



*Friends of Fleet Lions*

## Welcome to the Friends of Fleet Lions Autumn newsletter

### Fleet Lions Firework Fiesta - Saturday 5th November

Fleet Lions are planning another great family fireworks event in aid of local charities.

This year tickets are being sold in the Hart Shopping Centre and at Serendipity. Tickets can also be purchased online through the Best of Fleet's Online Ticket Service (Fatsoma).

Tickets are being sold in the Hart Shopping Centre from 9.30am to 4.00pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> October and from 9.00am to 2.00pm on the 5th November. Serendipity are selling tickets 7 days a week and our new ONLINE service will be 24/7 up until 5th November.

There will be a number of food stalls at the event so you can enjoy the fireworks and supper.

The Lions Club of Fleet presents  
**Fleet Fireworks Fiesta**  
Saturday 5th November

Fasttrack tickets on sale October & November  
Family ticket £15—sold in October ONLY  
(2 adults + 2 children between 5-16 years, under 5's free)  
ADULTS £6 CHILD £3

Gates open at 5.00pm  
Main display at 6.30pm

Go to [www.fleetlions.org.uk](http://www.fleetlions.org.uk) for details!

For further details go to: [www.fleetlions.org.uk/fireworks](http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/fireworks)

### Free 'Seniors' Carol Concert

This year's Fleet Lions Carol Concert will be held on Wednesday 7th December with local choirs providing wonderful entertainment for the elderly and other invited guests.

If you would like to attend this concert, which will be held at the Church on The Heath on Elvetham Heath, or know someone who would, please email Lion Nick Wright at [concert@fleetlions.org.uk](mailto:concert@fleetlions.org.uk) with your details or telephone him on 07973 289555.

## Christmas Float

Fleet Lions and Fleet Rotary's Christmas Floats tour different parts of Fleet and Church Crookham each year during December. The Fleet Lions Christmas Float is a joint venture with Hart Lions and usually raises over £7,000 for the community.

The Lions start touring at 6pm and finish at 8pm as well as having static days at various locations in Fleet.



Details as to when the Lions will be accompanying Santa can be found at:

[www.fleetlions.org.uk/christmas](http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/christmas)

## SpecTrek



This year saw over 5,000 pairs of otherwise unwanted spectacles collected by Fleet Lions which, together with spectacles collected by other Lions Clubs in the area, were sorted and optically graded for onward despatch to Eye-Camps in Third World Countries. The value of these glasses to people with impaired sight treated at these camps cannot be over-emphasised.

Fleet Lions Club has participated in SpecTrek for over 34 years collecting used spectacles from lions-labelled boxes placed in local Opticians and from individual members of the public who pass them on to us.

Currently we collect from the following Opticians:

**Specsavers**  
**Harwoods**  
**Brown & White**  
**Leightons**

Our Aldershot Club Branch also collect spectacles from **MK Optical Labs** in Aldershot.

With spectacles collected from neighbouring Lions clubs, over **140,000** pairs were collected in the year to April 2016. What a difference that will make to education in the Third World bringing the grand total of spectacles collected from Lions Clubs in the south of England to nearly 3 million.

**Thanks to everyone who took the trouble to donate their used spectacles and to the opticians who help collect them on Lions behalf.**

## Duke of Edinburgh Diamond Challenge by the Countess of Wessex

The Countess of Wessex is patron of Lions Clubs of the British Isles. The Countess recently completed a 445 mile bike challenge starting from the Palace of Holyrood house in Edinburgh and finishing at Buckingham Palace. Fleet Lions Club has in the past supported local youngsters taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and is proud to support the Countess of Wessex in raising money for the charity.

## 100 Wishes

Throughout the year Fleet Lions receive requests from groups, local organisations and individuals to help them either to achieve a worthwhile project, or assist them in times of hardship or disability.

There are a number of levels in which the Club and members themselves meet these requests. It may be in the form of a cash donation to help a local charity, or service organisation, or with the purchase vital equipment. For example, a specialised bed for a Hospice, or tenting kit for a local Scout Group.

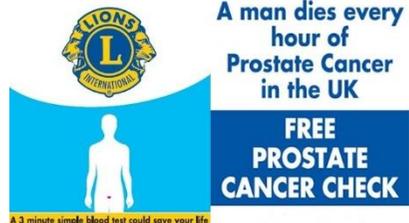
At another level it may require a number of Lions Club members helping to move furniture, or decorating the rooms of a disadvantaged local resident, or simply taking an otherwise solitary and infirm person for a drive in the country.

This year, Lions are celebrating 100 years since Lions Clubs first came into being. As part of this celebration, Fleet Lions Club is seeking to respond to 100 wishes along the above lines which might not otherwise be met without help from the Lions. If you know of anyone Fleet Lions may be able to help in this way.

Please contact [comsec@fleetlions.org.uk](mailto:comsec@fleetlions.org.uk) with details.

## Prostate Cancer Screening

This year, Fleet Lions embarked upon a fresh programme of prostate cancer screening at Fleet Hospital. The May screening session was somewhat overwhelming with approximately 150 men being turned away only an hour after the event started.



A June session was therefore implemented for those originally turned away, this time with staggered appointment times. This worked very well. Fleet Lions would particularly like to thank Fleet Hospital for hosting both of the events and the phlebomotomists most of whom were volunteers.

The results for the 360 men tested were sent out by retired consultant urologist, Mr David Baxter-Smith, and the only feedback from him was that about 10% of the men tested were recommended to see their doctor for further tests. This was a lower percentage than the national average.

## Nobel Peace Prize

Fleet Lions Club, as part of Lions Clubs International, was pleased the organisation had been nominated for the Nobel Peace prize for 2017.

Established in 1917 Lions Clubs International is a pioneer organization helping people around the world and has been long associated with the United Nations.

Lions are people from all walks of life who are contributing in different fields like sight awareness, tree plantation and many other humanitarian works. There are 46,000 clubs and 1.4+ million members around the world which make Lions Clubs the largest service club organization in the world and, with each club being autonomous, it can truly be said to be "The worlds local charity".

## Beerfest

What a huge success the day was. 900 thirsty punters sunk more than 3,300 pints, and we made £8,500 for local good causes. More than 40 ales and ciders were on offer during the event at the Harlington, with all profit going to local charities.

The most popular beer was, coincidentally, Lions Golden Pride, a special offering from Langhams Brewery celebrating both the Lions International centenary and the beer festival's tenth year. We sold out of entry tickets in advance of the event, so were sad to have to turn some people away in the evening. Entertainment was live music from Kindred Spirit in the afternoon, while local group the Fleet Boozehound Blues Band played in the evening. We've now served up more than 300 different beers to punters over the ten years we've been going.

## Interested in becoming a Lion?

Fleet Lions are seeking New Members - for more information contact Jim Pitkin on [membership@fleetlions.org.uk](mailto:membership@fleetlions.org.uk).



If you would like to receive future updates of this newsletter or other information about Fleet Lions, please go to:

<http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/contactfriends>



Celebrating 100  
Years of Service



Ordinary People  
Amazing Things