



2012 Résumé

Jumble - [Details >>](#)

Every February Clifton Community Centre is the venue for a Grand Charity Jumble Sale.

Race Night - [Details >>](#)

We ran a Race Night at Biggleswade Town Football Club to raise funds for the BTFC Youth Teams and Biggleswade Sandy's Lions Charities

Easter - [Details >>](#)

A very big thank you to everyone who helped by taking one of our Easter Eggs and running a raffle on our behalf.

Fêtes - [Details >>](#)

We expect Summer Fetes to be a challenge, 2012 didn't disappoint.

Wicksteed - [Details >>](#)

The weather man spent the week telling us all how wet it would be, he was wrong. Which meant that the queues for the rides were not as long as usual. Every cloud has a silver lining.

Young Leaders in Service - [Details >>](#)

We provided Ivel Valley School with specialist equipment for scanning text and converting it to audio files

Project Lion Eyes - [Details >>](#)

We contact many local schools to advise them of the Lions Young Leaders in Service Awards Scheme

Peace Poster Competition - [Details >>](#)

6 Local Middle schools entered the Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Competition

Steam Fayre

As usual, we managed the main gate at the Bedfordshire Steam and Country Fayre. The weather behaved and everyone had a great time.

Band Concert - [Details >>](#)

We organised a concert at Holmemead Middle School involving the City of Cambridge Brass Band with their musical director Steve Phillips and the Holmemead Middle School Choir and Orchestra led by Mrs Cate Lawson.

Charter - [Details >>](#)

We held our 34th Charter Dinner at the White Horse in Southill

Christmas - [Details >>](#)

December was a very wet month, but hey, this is Christmas we must follow the Sleigh.





A Wet Afternoon in February



As I write these notes we are recovering from yet another very successful Lions Grand Charity Jumble Sale at Clifton Community Centre.



A lot of preparation, jumble collection and setting up of the hall culminated on Saturday afternoon when it was better to be in the hall, rumbling through the jumble, than outside in the rain.



Once again the items donated were of very good quality and the 100 plus people who attended, all seemed very satisfied with their purchases as they left.

Early indications suggest that we achieved a record profit of around £700.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped with running the event, or attended and bought the items on sale.

We need and appreciate you all!

News Update

The proceeds went towards a £1,250 donation to the Biggleswade Talking Newspaper to enable them to complete their upgrade to digital format equipment which will replace their aging cassette tape system.





A lot of fun, but oh, so noisy!

It's been quite a while since Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club organised a Race Night, so it seemed a good idea to join forces with Biggleswade Town Football Club (BTFC) Youth Teams and fill their Function Suite at the Carlsberg Stadium by running a Race Night to raise funds for both the BTFC Youth Teams and Biggleswade Sandy Lions' Charities.

Having set the date at the 24th February 2012 we asked Rachel Brown to organise the BTFC Youth Teams Committee to sell as many tickets as they could to both parents and kids; this was going to be a family fun night!



We were not quite prepared for the success that Rachel's team would achieve selling somewhere in the region of 200 tickets..... This Race Night was going to take some organisation, especially as the adults had a ploughman's supper and the kids a picnic bag included in the ticket price!

For a start, we were going to need extra tables, chairs and bar staff to cater for the evening's insurgence. We would like to thank BTFC's Annette Dorrington for all the help she provided in this matter, together with Bedford & District Handicapped Riders Association who lent us some extra tables for the evening.

By 6:30pm on the evening, the hall was ready; sponsorship for all the races had been sold; ownership for all the horses in the first seven races had been bought and paid for; Race Cards printed and last but not least over 200 Ploughman Suppers and Picnic bags had been prepared and were waiting for the show to start rolling.

We were thankful that we were employing a professional Race Night Host (Simon Gentle) to run the Race side (and control the audience). At 8:00pm when the first race was due to start, we wondered whether he would make himself heard above the noise of the room. Somehow he managed and the evening proceeded to provide fun for all and fortune for some.

Simon displayed a rare talent when he auctioned the 10 horses in the eighth and final race and the owners of the winning horse received £105 prize money, they went home with the biggest smile of the evening.

We cannot finish without thanking our Race Sponsors, some of whom joined us on the night.

