



Ordinary People
Amazing Things

The International Association of Lions Clubs DISTRICT 105D - DECEMBER 2009



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DG'S THOUGHTS

December already! I have now completed over half my club visits including our two club branches. It is very good to find out what clubs are doing and in every club I have found at least one person I know so I do feel at home.

I have also visited our Alpha Leo Club – The Pride of St Edmunds – which was extremely interesting. It was good to see these young people making plans to raise money to help others and the range of good causes supported was impressive. I know some clubs are hoping to form Leo Clubs and I would urge all clubs to consider whether they can form a Leo Club in a secondary school in their area.

I have also visited eleven Charter Anniversaries and John and I have been made to feel really welcome at them all. All Charters are different but all are very special to the club concerned and I thank the Presidents for allowing me to share their special occasion with them.

Apart from attending the Ventnor Charter in early December, I am taking a rest from official visits until the New Year. This does not mean John and I will be idle! We will be attending some Christmas Dinners as Lions and we will be helping our own clubs Hook and Odiham and Loddon Valley with their Christmas floats.

I always enjoy December as a Lion and I **do enjoy** being one of "Santa's Little Helpers". We raise a lot of money but we also are bringing Lions to the attention of the public and we are giving a great deal of pleasure to many, both young and old. Indeed many Lions are first introduced to Lions through our Christmas activities. I know that some clubs do not have floats but the majority of clubs will be doing something special at this time of year, either raising money or providing help to the needy or indeed both.

I wish all clubs the very best of luck with all their Christmas Activities but please remember to make sure you have risk assessments where needed and the proper insurance cover and keep safe!

Changes on Cabinet

I welcome Lion Chris Jolly to the post of Legal Advisor. His contact details are JWP Solicitors & Advocates, The Old Town Hall, Market Square, Westbury, Wilts. BA13 3DQ. Tel: 01373 865577 Fax: 01373 827446
Email: legal@lions105d.org.uk. I will be setting out Chris's terms of reference in the next District mailing.

I am very sad to say that for personal reasons Lion Chris Stevens is giving up the post of IT Officer and webmaster but will be staying as a Cabinet officer as

Assistant IT Officer and webmaster. Lion Chris has worked tirelessly over many years to provide us with an excellent website and to keep it up to date. I am sure you will all join with me in thanking Lion Chris for his hard work and dedication.

I am pleased to say that Lion Tom Sayers will be taking over from Chris and has been working with him for some time. I am sure that Lion Tom will also provide us with an excellent service.

Please note that this change will take place from 1st December. Lion Tom's generic email will be it@lions105d.org and Lion Chris' will be depit@lions105d.org.

Membership

Membership will be the main topic at the President's reception being held at the very end of November. I look forward to meeting many Presidents and their partners as well as some of the Region and Zone Chairmen. The Vice District Governors, the Immediate Past District Governor and the District Secretary and Treasurer will also be joining us.

We are gaining new members but unfortunately we are also losing members. Taking membership gains alone we would be well on target to gain 100 new members by the end of June. However our losses mean that overall we are growing but very slowly.

Some clubs have been very successful already in gaining new members and many others are planning membership drives in the New Year. Thank you for all that you are doing but please remember to look after your new members and your longer serving ones so that they do not become disenchanted and leave!

Convention 2010.

I hope that everyone now knows that this is to be at Wokefield Park, near Reading from 19th to 21st March next year. Fleet Lions are working very hard to ensure this is a first class event. The programme is being finalised and I will be working on the finer details during December. I can promise you that there will be workshops plus several resolutions so there should be plenty of opportunity for all to participate. Please get your bookings in as soon as possible and don't forget that VAT rises by 2.5% in January. Our International guest will be Dr Patti Hill from Ontario, Canada who I am sure will be inspirational. Further details are available on the Convention website – www.diamondconvention.org.uk. I look forward to seeing you there.



Lord Mayors Show There is a detailed report elsewhere in this Newsletter but I would like to say how much we enjoyed taking part in it despite getting pretty wet. We have taken part previously but not every year so that others could have the opportunity to attend. Our thanks go to our District organisers Lions David Taylor and Reg Norton for all the hard work they do in planning the event.

Good Ideas

Salisbury I particularly liked this slogan used on their latest flier. "Thank you from the Lions for making someone's Christmas a little special this year" Perhaps too late to use this year but remember for next year.

