



CONVENTION '25

District Governor Steve invites all Lions and partners to join him and Karen at our South East Convention being held over the weekend of 14th- 16th 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 2nd Vice-President Mark Lyon who, along with his wife Lion Lyn Lyon, will be with us for the weekend and will address Convention.



2nd 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 2nd 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 “54th Birthday”.

The Friday is, of course, a special day as it will be the 14th 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-of-Convention 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 ?

There is a variety of accommodation available to suit all budgets.



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).



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 The Lodge – contact Chloe Wright on 01227 866204 – chloe.wright@canterburycathedrallodge.org

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

<https://eventsathilton.com/link/668c013c6124ea5abe8b2fc0>

or contact Renata Geciauskaite on 01227 936505 (option 2) for more room types and extended dates – 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.

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.

So the weekend is shaping up to be exciting and memorable – do please put the dates in your diary and visit our Convention website on the link below :

www.lions105se.uk

On the website you will find hotel accommodation contacts, transport and parking information and a page to book your social events, partners’ outing and a Convention packed- lunch and pin.

From 1st October, the registration process will also be available for Delegates and Alternates.

We will continue to update the website over the coming weeks with further information, nominations and Convention reports.

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

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