



Ordinary People  
Amazing Things

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



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## DG's MOMENTS PRESIDENTS RECEPTION



Twenty Nine Presidents accepted the invitation to attend this reception. They were joined by 8 Zone Chairs & 5 Region Chairs

Many who had not visited Oakdene before wondered what on earth I was doing organizing something on a Caravan Site. Needless to say they all were surprised by the venue & the food.



I personally feel that the Presidents Reception is an occasion that all Presidents should endeavour to attend. I tried to make the afternoon VERY informal right from the start.

As the Presidents arrived they were asked by Eric to 'Pick a Card' ....11 tables ...11 cards ....I hoped that everyone would be sitting with Presidents that they had not met before. It worked...We had a bit of a hitch when Eric confused by 6 & 9 had too many on one table and not enough on another !!

The afternoon ended with a showing of a 7minute DVD that I was given in Chicago ...called 'Celebrate' this shows all the Lionic celebrations this year. We are having copies made so that they will be available for each Zone ....I think a good 'LIONS AWARENESS' tool Ask your Zone Chairman if you can see it.

Special thanks to 'Yorky' Tuke for organizing the booking of the event.

## THE GARDEN OF RAINBOWS

Some of you may remember two years ago when I wrote about four policeman who cycled across America to raise money for the Rainbow Centre in Fareham...how six Clubs ....COSHAM, CROFTON, FAREHAM, GOSPORT & LEE ON SOLENT, SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT and SWANWICK gave £5000 .....how this was doubled by an LCIF STANDARDS FUND GRANT. The project was to help provide Play Area equipment & a Sensory Garden for the



Centre. The project snowballed when the Centre's founder Helen Somerset Howe asked us all to vote for them for a PEOPLES MILLIONS GRANT ....other organizations added funds ....A total now of almost £100,000. During the summer the special surfaces & equipment was installed and over the past two weeks some of us have joined the staff in planting the gardens.

The whole area is absolutely amazing...everything is designed quite specifically aiming for children who need the extra special expertise of the Centre...I'll save the best 'til the last paragraph.



Last Thursday was the official opening of the Garden by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire & Civic Dignitaries. Lions were recognized for their contribution.

**BUT** our day was on



Saturday. The Rainbow Centre hosted an event to say thank you to the Lions. Representatives of the six clubs were joined by Council Chairman Jeff and Anita Byers ( Jeff as District Governor had signed the grant papers ) DO for LCIF Ian Puttock and Clare.

Another guest was Mrs Hilda Smith who was asked to perform the unveiling.

All the surfaces in the garden are different colours ....one is purple ( pure fluke ) Sitting in this area is a carved wooden Lion with a Glockenspiel on his back. He is named 'Lion Bill' after the late Lion Bill Smith a Charter Member of Fareham Lions. Lion Bill loved being with children.....he was Father Christmas all over the Borough and honored as Citizen of the Year. His wife Hilda unveiled the Lion Bill. It was very emotional for both Hilda and Lions.

I have invited Helen Somerset Howe to come along to Convention to tell you more about the Centre, the Children & the Gardens ,because although being based in Fareham the Centre takes children from all over our District ...in fact part of SE as well ! None of the funding comes from Central Government . Who knows you may have a child in your area who is already attending the centre ....the parents may be struggling with transport costs. It may be that this comes up in the future.

**The Rainbow Centre is one of Eric's 'Partners Project'**

If there are any clubs who would like to know more about LCIF STANDARDS FUND GRANTS ,our LCIF OFFICER IAN is there to help or ask me for details.....Its not an easy road but so very worthwhile when it works! DO Ian is also able to give you advice on Melvin Jones Awards, particularly if your club has accumulated money towards the award by donations to 'recognised' disaster funds.

**CONVENTION MARCH 7-9<sup>th</sup> LAKESIDE HAYLING ISLAND THEME 'SCHOOL DAYS'TOTAL COST £165**

Your Convention Committee is working hard now to get this show on the road ....Lakeside is a WARNERS site ( as is Norton Grange ) so I don't have to tell you about the standard of Entertainment etc. the Site itself is beautiful. There is one big difference. The Convention itself will be held in the area that is usually used for indoor bowling ( The green is being taken up ). This means that ALL the eating & Entertainment/ Dancing will be held in the Restaurant/ Ballroom. This is horse-shoe shaped. The table that you are given for all your meals will be the place that you have for the cabaret ....therefore there will not be the usual rush to reserve seats to see the show. SO if you want a ring-side seat you must book early because apart from the TOPTABLE the tables will be allocated on a first come basis....It will certainly be easier for the person doing the table plan (ME !) if club members, if they want to sit together, book at the same time. Booking forms will be on the web-site by the end on September.

