



# The International Association of Lions Clubs DISTRICT 105D - AUGUST 2007



Ordinary People  
Amazing Things

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## DG's Thoughts

### CHICAGO

June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> 2007

From what we saw of Chicago it is a beautiful City. For the first few days I was in a classroom with my colleagues from 105 plus the Turkish DGE's & a gent from Jordan. We certainly had an interesting 4 days.

As part of this learning we were taken on a visit to OAKBROOK. It was good to be in a place that features in so much of our mailing although we were surprised to discover that although yes there are flags and fountains as in the photographs



All incoming DG's were given these caps and gowns

the building was on the roadside on an industrial estate! As the International Convention started the hotels filled up with something like 25,000 Lions from 200 different countries. The opening flag ceremony was spectacular. The organization of transport etc was an absolute nightmare BUT the overall experience was something that we will never forget.



Just a couple of asides 1....We went to a Base Ball Game ...Chicago White Socks ...we didn't really understand what was happening but we enjoyed the razzmatazz of the

occasion particularly when about 50 sailors unrolled an American Flag that covered most of the arena to the crowd singing the American National Anthem and the fireworks not only at the end but as a home run was scored.

2. We landed in Chicago in a storm and the airport closed. The baggage handlers did not retrieve the luggage from the planes until the weather improved. This meant that the baggage reclaim hall was packed with everyone waiting for their luggage. As we waited we saw a lady customs officer walking around with a dog. We commented that they must be looking for drugs. As we were approached the dog made a dive for MY hand baggage scratching at the surface. I said 'I haven't got any drugs!' The handler asked did I have any food? No Next Question 'Have you any fruit?' I had two apples and that was it I'd been caught importing agricultural

goods into the USA . As a result all our baggage had to be rescanned & checked in a special lane in the customs hall.

We left Chicago and on the way home stopped off in Toronto. We had a trip to Niagara Falls. This to say the least was spectacular ...the noise , and the power of water. We went on THE MAID OF THE MIST a small boat whose bow heads into the spray of the falls. We got a bit wet !! Our trip ended with a meal in the rotating restaurant on the CN Tower ...the highest unsupported building in the world.

## DISTRICT HANDOVER JULY 21<sup>st</sup> 2007



132 Lions and guests attended this event on South Parade Pier. It was certainly a night to remember. Formalities were kept to a minimum & fun to the maximum. Eric was given his official Chauffeurs cap. We watched 15 of our friends give their version of River Dance. Zone Chairman John Drago tells me that he should have won. PP Vic Rutland of Fareham would disagree. It certainly was a close thing so being diplomatic I put it to the audience vote and neither won!! Forty of us traveled back on the coach to Innlodge. We had a good old fashioned singsong.



Thank you all who made it so special for me.

Cosham were the hosts of the Handover. It had been pre-decided that should any profits be made they would be donated to CSF2. Due to a fantastic raffle organized by Lion President Karen Brussels & Lion Gina Manfield a cheque for £240 will be sent to CSF2



**FLOODS** - By now you should all know that 105d was successful in obtaining an Emergency grant from LCIF. The \$10,000 is to provide for immediate needs. As I write this Region 4/5 Chairs are working with their Zone Chairs & Presidents to see where help is needed. I hope that in your next Newsletter you will see reports of their efforts. Remember also that all clubs can donate to the MD 105 Disaster Fund and if we need further support at a later date we can apply to that fund.

**NEW MEMBERS -**

Wecome to Jane Wilson-Brown - Goring and Woodcott, Pam Quilter - Hart, Henry Hayman - Crofton, Lisa Pitt - Crofton. Also new to our District are Lions Robin Hotchkiss from Ilfracombe and Bill Reading from Beccles and District

**DISTRICT GOVERNORS DIARY - SEPTEMBER**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Swanwick..CA
- 4<sup>th</sup> Portsmouth CV
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gillingham Mere & Shaftsbury CA
- 9<sup>th</sup> IPDG Godwins thankyou to his Cabinet
- 10<sup>th</sup> Blackmore Vale CV
- 11<sup>th</sup> Bridport CV
- 12<sup>th</sup> Tadley New Century CV
- 13<sup>th</sup> Westbury CV
- 16<sup>th</sup> Presidents Reception
- 17<sup>th</sup> Windsor CV
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Opening of the Rainbow Centre Garden
- 29<sup>th</sup> Hayling Island CA
- 30<sup>th</sup> South Chilterns CA

