

# BURGESS HILL DISTRICT LIONS CLUB *'We Serve'*



## 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



## **How Lions came to Burgess Hill**

In Chicago 1916 it was customary for businessmen to join one of the hundreds of luncheon clubs and in 'Business Circle' a certain Melvin Jones was disappointed that the energetic intelligent members were selfishly looking after their own interests when it would be more satisfying to fulfill the needs of the local community.

Melvin Jones discussed the idea with others and on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917, five clubs: Optimists, Vortex, Association of St. Paul, Royal Order of Lions and Business Circle decided to merge. They subsequently held a convention in Dallas on 8<sup>th</sup> October and agreed to call the organisation 'Lions International'. Its aim would be 'Service in the Community and assistance to the less fortunate'. Twenty two clubs attended.

Three years later, Lionism extended to Canada, then a club in China in 1926, and in 1948 to Europe with the formation of Stockholm, Sweden. Growth was now rapid and the first club in Great Britain was London (Host) in 1949, the second chartered club was Brighton in 1950 and the twenty first club, Burgess Hill District in 1955.

## **Presidents of Burgess Hill District Lions Club**

1955/56 David Saunders MBE	1985/86 Wally Cundall
1956/57 Bill Lumley	1986/87 John Lower
1957/58 Stuart Webb	1987/88 John Davey
1958/59 Toby Butterworth	1988/89 Rod Palmer
1959/60 Tony Champ	1989/90 Alan Ranger
1960/61 Phil Waterman	1990/91 Peter Edsall
1961/62 John Sawyer	1991/92 Graham Cubitt
1962/63 Harry Addison	1992/93 Terry Walls
1963/64 Murray Smith	1993/94 Bill Moore
1964/65 Les Norris	1994/95 John Lower
1965/66 Doug Andrews	1995/96 Ron Whitehead
1966/67 Len Challis	1996/97 Ron Whitehead
1967/68 Phil Yates	1997/98 Terry Walls
1968/69 Cyril Murgatroyd	1998/99 Terry Walls
1969/70 Ted Hartle	1999/00 Val Parris
1970/71 Jim Finnis	2000/01 Tony Parris
1971/72 Bernard Pearce	2001/02 David Martin
1972/73 John Gage	2002/03 Rod Palmer
1973/74 Murray Smith	2003/04 Graham Cubitt
1974/75 Harry Brown	2004/05 Alan Ranger
1975/76 Bob Clark	2005/06 Phil Richardson
1976/77 Harry Addison	2006/07 Malcolm Stephens
1977/78 Ray Snashall	2007/08 Cliff Coxshaw
1978/79 John Gage	2008/09 Tony Parris
1979/80 John Roser	2009/10 Colin Owen
1980/81 Gerry Latter	2010/11 Geoff Long
1981/82 Cyril Cook	2011/12 John Thomson
1982/83 Roy Oughton	2012/13 John Gee
1983/84 Bob Clark	2013/14 John Gee
1984/85 David Saunders MBE	2014/15 Chris Muschamp

## **Foreword**

by Chris Muschamp, President of the Burgess Hill District Lions Club, 2014-2015



Having the honour of being President of the Burgess Hill District Lions Club during our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Year, I am delighted to write a foreword to this Celebratory Book.

The spirit of 'Pride in our Community' embraces our Club perfectly. 'The Club' is currently approximately 40 members strong who give their time freely to try to help others in their time of need. This is achieved by raising monies from various activities, such as organising Concerts, Speciality Charity Dinners, Tombolas, Christmas Collections, Santa's Grotto, Bike Rides and many other ways. Our most successful fund raising initiative is the Book Den which arose from a stall in the Market Place and evolved into the excellent Second Hand Bookshop that it is today, where all our Members and a brilliant team of Volunteers stock the shelves with books provided by the local community, keep the shop open and sell the books six days a week.

We are proud to have helped our community in many ways. In particular, we support the youth, the elderly and those with special needs in our community. We work very closely with three local Clubs: The Respect Youth Club, The Hurstpierpoint Gym Club and The Burgess Hill Marching Youth. We are especially pleased to have developed an ongoing programme to supply Defibrillators to many local public places, railway stations, schools, clubs and churches and have been recognised by the Sudden Arrhythmic Death Charity (SADS UK) for our work in this area. The Club also maintains very close working relationships with the Southdown Garden Centre and the Steve Willis Training Centre.

This book concentrates on the last ten years of community service since our 50th celebration but also embraces the first fifty years of the club from its Charter on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1955 and covers the many and varied ways that the Club has served.

I sincerely hope that readers will enjoy the content and I believe that the Club continues to maintain the tradition that 'Lions are ordinary people achieving amazing things'.

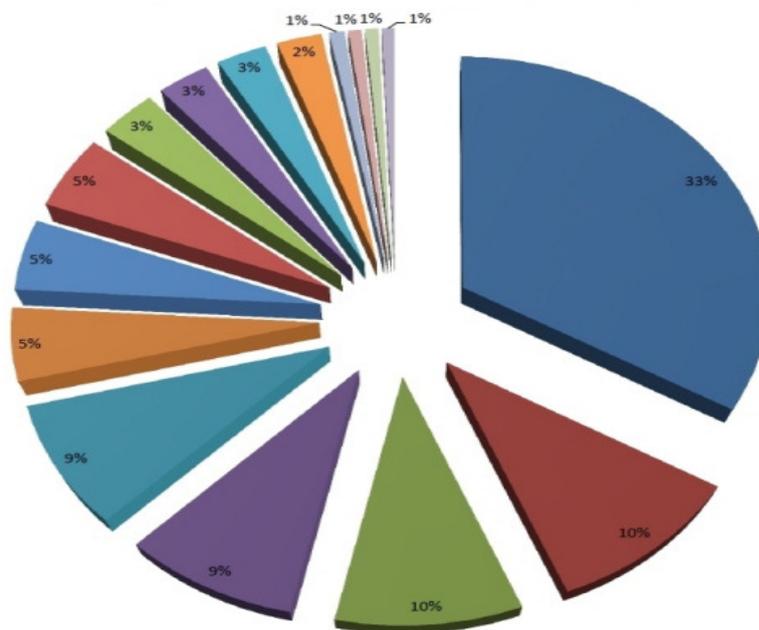
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### How the money generated by our fund-raising activities is spent

The Burgess Hill District Lions Club (BHDLC) has supported a wider range of organisations, clubs and individuals over the past 60 years than can be mentioned in this booklet. The book therefore attempts to cover a number of the more major and interesting projects that the club has been involved with, along with a snapshot of the fund raising activities that the club participates in, to fund all of the donations.

### Recent Expenditure Breakdown



- 33% ■ YOUTH CLUBS/GROUPS
- 10% ■ HELP FOR HEROES
- 10% ■ DEFIBRILLATORS
- 9% ■ DISADVANTAGED PERSONS
- 9% ■ COMMUNITY PROJECTS Burgess Hill , Hassocks & Hurst
- 5% ■ SIGHT - IMPAIRMENT
- 5% ■ CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE
- 5% ■ SCHOOLS
- 3% ■ ELDERLY CITIZENS
- 3% ■ PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY DISADVANTAGED
- 3% ■ CHILDREN - DISADVANTAGED
- 2% ■ TRAUMA TEDDY BEARS - SOUTH EAST COAST AMBULANCE SERVICE
- 1% ■ BEREAVEMENT CARE GROUP
- 1% ■ LIONS OVERSEAS PROJECTS
- 1% ■ MISC. Small donations
- 1% ■ LIONS PROJECTS

## Major Donations over the last 10 years

### Motorcycle for the 'Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers' (SERV)



This is a major project that BHDLC is supporting in its 60th Year.

When we heard about the great work undertaken by a group of local motorcyclists, who regularly deliver blood products overnight from the London hospitals to our local hospitals, we asked one of their members to attend one of our meetings to tell our members about the voluntary work undertaken by his group.