**DISTRICT SERVICE OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup>**

PDG Patrick tells me that the bookings are going really well. We went to visit the chapel and meet with the vicar. The Chapel is spectacular and it being the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Falklands War makes it , if possible that little bit more special. So if you haven't booked and you are free please try to come and join us.

**G M S CHARTER CELEBRATIONS**



All charters are Special !!... This was made extra special by Lion President Tony being presented a MELVIN JONES AWARD. Well Done to Tony ...a much deserved award and well done to Lion David Taylor & his team for keeping the secret.

**DG's DIARY**

**OCTOBER**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Warminster
- 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet CA
- 7<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead
- 8<sup>th</sup> Southampton Solent CV
- 9<sup>th</sup> Ryde CV
- 14<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT SERVICE
- 19<sup>th</sup> Bradford on Avon CA
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Reading CV
- 25<sup>th</sup> Burnham CV
- 26-29<sup>th</sup> Council of Governors

**NOVEMBER**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> New Milton CA
- 4<sup>th</sup> Cabinet
- 5<sup>th</sup> Wareham CV
- 6<sup>th</sup> Wimborne & Ferndown CV
- 8<sup>th</sup> Hayling Island CV
- 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayors Show Parade
- 10<sup>th</sup> Wimborne & Ferndown CA
- 12<sup>th</sup> Jersey CV
- 13<sup>th</sup> Guernsey CV
- 17<sup>th</sup> Jersey CA
- 24<sup>th</sup> Ventnor CA
- 27<sup>th</sup> Farnborough CV

Again some of these dates have not been confirmed by the club President/Secretary .

It is important that we have the correct time and venue & particularly in the case of a dinner meeting that we do not eat fish & chips in the car before we arrive !!

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

*'Understanding human needs is half the job of meeting them'*

.....Adlai Stevenson



**Friendship Club**

On a recent trip to Norway, 2 members of the Lions Club of Bradford-on-Avon, Lion Brian Hersee (Club Treasurer) and his wife Lion Judith, met Finn Gonella, the President of the Aas/NordbyLions Club based in Oslo (District

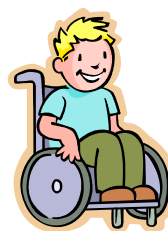
104J), at a social event.

Regrettably, they were unable to attend a Club meeting during their visit, but fortunately happened to have with them a banner from the Bradford-on-Avon Club, which they handed over to Finn at a garden party at his home.

Finn has since proposed that his Club (with 25 members) should have the Bradford-on-Avon Lions Club (24 members) as a 'Friendship' Club, and Brian and Judith hope to attend a meeting of the Aas/Nordby Lions Club on a future visit (Judith' brother Paul lives in Norway).' (The photo shows Brian Hersee (left) handing the banner to Finn Gonella).

Lion Richard Bloom PRO

**Wheel Chairs for Africa**



If you know of any wheel Chairs available please contact PDG Ian Birch on 01252 872206, he will arrange collection and shipping to Africa. A phone call to your local Hospital, Red Cross or Mobility Centre for obsolete Wheel Chairs will be very helpful. Wheel Chairs will be a great asset to so many poor people who have difficulty in getting about and will make an

enormous difference to their quality of life. Many thanks in advance. Lion George Jeremiah - District International Relations Officer.

## **TULIPS FROM AMSTERDAM**

Back at the May Cabinet meeting our District Leadership and Training Officer Brigid Hendy announced the Senior Lions Institute for Europe would be held in Amsterdam in September. She said she would be applying and I said I also wanted to attend. Come July our places were confirmed and more importantly we learned that PDG Mike Hendy would be one of the Faculty.

Brigid and I decided to travel together and left our husbands to sort out the details! On arrival in Amsterdam we found out that we were some distance from the city and were located in a very pleasant location and hotel. On arrival I was told that an "old friend" of mine was also there – this proved to be John Mounty, an ex Basingstoke Lion – now a Lion in Glantawe in 105W. I also found two friends, Ayn and Viv, from the Emerging Lions Institute that I had attended in 2004.