**Thank you Cosham Lions**

Thank you DG Pat and Cosham Lions for organizing a wonderful District Handover evening in Southsea, great venue and entertainment by Steve Kingsley (over 80% of the people attending were on the dance floor all through the evening!) Everyone had a great time. Well done Cosham Lions Barbara & George Jeremiah Lions Club of Christchurch



The Golden Triangle restaurant in Fleet was the place to be when they kindly helped Fleet Lions host a dinner in aid of CSFII. Maybe you have a local restaurant who'd do similar for you on a quiet evening. Ninety local Lions, friends, local business people and councillors enjoyed a very tasty buffet. And they raised over £1300 to help tackle blindness around the world. Fred Marden from BBC Southern Counties Radio entertained the

assembled throng with his experiences from local radio. Regional CSFII Coordinator Patrick Hamblin was very impressed with the support for the evening. "We can help the eyesight of over 400 people with the money we raised. What a brilliant thing to come out of a great evening's dining."

**The Best Part Of Incoming Officers' Training!**

Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> saw the Incoming Officers training for Regions 4 and 5 at the Madejski Stadium – home of Premiership Football Club Reading.

It was a pity that so few clubs were represented – only seven out of a possible twenty five and some of those

were providing the Trainers! We also "trained" my Mum but at 90 I don't think we will be recruiting her! However, we did have a good session and because of the small numbers it was possible to answer all the questions. Thanks to Region Chairman Clive Doyle, we were able to meet in The Directors Lounge and we were well supplied with tea, coffee and biscuits. PCC John makes an excellent tea boy!

After the training began the fun part as we were given a short tour of the facilities "behind the scenes". We marvelled at the equipment in the Control Room – obviously just about the best place to see a match, commiserated with the Press who have to sit in the open but under cover and had the last view of the current pitch before it is dug up this summer. Indeed, whilst we were training two diggers appeared on the ground, looking as though they were lining up to start a race. After this we visited the players changing rooms and Zone Chairman Alison was in her element as the photo shows. The bath proved irresistible to her. We saw the home players changing rooms and PCC John thought the Swiss ball was a large ball to throw around! We also saw the Match Officials changing room and the Visitors facilities. None of these were quite as grand as we expected but it was all good fun. Our thanks to Region Chairman Clive for arranging this. It certainly cheered up a very wet Sunday morning



Judith Goodchild - President and Incoming Secretary Hook and Odiham Lions Club

**Woodley & Earley Lions donate 2 Minibuses**



Readibus is a registered charity and has a fleet of 20 minibuses serving the Reading, Newbury and Wokingham areas of Berkshire. They are all designed to transport local people who are unable to use the public bus services. Prospective passengers just phone the

call centre and they are provided with a door to door service. Although the local councils provide some funding, it is never enough and therefore we decided to assist by purchasing a new vehicle costing £21,000. Naturally we asked that it be clearly signed with Lions logos to give us ongoing extremely good publicity.

The Bridges Centre is located in Woodley and has been open for 5 years. It provides care for severely open for 5 years. It provides care for severely challenged children aged between 8-18 years. They were catering for about 42 children but this has increased to 64 at times, due to the clubs they are establishing. It is primarily a "respite home", but the staff hope the children look upon it as a holiday home, and want them to look forward to attending. Originally the PCT provided the new Minibus funded on a 3 year lease. This ran out and the leasing company offered a good deal to buy out the lease. The Bridges Centre manager sought our help to do this. The vehicle sees much daily use and without it the Centre would be unable to operate efficiently. As with the Readibus, we asked that Lions logos be permanently displayed on the vehicle to publicise our club's contribution.

**Lion Tony Milne Community Services Committee**

## Government Help For Lions Club P.R.O.'s

A new project has just been launched to help all voluntary sector organisations get a fairer share of space in the media. The project called 'Community Newswire' is funded by the Home Office 'Active Communities' initiative and is operated by the highly respected Press Association in co-operation with Media Trust.

In 2004 I attended a seminar to launch this scheme, and I reported back that I believed it could prove to be a godsend for club and district PRO's in our organisation. However, three years on, I am still finding Club P.R.O.'s who are unaware of what it is, and what it does so the start of a new lionistic year seems a good time to offer this reminder.