We learned that, operating as the registered charity SERV, the motorcyclists are on call from 7pm until 6am, 365 days each year, to quickly transport blood, blood products and other urgent medical items from London Hospitals to our local hospitals.

The motorcyclists operate under the name of 'Bloodrunners' and their efforts not only save the NHS many thousands of pounds each year, they also save lives by ensuring that essential supplies are promptly delivered through the night. Without this volunteer service the NHS would have to use ambulances or taxis to deliver the supplies.

Our members were so impressed with the 'Bloodrunner' volunteers and the work that they undertake, that we had no hesitation in agreeing to fund the purchase of a new motorcycle to be added to their fleet, that would be based in the area covered by our Club.

### Age Concern, Hassocks & District (ACH)



The first hot meals were served to the housebound elderly of Hassocks in 1964. From then until today the charity, which later became Age Concern Hassocks, has maintained an unbroken continuous lunch service as a core activity. It currently serves three-course hot meals, with a choice of dishes, on all weekdays. Festive menus are also provided at Christmas and on other special occasions.

Until last year, transport to and from the 'Pauline Thaw Centre' was provided by volunteer drivers in their own cars. However due to retirement and ever increasing motoring costs the service could not be sustained. The decision was made to purchase a £30,000, 12 seater minibus with specially lowered steps, a wheelchair lift and sliding rear seats to accommodate the wheelchairs. ACH gave a presentation to the BHDLC welfare committee early in 2014. This resulted in Lion Christine Muschamp and her committee recommending that BDHLC should donate the remaining 50% of the funds still needed to purchase the bus.

Thanks to the generosity of BHDLC, Age Concern members, The Lottery Fund and Hassocks Parish Council, sufficient funds were raised and the new bus was officially launched on 6th Dec, 2014. Intended primarily for the transport of Lunch Club members, this bus will enable ACH to maintain this essential service into the future.

Past support and assistance to ACH has included holding Bingo sessions, new tables and chairs for their meeting room, replacement of kitchen furniture, the provision of a Chiropodists' chair and the fitting out of a Hairdressing Salon. The raising of funds for this last venture was undertaken in a novel way by Lion Norman Evenden offering to provide Sunday lunches for those members of the public willing to sample his cooking!

### **Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club (HGC)**



The HGC has existed since the 1980's and at various times in its history has been helped by BHD Lions. Over the years HGC has coached over three thousand gymnasts. Significantly, BHDLC formally adopted HGC in 2013 as part of the MD105SE 'Adopt a Youth Club' scheme. Since then the BHD Lions have helped HGC in a number of ways; in particular they have assisted at the Bonfire and Fireworks celebrations and helped HGC at Hurstpierpoint Christmas Fair.

Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club celebrated its 31st Annual Championships in 2014 with over

eighty gymnasts competing for the trophies available, watched by an appreciative audience. The girls floor Novice cup was won by Eloise Davey and the boys by Lucas Jones who also won the 'All Round Boys' championship. The certificates, medals and trophies were presented by Lion President Christopher Muschamp. BHDLC sponsored the competition jointly with Tamarind Natural Therapies and this enabled free entry to all the competitions and free entry for the spectators.

### **Burgess Hill Youth (BHY), (formally known as Burgess Hill Boys Club)**



The Lions have supported this club since its inception in 1959. Over the last three years a lot has happened to BHY, the most important being the change of name and becoming a company 'limited by guarantee'. The club is very active within the local area as well as running two club sessions a week during term time. The BHY Leader works with Burgess Hill Town Council and they arrange a full programme of events during all school holidays, highlighting events for Young Carers and Disadvantaged Children. The Club receives financial support from the BHD Lions, who also continue to support the Youth Leaders in Service Awards for their community

service over a 12 month period. The Lions also arrange one large fund raising event every year working with a local business (Steve Willis Training Centres) that sponsor the event.

## **Burgess Hill Marching Youth (BHMY)**



Formed in 1986, the Burgess Hill Marching Youth is a Light Infantry style Bugle and Brass band, renowned for its distinctive green and white Ghurkha inspired uniform - currently consisting of 35+ regular members, many of whom have competed and performed throughout England, including the Royal Albert Hall and Wembley Arena, They also appear as part of the National Massed Bugle Band.

Each year, the members work very hard to create a repertoire of traditional military and contemporary music, including special pieces for tuned percussion and drum displays, to entertain the public at various events and contests. Through this, members learn skills in music, drill, social skills, teamwork and self-discipline - all valuable life skills, enabling BHMY to actively raise much needed funds by performing at festivals and parades. Over many years BHMY has been supported by BHD Lions with donations for uniforms and instruments and were delighted to have been formerly adopted by the BHD Lions under their 'Adopt a Youth Club' initiative in 2014. Recent assistance in the acquisition of new uniforms and equipment to enhance the Band's routines has enabled the introduction of a full brass section to play alongside the original bugles and percussion. This recent change to full instrumentation has allowed the band to increase their performance opportunities, to include concerts and seasonal performances. Hundreds of young people from the Burgess Hill area and beyond have passed through the band, many of whom state that their Band years were the best years of their lives. Some members of the current Band are the sons and daughters of ex Band members.

## **'Respect' Youth Club**



In the summer of 2007 three Residents' Associations in Burgess Hill decided that there was a need in their area of the town for a Youth Club that would cater for the needs of local youngsters aged between 9 and 15 years.

BHDLC agreed to provide some funds to help with the setting up costs and we provided two members to sit on the organising committee. With help from the local Councillors, the local Church, all three Residents' Associations and the local Police, the 'Respect' Youth Club was officially opened in October 2007.

Since then the Youth Club has grown into a very successful local club with an average membership of 60 and an average of 20 children attending each weekly session. The Youth Club leader and her helpers have done a fantastic job in making the Club a success and we are sure that this success will continue into the future.

Over the years BHDLC has organised several fund-raising events in aid of 'Respect' and helped the Youth Club with its own fund-raising. In 2012, BHDLC agreed to formalise their association with the Youth Club and officially adopted 'Respect' under the 'Lions Adopt a Youth Club' scheme. This means that a BHDLC member sits on the Youth Club committee; it also means that BHDLC provide support if it is needed and help the Club to raise funds.

## **Training Ship Indomitable (TSI) - 'Saving of the Nautical Training Corps (NTC) Hall in Burgess Hill'**



In October 2010 the members of BHD Lions were made aware that the community hall in Leylands Park, Burgess Hill, was failing to meet basic hygiene standards and was in danger of having to close. The hall is owned by the NTC and was used on a weekly basis by several community groups, including TSI and the 'Respect' Youth Club. Unfortunately the NTC did not have funds available to finance the improvements needed to the hall.

The BHD Lions decided that the hall should be saved and help and support was given to the NTC. This started with a BHDLC presentation that outlined how they could help the NTC and how the Club would be able to help fund the necessary improvement works. A committee was formed to fully investigate the amount of work required. Over a period of several months, details were agreed and drawings and specifications prepared for the works that included new toilets, a disabled toilet, a new kitchen and new storage areas.

Construction work started at the end of 2011 and in February 2012 the refurbished hall was opened. Since then the hall has continued to be used by TSI and the 'Respect' Youth Club. Other community groups have made full use of the improved facilities as well. TSI celebrated its 50 year anniversary in its newly refurbished facilities. At the celebration, Commanding Officer - Chief Officer Ann Tyrell NTC, was keen to pass on a message from one young man who had made a point of coming to say thank you - *"It means so much that I can do this for myself and not need somebody else to help me."*

Lion President for 2012, John Thompson, expressed that it was comments such as these that made it all worthwhile - *"We know how this facility was and we knew the work would benefit people and groups from across the area and open the building to local groups of all abilities."*

## **Burgess Hill Guides - Guide Hall Improvement Project**

In 2013, we were able to give a sizeable grant towards the improvement of the Guide Hall in Burgess Hill. The original Hall was built in the late 1950's and had had little updating since then. Our grant helped towards the building of a Conservatory for activities and use as a tea room at Garden Fetes.

