



Hook Odiham & Hartley Wintney Lions Club (CIO)

Registered Charity # 1176812

Newsletter – November 2025 to January 2026

Dear Lions & Friends of Lions,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Hook Odiham & Hartley Wintney Lions Club Newsletter.

We start with the very sad news of the passing of Lion Judith Goodchild MJF.

Many tributes to Judith have been posted and here is Lion Graham's tribute.



"Having attended two Lions Clubs International Conventions in Birmingham (1998) and San Diego, California (1999) with her husband Lion John, Judith was totally inspired and convinced that this was something she wanted to be a part of. There was just one problem. John's Club, Loddon Valley was an all-male Club at that time. Despite attending meetings for a year (yes, it took a long time to be accepted into the Lions in those days), along with the wife of another Loddon Valley member, Bryan Hailstone, when it came to the ballot for membership, both Judith and Brenda were rejected. Judith was devastated and wrote to the International President of the day and received a hand written reply, encouraging her to find another Club or, form one of her own.

At that time, the then Hook and Odiham Lions Club were down to only four members and Bryan had been appointed by the District Governor as the Rebuilding Lion. Knowing this, both Judith and Brenda sought Membership of the Hook and Odiham Club and were accepted with open arms. So disgusted was Bryan, that he immediately transferred his membership to that Club, so increasing their membership by 75%.

Judith was inducted into the Lions by the then District Governor, along with her friend Brenda, according to the record, in January 2000. Along with Bryan and several others who joined Hook and Odiham over the years, Judith has worked tirelessly to improve the membership of the (now) Hook, Odiham and Hartley Wintney Lions Club (HOHWL) to 22 (not including herself).

As John was the District Secretary of the day, Judith was well known to most of the Cabinet and after just 18 months as a member of the Lions, was asked by DG Mike McCreanor to be his Diabetes Awareness Officer, a post which she accepted. Ironically, on Valentine's Day the following year, she was herself diagnosed with the condition.

In 2006-2007, Judith was elected as President of her Club, and subsequently on four further occasions in 2016-2017, 2023-2024 and again in 2024-2025.

Judith served as the District Secretary between 2004 and 2008 and was then elected to serve as District Governor 2009-2010 under International President Eberhard Wirfs who inducted her into that post at the International Convention in Minneapolis.

Following her term as Governor, she continued to serve her District in many roles including Environment, Community Services, Competitions, Global Service Team member and she was also instrumental in organising the District Days out at Marwell Zoo. She also served as the Multiple District Environment officer for several years. Judith served her Club as Secretary for much of the time when not President and also as Deputy Treasurer for several years.

Her passing to higher service will create a big hole in the life of the District, her Lions Club, The Trefoil Guild (part of the Guiding Movement) and the lives of many individuals.

A determined lady who, with the support of the Lions, achieved so much to help those less fortunate than herself.

May she rest in eternal peace."

Officers of the Club

With the sad passing of Judith it has been agreed that for the remainder of this Lionistic year Lion Francoise will take over the Secretary's role and also become a Trustee of the Club.

The revised Officers of the Club for this Lionistic year are;

- President – John Sandford
- 1st Vice President – Owen Brooker
- 2nd Vice President – *Vacant*
- Secretary – Francoise Dibben
- Treasurer – Graham Botwright
- Membership – Mark Hazell
- Tail Twister – Graham Botwright
- Lion Tamer – Kevin Oliver

Elections for the new Lionistic year commencing 1st July will be held in March 2026.

Award for Lion Mark – Now Lion Mark MJF



Congratulations to Lion Mark Hazell!

Lion Mark has been awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. Named after Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions International, this prestigious award is a symbol of dedication, service, and a commitment to improving communities around the world.

The MJF Award was presented to Lion Mark by Lion John Goodchild at January's business meeting. A well deserved recognition of Mark's service. Well done Mark!

Message in a Bottle (MIAB) – Helping Emergency Services Saves Time and Lives



Lion Lynn recently spoke to Lion Stella about Message in a Bottle.

Message in a Bottle is not solely a Lions initiative but it is an official ongoing Multiple District project. Lion Stella has been our Club's MIAB leader for the last 11 years and wants all to know about this programme because "It does work and the ambulance services want us to tell people about it. It's simple, straight forward and it is not just for the elderly or those on their own."

Each bottle comes with a pre-printed form and two green cross stickers. The user fills in the form and places it back into the bottle before putting the bottle in the fridge. One green cross sticker is placed on the outside of the fridge door and the other green cross sticker is placed on the house front door.

When emergency responders come to a house, they look for these stickers and use the information within the bottle. An unconscious person cannot tell them what medical issues they have or medicine they are currently taking, but nor can someone in pain or watching a loved one suffer always answer questions quickly and thoroughly.

