

105SC SENTINEL



Special Youth Exchange Supplement



SEPTEMBER 2024 EDITION

Experiences that will change their lives

Ringwood and Fordingbridge Lions Club has helped eight extraordinary young people from their community secure a place at a Lions International Youth Camp this summer. Six of them are pictured with their specially printed Lions tee shirts to wear on their travels. Printed on the back of each shirt is their name and to where they travel;



Isabella - Mexico, Emma - Switzerland,
Katie - Japan, Oceane - Austria,

Francesca - Italy, Isabelle - Hong Kong, China and Macau,
Gabriella - Netherlands and Rosalyn - Finland.

Lions Clubs offer young people in their local areas this unique opportunity to participate too. The experience and feedback the Clubs routinely receive back from all who participate is amazing and friendships are often formed for life. The Ringwood and Fordingbridge Club is looking forward to hearing back from Isabelle about her three centre experience in Hong Kong, China and Macau, Katie about her scheduled trip to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Japan or from Rosalyn about how she got on with her three-day training in a beautiful traditional schooner in Finland. Every trip is unique and each young person spends up to two weeks living with a host family and then a further week to ten days at an International Youth Camp comprising young people from around the world.

Every year more than 100 International Youth Camps are arranged by Lions Clubs International spanning 40 different countries. Every Lions Camp is different and exciting and offers everyone participating a life changing experience; to explore the culture and sights of that country; to be more independent; and to make new friends around the world. Commonly, those taking part will only need to raise enough funds for their flights and spending money with Lions Clubs in the country they are visiting meeting other expenses.



Any Club can get involved and often it takes only a short presentation at a local school to spark enthusiasm and questions from students eager to find out more. This wonderful scheme underpins the global nature of Lions Clubs International with friendship and exclusivity at its very heart.

Hosting overseas visitors...

The experience of Paul and Jane of the Crofton Lions Club.

With the last of our children having recently flown the nest, we were excited to welcome two young people to share our home and lives for nine nights as part of the Lions Youth Exchange scheme.

Miruna (18) arrived from her home in Romania on Friday 2 August, bringing with her an amazing gift of many Romanian delicacies, including two different types of cheese and an especially delicious rum chocolate bar.

We were amazed at the standard of her English and from the outset Miruna Settled in well and felt like part of the family. Her father is a Lion in Constanza and she had set up a 26 strong group of Leos.

Viktorie arrived on Saturday 3 August, her flight from Praque having been delayed by a day and, exhausted from a long a tiring journey, she slept around the clock!



It was particularly pleasant to see the bond develop between the two girls and them to be able to share this experience together. Viktorie's father was also a Lion and they had recently hosted an American teenager under the scheme. Viktorie's father is also a deputy mayor of their town, and we were very fortunate to be invited to meet our local mayor (who happens to be our Club president!) and visit the council chambers. The

girls took lots of photos to show their families.

A particular highlight of the week was a boat trip organised by the Poole Lions which went ahead despite the somewhat inclement weather. Viktorie and Miruna were very happy to meet two other girls from the programme who were being hosted by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Lions. Phone numbers were swapped, experiences exchanged and we invited the girls to come to afternoon tea.

The young people have now moved on to the next part of their experience, a week long camp in London and we look forward to hearing all about their experiences there. Our two dogs are missing them already!



Our Overseas Ambassadors

Flying the Flag around the World

Emma - Switzerland
Isabella - Mexico
Katie - Japan
Oceane - Austria
Francesca - Italy
Isabelle - Hong Kong, China & Macau
Gabriella - Netherlands
Rosalyn - Finland







Oceane - New Milton
Camp: Lakes & Moorside, Salisbury, Austria
Dates: 13 July - 3 August 2024
Host Family Location: Vöcklabruck



Rosalyn - Forthingbridge
Camp: Reahenry, MANTON, Finland
Dates: 12 July - 3 August 2024
Host Family Location: TBA



Isabella - Ringwood
Camp: Culture and Adventure 2024, Mexico
Dates: 14 July - 4 August 2024
Host Family Locations: Ciudad de Mexico (17)
Mexico (17)



Gabriella - Salisbury
Camp: Netherlands
Dates: 23 July - 20 Aug 2024
Host Family Locations: TBA (17)
TBA (17)





Emma - Christchurch
Camp: Berne, Switzerland
Dates: 6 July - 3 August 2024
Host Family Location: Zurich



Francesca - Salisbury
Camp: Emilia, Carlo, Italy
Dates: 29 June - 21 July 2024
Host Family Location: Castelnuovo Rangone



Isabelle - Salisbury
Camp: Emilia, Carlo, Italy
Dates: 27 June - 11 July 2024
Host Family Location: TBA (17)



Katie - Ringwood
Camp: Osaka, Japan
Dates: 27 June - 11 July 2024
Host Family Locations: Tsuyama, Kyoto (17 & 17)
Miyako, Kyoto (17)