- George Hay Chartered Accountants
- Tracey Jane - Ladies Clothes Shop
- Woodman & Son Funeral Directors
- Spectra Carpets Ltd
- Quince Stoneworks
- H&H Electronics
- Maxwells Hairdressers
- I.R. Quince Monumental Mason Ltd

As I write we anticipate a profit on the night in excess of £1,200, half of which will go to the BTFC Youth Teams, whom we will continue to support.



Did you win one of our eggs?



Following on from the success of our Easter Egg Draws in 2011, we gained the support of even more local businesses this year and raised over £1,100 towards the cost of this year's Day-Out at Wicksteed Park for disadvantaged Children/Families & Young Carers.

We would like to say a big **thank you** to all the local pubs, clubs and businesses that agreed to take one of our eggs and run a draw.

Thank you too to everyone who took part, and to those who didn't win; there's always next year!



The Easter Egg Draws took place at:

Biggleswade

- The Conservative Club
- The Crown Hotel
- The New Inn
- The White Hart

Winner - David Gentle
Winner - Alec Hunt
Winner - Paul Foster
Winner - Claire Emery

Henlow

- The Engineers Arms
- The Five Bells
- RAF Henlow

Winner - Nick & Julie Masters
Winner - Carol Alan
Winner - John Robinson

Northill

- The Crown

Winner - Tony Samuel

Potton

- Potton Social Club

Winner - Reg & Pat

Sandy

- The Roundabout Club
- The Bell

Winner - John Spalding

Winner - Terry Harrigan

Shefford

- The Brewery Tap
- The White Hart

Winner - Ashley Harris
Winner - Becky Philpott

Southill

- The White Horse

Winner - Anne

Tempsford

- The Wheatsheaf

Winner - Martin Thorpe



Fêtes and Carnivals



Ickwell May Day - Mon 7th May

We were all set to and the weather thought differently. Unfortunately the event was cancelled.

Clifton Jubilee Street Fayre - Mon 4th June

Church Street was closed to traffic from mid morning and various local voluntary organisations had until 2pm to erect and layout their stalls in between showers.

There was plenty to interest young and old from funfair rides to a plate smashing stall to traction engine rides up and down the street. We had something for all ages with a lucky dip for the young, a bric-a-brac stall for the adults and a candy floss machine (*Borrowed from Bedford Lions*) for young and old. The ability of the candy floss makers improved with practice. It was surprising how far five bags of sugar could go with some of it actually finishing on the stick!



Sandy Carnival - Sat 16th June

The wind blew hard but we still got the gazebo erected. The day started slowly, but after the procession things changed. The Mug Tombola and Lucky Dip both sold out. Those families that said they would come back later and have a go on the Mug Tombola were disappointed. There were none left!

Be warned, next have a go before it's too late.



Letchworth Lions Fun Day - Sat 21st July

Given the Summer weather to date, you would have bet money on the 21st July being another wet Saturday. However.....

A bright sunny day encouraged crowds to attend the annual fun day organised by the Letchworth & Baldock Lions Club. Various Lions Clubs had stalls as well as other organisations. In addition, there was a fun fair with rides and entertainment in the central arena.

Business was steady throughout the day on our stall and we went home happy, but tired, after a long day's successful fund raising.



Kempston Fun Day - Sat 25th August

Another day effected by the weatherman, he said it would rain, people made other plans, the weatherman exaggerated. He's done this before!

So our afternoon was relatively quiet.



Wicksteed Park

Everything was organised and with only a week to go and the weatherman started warning us how wet and windy it was going to be on Saturday. Never mind we said, this is England, getting wet is part the package, the show must go on!

So....

Two coaches full of high excitement and anticipation arrived at Wicksteed Park on Saturday 16 June.

Aboard one coach were families who needed a bit of friendship and a day out, free of the worries and cares normally surrounding them and aboard the other, young carers leaving behind their daily role of caring for a parent or sibling.

FUN was the order of the day and that's what they all had; with a break at lunchtime to pick up a picnic before diving back into the rides and Park life. The weather just about stayed dry, with the sun occasionally peeking through the clouds, although several got slightly dampened by the two water rides!

When four o'clock arrived, the coaches departed, full of happy and for most of the children - sleepy individuals. All declaring what a super day out they'd had and how much they all enjoyed the experience.

