

PLYMOUTH SOUP RUN

SPRING 2017 Q2

As the **Lions Club** celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year, this issue features some of their members enjoying time together as they prepare and serve on a Thursday night (see picture opposite and page 2).

News from Mike Taylor at Path... 'NEW BEGINNINGS'

We are very grateful for money donated over Christmas by Hope Baptist Church which has enabled us to help people facing homelessness. In fact, it inspired us to create a new fund we call **New Beginnings** to support people with difficult lives who are working to change their circumstances, people who are wanting to move or stay off the street who need some extra help.

We've also raised some money ourselves through activities including a quiz night. All of the New Beginnings fund is for practical and positive everyday things. We want the money to be used on something that matters to them. A recent example was contributing towards the cost of replacement dentures for someone for whom that had become a priority



Some of the Soup Run Thursday night Lions Club Team: Left to Right: Katie, Glynis, Ian, Bob, Jo, Jim, Tina, Alan, Jenny

but who could not otherwise afford it. We feel very lucky to be able to help people in this way, courtesy of the generosity of people linked to the Soup Run and others.

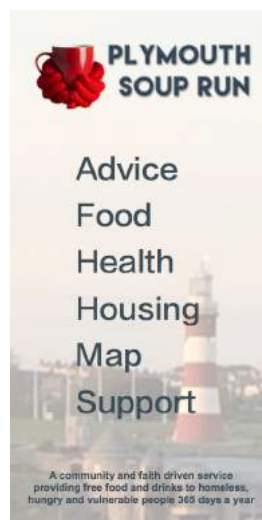
Dave Davies at Path is linking with Hilary, Lyndsey and others to make sure that the Soup Run is part of identifying people who could benefit and we look forward to helping more people together.

For further information on Path call 01752-255889 or visit www.pathdevon.org.



From mid-May there will be a **new Soup Run leaflet available** which can be given to clients; it includes a **map and useful information** about local and national organisations.

This can also be used by other services as an aid to signposting vulnerable people. If you have not already requested copies and you could use some, please send an email stating how many you would like to Elizabeth Hunter at newsletter@plymouthsoup.run.org.uk.



Following are the remaining **2017 dates for the Soup Run Development Group meetings** which are open to anyone on a Soup Run team. It would be great to see someone from each team represented. Meetings start at 6pm and last about an hour and a half. Venues (apart from 15th June), to be confirmed:

Thursday 15th June (St Paul's, Efford)
Tuesday 25th July
Wednesday 20th September
Thursday 16th November

A community and faith driven service providing free food and hot drinks to homeless, hungry and vulnerable people 365 days a year.

This year marks the **100th anniversary of the Lions Clubs International** which was established in Chicago in 1917. Melvin Jones, a 38-year-old Chicago business leader, wanted members of his local business club to reach beyond business issues and address the need to better their communities and the world. He asked a simple and world-changing question “what if people put their talents to work improving their communities?”



Lions Clubs International is now the world's largest service club organization, with around 1.4 million members from over 200 countries, approximately 46,000 clubs worldwide with countless stories of Lions improving our communities. Their motto is simply “We serve”.

The Lions Club of Plymouth was officially formed in 1965. Currently they have 35 members and have been part of the Soup Run since 2009. They go out once every five weeks on Thursdays with one of their three teams, led by team leaders Ray Foss, Ian Hill and Jim Stevens. In this newsletter a few of the Lions Plymouth Soup Run team talk about why they are committed to serving with Soup Run:

Glynis Everson is a regional manager for ISS Facilities and has two sons and 10 grandchildren. In spite of being a busy lady with work and family commitments,

Glynis felt empty after her husband died about four years ago and needed something to focus on. She says that the people they serve are so humble and she is honoured to be able to be part of the team. “...some are so young and they could be my son or daughter, I just want to take them home... but I’m not allowed to!”

Tina Lloyd, Katie Lloyd (Tina’s daughter) and Glynis were doing a keep fit class at Emmanuel Church and used to smell the pasties cooking as the Soup Run team were preparing to go out. They’ve all been on the team for about two years now and clearly enjoy “having fun whilst helping others”.

Bob Dight, 59 was a Royal Mail maintenance engineer and now works as a specialist handyman. He joined the Lions Club 18 years ago, recognizing that he was “fortunate and wanted to put something back”. Bob enjoys the social and fun aspect of fund-raising and is currently the Activities Chairman of the Lions Club of Plymouth.



Jim Stevens and his wife Jenny are both retired teachers and between them have been collecting, preparing and distributing Soup Run supplies for about three years. At first Jenny was wary of going out but then found most of the Soup Run users to be very polite and grateful. Jenny is the team soup-maker. Jim is team leader, which he says

is a way of fulfilling his service commitment with the Lions.

Jo Saunders, new to Soup Run, is a qualified drug and alcohol practitioner but is currently taking some time out from her career to spend time with her mother who has cancer.



Melvin Jones, the man whose personal code "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else" became a guiding principle for public-spirited people the world over, died in 1961 at the age of 82. But the spirit of active community service continues and Soup Run, like the countless other community projects, is indebted to the Lions for getting involved to make the world a better place. We wish the Lions Clubs a very happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

For more information about Lions Clubs International visit www.lionsclubs.org



For The Lions Club of Plymouth visit www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/plymouthuk/index.php.

Dear Lord...

Thank you that we can have a new beginning when we turn to You.

Amen.