The project also included additional toilets and shower facilities which were built to meet the disabled requirements. The existing Hall also received a makeover.

When the work was completed Lion President John Gee and some of our Members visited on the Guide Fete Day and were shown the Project.

## **Beacon District Girl Guides - Hassocks Guide Hut Refurbishment Project**

In 2007, an urgent appeal was made to Burgess Hill District Lions for a donation to help renovate the Guide Hut in Semley Road, Hassocks.

The hut, the location for weekly meetings for over 150 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers had become unusable owing to a drainage problem. The floor collapsed in places and all groups had to move out. While the problem was being explored, it was seen that the hall was showing its age generally and several things were identified as needing action in order to make the hut a more welcoming place for meetings.

The Lions made a much appreciated and significant donation, which allowed the initial work to begin on solving the drainage issues and repairing the floor. It was a wonderful 'kick-start' to the girls' own fund raising and ensured the girls could return to their hut after just a term.

BHDLC have also helped the 1st Hassocks Scout group with a new HQ roof, 5th Burgess Hill Scout group with rebuilding their Scout Hut after a serious fire and the 1st Hurstpierpoint Scouts with provisioning of Canoes for the Scouts activities.

## Defibrillators



In August 2011, Lions Janet Walton and Christine Muschamp recommended that the BHDLC should provide defibrillators for schools in our area. Lions Janet and Christine had seen a television documentary that had highlighted the need for life-saving defibrillators to be located in every school.

The members of BHDLC immediately agreed to find out which local schools would be interested in having a defibrillator and enquiries were sent initially to the four senior schools in the area covered by BHDLC.



In the three years following the tabling of the idea the members of BHDLC have worked with Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome UK (SADS UK) and the Mid Sussex Community First Responders to provide defibrillators in 8 local schools and 6 other strategic locations.

This has been a major investment for BHDLC and the members are very grateful to the support given by local people in helping to raise in excess of £15,000 to fund this project in the three years since its inception.

This has become an ongoing project and the members of BHDLC are committed to identifying other locations in the area that will benefit from having a life-saving defibrillator. On the completion of the rebuilding of Hassocks Railway Station in early 2014, the Club presented Gordon Marples (the Chairman of Mid Sussex District Council) with a defibrillator and a cabinet for installation at the station. BHDLC has another 24/7 defibrillator planned for Ditchling, which is being purchased jointly with Ditchling Parish Council. So far, 16 defibrillators have been installed over the area covered by the Club.

## **Specsavers & Hearing Aids**

This is still very much an ongoing project, with collecting points throughout Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Burgess Hill, including the Book Den. Specsavers are our main contributor. When spectacles are collected they go via one of our Lions for preparation and dispatch to Chichester Lions via Parcel Force. We are also able to forward hearing aids and hearing equipment to the same destination. As a Lions Club we also work with Specsavers to celebrate 'Lions World Sight Day' every October.

## **Kent, Surrey and Sussex (K.S.S.) Air Ambulance Appeal**



'What Can Be Achieved When Lions Clubs, Club Together'.

In addition to giving support to our local community there are occasions when Lions Clubs unite to undertake a project which extends well beyond their Clubs' individual boundaries.

In May 2012 Clubs within the SE of England were asked to club together to support the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust. The challenge was to raise £250,000 for this charity over a ten year period. The monies raised would be used to purchase vital night flying equipment for

aircrew. This will enable the Trust to operate during the hours of darkness, thereby giving for the first time ever a 24 hour, 365 day service - something unmatched anywhere else in England.

In the summer of 2013, a brand new helicopter commenced flying from Redhill Aerodrome, from where it now successfully carries out an average of 10 night time operations a week.

By August 2014, 27 months into the ten year project, Lions Clubs within the SE have raised a staggering £170,000 towards their intended target. With continued support there is every likelihood the final figure will be exceeded.

## **I-Pads for Children at Woodlands Meed School**

In the summer of 2012, Burgess Hill Town Council organised a Marathon that raised £1,010. The Town Council donated this sum to BHDLC with a request that it should be used towards a suitable worthy cause. Through our contacts at Woodlands Meed Special School, we were made aware of the benefit that the children with severe learning difficulties obtained from using I-Pads loaded with specialist educational software.

The members of BHDLC had no hesitation in agreeing to purchase I-Pads to be used by early years pupils. By adding a sum to the amount donated by the Town Council, a total of seven I-Pads were purchased.

In March 2013, following the receipt of a glowing report from the head-teacher of Woodlands Meed School on the benefits that our I-Pad purchase had made, we decided to purchase a further seven I-Pads for the School.

Prior to the purchase of the I-Pads, children with severe speech problems learnt to speak using flip style books which, although useful, were a little restrictive. The I-Pads brought a new dimension to learning in as much as an I-Pad allows the child to hear words and then allows on-going interaction.

## Service Charities

During the last couple of years Lion Simon Scott introduced BHDLC to the sterling work carried out by new Military Charities in support of our Armed Forces.

## Help for Heroes.



A project was developed where the original plan was to collect reading books, using donations from the Book Den, and send them direct to a Military Unit at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. As a result of the appeal we were inundated with books, but unfortunately the arrangements to send the books was withdrawn, as there was an urgent need to send equipment to Afghanistan and the library space at Camp Bastion became very limited.

A decision was made to sell all the books that had been donated and forward the monies raised to Service charities. The first charity assisted was 'Help for Heroes', who sent a representative to a BHDLC business meeting where a substantial cheque was presented.

## Hounds for Heroes



In June 2010, BHDLC presented 'Hounds for Heroes' with one of the biggest donations received in its early days.

As a result of our introduction, Mr. Allen Parton gave many presentations to Lions Clubs in the UK. Allen spoke from the heart about the rebuilding of his shattered life after serious injury which occurred whilst serving in HM Forces. He did not recognise any of his family and it took the help of a dog named Endal to turn his life around.

Lion President Colin Owen and Lion Simon Scott presented a cheque for a £1,000 on behalf of BHDLC and then a further cheque for £326 was presented by Liz Scott who had recently completed a sponsored walk to raise funds for Hounds for Heroes.

## Special Concerts Old Age Pensioners (SCOAP) Concerts

It is a great sadness that the SCOAP Concerts are no longer part of our Club's ongoing programme of events. The reasons behind this are increasing costs, a drop in attendance figures and changes in the expectations of our senior citizens. In the 1950s, the hall hire cost was the equivalent of 50p for the evening - it is now over £300 for the same period! As costs have gone up, attendance has gone down. At the high point 300 people were attending. By 2010 numbers were down to about 100, when the club voted to discontinue this project. Health and Safety requirements had also become more onerous over the years.

## Disabled Transport for Finches - a 50th Birthday Donation



In October 2005, the 'Finches' centre (part of Chailey Heritage Clinical Services) in Folders Lane, Burgess Hill, took delivery of a new vehicle purchased by the South Downs Health NHS Trust. The £15,000 conversion of this vehicle to a five seat wheelchair carrying minibus was paid for by a 50th Anniversary gift from the BHDLC. The project was originally spearheaded by Lion Sarah Alderson Jenkins, who spent many hours negotiating with the providers to enable this to happen. Lion President Phil Richardson said: "Because this is our 50th Year, we wanted to do something special. We have helped Finches before and we think this is a really good way to spend our

money." Sue Attwood, team leader at Finches replied: "This is going to be a valuable asset and really appreciated, because before today we could not travel together on outings. Because it's half term, we are going to use it straight away." At the time, this was the largest single donation BHDLC had made in the history of the Club.