Congratulations to 2nd VDG Lion Ron Twining who recently completed the Senior Lions Leadership Institute held at Tampere, Finland. It has been reported to me that he contributed to a steady exchange of ideas, challenges and successes, and increased his knowledge of LCI fundamentals as well as increasing his skills of mentoring, project and change management, team leading and communications. As a past participant in this Institute, I can fully recommend this to any Lion, especially if they are thinking of becoming a future District Governor.

Members passing to Higher Service I am sorry to report that I have recently heard that Lion Brian Cooper (Wokingham) has passed to higher service. May he rest in peace and be always in our thoughts.

Welcome to New Members It gives me great pleasure to welcome the following who have recently become Lions: Jud Kirk (Boscombe), Ron Jennings (Bournemouth), Pat Maw (Farnborough), Geoffrey Davies (G.M.S), Jacqueline Harrison, Pamela Pitts and Elizabeth Preston (Henley on Thames), Lynda Bevis (Portsmouth), Christopher Jolly (Salisbury), Bryan Bashford (Wareham), Richard Burgess (Weymouth) and Brian Willis (Wokingham) I would also like to welcome back David Oxford who has rejoined Portsmouth. I am sure your clubs will make you very welcome and soon get you involved in their activities.

Finally I hope all Lions and their families have a very Happy Christmas and enjoy the Season of Goodwill. I am sure we will all be thinking of those people in Cumbria who will not be able to spend Christmas in their own homes. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the flood recovery fund can send a cheque payable to LCI 105D annotated on back "Cumbria Floods" c/o District Treasurer Lion Linda Picton.

DG Judith and Lion John

WET, WET, WET!

No, not the Pop Group but the 2009 Lord Mayors Show! Early on Saturday 14th November Lions from the four Districts surrounding London started assembling for this years Lord Mayors Show in the City of London. Fingers were crossed that the terrible weather which had blighted the 2008 Show would not recur.



No such luck! The heavens opened and the rain poured down on the combined efforts of Districts 105D, A, EA, and SE who, optimistically had chosen an open top bus as the centre piece of our entry!

Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Nick Anstee, 682nd Lord Mayor of London, had chosen "Pitch Perfect" as his theme which is designed to bring Music and Sporting Opportunities to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Picking up the emphasis on Youth the Lions had responded with a delegation made up of Leos, Young Leaders in Service, and

a Jazz Band from Charterhouse School.



With half a million members of the public along the route, as well as some 3 million viewers at home and another 10 million worldwide it was important that the whole assembly presented a lasting image. And they did! Led by our mascot, Roary, on a Golf Buggy and followed by the Double Decker Bus, fifty Lions and twenty young members, all dressed in royal blue fleeces and yellow caps, set off as part of 6000

participants in a procession that was over three miles long. The delegation of Lions from 105D was led by District Governor Judith Goodchild, ably assisted by 2nd VDG Ron Twining and Lion Ann Twining in a 'Lion Suit'! Despite the weather conditions the Lions from "D" presented a proud and professional image as they marched through the City, and their good humour was rewarded by the tremendous reception all round the route. Even after three and a half hours the Aldermen of the City were still in the grandstand at the Mansion House to welcome the Lions back.

District Governor Judith thanked everyone for their participation and took time to welcome four Young Leaders in Service, who had been sponsored by Crofton Lions, as an important part of the "D"lightful Delegation. They were Victoria Goodsell, Samantha Harvey, Holly Chambers and Rebecca Chambers whose considered judgement of the day was summed up in five words... **"Awesome, Amazing, Wet but Fun!"** Lion Reg Norton, PRO Region 3



Do you want onions with that?

An invitation from the Wickham Beer Festival Group to support their popular bi-annual beer festival event by helping with the catering arrangements was one that the Meon Valley Lions simply couldn't resist. The prospect of an evening

involving huge quantities of steaming barbequed food plus hundreds of gallons of real ale meant that the decision to be involved was unanimously adopted in double-quick time.

Chief cook and bottle-washer Roy Cuthbertson, immediately indented for some super new food heaters and ultra-smart linen aprons especially for the event, which was held at Wickham's village hall in September. A duty rota was drawn up and all Lions were strictly coached on the need to avoid mixing the allure of Olde Headache Special with the very serious business of producing delicious food. I am pleased to report that most of the Lions followed these instructions most of the time!