The weatherman did provide some benefits on the day. A lot people appear to have listened and stayed at home, this meant the queues for the rides were that much shorter.



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Meetings held on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:00pm
The Biggleswade Sea Cadets Unit, 4 Station Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8AL
Visitors most welcome



Young Leaders in Service

"Young Leaders in Service" is aimed at encouraging young people to provide significant levels of service to their communities and to recognise their achievements.



In June 2012 Biggleswade Sandy Lions contacted many local schools and youth organisations with details about this scheme:

It is aimed at young people between the ages of 11 and 18. There are two levels of award; Silver Seal Award for at least 50 hours of service during a 12 month period; or Gold Seal Award for at least 100 hours of service over a 12 month period.

The year can start at anytime and a simple logbook is maintained. Award winners receive a congratulatory letter signed by the Lions International President, a certificate of achievement and a Young Leaders in Service badge at the Presentation Evening.

There are 10 categories of service:

- Environment
- Public health
- Safety
- Literacy and education
- Disaster Relief
- Community improvement
- Help children
- Help elderly people
- Help homeless/hungry people
- Taking a leaders role

Or by helping the Lions with their work.

Benefits for Young People

- They experience the rewards of community service
- They become involved in their community and with local Lions Clubs
- They receive an international award



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PRIDE OF LIONS

District 105A News | DG John Savell



Biggleswade and Sandy Lions Club sponsor Project Lions Eyes 2012 at Ivel Valley School

Project Lions Eyes 2012 was developed by John May of Lichfield Lions, initially with the thought of providing an invaluable aid for the education of blind pupils, but when demonstrated at local Special Schools it became apparent that its true potential was even greater as a special needs teaching aid.



The equipment comprises a scan to voice camera that can capture the text on a single page or an entire book. It then translates the written word into the spoken word and saves this as an audio file, which can be stored and read back to the blind, handicapped or special needs pupil at a speed suited to the individual pupil.

John produced a YouTube video demonstrating a potential use for the Project Lion Eyes which Biggleswade and Sandy Lions introduced to the staff at Ivel Valley School. This created sufficient interest for John to be invited to the School to demonstrate.

What initially had been planned as a short demonstration turned into a 90 minute session involving several school staff, who could immediately see a great



potential for use within their school. Biggleswade Sandy Lions donated the £2,000 to provide this splendid equipment and associated software, thereby making it only the third special school in the country to benefit from this amazing teaching aid. Further Information can be obtained from District Physical & Learning Disabilities Officer, Steve Foott,



Peace Poster Competition



Burgoyne Middle School
Nicole Valdez (11)



Etonbury Academy
Jodie Lake (12)



Henlow Church of England
Academy Tara Prutton (12)



Sandye Place Academy
Chin Lee (12)



Robert Bloomfield Academy
Chaise Sibley(12)



Edward Peake Middle School
Stacy Walker(12)

Each year Lions Clubs International holds a Peace Poster Competition. Starting in 207 countries worldwide, the finals take place in mid December at the Lions International Headquarters in America.

The International Grand Prize Winner receives a trip, in March 2013, to the award ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations. At the ceremony the winner will receive US\$5,000 and an award. Two family members will accompany the winner to the award ceremony.

This summer we approached the eight middle schools in our area about entering this Competition. Young people aged 11, 12 or 13 are eligible to take take part and this years theme is "Imagine Peace"

Six of the schools responded and these are their winning posters that were forwarded to the regional level of this prestigious competition.



Let's face the music.....

An uplifting evening's entertainment was enjoyed by all who attended the charity concert at Holmemead Middle School. Biggleswade on Saturday 13 October.

Biggleswade Sandy Lions presented the concert involving the City of Cambridge Brass Band with their musical director Steve Phillips and the Holmemead Middle School Choir and Orchestra led by Mrs Cate Lawson. Steve Phillips also happens to be the Headmaster of the school.

The relaxed, informal nature of the evening was set by the Band's opening number of "Let's Face The Music and Dance". The laid back atmosphere was enhanced by the audience sitting around tables enjoying their drinks and nibbles. Numbers from the Band were interspersed by contemporary songs from the excellent school choir. Whilst the Band played a couple of traditional brass band numbers, they thrilled the audience with big band numbers. Joanna Cambrey-Young showed the versatility of the Tenor Horn with a solo of "Goodbye to Love".