Since this donation was made BHDLC has made further substantial donations to the centre in 2010, to assist with the installation of a Specialised Sensory room and 'Jungle' area.

## Dipping Pond at Bedelands Nature Reserve

Bedelands Nature Reserve in Burgess Hill is managed by Mid Sussex District Council in conjunction with a charity group known as the Friends of the Burgess Hill Green Circle Network (FOBHGNC). In November 2011, the FOBHGNC asked our Club whether we could finance the construction of a Dipping Platform on a recently dredged and fenced pond on Bedelands Nature Reserve. Mid Sussex District Council had funded the dredging and fencing but there were no funds available from the Council to construct the dipping platform.



The FOBHGNC was of the opinion that this would be a project that would have educational and environmental benefits and once completed it would be the largest facility of its type in Sussex. After careful investigation we agreed to fund the construction of the platform.

Construction of the oak platform was undertaken by Ash Environmental in February 2012. The pond is securely fenced and an information board near its gated entrance gives details of the wildlife that can be found in the pond. Since its construction the dipping

platform has proved to be a great attraction for schools and youth groups, who arrange regular visits to the pond to undertake managed pond dipping at all times of the year.

## Trauma Teddies



'No More Trauma for Charlie.'

BHDLC provide Trauma Teddies to young children travelling to hospital in ambulances. Charlie Eyres, who is two and a half, lost his teddy whilst on holiday in Turkey. His mother Jennie said: "He had to go to hospital because he had an asthma attack; the teddy became his favourite toy. We think the maid must have come and swept it up with the laundry or something. We were manically trying to find it, it was a nightmare for us because he can't sleep without it." Jenny asked

Tony Parris of BHDLC, if he could have a replacement and the Lions gladly provided one.

The Lions purchase 576 five inch teddies for Burgess Hill Ambulance Station every two years and continue to support the Ambulance Service in this manner.

## Message in a Bottle

One of these Pots  
could help save  
your life

Do you have one?



This scheme has been made popular by Lions Clubs around the United Kingdom, but it is not solely a Lions scheme. It was started originally by the late Tom Tracey, who was actively involved with Neighbourhood Watch in Mid Sussex. He used film containers from Boots the Chemist. The simple idea was that anyone living alone, perhaps elderly or in poor health would record their personal and health details,

then put the record into a bottle and keep it in their refrigerator. A green cross was then stuck to the front door of their premises and another to the door of their refrigerator to alert the emergency services if the householder was found unable to communicate. The present scheme came about in Mid Sussex when Tom Tracey asked local Lions Clubs to take over the promotion of our version of Message in a Bottle, as he felt it was superior.

The Lions Clubs of Great Britain & Ireland have since committed to distributing these bottles in the community, through Clubs, Doctor's Surgeries and Pharmacies and many other outlets throughout the UK.

## It's a Knockout

This event originally started in Harrow and was introduced to Croydon Lions Club in 1990. The first event was sponsored by Royal Mail. Two years later the event was brought to West Sussex and became a Zone1A project. In 2014 the zone project celebrated 20 years and it is still very active.

Barry Alston of Radio Marsden in Sutton, has been the Master of Ceremonies for this event, from the beginning in Croydon many years ago and still hosts it today. There are still on average 12 teams taking part. BHDLC has supported this event for many years.

## Christmas Hampers



Tesco in Burgess Hill and other local shops in Burgess Hill, Hassocks & Hurstpierpoint co-operated with Lions in collecting suitable food items donated by the public to fill Christmas Hampers for local needy families and individuals. The Lions also made a sizeable donation each year to purchase additional items of food.

Considerable time was taken in collecting, sorting and preparing bags of goods - (at least 2 per household). In total, 120 Christmas Hampers were delivered by Lions and Friends of Lions each year.

More recently, the Lions have made substantial donations to the local Food Bank to purchase items of food for

Christmas Hampers, rather than produce the hampers and investigate who the beneficiaries should be themselves.

We believe the BHDLC has made a positive difference at Christmas to the lives of many people in our community.

## Toy Library

A sad event for the Club occurred when the Burgess Hill Toy Library, that we had helped form 45 years ago, made the big decision to close. BHDLC has transferred its support to 'The Windmills Opportunity Playgroup' who meet at the same venue, Sheddingdean Community Centre, and fulfill a wider brief than the original Toy Library.

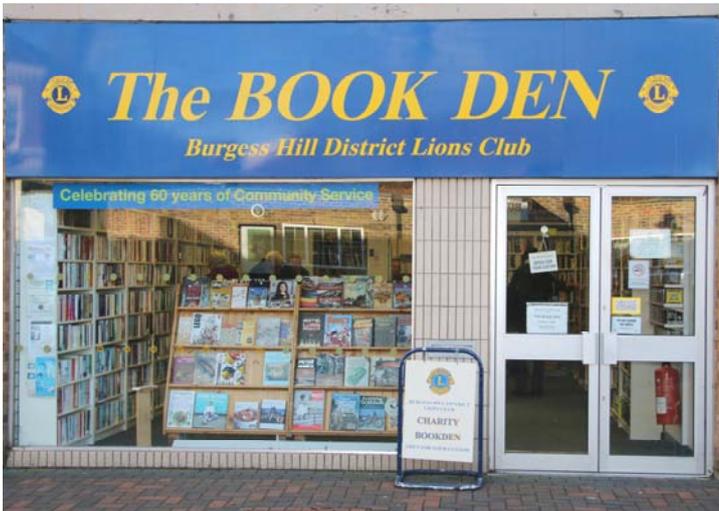
## Windmills Opportunity Playgroup - Sensory Room



Windmills Opportunity Playgroup has been running in Burgess Hill since 1984. Twenty children attend each session. The playgroup staff are experienced in working with children that have a range of additional needs, including autism, ADHD, special language delay, behavioral problems and epilepsy. The Lions have donated monies towards equipment, toys and a much needed dedicated Sensory Room over the years. The latter has been operating since September 2013, and offers a calming yet simulating environment for children to spend time with their key person on a 1-1 basis, developing communication, physical and social skills.

## Major Fund Raising Activities

### Book Den



In the last 10 years there have been many changes in our Book Den. Importantly, we have transferred to alternative premises, albeit in the same street in Burgess Hill. With the co-operation of South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks we have opened an annexe in their cafeteria.

We have a band of volunteers, who along with the BHDLC members provide our Lions Club with invaluable assistance in helping to keep the shop open 6 days a week. As a result, turnover has increased dramatically over the past 10 years. This is the most valuable asset the club has.



On any given day you can find around 3,500 books on the shelves, covering about 30 subjects. This is supported by a further 2,000 books in store. All of our books are kindly donated by both local residents and local charity shops (who concentrate on other items).

We sell around a 1,000 books a week together with CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, maps and jigsaws. Unusual and rare books which have been identified by one of our specialist volunteers might be sold to a dealer, put on E Bay or sold at auction. Our policy remains the same - 'sell quality at an acceptable price and your customers will always return'.

### Tombola



The BHDLC's Tombola, run by Lions Diane Cubitt and Valerie Whitehead, has been running successfully for many years. We are present at Summer fetes and Christmas events, together with regular appearances in the Market Place, Burgess Hill.

All monies raised are distributed back into the community via the Club Welfare Section, in aid of worthy people and organisations. Of late, we have supported The Breast Cancer Appeal – and intend to continue.

Many of our prizes are donated by Members and friends, and we are very appreciative of their support. We are also very well supported by the general public.

## Burgess Hill Bike Ride



The Burgess Hill Bike Ride was established by Burgess Hill Lion Malcolm Stephens in 1993 and has been staged annually ever since. For much of this time it has been organised by BHDLC in partnership with (until 2013) the local Round Table. 2014 was the first year of a new partnership with the local Rotary Club as joint organisers.