Here's how it works. You send your news to a team at PA through a template on the Community Newswire website. You can also send photographs.

You send your press releases online through [www.communitynewswire.org](http://www.communitynewswire.org) You will be asked to register and then submit your material within an online form. You can also contact them by phone at the Community Newswire newsdesk: **Tel. No. 0870 124 0866**

The Community Newswire journalists (over a thousand professionals have volunteered their time on a rota system) select the most newsworthy stories. They may also call you for more information. Around twenty stories are selected every day to go out on PA's regional newswires. Very special stories would be upgraded and go national. The reporters and broadcasters who receive the wire have free and unlimited access to the information. As well as being available on PA's newswire the community stories can also be accessed by professional journalists free of charge on [www.pamediapoint.press.net](http://www.pamediapoint.press.net)

It is important to note that this is additional support for PRO's and NOT a substitute for well established personal contacts with your local journalists. But, for the really special story this can give us, The Lions, a much wider audience. This new system has tremendous potential for all of us in the voluntary sector but it is important that we don't abuse it. PRO's should also be careful not to devalue the scheme by submitting trivia. They should start by visiting the community service newswire and reading their advisory sections.

PA (The Press Association) prides itself on being impartial, fast and accurate.

That makes it one of the most trusted and reliable news services in the world.

Use it wisely and very soon the question "Who are the Lions?" will stop being asked.

**Lion Reg Norton District P.R.O.**

## A Message from your Editor

This newsletter is late due to a couple of reasons :-

The first is that my wife has been very ill, but I am very pleased to say that she is now on the mend. Elizabeth and I would like to say thanks for the get well cards and phone calls.

The second reason is **lack of input** So please Pro's and Cabinet Officers lets have your articles. Many thanks Reg for your extra articles.

Finally photographers please do not put date and time on photo's (these can be switched off on camera) as this can spoil a good photo, also it is better for me if you email original images (not reduced).

Please let me have your input for the next issue by the 23rd September. **Lion Peter Garlick**



Lions converged on Fleet recently to load up unused spectacles from the north of the District for this year's Spectrek campaign. These end up in a washing machine in Le

Have before grading and onward shipping to their final destination in 3rd world countries. Between them Farnborough, Fleet, Maidenhead, Windsor, Woodley and Earley, Wokingham and Yateley Lions collected 14000 pairs this year. Alan Coleman from Fleet Lions emphasised, "they can really change someone's life, people can work again who couldn't before".

**Lion Jim Fleet Lions**

## "The End of the Pier Show"!

Choosing the 'End of the Pier' for the 'Start of the Year' was a brilliant move by the Lions Club of Cosham who hosted this years District Changeover. The seaside theme was continued by, in addition to the traditional gifts for guests, a stick of Southsea Rock on every place setting.



Many of the guests were surprised by the opulence, and delighted by the warm atmosphere, of the Victorian Ballroom as they sat down for their meal. Then came the second innovation of the evening, grace was recited by 8 year old Grace McClusky, granddaughter of the District Governor.

After the meal everyone sat back anticipating the usual



round of speeches but were surprised by the brevity and wit of the contributions from retiring D.G. Godwin Micallef, District Governor Pat, and Sergeant at Arms Travis McCall.

After which it was "On with the Party!", and what a party it turned out to be. From the moment DJ Steve Kingsley picked up the mike and invited the DG and Lion Eric (Don't call him a 'spouse') to lead the first dance on the dance floor was never empty. Music from the 60's to the present Chart Hits intermingled with a most unlikely selection including "River Dance" which on this occasion made a star of Eric's son in law, and songs from the 'Last Night of the Proms' including everyone having a flag to wave! It was a great party and a great way to start the new Lionistic Year.

**Lion Reg Norton District P.R.O**



### Youth Camp 2007 Hosted by 105SE

DG Pat together with Lion Eric and myself & Diane visited the Youth Centre Gala Dinner held at the University of Kent on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2007. This was an excellent opportunity to see how 105SE provided the Gala Dinner in preparation for our own hosting of the Youth Camp next August. This year the Youth Exchange brought 44 youngsters from 30 countries

together for a formal dinner in the Main Hall of Elliot Building. They were individually introduced and rather self-consciously walked down stairs and onto the floor of the hall to be met by a lion from the table at which they were to be seated.



