



The International Association of Lions Clubs DISTRICT 105D - JUNE 2006



Ordinary People
Amazing Things

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D G's Thoughts - My fellow Lions, this is my last newsletter as your District Governor. It has been a wonderful year which has taken me to all corners of the District and allowed me to meet so many of you. Of course it has been a year that I will never forget but more importantly it has shown me the deep commitment that you have for your fellow man and has given me so many ideas that I can take back to my own Club. So far this year you have raised nearly £1,000,000 within your communities, undertaken 1093 service activities and given 50,000 man hours of service. These are just the figures reported and as some clubs do not report all their activities and man hours the true situation should be well in excess.

On the International front, LCIF has awarded an emergency grant to Indonesia of \$150,000 towards disaster relief as a consequence of the Earthquake. Further contributions can be made by sending cheques to the District Treasurer endorsed with "Indonesia" on the back. MJF's will not be awarded for this donation but I know that this will not deter us.

With regard to MD I am now beginning to receive emails concerning the appointment and debate on the position of a CEO or whatever name is decided. It is certainly my intention and more relevantly the DG Elect Godwins intention that there should be open and honest debate concerning the appointment. In order to communicate with the maximum number of Lions within the shortest period possible, it has been decided to give Zone presentations within a one or two week period. These presentations will be given by Lions who understand the workings of our Multiple District in liaison with members of our District Training team. Although we are anxious to undertake these presentations at the earliest opportunity, it will not be possible to do so until after the MD Finance Committee have met to consider the proposals and presented a proposed budget for the inclusion of such an officer. Financial considerations will obviously be at the forefront of the debate and therefore it is essential that we all have the correct facts in front of us. It is most certainly hoped that the debate will be evenly balanced giving all the facts for you to make your own judgements. But please remember that whatever your Club decides, the only opportunity that you will have to effectively communicate your thoughts will be by attending MD Convention in Torquay and voting on the proposition.

At District level, we find ourselves with a net membership loss of 8 up to the end of May. We have welcomed 115 new Lions this year but unfortunately have had to say goodbye to 123 existing Lions. It is very disappointing to have to tell you that despite our hopes of forming up to 5 new clubs this year we have NOT managed to form any. A great deal of work has been done by the District Extension Committee but unfortunately their efforts have not always been rewarded in the way we would have wished. I would urge you all to continue these efforts in the coming years because I firmly believe that the only way that we will significantly increase our numbers is by increasing the number of Clubs in our District.

May I thank all the clubs for their efforts in membership growth this year and offer my congratulations to the following clubs whose net increases are worth mention - Solent with 6; Westbury with 4 and Totton with 3. I am only too well aware of

how difficult it is to increase membership – but please just think about this.....

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Modesty and humility are wonderful virtues. Lions are inherently modest and humble, interested in serving other people, not in acclaim. Lions throughout the world are an incredibly powerful force for good but the average NON Lion does not know this and even the average Lion is not fully aware of the achievements of LCI and particularly of our Foundation.

We hear too often that the local Lions Club is the best kept secret in town. This needs to be reversed and it is the responsibility of each individual club to ensure that the general public understands and appreciates fully who the LIONS are and what we have accomplished on behalf of our communities and those people in need. It is important to share news of our successes with others because the more our communities know of our Club's accomplishments the more support we will generate both financially, morally and in membership growth.

Why wait until you have a local event to publish an article in your local press. Why not publish regularly, say every month, and tell your communities about SF2, about LEHP, about diabetic retinopathy, about glaucoma, about Dentaaid, about Street Children, about TACADE, about Gift for Living and about the massive difference that LCI makes to people's lives – every day and every where. In other words, inundate them with information constantly. Tell our story and at the same time improve your local contacts and the public awareness that your Club is constantly striving to achieve. If you are not sure about your material, talk to the MD and District PR people, look on the International and MD Websites and READ your LION magazine. Your future is what you make of it.

May the force be with you. Need I ad more.

Lions Feather Project - I still have a good supply of the books and pins. If you wish to participate in the project please give me a ring – the orders so far do not represent the interest that has been shown. This is an excellent project to help you make an impact within your community and at the same time to raise money for a community project that everyone can play a part in.