Lion Stella's final advice, "Get a MIAB bottle, keep your form updated, clearly label the top of the bottle if there is more than one of you in the house and spread the news about this programme."

November 2025

November started with us participating in the Remembrance Services held in Hartley Wintney, Odiham and Hook. Lions Graham Botwright, Kevin Oliver and Mark Hazell laid wreaths at the respective memorials.



We then moved onto our sixth free prostate screening event in conjunction with the Graham Fulford Trust at the Odiham Cottage Hospital on Saturday 15th November. On the day we tested 264 men with 205 tested “green”, 41 tested “amber” and 18 tested “red”.

Grants were received from Hook Parish Council, Odiham Parish Council, Simply Health and Hook Fun Run. These grants and donations on the day help us to cover the costs of the event ensuring that it continues to be a “free of cost” event. And as usual our many thanks to Odiham Cottage Hospital for hosting the event.



The Prostate Screening Team at Odiham Cottage Hospital

December 2025



December started with Lion Alyson visiting Robert Mays School in Odiham delivering refurbished laptops from the Lions IT Refurbishment programme.

We then moved onto Christmas! The end of November saw us selling raffle tickets for our wonderful Christmas hampers at the Odiham Extravaganza, with a surprise visit from Adge Binding who recently left us for ventures new, and then at the Hartley Wintney Christmas Market.



With our Santa Sleigh dusted off and recommissioned by Lion Graham, we commenced with three street collections in Hartley Wintney before moving onto Odiham and Hook.

This year we completed ten street collections, working alongside The Rotary Club of Odiham and Hook for the Odiham and Hook events. We are also grateful to Friends of Lions, Zero Hunger, and the Hook Care Group for providing additional volunteers. Our sincere thanks go to the residents of Hartley Wintney, Odiham, and Hook for their generosity. Thanks to their support, this year's street collections have been our most successful yet.



The Hartley Wintney street collection team.



The Odiham and Hook street collection team.



We then finished with three days with Santa at Tesco's in Hook. Pictured are Lion Elf Francoise with Lion Santa Roger.

We must not forget our Christmas social held at the Phoenix Inn in Hartley Wintney. A good evening was had by all with the raffle won by Lion Lynn.



Christmas is always a time when we come together to support those who need a little extra help to enjoy the festive season. This year, just as in previous years, we continued our tradition of giving by making charitable donations to a number of much loved local groups: the Bluebell Café, Forget-me-Knot Café, Hartley Wintney St John's Youth Café, Friendship Café, Hook Luncheon Club, Young at Hart Club, Cappuccino Coffee Club, and the Hook St John's Christmas Lunch for elderly residents. In addition, 38 food vouchers were provided to the Odiham and Hook Food Banks to support families over the holidays.

We must also recognise the outstanding work of the Lions Community Store in Fleet during the festive period. This year, the Community Store created and distributed an 764 hampers, each one going directly to a household in need, and supplied toys to 1,202 children. For the communities of Hook, Odiham and Hartley Wintney alone, the Store delivered 82 hampers and 101 toys, ensuring that local families felt the warmth and generosity of the season.

January 2026

January saw our first business meeting of the New Year with Steve Blewett and Mandy Muir becoming our latest members. Our membership now stands at 22.



And finally a meeting with Robert Stocchetti of Bridges Estate Agents in Hook to collect £250 kindly donated to us as part of Bridges Big Christmas Giveaway. Many thanks to Lion Jeni Rees for submitting our proposal.



Future Events

Currently in the pipeline:

- **Hook Village Show 2026.** The date is fixed, Sunday 5th July. Now the planning has commenced, events and attractions booked. We are looking for sponsors, advertisers, commercial and charity stall holders to support the Show. Please contact us if you would like to be part of this hugely popular show for the residents of Hook.
- **Prostate Screening.** Following the success of our previous screening events the next free screening event will be at the Odiham Cottage Hospital on Saturday 23rd May.
- **Hook Village Litter Picks.** The Hook litter pick season is nearly upon us. Lions Louise and Colin will continue to organise the litter picks with the following dates; Sunday 22nd March, Sunday 19th April, Sunday 10th May, Sunday 21st June, Sunday 19th July, Sunday 20th September and Sunday 18th October.
- **FunFest 2026 at Yateley Manor School.** Sunday 28th June.
- **District Fun Day at Marwell Zoo.** Date, TBA.

We thank all who volunteer their time to run and support these events and let's not forget the hard work many do behind the scenes to make our events a success on the day. If you are able to help out or wish to become a Lion, please contact myself. Alternatively, if you wish to donate to help those in need and support the charities that the Lions support, please visit our website.

Latest information on our activities can be found on our website, Facebook, and Instagram.

Thank you for your support!

John Sandford

President, Hook Odiham & Hartley Wintney Lions Club CIO

We meet at The Raven PH in Hook every 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm
Lions Phone, text, or WhatsApp on 07817 886 002
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