Over the years, the Burgess Hill Bike Ride has attracted thousands of entrants and has raised around £200,000 for local charities such as Barnardos, Chailey Heritage and St. Peter & St. James Hospice, together with

other local charities. In 2014, the main beneficiary was the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. The event offers circular routes of 10, 20 and 40 miles through the Sussex countryside, with all routes starting and finishing in the centre of Burgess Hill. The photo shows a quilt that was made by Lion Terri Stephens. The decorations come from the 'T' shirts that have been created in conjunction with sponsors of the event and worn by entrants over the many years of the event.

## Santa's Grotto



Burgess Hill District Lions first invited Santa to visit their grotto at South Down Nurseries in Hassocks in 2007 and he now asks us if he can return every year!

Santa has a team of two who work with him and this ensures that everything runs smoothly. We normally have around 2,000 children visit, and all profits after paying for the presents goes back into our local community projects.

Lion Tony Parris MJF and Lion Val Parris, along with help from other Lions members, have over the years spent many days in support of this worthy fund raising activity.

## Christmas Collections

Burgess Hill Lions Club Christmas Collections have been a much-loved tradition in our area for many years. Our milk float enhanced the magic of the occasion, with Santa silently gliding around the streets, accompanied by suitably festive music and suitably dressed Lions collecting 'Door to Door'. Parents bringing their young children outside to 'see Santa' would speak fondly of their own childhoods, reminiscing over how their parents brought them out too.



In more recent times the 'Static Collections' were introduced, with the milk float used for these collections in Burgess Hill, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint. The static collections were then extended with the introduction of our very popular Teddy Bear Band, 'Rod's Rockers', provided for the Club by our late Lion Rod Palmer. Our furry friends with their magical mobility certainly enchant both children and adults alike. The latest addition to our Christmas Collecting repertoire is our Barrel Organ Santa (presented by Lion Geoff Long), who frantically winds his barrel organ handle to belt out the Christmas favourites.

Although the house to house collections are no more - the milk float got a bit too mature to take the strain – our 'Static Christmas Collections' are still going strong and give some 'Christmas Magic' to our busy Christmas shoppers. This year, 'Static Collections' were made adjacent to the Waitrose store in Burgess Hill, at the Tesco Supermarket in Burgess Hill and at the South Downs Nursery in Hassocks.

## Christmas Present Wrapping



We are always looking for new and innovative ideas for fund raising and one such idea was brought to the club by a member to boost our Christmas charity collections, in the form of a Christmas Wrapping Service. This was new and we had never tried anything of this nature before but as always willing to take on board fresh thinking.

After some discussion with the managers of the shopping centre, we secured a large decorative wheel barrow in the market place in Burgess Hill town centre and a small team of dedicated wrappers, (not the singing

kind of course), each Saturday leading up to Christmas, were there on hand to help the perplexed Christmas shopper and take away some of the stress in wrapping those not so straight forward gifts by disguising, bowing and boxing. Our talents were second to none.

We were also very lucky that a member of the club donated wrapping paper, boxes and all the necessary trimmings, even down to the gift card, which of course the customer wrote themselves. Yes, it was hard work, long and busy days, but our efforts paid off and the proceeds helped our Christmas appeal. Perhaps the only downside was that we then had to go home and wrap our own gifts, but of course by this time we were all experts.

## The Late PDG David William Saunders MBE MJF



It is with great sadness to all of the BHD Lions members, members of the wider Lions community and many in the community that our founder member, longest serving Lion in Britain, friend and colleague David Saunders MBE, was laid to rest in January 2015. Lion David was an inspiration to all those that knew him and will long be remembered.

His achievements were rewarded by the Queen in 2007, when he was awarded an MBE for services to charity. Subsequently, he was visited by the former International President of 'Lions Clubs International', Wing-Kim Tam in 2012 to acknowledge his contributions to Lions International.

David joined the Brighton & Hove Lions Club in 1952 (some 62 years and 9 months ago) and remained an active Lion for the rest of his long life. In 1955, he was instrumental in forming the Burgess Hill District Lions Club, along with his friends and colleagues.

He was elected District Governor for 1958 / 1959, when there were only some 75 clubs. However, the clubs were spread across the whole of the British Isles and Ireland and made the responsibility of visiting ALL of the clubs within the year a difficult one, especially with a road transportation system that was far less developed than today.

He believed that his greatest success was helping to bring the Medic Alert ID system to the UK in 1964. His daughter Jill commented, "The amount of work involved in that was just phenomenal. I remember Dad tearing his hair out, particularly over the prototypes of the bracelets. All the GPs in the UK were mailed with the details." (26,000 doctors - when there was no email !!!).

At one point in Lion David's career, he was charged with the responsibility to promote the formation of new Lions Clubs in the UK. At the time there were some 100 clubs in existence. David was successful in increasing that number to around 800 clubs, some of which were chartered within a few weeks of their formation.

PID Lion Howard Lee commented in his tribute to Lion David: His experience, his work on new clubs, and his gentle, friendly leadership style quite naturally made him one of the most respected long-term advisors in Lions affairs locally, nationally and internationally. He had quite exacting standards in Lions, which he felt should be maintained whenever possible, but he never lost his sense of humour over them. For instance, in 1980 when International President Lloyd Morgan from New Zealand visited the UK, the then District Governor, a young lad called Colin Vincent, offered to pick him up at Brighton station and take him to the hotel. "Oh no!", said David. "We must have a really nice car for the President!" "I do have a Mercedes 280SE," said Colin, to which David replied with a grin, "That will just about do, I suppose!"

# The First 50 Years of Burgess Hill District Lions

A reminder of the 50 Year Booklet, now with colour photographs !

## FRANKLANDS PARK



**FIRST MEETING PLACE OF  
BURGESS HILL DISTRICT LIONS CLUB**

**14th MARCH 1955**

### How the Burgess Hill District Lions Club began

Two members of the Brighton & Hove Lions Club, Dennis Venning and David Saunders, both lived in Burgess Hill and decided that a Lions Club in this area would be a possible extension.

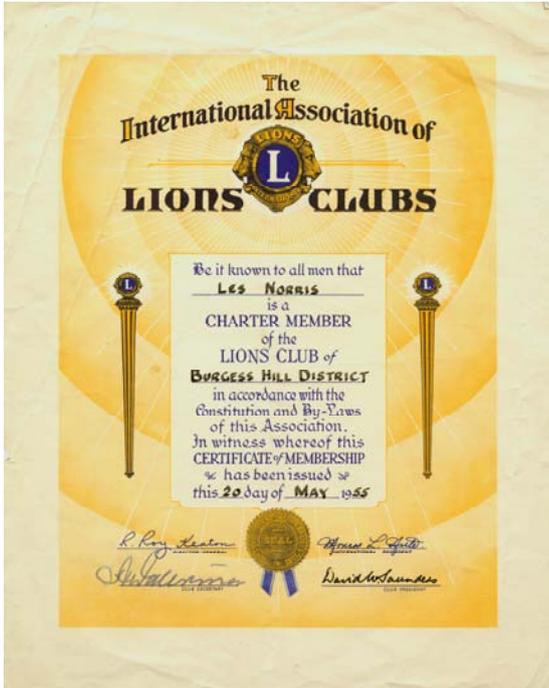
They drew up a list of 30 local gentlemen and each wrote 15 personal letters inviting them to a meeting at 'Little Birchwood', Burgess Hill on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1955. Many invitees responded expressing appreciation of the Lions Clubs Aims and Objects but due to other commitments were unable to attend. (This included Spencer Chapman the famous explorer and author living in Bolney).

Six persons were present: Dennis Venning, David Saunders, Leslie Norris, Sonny Chapman, Colin Frame and Ted Lindley. After discussion it was unanimously decided that a Lions Club in Burgess Hill should be formed and all present indicated their intention of joining.