Membership - I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members reported in May. You have now joined the largest Service Organisation in the World, your life will change, you will meet many new friends and talk to many interesting people and wherever you go in the world you are now part of our large family. Please enjoy yourselves, have fun, burn brightly but whatever you do MAKE A DIFFERENCE. You are now A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD. GOOD LUCK.:-

Ian Billingham-Dorchester, Peter Ogglesby-Wimborne & Ferndown, Alan Hayes-Trowbridge, David Watson-Eastleigh, David Brooks-Ringwood & Fordingbridge, Donna Chant-Crofton, Brian Seal-Hayling Island, John Geering-Fleet, Graham Wakefield- Fleet, Peggy Hider-Henley, Marion Bintcliffe-Maidenhead, James Knight-Windsor, Martin Lisk-Goring & Woodcote.

**God bless you all and see you at Handover on 22nd July.
DG Jeff**

LOYALTY, SINCERITY, UNDERSTANDING



SPEKTREK 2006

The Lions Club of Petersfield are disappointed because they had hoped they might still reach the target figure of 100,000 spectacles collected as a result of their recent SPECTREK when the final consignments

from the Channel Islands were checked. However, they failed by a small margin when the 2006 figure was 99,812.

Even so, this was a new annual total which increased the grand total to 1,754,812 since the first collection in 1982. Next year will be the 25th anniversary and although it is unlikely the 2 million will be reached, it is a possibility for 2008. I'm thanking all those who have contributed to this annual exercise, the Club are considering some ideas which could help make it more successful, and will announce this in due course.

In the meantime, the Petersfield Library will still accept contributions over the counter and there is a further collection point in Somerfields in the High Street. Unfortunately we no longer require 'cases' as it is found they add so much to the transportation costs when sent overseas to their final destination. **Lion Terry Tidd**



'THE PRIDE OF ST EDMUNDS' May 18th saw the Presentation of a Charter to this ALPHA LEO CLUB jointly sponsored by The City of Portsmouth &

Cosham Lions Clubs. It is a School based club meeting every Wednesday lunchtime. We have been extremely lucky in having the co-operation of not only an excellent PSHE / Citizen teacher, Mrs Sage but the Head & the Governors of the school.

In the absence of DG Jeff, DG (E) Godwin presented the charter & the badges.



Lion John Apps (Portsmouth), performed the actual induction. 15 young people became Leo's in front of an audience of over 200 pupils, staff & parents. There were many Lions present from the 2 sponsoring clubs

together with representatives from other clubs in the 2 local zones.

The President of the Club is LEO Grace King, Secretary Ellis Wheatley, Treasurer Samantha Smith.

The PRO Victoria O'Brian wrote the following:-

This once in a life time induction and charter ceremony, made all of the members of the "The Pride of St. Edmunds" alpha Leo club; feel tremendously proud. We were aware this was the beginning of a legacy, which will be carried on by the future pupils of St. Edmund's. We were honoured by the number of distinguished guests that were present to support us, and we are now part of a community that cares for us; and helps those less fortunate in the local area. In addition we will now look to the wider community to help us develop leadership and citizenship skills for the service of others and to help us build confidence.

Victoria O'Brien, Club's Public Relations Officer.

We all feel very privileged in working with such a fine group of young people.

**Education & Schools Liaison Officer
Lion Pat Nixon VDG elect**

Lions Clubs help fund the 'Golden Hour'

The Lions Clubs of Wokingham and Reading joined forces and organised a Gala Dinner at the Coppid Beech Hotel, Binfield in aid of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Service on Friday 24th March. Their ambitious target of £15,000 was met which will provide enough fuel to keep the helicopter flying for 6 months.

The National Health Service only pays the costs of the paramedics - all other costs of the helicopter's service depend upon public subscriptions and fund raising.

The value of this service was highlighted with a briefing by Tim Goddard, paramedic, who stressed the vital importance of getting patients into the operating theatre or intensive care within one hour of a life threatening incident or accident; this called the 'Golden Hour'. Paul 'Heifer' Harris then described being airlifted from beside the Thames having been attacked and seriously injured by a cow whilst cycling with his young family. A task the road ambulance would have carried out with great difficulty.

High lights of the evening included Pipe Major Ingram piping guests into dinner after a champagne and canapés reception. Martin Bell OBE, now a UNICEF ambassador, was the keynote speaker with an incisive speech based on the experiences and challenges he has faced. An auction, which included a holiday at the Half Moon Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica, was conducted by John 'Fingers' Fingleton who persuaded guests to empty their wallets and part with £6,500!!

