



# CONVENTION '25



International Guest edition

District Governor Steve invites all Lions and partners to join him and Karen at our South East Convention being held over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

We will be inside the grounds of the majestic Canterbury Cathedral - founded back in 597 AD.

Plans are progressing well and we can announce that the Convention website and booking system is now open !



On the Saturday, Convention is being held in The Cathedral Lodge, a modern purpose-built meeting and conference centre.

DG Steve's theme is "Having a Voice" - and this is YOUR Convention where you can have your say – and share time with fellow Lions from this and other countries.

This is our District's AGM where you can take part in the business, help influence decisions on our future and listen to specially invited speakers.

We are very pleased, and honoured, to announce that our special guest will be International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Mark Lyon who, along with his wife Lion Lyn Lyon, will be with us for the weekend and will address Convention.



2<sup>nd</sup> IVP Mark is from Brookfield, Connecticut and before retirement worked in corporate legal administration and financial services with several major companies.

He joined Brookfield Lions in 1996 and since then has held many offices within his MD and he became an International Director. He was appointed a member of the LCI Forward project team, a Global Action Team area leader, a District Governor-Elect Seminar group leader, and board liaison to the 2019 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Executive Committee.

He was elected as our 2<sup>nd</sup> IVP in June this year at the Melbourne International Convention.

It will also be good to see our friends from our twinned districts in Germany and France who have confirmed they will be with us - together with, quite possibly, Lions from other Districts and Countries joining us to celebrate our “54<sup>th</sup> Birthday”.

The Friday is, of course, a special day as it will be the 14<sup>th</sup> of February and Valentine's Day, so naturally the party night will have a “Love” theme and will be coupled with an 80s disco.

So it is going to be “Love the 80's School Disco” – and we have worked with the venue to come up with an 80's themed menu to choose from !



Saturday evening will be our traditional end-ofConvention Banquet and Ball – and you will be able to choose from the venue's full 'Archbishop's Menu' !

We are to be entertained by a high quality six-piece band named “Plastic Orange”.

Perhaps you consider making it into a longer break in the lovely city of Canterbury and the surrounding Kent countryside ?

## HOTELS

To book you need to contact the hotels direct with information below.

### **The Lodge**



Accommodation at The Lodge is extremely limited and, following my last newsletter, nearly all the bedrooms have been booked. At the time of writing, there are just 2 single rooms left along with a mini-flat (2 bedrooms, kitchen and shared bathroom).

For The Lodge – contact Chloe Wright on 00441227 866204 – [chloe.wright@canterburycathedrallodge.org](mailto:chloe.wright@canterburycathedrallodge.org)

### **Hampton by Hilton**



However we have negotiated a Lions bed and breakfast rate of £95 per room per night at the nearby “Hampton by Hilton”. This hotel is a 10 minute walk away from Convention – a modern hotel but in the old part of the city.

For Hampton by Hilton – the Lions website booking link is :

<https://eventsathilton.com/link/668c013c6124ea5abe8b2fc0> or contact Renata Geciauskaite on 00441227 936505 (option 2) for more room types and extended dates – [reservationsmgr@hbhcanterbury.com](mailto:reservationsmgr@hbhcanterbury.com)

There are also other hotels in the city, including a Premier Inn and a Travelodge, just outside the city walls, but close by.

**Cabinet Lunch and Cabinet Meeting** will be held at The Lodge from 12:30 on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb

**The Partners’ Outing** will be a guided tour of the wonderful Cathedral – just a stone’s throw away. This will be followed by free time to explore the ancient city and to have lunch at their leisure.

## **Food choices for the weekend.**

The following link is to Book Food choices, Partners outing and Convention Pin and is for the use of guests who need to book outside the UK only.

<https://www.lions105se.uk/booking17?coupon=Abroad25>

Click the link or copy and paste it into your browser.

Payments are made by Credit or Debit card only.

## **Display Stands**

If you would like to book a Display Stand at Convention a booking form is available now from my Vice-Chairman Lynne : [lynne.ireland68@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.ireland68@gmail.com)

Finally, DG Steve and all the Team hope we will see you in Canterbury in February for a great Convention !

Kind regards

*David*

David Burstow - Convention Chairman - September 2024