A second meeting was held at the same address a week later, with eleven persons attending. Eight of those present joined the club and received lapel buttons. These eight included five of the six who attended the very first meeting.

A third meeting was then held at the Franklands Park Hotel, Burgess Hill on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1955, with eight persons in attendance. A further three joined the club bringing the strength up to eleven members.

At a meeting held at this venue, some 10 days later, the Lions Club of Burgess Hill District was officially organised with a membership of fifteen; just one month after the original exploratory meeting.



An example of a Charter Membership Certificate

The important Object of a Lions club is to encourage service minded people to serve their communities without personal financial reward, to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.

The important ethical standard of the individual Lion member is to aid others by giving sympathy to those in distress, aid to the weak and substance to the needy.

Since its formation in 1955, the club has fulfilled its Objects and members have maintained high ethical standards, to record a proud catalogue of successful community service activities and many nameless, often unremembered, acts of personal kindness.

### Service to the community

Because of a dearth of funds in the formative years of the club, the emphasis was on SERVICE. Great consideration was given to requests for help, priorities were established by the following format.

- (a) Can we do the job ourselves? If not, then:
- (b) Can we assist with goods?
- (c) Could we donate money?

This formula stood us in good stead for many years until a reasonable cash balance was established in the welfare account.



Typical Club Dinner Meeting – Dene Hollow Hotel  
 Guests: District Governor, Potential new Lion member, Rotarian, 'Mid Sussex Times' reporter.

## Youth

One of the earliest commitments was the provision of a new hut for the Burgess Hill Scouts at a cost of £500 (a not inconsiderable sum for a young Lions Club). Part of this sum was raised from the proceeds of a Flannel Dance. (Who, today has heard of such an activity?).

Town Day was an annual activity held jointly with other service clubs in the town to raise funds for either their own charities or for the total proceeds to be used for a specific purpose. One of the joint efforts was the provision of an adventure playground for young people, which is situated in Chanctonbury Road. It is still there today.

## Roof Repairs



The Hassocks Girl Guides hut was seriously leaking and prompted Lions to purchase new roofing felt for members to re-cover the roof.

Active Club members taking a risk whilst knocking nails on the head!

## Community Van



The second major activity of the Club in 1958 was the purchase of a Community Service Van at a cost of £300. Amongst other things the use of the van enabled the W.V.S. to re-start the Meals-on-Wheels service.

Service Van purchased by Burgess Hill Lions

## Lions world-wide support

The early pioneering founder members of Lions Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland were impressed and encouraged by the global spirit of 'Togetherness' in 1953 when the devastation of our East Coast floods was personally seen by the International President on his travels. Returning to Chicago HQ, he issued a memorandum to Lions worldwide. Our local resident, Dennis Venning, a Charter member of the Brighton and Hove Lions Club, who held the office of District Secretary / Treasurer, suddenly received contributions, (in strange currencies), to the disaster fund from overseas Lions Clubs, totaling £14,000 Sterling... (and the value today?).

## International Relations

As part of the on-going International aspect of Lionism, young people from around the world were accommodated in District 105 Youth Camps and exchange programmes. A number were hosted by members of Burgess Hill District Lions Club and many friendships developed.

## Burgess Hill Boys Club

In 1959, Frankie Vaughan, whilst opening the then 'Goose Fair', remarked on the absence of a Boys Club in Burgess Hill. The secretary of the Sussex Association of Boys Clubs, who was accompanying Mr. Vaughan, picked this up. He set about forming a committee of possible interested people from various local organisations. Two members of this Lions Club volunteered to serve on this committee – Harry Addison and Phil Waterman. Harry was elected Chairman and Phil as Treasurer.

It was not long before a healthy boys membership was established which met in rented accommodation. After a couple of years this was terminated. Nothing else was available and the closure of the club was imminent. However, the committee was determined to keep going and the possibility of obtaining a suitable site and erecting their own building was brought to the fore. After protracted negotiations with the then Burgess Hill Urban District Council the committee was granted a plot of land at a peppercorn rent.

Burgess Hill Boys Club Headquarters



Photograph shows Lion Harry Addison, chairman of the Management Committee, receiving a trophy from Councillor Chris Judge

Plans were drawn up for a building and allied services, and the project costed, based on the maximum use of voluntary labour. Negotiations with various County and Governmental Authorities resulted in promises of grants up to a maximum of 75% of the cost. The grants would be available if guarantees for the balance were forthcoming.

The whole project was put to the Lions Board of Directors to ascertain the possibility of the Lions Club providing some, or all, of the balance. It was agreed that some form of financial aid should be made and the matter was put to club members. The sum of £1000 was agreed as a guarantee. In those early days, this was a

very large commitment and the Lions knew they had to make a great effort to raise this sum. After weeks of hard labour by the management committee and parents, the building was opened by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

A solid investment by the Lions. Forty years on and the Boys Club is still going strong. Lions continue to be represented on the management committee.

## Medic-Alert Foundation

In the early 1960's members of this club played a major role in the introduction and establishment of the life-saving Medic-Alert emblem in the British Isles and Ireland.

A prominent Lion in a West London suburb relaxing late one evening with a copy of 'Men Only' came across an article by Dr. Beric Wright, medical officer for the Institute of Directors. Dr. Wright had recently visited California and had been introduced to the Medic-Alert scheme devised by Dr. Marion Collins whose daughter almost died following an allergic reaction to a routine anti-tetanus injection.

With less than 75 clubs in the U.K., Past District Governor David Saunders believed that sponsorship of Medic-Alert would enhance the profile of Lions Clubs and lead to national publicity. The scheme was presented to the MD105 Convention at Bournemouth in 1963 and in spite of reservations, approved. As trustees of money raised from the public on a local basis, Lions clubs were not forthcoming with financial support for a national project. Basics had to be acquired 'on a shoestring', which meant that early development was hampered by the obsession to keep the cost of the service to the public to a bare minimum.

Countless hours of discussion took place over many months as to priorities, educating doctors, hospitals, emergency services etc. Members of Burgess Hill District Lions club and their wives gave valuable help in addressing and enveloping leaflets to over 26,000 doctors. Lion Pat Gwynne, printer of Hurstpierpoint, produced tens of thousands of application forms and posters at cost price. Lion Harry Addison's business contact at an established engraving company undertook to manufacture stainless steel bracelets at minimal cost. After some smooth talking, a 24-hour emergency telephone response service was found at no cost!



Jenny from Burgess Hill receives the Medic Alert Bracelet from David Saunders. June 1996.

Lord Brain at top level General Medical Council, presided over a select committee to advise on medical conditions acceptable for engraving.

Eventually, on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1964, Medic-Alert Foundation British Isles and Ireland was registered with Companies House and a launch date fixed. Would it be a trickle of applications or an avalanche? Happily, it was the latter, with the first member enrolled in January 1965 and 2000 members in the first year. Today, membership is over 220,000.

For many years Lion Harry Addison served as a Director of the Medic-Alert Foundation.

## Bingo

American Air Force personnel of the Prestwick Lions Club in Scotland were the first to organise 'Housey-Housey' or 'Bingo' on a commercial basis in Great Britain to fund local community service activities. Brighton Lions quickly adopted this idea, followed by Burgess Hill, with weekly callings at the W.I. hall and later at Dene Hollow. In 1957 an attendance of 230 raised £256 and a year later £380. The intrusion of highly organised commercial bingo halls crushed the Lions efforts but later members entertained Hassocks Age Concern members one evening each week.

## Garden Fete

Annually, a Fete was held in a member's garden. Apart from the usual sideshows, a Baby Show was established and a 'Pride of Lions Shield' was presented to the winning beautiful baby. (Wonder where they are today?).

## Downs Walk

To encourage the public, especially young people, to raise funds for a deserving charity of their choice, a sponsored walk was arranged from Clayton, Jack and Jill windmills across the Downs ridge to Lewes. Support stations en-route were manned by Lions Club members.

