their pursuit of sponsorship for the event. One such person was **Carol Bancroft**, a stalwart of the Fun Runs, always accompanied by her four-legged friend. She had made a collection at **Tesco** in Dorchester to kick start her fundraising, and decided to present the money to the Lions, giving over the sum of **£62** to the president at the time, **Peter See**.

Carol said: “*Having collected the money, I thought it best to hand it in to the organisation that would have benefitted from it had the event gone ahead. When the Fun Run is “up and running once more” I can start from scratch.*”

Doing their bit for the Environment

These Lions may not live in the jungle, but the environment that surrounds them is just as important. Aware of the impact of climate change, regardless of where you live, they decided to do their bit. Every journey starts with just one step, then another, and another. Having consulted with **Carl Dallison** at **Dorchester Town Council** as to the best way forward, the decision was made to plant ten trees on **Salisbury Fields** to help, even in some small way, to offset our carbon footprint. On a very wet and foggy morning, and ably assisted by two Town Council employees in excellent

tree-planting mode, the first trees were put in place by some very hardy Lions.

Carl Dallison said: “*It is fantastic that Dorchester Lions donated some trees to plant in Salisbury Fields. The trees are native species such as lime, willow and field maple, and will, over time, replace the large existing mature trees that are such a key feature in the landscape of this open space. An added benefit will be the increased opportunity for wildlife to use the trees for food and shelter, thus helping to increase the biodiversity in Dorchester.*”



Dates for the Diary...

Fun Swim • 26th & 27th March, 16.10

2k Fun Run and Fun Day 8th May, the Great Field, Poundbury

10k Run • 22nd May (provisionally)

Lions Charity Golf Day • 23rd September, Came Down Golf Club

Quiz Night • 12th November, Brownsword Hall, Poundbury

Santa's Grotto • 4th December, Brewery Square

More details will follow in due course, so keep your eyes peeled.

Quiz Night with a difference!

'Puds and Posers', a quiz night with a difference, was held in the **Brownsword Hall, Poundbury**, both a social event and a fundraiser for **Dorchester Lions**. With quizmaster extraordinaire **Alistair Chisholm** posing the questions and inciting the competing teams to rising levels of hilarity, this was no ordinary quiz. Questions on food included tasting items – guess the sausage and guess the flavour of crisps – there were picture rounds, true or false rounds, and a plethora of posers to baffle and amuse. For the more poetic, there was a nifty limerick to complete, courtesy of Alistair himself.

The interval saw the teams tucking into a variety of puddings all provided by the Lions ladies, a bar was on hand for those needing to lubricate their brains, and spot prizes were awarded to the person holding the correct playing card, all purchased in advance. **The Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Gareth Jones**, entered a team, and kindly presented the winning team with their trophies. A truly fun evening, with many still chuckling days later, this event will be repeated on **Saturday 12th November 2022**, again in the Brownsword Hall. *If you have a sense of humour, this is for you!*



No present is left unopened...



What do you do with presents left at the bottom of Santa's sack? You find them a good home. Three bags of toys, wrapped and ready to go, were handed over to **Lucy Roberts**, the **Community Engagement Officer** at **Pavilion in the Park**, to do with as she thought fit. Some were distributed, via **Damers First School**, to families most in need, a welcome surprise for children who may otherwise have had little to open on Christmas Day. The remaining presents were given to the twenty children who took part in the **Winter in Dorset** programme held at the Pavilion in the Park. This event provided an afternoon of fun activities and nutritious food for children eligible to take part over the school holidays, thanks to **Dorchester Town Council**.



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

Dorchester & District Lions

Tel: 0345 833 2836 • info@lionsdorchester.org.uk • www.lionsdorchester.org.uk



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