Our Table had 4 young ladies representing Israel - Muna Shamshoun, Czech Republic - Marketa Diouha, Finland - Palvi Rahkola and Japan - Hanae Miyawaki. Not all the youngsters had national dress and this turned out to be a problem for those who did due to the heat that evening. Talking to these young ladies was very interesting and for all of them coming to the UK was their first choice. It was heart warming to realise that our country is still held in high regard by those from many parts of the world.

To show the diversity of our culture in the United Kingdom, the evening commenced with entertainment by a Scots Piper and during the interval between courses we had a Welsh harpist, Irish dancers and England was represented by a Flautist, a district winner of last years music competition. I think that the guests were too polite to comment adversely on the entertainment but I am sure they were a little puzzled! Welcoming speeches included those by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Council Chairman Jeff and Emily Morrison (105SE Young Ambassador winner 2007)

The Disco started at about 11.00 when the youngsters really started to get in the swing and the Golden Oldies decided discretion was also beneficial to the hearing!

An enjoyable evening and some do's and don'ts will be forwarded to the organisers for our own Gala Dinner in 2008. (Ringwood & Fordingbridge)

### Youth Camp 2008

And what is your club doing for the 2008 Youth Centre?

I'm still looking for a few names for individuals prepared to spend a week (Or lesser time) in the New Forest next Year. At a Club or Zone level sponsoring of a Group Visit to a historical / picturesque / INTERESTING place would be appreciated. If you would like more information please contact me DO JOHN APPS Youth Chairman!

### First female District Governor for the Lions of 105D

History was made in 1917 when Lions Clubs International was founded in Chicago. History was also made in Chicago early in July when Lion Pat Nixon became the first female District Governor of the seventy Lions Clubs in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands, Dorset, and parts of Wiltshire and Berkshire that make up our District.

Pat, who has previously served as President of Clubs in Fareham and Portsmouth, and is currently a member of the

Cosham Lions Club, formally became a Governor of Lions International at the Convention in Chicago celebrating the organisations 90 years of community service. I wonder if she knew just what she was getting into? The D.G. Training Course was



so intense with sessions running throughout the day from eight in the morning until late at night. The DG's Elect were rushed off their feet and hardly had time to discover whether, as the song says, "The Windy City is mighty pretty!" In actual fact, it is, and on 4<sup>th</sup> July Pat at least got an opportunity to admire the skyline of the Magnificent Mile as she lead the British & Irish contingent in the International Parade along the road bordering Lake Michigan.



About 15,000 Lions took part in the parade representing almost 200 nations and it was, as usual, a great spectacle which would have been even better if the Chicago Police Department had allowed the procession to go along Michigan Avenue in

the heart of the city but, in addition to the usual 4<sup>th</sup> July Festivities, they were having to contend with thousands of people from all over the States converging on Grant Park for the world renowned food festival called "The Taste of Chicago".

The International Parade was a highlight, but there were many more, for example the International Show with Glen Campbell heading the bill, the closing session with President Jimmy Carter giving an inspiring presentation, visits to OakBrook, the International Headquarters, Lions Night at the Ball Game watching Chicago WhiteSox v. Baltimore Orioles, or for me, personally, my meeting with the Nepalese Lions who recently conquered Mount Everest and, what many saw as the most moving part of the Convention, a recreation of the scene at the 1925 Convention when "Miss Helen Keller" was lead on stage and delivered her momentous speech challenging Lions to become 'Knights of the Blind in the Crusade against Darkness'.

It is a happy coincidence that this year, when we welcome our first woman District Governor, also marks the twentieth anniversary of the first woman joining Lions Clubs. "Women are the fastest growing demographic group within Lions Clubs", says 2006-2007 International President Jimmy Ross. "As I have travelled the world, I have seen how our clubs and our communities benefit when women play an active part in Lions Clubs".

It was only fitting then that our new International President, Mahendra Amarasuriya of Sri Lanka, closed the conference by enumerating his "Challenges" for the coming year which include building up our membership with priority going to women and men in their 40's, and making a huge effort to revitalise the Leo Movement as a training ground for future lions members. International Conventions are great events and often very inspiring so, if you were unable to be in Chicago, perhaps you should start thinking now about going to the next one in Bangkok in 2008.

**Lion Reg Norton District P.R.O.**