## Rodeo

An early activity in 1960 was a Western Style Rodeo. A somewhat novel occasion, which was a first for Burgess Hill (and probably the last!). This took place on one of the hottest days of the year. The road surface melted. The promised transport was rather erratic. Something of a disaster but enjoyed by those who attended.

Very little profit was made, but the event drew public attention to the Burgess Hill District Lions Club.

## Elderly

Elderly and/or infirm people were transported to and from St. Peter's Holiday Home, Lancing, for a well-earned rest.

Once or twice a year, parties of elderly people were taken on trips around the countryside in members' cars. Trips which brought back memories to them. Particularly memories of country pubs which had to be visited for a pint. Not to be recommended these days!

## S.C.O.A.P. (Special Concerts for Old Age Pensioners)

Senior Citizens were transported from their homes to the concert venue to enjoy an evening concert organised by the Lions. For a nominal entrance fee, refreshments and a raffle was provided.

This activity continued over many years and continued to be very popular until a few years ago.

## Food Parcels

Shops were invited, later superstores, to co-operate with Lions in collecting suitable items donated by the public for Christmas hampers delivered personally by Club members to local needy families.

## Wood and Coal

Sunday morning working parties of Lions sawed and chopped up rejected wood pallets to provide kindling for local needy families. Coal was also collected in strategic locations from public contributions. Club members made all deliveries personally, usually at Christmas.

## Elderly



Lion and Mrs. Murgatroyd serving tea.

Around Christmas time each year, about 100 elderly people were entertained at a Tea Party. Transport was provided by Club members who, with their Ladies, also served refreshments. Music was provided by two talented Lion members playing piano and violin.



A party of senior citizens were given a weeks holiday at Bognor.

Senior citizens returning from holiday at Bognor 1970 en-route for lunch at a Lions home in Park Road.

## Pantomime



Lions have provided support for disadvantaged children to attend the annual Pantomime at the Martletts, Burgess Hill.

Pantomime - children with cast, helpers and Lions - January 2004

## Chailey Heritage School

Annual November 5<sup>th</sup> Bonfire Night Party organised with fireworks and refreshments for resident disabled children.

## Pillow Phones

Pillow Phones, (so named because the patients could use the instrument without leaving their beds), were donated by the Burgess Hill District Lions to the old Cuckfield Hospital. Mounted on a trolley, they were a boon to patients.

Lion President John Sawyer donating a mobile Pillow Phone



## Sight Savers International and Blind Welfare

For over 10 years Lions Club members and their wives, using their own cars, provided blind persons in outlying rural areas the opportunity to attend special handicraft classes in Haywards Heath.

Lions are collecting unwanted spectacles for sorting and despatch to needy communities overseas.

The Club has donated funds to provide Eye Camps in India where mobile eye surgeries in outlying districts restore sight through cataract operations.

Lions world-wide have given priority to Sight problems since the famous American author, Helen Keller, herself blind and deaf, addressed a Convention in 1925 urging Lions to be her 'Knights of the Blind'.

In 1930 Lions proposed the white cane, and in 1939 Guide Dogs for the blind. No opportunity is lost to help prevent blindness. The Lions Eye Health programme for the early detection of Glaucoma is funded by Lions Clubs International Foundation (L.C.I.F.). Sight Savers International, Haywards Heath, has always had supporting Lions Clubs representatives.

## Blind

For some years, a number of blind people were sent, by train, to a Holiday Home organised by Great Yarmouth Lions Club. They were escorted by Lions and their Ladies.

## LIBRA

Lions International Blood Research Appeal was initiated in 1978 by members of Clubs in this District 105SE, and established as a charitable trust. The trust provided laboratory space and equipment for a department threatened with closure at Kings College Hospital, South London, for research into, and the treatment of leukaemia, haemophilia, sickle cell disease and thalassaemia.

Up to date statistics prove that this Club's support over 25 years has contributed to the success of this important life-saving research.

## Diabetes

Increasing public awareness of the problem by arranging blood testing stations for immediate diagnosis of the need for further medical attention.

## Ambulances

On discovering that local paramedics did not have a defibrillator to resuscitate heart patients, the Lions supplied one and inspired a widow to donate another in memory of her late husband.

Cuddly toys are provided by our Lions to the Ambulance service and are given to young accident victims away from home to reduce trauma.



Presentation time of Teddies for the children who go in the Ambulances

## Toy Library



Toy Library

In the 1970's, a local parent of a disabled child recognised the value of special toys to make a better life for the youngster but, unfortunately, they were very expensive. However, with parents of other disadvantaged children it was decided to share the cost. A spare room in a ground floor Station Road office was loaned to the group and the wife of a Lions Club member was a volunteer helper in the management. This prompted a much appreciated financial donation from the Club to establish a successful Toy Library. Later the library moved to the Baptist Chapel and was very popular at Sheddingdean Community Centre, Burgess Hill.

## Special Playroom



Special Playroom Construction

A loveable little boy with multiple medical problems could not be left unattended in his home for any length of time. A play area where the child could move around without coming to any physical harm was needed. The Lions Club responded with the planning, funding and building of a brand new soft play room in the garden of his home in Junction Road, Burgess Hill, along with the provision of specialised soft play equipment.

The youngster and his friends now have complete freedom and a better life.

Recently, we have been approached by the parents to obtain the Lions approval for them to alter the playroom to more suit his needs now that he is older. So it is still in constant use.

## Hearing

Promoting the collection of redundant hearing aids for re-cycling and distribution to Third World countries.

## Water Wells

Funding the Lions project of drilling wells to supply fresh water to villages in Africa.

## Shoe Box Appeal

This District 105SE project transported shoe boxes to disadvantaged Eastern European Countries, hit by political or environmental disasters affecting essential everyday needs of the distressed population.

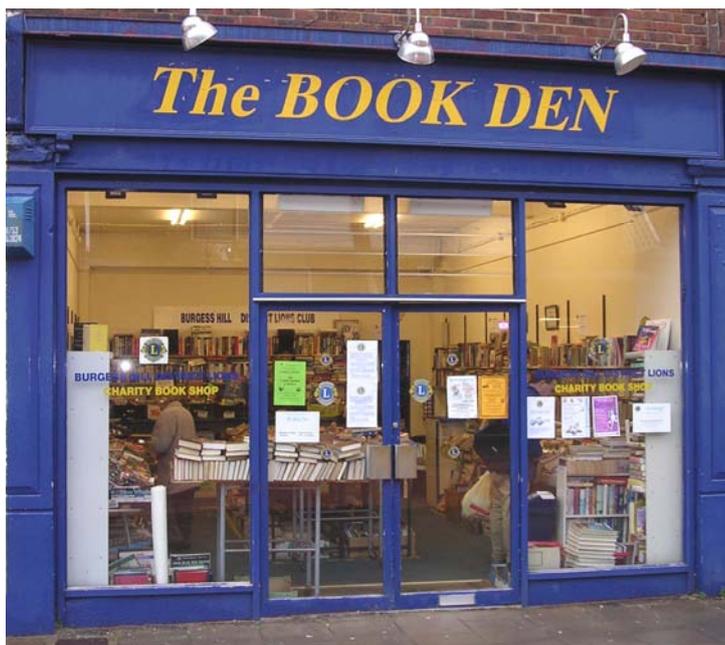


Lion Val Parris with donated goods

Easy to handle, thousands of these boxes are filled with miscellaneous personal items (toothbrushes, soap, pens, pencils, small toys etc.), selected for age groups, and all donated by the generous public in response to the Lions Clubs' Appeal. Children and needy families in Romania and currently in Belarus, affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe, benefit from the tremendous personal effort of devoted Lions.

Burgess Hill District Club played a distinguished part in this annual Appeal and collected, sorted and loaded boxes on to lorries destined for Eastern European Countries. A Lions member accompanied the shipments on a number of occasions to monitor the effectiveness of the distribution in Gomel.