Other funds were raised with sponsorship of Charmaine Rivers who is running the London Marathon later this month for the Air Ambulance, a silent auction and raffle. Entertainment was provided with a 'Shirley Bassey Tribute' by Marshall Starr and the evening finished with dancing to the 'Quartz' band.

The Lions thanked their 200 guests who attended the event, amongst whom were Lord and Lady Carnavon, Mr John Nike, Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire and his wife. They hope that there will be similar response at the next Gala Dinner on Saturday 24th March, 2007.



Wareham Lions Club Swim for Charity

The people and children of Wareham did it again. They have set a new record in several ways, the most money pledged, an incredible £6500; the greatest number of teams taking part forty seven. The highest number of laps under the new rules which forbid diving was 104 by the Castle Inn Veterans from

Lulworth. Twenty two organisations took part so we anticipate that a wide range of people and groups will benefit from the superb efforts both in the pool and in gaining sponsorship where 75% goes to the contestants nominated charity or good cause.

Awards were presented at Harry's Bar in the Purbeck Sports Centre on Sunday the 8th. January, by Lion President Colin Appleton to: 9yrs and under Bere Regis Tadpoles, 11yrs and under Bere Regis Splashers, (Bere Regis Swimming Club). 13yrs and under Bovy Swift Seals (Bovington Middle School), 16yrs and under Wet Water (Purbeck Upper School) Adult and Mixed Castle Inn Veterans, and an Endeavour Shield to Ultra Violet. The Lions Club of Wareham would like to congratulate all who took part in making this your most successful swim ever. Our picture shows: The 9 years and under team presentation of medals by Lion President Colin Appleton, to Bere Regis Tadpoles holders of the shield from Bere Regis Swimming Club

Streets Meadow Wheelchairs, courtesy of the Lions



Picture shows Lion President Derick Smith having just attached a label to chair occupied by Hilda Mitchell

Streets Meadow has been a Dorset County Council residential home for elderly people for many years. Recently, the construction of a new Streets Meadow was completed next to the old building and all the residents were transferred across to their new home in early March where they enjoy many improved facilities. However, Wimborne & Ferndown Lions Club heard that the wheel chairs that the staff have to use to convey many of the residents around the home could not be

replaced as part of the move. Staff were having to put up with old chairs in a dilapidated condition.

Lions discussed this with the Manager of Streets Meadow, Marie Foden, and offered to meet the cost of supplying one wheelchair for each of the four divisions into which the home is divided.

A few days ago two members of the Lions Club joined Marie Foden for a wheel chair handover ceremony. Two residents agreed to "test drive" a couple of chairs. Both aged over 90 and one of them, Blanch Hutchinson, has lived in the old Streets Meadow for 7 years now whereas Hilda Mitchell is a comparative newcomer of only 2 years stay. Both ladies declared the wheel chairs so comfortable that they did not want to get out of them. Marie Foden stressed that maneuvering the new chairs was so easy that there was much less effort for staff. While trying to attach a "Supplied by Lions" label onto a chair Lion President Derick Smith thanked Marie for having treated the Lions to a tour round the new home. He said, "The 4 chairs are clearly of very good quality and good value for the cost of £580. Wimborne & Ferndown Lions Club is delighted to have been able to make a contribution to help both the residents and staff of Streets Meadow." **Lion John Wilson**



BAGS OF LIONS IN AFRICA

Picture of two of the orphans who received full uniform.

At the turn of the year, Stuart Lock MBE, President of the Lions Club of Bradford on Avon, learned

that his brother in law, Andrew Sinclair a Baptist Minister in Scotland, was going on a 'Dream for Africa' humanitarian project to South Africa.

He would be part of a team of 36 Scots who would be planting specially selected immune system boosting vegetable seedlings in areas of special need, particularly among what are referred to as 'child led families - to you and me, orphans. Stuart felt that this was just the sort of project the Lions could be involved in and gained approval for a grant of £250.

The original idea was that gardening tools would be bought for the orphans. However, on arrival in South Africa it was discovered that there were plenty of tools available, so he asked for the grant to be put to a different use. He had discovered that in secondary schools uniform is held to be so important that even if a child passes the entrance requirements they cannot be accepted without uniform. At Bongani primary school about 80% of the children are orphans (AIDS victims). A number of them had qualified to go to secondary school but there were some for whom it was impossible to get uniform. The staff were overwhelmed when they learned of the possibility of these children benefiting from a grant.