Then followed four hard days of work but also fun and fellowship. The modules were designed to give us the skills that we needed to become the "Leaders of the Future" and ranged from information about Lions, especially LCIF to Project Management, through Diversity, Conflict Resolution, Managing Change, Presentation Skills, Mentoring, Communication, and Creativity/Thinking outside the Box.

Diversity was very much in evidence as we were 42 Lions from 14 countries ranging from Lithuania to Greece and from Finland to Portugal all with their own ideas and differing cultures. Such were the skills of the Faculty that we did reach agreement in our projects. MD 105 was well represented with 14 Lions from 6 Districts. The Faculty was composed of Lions Leaders, all with training backgrounds. Besides our own Mike, there were PCC Per Christensen from Denmark, and Past International Directors Miklos Horvath from Hungary and Nesim Levi from Turkey. Kathy Ryan from LCI staff had organised the Seminar and was there to make sure everything went well.

On the first day we also had a very important visitor who was in Holland making an official visit. We were all asked to stand and greet our International President Mahendra Amarasuriya who had come straight from the airport to talk to us. Following his talk he answered various questions and then presented us all with his pin.

The sessions were in the main interesting and either gave us revision or introduced new topics or new ways of thinking about situations. Every day we had a debriefing session when we could make our comments on the sessions and we have been promised that they will be looked at. One has to remember that what is "old hat" for some is new for others as in the case of LCIF where the information was new to our Portuguese friends but revision for those of us from MD105. However the teaching was excellent. Those of us from MD 105 did have an advantage in that all sessions were in English. Before the Institute we had been set homework including the beginning of the Project Management module. We were split into eight teams, some of which were very diverse. I was with Luigi and Sergio from Italy, Zoltan from Hungary and Dimeter from Bulgaria. We all had our own ideas but we managed to include them into one massive project! Trying to communicate before hand was not always easy but it did mean that we had some knowledge of each other and the ways we thought and the beginnings of friendship. The penultimate session was probably the hardest for most, especially the non English speakers, as we had to deliver, in English, a speech of 3 minutes length. These were varied and did show how we had progressed over the four days in our ways of thinking and that indeed many would become Lions Leaders.

It was not all work! The evening meals were part of the Institute but we were encouraged to mix and mingle so that we could exchange experiences and our different cultures. This learning about each other's culture is as important as the formal sessions for it does lead to greater understanding amongst the peoples of Europe. The last evening was a special dinner followed by entertainment provided by four groups. We had traditional dancing from one, sketches illustrating the letters making up LEADERSHIP and a rendition of There's a Hole in my Bucket with particular reference to Leadership! My group decided to remember we were in Holland and sang "Tulips from Amsterdam". Our Italian friends wanted to include Volare which we did. Following a misunderstanding of the word SKETCH, we held up a very good drawing which summed up our thoughts on leaving and I read this out – "We are sorry to be leaving but we are looking forward to meeting you all again at our Conventions when we are District Governors". We followed this with singing songs from our own countries and were then entertained by PID Nesim at the piano.



The final session was the presentation of Certificates and Institution Pins. The picture of the Lion on the certificate makes it one of the best certificates that I have seen. So armed with these and a list of participants so that we keep in touch, we all left for home, feeling very tired but very satisfied at having attended the Institute. So for those of

you, who have been President but not Vice District Governor, look out for the 2008 European Senior Institute and make an effort to attend. It's well worth it.

Lion Judith Goodchild

Hook and Odiham Lions, District Secretary 105D



### **Update on Campaign Sighthfirst II**

The mission of the Sighthfirst program, which started in 1990, is to significantly reduce preventable and reversible blindness worldwide, but particularly in developing countries, where 90% of avoidable blindness exists.

Campaign Sighthfirst II now has less than a year to complete its worldwide quest to raise £100 million to enable this work to continue. It is a stark fact that if nothing is done, experts say that the blind population will double to 74 million by 2020 and right now, one child every minute becomes needlessly blind.

Across the world we have already raised £55million towards our target. As a District, I have challenged us to raise £90,000 and to date we have reached £50,000. Thank you to all the clubs that have participated so far, particularly the ten clubs in our District that have each raised in excess of £2,000.

Please continue to support our Campaign in whatever way you can, no donation is ever too small. Let us remember the words of Helen Keller who first challenged us to become knights of the blind "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".

