

# Burgess Hill Town Council

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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23 July 2021

### PRESENTATION TO LONGSERVING BURGESS HILL LION

Longstanding Burgess Hill Lion Tony Parris was presented with an award by Burgess Hill Town Council at its recent Council meeting in recognition of his 30 years of service to the community.

Tony joined the Lions in 1991 when he was living in Croydon and working as PR Manager for Royal Mail. His wife, Val, joined soon after that.

One of the early events he got involved in was cycling to Arnhem in Holland on a post office bicycle and the following year walking to Arnhem in relay. He was also involved in an aid run to Romania.

When they moved to Burgess Hill, Tony and Val initially joined the Haywards Heath branch because Burgess Hill District Lions didn't accept ladies at the time. Since joining the Burgess Hill district, Tony has served as Club President twice, as Zone Chairman and as Region Chairman. At various times he has taken on many roles within the club including membership, fundraising, organising concerts for older residents and charity fundraising meals in local restaurants. Over the years, Tony has helped raise thousands of pounds for good causes at home and overseas. Among the notable adventures he's been on were four aid trips to Belarus.

Now aged 80, Tony has decided to step back and reduce his involvement.

Tony said: "Burgess Hill District Lions has given me everything I wanted out of membership of the Lions. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 30 years involvement and would recommend it to anyone who wants to give something back to society and make lifelong friends."

Burgess Hill Mayor, Anne Eves, said: "The Town Council wanted to acknowledge Tony's great contribution as a Lion over 30 years, helping make the world a better place for others in many different ways. It was a privilege to make this award to him."



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