Silent Auction Raises £1,250

Barrie Jehan, President of Ryde Lions Club presented a £1,250.00 cheque to EMH (Earl Mountbatten Hospice). The proceeds from the very successful

silent auction event held by the Lions club on the 22nd April at the George Street Centre, Ryde.

On behalf of the club, Barrie Jehan would like to thank the many local and national companies who donated some super prizes, the whole event being sponsored by Hovertravel who also donated 20 hovercraft tickets.

Monarch Airlines contributed a 90 minute flight simulator experience where the winner of the lot will take the controls of a Boeing 757 airliner for 20 minutes of the flight. Other lots were received from Busy Bee, Liz Earle, a pleasure flight from Sandown Airport by Jim Bernie, a bed/ breakfast and evening meal from the prestigious Priory Bay Hotel while many island restaurants and companies also participated.

Holidays for those in need including wheelchair users

Wimborne & Ferndown Lions Club is the proud owner of two holiday homes on the Haven Holiday Park at Littlesea near Weymouth, Dorset. One is specially adapted to allow use by people in wheelchairs. Visitors enjoy excellent facilities at the site and there is easy access to the many local Dorset features including the World Heritage Jurassic Coast.

This year we have vacancies for a number of weeks from now to October and we offer concessionary rates to other Lions Clubs for their welfare cases. Details of prices and availability from Lion Frank Fortey on 01202 886022 or visit our website at www.lions.org/wimborne-ferndown

A Chance to be mobile again!



In April a kind lady in Hook donated a Battery Car which she asked us to find a good home for it. Well, when 12 year old Lauren Todd, from Winchfield read about it she e-mailed us from our website and told us all about

her grandma.

Lauren's grandma is Pam Marks, from Hartley Wintney, and who has been battling against Parkinson's disease for 11 years. Although Pam was previously very active locally, and a car driver, she had of late become completely house-bound, forced to rely on her family to take her shopping or visit friends.

On a recent Saturday morning, Lauren and her mother, Diane, offered to take Pam out shopping, but unknown to

her, Pam was actually on her way to a have a test drive in the little red Battery Car that was waiting proudly on a Lion Member's driveway.

Persuaded to have a go in the little car, and without knowing why, Pam took to it like a 'duck to water', carefully negotiating the quiet cul-de-sac with it's parked cars and curbs before returning with a beaming smile. When asked if she would like it, Pam expressed concern about the cost, but after quick reassurance that not only was it free she could have this for as long as she wanted it, but that the Lions would be covering the cost of any future maintenance, this Lions reporter spotted a tear in her eye. Pam's neighbour, Walter Summersgill of Essential Lawn Care, arrived with a suitable trailer and after loading the little car on and securing it tightly, we were off. After unloading outside Pam's home, disaster struck when the little car stopped dead and refused to budge. Even with three Lions scratching their heads and looking at the battery and motor, it remained motionless.

Reluctantly, it was loaded onto Walter's trailer and taken away, this time for expert help.

Barry Jones from Southern Mobility Services was soon on the scene and was able to diagnose that one of the motor brushes was cracked.

Unfortunately these special motor brushes had to be supplied from Germany, so no more could be done until they arrived. Just over a week later Barry was back and with the brushes fitted, the Battery Car came to life.

With the help of Walter and his trailer the little car was delivered and Pam, once more, had her chance to be mobile again!

A message from your Editor—Firstly thanks for all the articles Please keep them coming. Thanks also for all the emails regarding the change of circulation due to costs, this is the last full issue to clubs. From July onwards 3 copies of both DG and District newsletter will be sent to each Club. I know there have been problems with them not appearing quick enough on the internet www.lions.org.uk but hopefully this has now been solved and these will be on our website hopefully within a couple of days of receiving your hard copy. Once you log onto the website you will now see an option for **Newsletters** just select and pick the month you want to read or print. **Lion Peter Garlick**

Young Ambassador MD Finals at Dudley

There were candidates from all 13 Districts for the final. Our candidate Sara Baker sponsored by Lions Club of Christchurch was very nervous but certainly did our district proud. Sara was the one chosen to receive the Jubilee Sailing Trust award which was great and made me very proud of our district.

The winner was Michael Walsh from Ireland

Lion Don Crabtree – Young Ambassador Officer

Lions Environmental Photographic Competition

See MD Website for a few words and all of the finalists in this year's competition www.lions.org.uk/enviroPhotoComp0506.htm
Lion Jim Storey