## Bookshop



Since opening in 1993 the Book Den in Church Walk, Burgess Hill, has been a very successful fund-raising venture. The shop sells second hand books, records and videos that are donated to the Lions from numerous sources. The successful organisation and running of the shop is a credit to all those that help to run it.

In the 50th booklet, Colin Owen, Terry Walls and Harry Addison, along with two stalwart helpers Joan Thomsett and Vi Rowlands were sighted for their participation in setting up and running the Book Den. Nowadays Phil Richardson and his committee organise the running of the bookshop and staffing schedule.



Lions Bookshop Opening. Lions Terry and Colin.

## Christmas Appeal



Every year the Burgess Hill District Lions seek to persuade the general public of Burgess Hill, Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks to make a donation to allow us in turn to help the needy. A succession of floats with festive illuminations and music has graced the locality over the years.

## Burgess Hill Bike Ride



A nasty turn on the bike ride 2004.  
Light Blue and Green 'T' Shirts sponsored by Shering Health Care

Over the past few years, the Burgess Hill District Lions have with the Round Table jointly organised the yearly bike ride as part of the Burgess Hill Festival Week. The Lions' share of the proceeds from the event has been donated to the St. Peter and St. James Hospice.

## St. Peter and St. James Hospice



Presentation of monies raised from the bike ride in 2003 to St. Peter and St. James Hospice  
by the Burgess Hill District Lions Club and the Round Tablers

A number of the fund raising events including the Christmas Appeal have raised funds for providing equipment and care at St. Peter and St. James Hospice.

## Percy

Our history would not be complete without mentioning Percy, who was our mascot. Loved by all, especially the children of the district.

Percy was brought out to entertain at many activities during the year and helps us to raise awareness of the lighter side of the club.



Percy posing for the camera during the Xmas appeal 2004, showing off the new float design on a cold morning in December.

## Presentation to Sir Winston Churchill



Four distinguished Lions, including Burgess Hill District Club Charter member Dennis Venning, presenting a plaque to Sir Winston Churchill commemorating a gift to him of "Rusty" - a lion cub, (safely housed in London Zoo) 15<sup>th</sup> August 1956.

And Finally:

The following article was written in 1980 by Harry Addison for the then 'Club Bulletin' on the occasion of the Club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The sentiments expressed then still pertain after a further 25 years.

**AS IT WAS IN (or somewhere near) THE BEGINNING**

Having been asked, as an active, old member of the Club – active being construed as still being able to keep awake at meetings, and old being defined in terms of service (and, I suppose, half of the Club will put the wrong connotation on that or, perhaps, on reflection they might be right! The other half won't understand).

Having been asked – and what a mis-term that is – as anyone who has had contact with the Bulletin Editor will know. A sudden unexpected warmth is generated, jolly chit-chat about business, the odd drink appears at one's elbow, hearty laughter at any, however slight, humorous utterance, lifts are unexpectedly offered. Blandishments which should be rejected, but who can do so faced with the desperate appeal of bloodshot eyes?

So, having been asked to contribute an article (and offers as such articles as a framed copy of the Constitution, the top half of the Treasurer's glasses or an original rendition of Eskimo Nell having been declined), I asked him what particular aspect he wanted me to write about. "Perhaps a brief review of each President" he says, innocence personified. The idea petrifies me. I am not so much worried about the law of libel as the threat of physical violence. (Mind you, it is an entertaining prospect!!). "What about some aspects of Lionism at District level then?" says he, (oh dear, such naiveté is wondrous to behold). A mind boggling thought – and thought it shall remain!

So back in 1955. An innocent question to my bank manager, the usual in those days, "Who are the Lions?" resulted in my being hauled off to an introductory meeting. There I was, young, shy and retiring, listening, with some bewilderment to erudite discourses on whether to attend the Bradford Charter Night, amendments to the Constitution, the exorbitant cost of Dinners, (7s.6d.), and the lack of variety thereof; ending up with a long discussion on resolutions. Nothing changes, (nor for that matter, do the resolutions!!). There was even one gentleman who had "nothing to report, except .....". Although no longer with us, he had some good disciples who still spread the word!! And thus to the end of a bemused evening. What to make of it all? Discursive, certainly – entertaining, hardly – instructive, possibly. And yet, rising above the verbiage, there was evinced an impressive sense of purpose, sincerity and friendliness which convinced me that this was an organisation to which I could relate. After some deliberation, and the fact that the President, David Saunders, bought me a Brown Ale (my, how we lived in those days!), I joined as the youngest member, which will astonish those members who cannot comprehend that I was ever young!

It is an interesting reflection that at the time there were only twenty other Clubs, all of which were located in large towns or conurbations. So I suppose Burgess Hill can claim to be the first 'village' type Club. Six of those original Clubs have fallen by the wayside, which puts us as the fifteenth Club in the Multiple District.

In those days a Zone comprised the whole of Southern England - the Zone Chairmen of today have never lived!!

## District Officers

The Club has provided a number of District Officers including four District Governors

Dennis Venning	1954 - 1955
David Saunders	1958 - 1959
Harry Addison	1967 - 1968
Stuart Webb	1971 - 1972



**Commemoration of fifty years service  
to the local community**

The 50th brochure was compiled from the recollections, thoughts and memories of Lions David Saunders and Harry Addison.

© The Lions Club of Burgess Hill District 2005.

The  
success of the  
Burgess Hill District Lions Club  
depends to a large extent on the support  
of the local community. This we have had in very  
large measure, for which we are very grateful.  
We look forward to working together  
for the good of the community  
during the coming  
years.

“Thank you”

Burgess Hill District Lions Club would welcome new members and would be pleased to hear from you.

Please visit our website: [www.bhdlions.co.uk](http://www.bhdlions.co.uk)  
email: [information@bhdlions.org.uk](mailto:information@bhdlions.org.uk) ,  
or telephone: [0845 8332706](tel:08458332706) for details.

The 60th booklet was compiled from articles supplied by current members, past members and friends of the Burgess Hill District Lions Club. Without their input, this booklet would not have been possible.

The  
**International Association**  
 OF  
**Lions Clubs**  
**CHARTER**

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come:  
**GREETING**

**R**now Ye that The International Association of Lions Clubs has granted, and by these presents does grant to the Members, whose names are hereunto affixed, and to all regularly elected members and their successors, this Charter, fully constituting them a Local Club, under the name and title of

**THE LIONS CLUB OF  
 Burgess Hill District**

Located at Burgess Hill, Sussex, England with all the rights and privileges given to members of The International Association of Lions Clubs, according to the rules and regulations of the constitution and by laws of the International Association now in force, and hereinafter enacted.

This Charter shall be in full force and effect from the day of the date hereof, and for such time as the Members of the Local Club shall conform to the laws and rules of the International Association. Otherwise this Charter shall be revoked.

In Witness Whereof, The International Association of Lions Clubs has authorized its President and Director-General to affix their signatures, and caused the seal of the Association to be hereunto affixed this 1st day of April in the year of our Lord 1955



*L. Roy Keaton*  
 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

*Amos L. Fild*  
 PRESIDENT

**Charter Members**

<i>F. Barrett</i>	<i>W. Lumley</i>	<i>D. M. Smith</i>
<i>G. D. Bunker</i>	<i>P. E. Martell</i>	<i>D. Venning</i>
<i>P. M. Champ</i>	<i>L. F. Norris</i>	<i>H. P. R. Waterman</i>
<i>A. H. Chapman</i>	<i>D. W. Saunders</i>	<i>W. R. G. Weaver</i>
<i>E. C. Frame</i>	<i>J. G. Sawyer</i>	<i>I. R. Webb</i>
<i>E. G. J. Hood</i>	<i>N. G. W. Shellard</i>	<i>H. Wieland</i>



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