The Band finished the first half with a Disney Fantasy challenging everyone to identify as many of the 10 films as possible.

In the second half the orchestra entertained us to "Chariots of Fire". Special mention has to be made of the four soloists from the school: Oliver Dilley on the Alto Saxophone; Vickie Smithers on the Piano; Hannah Penwright on the Violin and Zoe Fung who composed and played her solo number on the Piano. Many in the audience were swept away by the talent of these young people. The final number by the Band was a medley of James Bond film music prior to a well deserved encore of "Amazing Grace".

A small profit was made on the evening and everybody left happy. Hopefully those present will spread the word to those who were sceptical of a Brass Band Concert that they missed an excellent musical evening.



34th Charter Dinner

Each year we celebrate the formation of our Club in 1978 by holding a Charter Dinner.

This year's Charter Dinner celebrated 34 years and was held at the White Horse in Southill on 26th October, attended by 36 Lions, partners and friends from Biggleswade Sandy, Ampthill, Bedford, Bletchley, and Harrow & Pinner Lions Clubs. Our Guests of Honour was Immediate Past District Governor Andrew Allen.

In addition to celebrating the Anniversary of the Club's Formation we cast our eye over the previous 12 months Club activities.

In our Lionistic Year ending in June 2012, Biggleswade Sandy Lions gave over 800 hours to Community Service Projects, 900 hours to Fundraising Projects and raised a total of £14,357. These figures do not include the time our members spent attending Club, Community Service and/or Fund Raising Meetings, nor do they include the further hours spent by the President, Secretary and Treasurer in ensuring the day to day running of the Club.

In the course of the year (2011-12) we have

- Supported the Talking Newspaper and the Stroke Club
- Distributed 200 Food Parcels at Christmas,
- Taken local elderly people to the pantomime
- Taken local disadvantaged children to the District Youth Celebration and Wicksteed Park.
- Run the refreshments for Sue Ryder at their August Fete
- Collected 1,350 spectacles for recycling
- Made various donations to help both individuals and organisations within our local community.
- Provided specialised scanning/audio equipment to Ivel Valley School
- Supported Lions Clubs International Foundation.

All of this requires an effective fund-raising operation and during 2011-12 we:

- Attended Fetes and Fun Days;
- Manned the Gates at the Bedford Steam and Country Fayre;
- Held a Concert in a local school hall
- Held a Christmas Dance and our December Sleigh Runs and Tin Shakes
- Ran a jumble sale and a Race Night during February
- Sold books on Biggleswade Market.

Some of our more energetic members walked across the Sahara and cycled from Lands End to John O' Groats!

We would like to thank all our partners and friends, who not only put up with us being away "on Lions' business", but also helped us as and when they could.





Thank You Once Again!



December 2012 was a very wet month, but we still managed to follow our sleigh around the streets of Biggleswade, Clifton, Henlow, Langford and Potton and would like to thank everyone who responded so positively to our knocking on their door.

You might also have encountered us collecting at G&M Growers, Sainsburys, Aldi or Asda at the weekends. Thank you once again to everyone who stopped to contribute to our collection and to these Stores, who gave us permission to collect at their entrances. We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas.

You may even have come across our Father Christmas in the Grotto during his visits to Langford Garden Centre on Saturday or Sunday afternoons throughout December, I believe he's now resting; but hopefully, just like Arnold Schwarzenegger... "He will be back!"

We would also like to give our special thanks to all the Friends of Lions who turn out when we need them; which tends to be quite a lot in December. They are the special ones who help to make sure that we have someone to tow the float, shake our collection buckets, ring your doorbells, pack and deliver the food parcels. We would struggle without their help and value their company at this most busy time of the year.

During December we packed and delivered 170 Food Parcels to local people on their own at Christmas or who have recently been through bad times. In carrying out this work we owe special thanks to The Jordan & Ryvita Company for their generous contribution towards our Parcels; Bedfordshire Growers for their help throughout the year, Rainbow Rentals of Upper Caldecote for providing us with a van to transport the food, Sutton Village Hall for providing somewhere to pack the parcels and Biggleswade's Aldi for their keen pricing in supplying the main food items.

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