I hope the above is sufficient for your needs, if you want more detail or anything changed please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lion Ian Puttock

District 105D Campaign Sighthfirst II Coordinator

## ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Despite Lions International having an established Environmental Policy since 1972 I still believe that, for many of my fellow lions, it is not immediately clear why we should be concerned about 'the environment'. Most of us join Lions International for the traditional reason, that is "to help those less fortunate than ourselves" and question what the environment has to do with that aspiration. Mention the word 'environment' and people will relate it to conserving energy, picking up litter, saving the rain forests, etc.

But that is only part of the answer. The "environment" relates to the totality of our surroundings or conditions, "eco" or, in Greek "oikos" means the home, the place where we live. And this leads to "Ecology" the branch of science concerned with how all living creatures interact within our home – our environment - on this fascinating, complex planet Earth. In my opinion, there needs to be a high level of commitment to the environment, to personal and community ecology and to creating a sustainable way of life for ourselves and future generations. High on the list of things to do must be helping, if only in a small way, to mitigate the effects of human-driven climate change. In Environmental and Community Activities little things do mean a lot because, by working together, we can have a positive effect on our environment and communities.

As the District Environment & Community Affairs Officer for this year my first objective must be:

**To create a greater awareness of Environmental & Community activities by bringing appropriate projects to the notice of all Clubs.** Two such projects have been – the **Environmental Photographic Competition** which culminates in January and participation in **The Clean-up Campaign Month** in March.

They, of course, will remain part of the programme available to all Lions and Lions Clubs.

However, in order to generate more interest and, as a result, more publicity for environmental activities within our organisation I would like to widen the scope of the Photo Competition by extending an invitation for members of the general public to join in. If time is too short for you to arrange this in line with your own Club entries then please consider organising a competition for your local community in the new year. You could use the results of your club contest as publicity material. You might consider, as my club has, running the event in April leading up to a celebration of England (and St. George) on 23<sup>rd</sup> of that month under the title of "Environmental England". Contact me if you would like to talk through the details.

The categories are.....

1. Landscapes (urban or natural)
2. Animal Life
3. Plant Life
4. Weather Phenomena
5. An annual '**special theme**', this year (2007-08) it is "**Our Changing Environment**"

I will accept entries in ANY of the 5 categories, not just ONE of them. This should increase the take up and make it a more meaningful contest. Each picture should have a caption describing how & why the image portrayed could be preserved, protected or enhanced, because without it I don't believe the pictures have any "environmental educational" value, they are simply interesting photographs. Lions entries for this year must be original, unaltered, black & white or colour photos. They cannot include people. Entries must reach me by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

**Lion Reg Norton, Environment & Community Affairs Officer, District 105D**

## Reminder

Insurance premiums payable before 31st October please.

Equipment and Cash £33.25

Legal Expenses £11.00

Total per Club **£44.25**

**Lion Linda Picton District Treasurer**

## Lion-hearted Val Bull



After 4 years as a West Berkshire Councillor, plus service on Newbury Town Council where she was Mayor 2005/6. Val is relinquishing her political office.

Keen to continue to support the people of Newbury, she has decided to devote her time

instead to Newbury Lions. Having recently joined the organisation, she was greatly impressed by the spirit and enthusiasm of the club members who give their time freely for the benefit of the community.

**Extracted from West Berks Council Newsletter**



## Christchurch Lions Annual Duck Race

Bank Holiday Monday in Christchurch would not be the same without the popular annual duck race organised by the Lions Club of Christchurch. The

event attracts hundreds of spectators to the Mill Stream.

This year's event has been fantastic with the best result seen in more than 10 years. The ticket sales exceeded all expectations, giving the Lions a bit of a headache, having to number new ducks to match the increased ticket sales...as they happened! Every member of the club assisted in some way. Ticket sales have been held for several weeks throughout the town and through friends and families of the Lions and the all virtually every member attended on the day.

It was a great success. Everybody enjoyed it and it was a great family day out – the children loved it.

The crowds watched as nearly 2000 yellow plastic ducks were placed in a big bag and tipped over the bridge into the Mill Stream, where they were allowed to float (or in some cases paddle) downstream to the finishing line. The winning four places were all awarded a cash prize, sponsored by local companies, so the ticket sales were pure "profit" for charity

There were also stalls on The Quomps, such as Tombola, bric-a-brac and guess the name of the brightly coloured Tortoise. The duck race together with the money raised from the stalls exceeded £2000.

**Not bad for an enjoyable day at the races.**

## A Message from your Editor -

Many thanks for the articles unfortunately I have held a couple over due to lack of space. Please keep them coming. Next issue will close on 20th November.

**Lion Peter Garlick**