At this point we must express our very great thanks to the Wickham Beer Festival sponsors who supported us so generously on the night – The Southern Co-op who provided the bread, Westland's Farm Shop for the sausages and burgers, and McArthy's Shop for all the healthy veg. As a result we were able to put on a splendid spread that had the real ale brigade flocking to our stall and allowing us to raise over £500 for our charitable causes. The evening was such a success that we have already agreed to repeat the gig and provide the same facility at next April's festival.

Photograph: Peter and Roger sporting their immaculate aprons

A message from your Editor

Many thanks for all your articles please keep them coming. I have had 16 Clubs that have requested newsletters by email only, if there are any other clubs that would prefer this please email me. Finally I wish all my readers a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Lion Peter Garlick

District 105D Young Ambassador Final

This year's Lions Young Ambassador weekend in Bournemouth is an event like never before, showcasing the work of Lions Clubs International on the global stage. Following on from the Multiple-District Youth Symposium held earlier in the year, we on the District youth team feel it necessary to communicate information about the worthy causes being supported by Lions across this country and further afield.

Make sure you are there, at the Hinton Firs Hotel in Bournemouth, in the morning of 16th January 2010, to see the miracles being performed by this truly international organisation. The presentations will begin at approximately 10am.

Places are available to come and see the symposium, with lunch available at the hotel for £12.95 per person. Rooms are available at the hotel for £57.50 per person, including dinner on Friday evening, followed by a quiz, the accommodation overnight, breakfast and Saturday lunch.

If anybody wishes to know more, or book a place, please do not hesitate to get in touch as soon as possible. Lion Richard High 105D Young Ambassador Officer

WORLD SIGHT DAY

Isle of Wight -
On 8th Oct at 12 noon the five Isle of Wight Lions Clubs joined 46,000 other clubs in 205 countries in a simultaneous effort to collect spectacle cases



and glasses from opticians and other outlets and promote awareness to the general public of the many millions of people suffering from eye disorders.

One of the things that Lions International has campaigned for over the last 50 years is helping blind people restore their vision. By providing resources, Lions Clubs worldwide have been able to restore the sight to over 27 million people and have built or expanded more than 300 eye hospitals and clinics, training 345,000 ophthalmic nurses. There are 1.3 million Lions Club members world- wide helping those with vision defects today. Lion Barrie Jehan. PRO

Wimborne & Ferndown -
International World Sight Loss day was marked in Wimborne when the Mayor Cllr John Burden and his wife were guided, with simulated sight loss, around the town by the Wimborne & Ferndown District Lions and the Dorset Blind Association.



The Mayor said after his experience, "I felt totally disorientated even though I knew roughly where I was being guided to. People also bumped in to me in the supermarket not noticing my symbol cane. It must be an incredible shock to lose your sight and the ability to do everyday tasks, we as sighted people take for granted."



Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury - joined nearly 100 other Lions Clubs throughout the country in promoting World Sight Day on Thursday 8th October by taking their local mayor for a blindfolded walk up the world-famous Gold Hill located in north Dorset. The mayor, Lester Dibben, was



joined by other members of the community, including mothers who led their toddlers blindfolded in the walk. At the top of the hill, the group was met by

visually-impaired two women who rely on a guide dog and the white stick – first promoted by Lions over 75 years ago. The women took the opportunity to brief the mayor on the problems they both face walking around the local area. Lion President Deborah Clarke said: "The event went so well; it was amazing how we lost of bearings through the lack of vision. Visitors to our town broke out in applause as we all reached the top". The Club has marked the event by donating £100 to Sightsavers in support of the work Lions Clubs International undertakes in tackling preventable blindness throughout the world.

Fleet - District Governor Judith Goodchild and 11 Lions from 3 different clubs: Fleet, Hart and Hook & Odiham completed the 300 metre Blindfold Walk. at noon on Thursday, 8th October.



The completion of the walk was witnessed and confirmed by two non Lions.

Reading Lions Club took the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Fred Pugh, for what he described as an experience he had never encountered previously, along a busy shopping street, together with a number of local blind persons and



members of the Club.

Lions celebrate 40th anniversary with £10,000 of gifts.



Wimborne and Ferndown Lions club celebrated their 40 years of charitable service on 7th November with their Charter dinner at Canford Magna Golf Club attended by 100 members and guests. The photo shows Albert Whittle, one of the first club presidents in 1974, cutting the cake watched by Debbie Burnett who is the current president and the first lady president in the club's history.

Cheques for £5000 each were received by Danny Lockyer and Pauline Freeth on behalf of Poole Hospital Special Care Baby Unit and by Tracy Bartram on behalf of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance service. Lion Ron Neave PRO

Play Equipment for the Little Lambs



Lion President Shirley Tatchell of Bournemouth Lions Club presenting a cheque for £200 to St. Paul's Little Lambs under 3's Playgroup at Throop to buy much needed play equipment.

The Reverend Canon Robert Peters, his Wife Esther and Sarah Vivian the Group's Team Leader are seen here receiving the cheque.

Picture above right is of baby Poppy Hanslip who at only 3 weeks old is the youngest member of the Playgroup .



The Hall holds 100 Mums and 140 children and as soon as you walk in you are struck by the wonderfully friendly atmosphere which explains why there is a long Waiting List for places.

Pic. Above shows overview of the toys and equipment.
Lion Chris Micallef (Bournemouth Lions Club)



The Lions Club Of Swanage Annual Country Fair

The Sandpit Field overlooking the Seafront of Swanage was once again this year the venue for the Club's Annual Country Fair and as usual crowds of

local people and holiday makers packed into the Field to enjoy a fun day of fairground rides, competitive events for both children and their parents, and a host of stalls selling country produce and delights such as ice cream and other mouth watering confectionery items. Although it was quite a windy day with the wind coming mainly off of the sea the weather stayed fine and sunny and a good day out was enjoyed by all. During the course of the afternoon there was a Dog Agility Display and a presentation of a cheque for £1,500 to The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance by Lion



President Ken Saunders which was the proceeds of the monies raised at the Easter Bunnies Draw in March and April. The proceeds from this years Country Fair, estimated to be around £3,000, will be donated to The Presidents chosen charities namely

youth projects and youth organisations in and around The Purbecks.

Lions help the Oxygen to flow

Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Club have given Wimborne's Victoria hospital £2000 to enable the purchase of two oxygen concentrator machines. These machines take in air and deliver a measured flow of oxygen



continuously. They are used in the ward for patients with breathing difficulties and for other purposes and can also be used at home if available.

The machines were given in memory of Pat Young, twice mayor of Ferndown and a respected member of the club.

The picture shows one of the machines (in blue) with, left to right, matron Teresa North and ward manager Tracy Plant with Pat's widow Ros and Lion President Debbie Burnett.

Lions and Chums at Fleet Pond.

We had had a near hurricane on the Saturday and a week of rain. It was suggested we could go into the marshland. But I wimped out and asked for a task on dry land. So we arrived in the woods of our local nature reserve on a lovely, November Sunday morning. Lions and our chums were chomping at the bit (and Mars Bar cakes!) to get started.



A few hours later we had slashed bamboo, dug up holly and sawed down rhododendron. Nothing could stand in our way. And nature provided some great stuff for us too. The badgers sett was a surprise discovery. As was the fact they use deodrant - we found an old can of Lynx near the set! The bright copper-coloured tiny fungus we found was quite weird too. All in all a good morning's workout in the fresh air with our chums - we're looking forward to the next one. Lion Jim Storey



ENVIRONMENT MATTERS!

A brief reminder because time is getting short. There are now TWO Lions Environmental Competitions. For the first, **Photography**, Entries (Printed Photographs measuring 10" x 8") must reach me by 1st January 2010.

The categories are **Animal Life, Landscape (Urban or Natural), Plant Life, Weather, A Special Theme, "Lions Move to Grow Green"**, which can include Lions in action implementing an environmental project. The other contest covers **Special Environmental Projects**, and is called **"Making the World a Better Place"**. Details have been distributed to all Clubs and will also be found on the District Website.

Please give it serious consideration.

Work on your chosen project should aim to finish by the end of January 2010 and your illustrated reports should be submitted before **20th February 2010**.

Entries for both competitions should be sent to Lion Reg Norton, District Environment Officer, 4 Francis Place, Stubbington, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 2RX