



DISTRICT GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER - 105D JANUARY 2009



Ordinary People
Amazing Things

District Governor: Roger Huntley, South View, Grove Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1TP
Tel - 01983855546 Mob 07864 165537 E-Mail dg@lions105d.org.uk



Both Ann and I hope that you all had a most enjoyable well earned Christmas break in whatever way you chose to celebrate the festive season, unfortunately there are also some very sad moments at this time of year, with the loss of loved ones, the plight of the homeless and the effects of conflict etc., and our thoughts are with all of those affected.

Thank you so very much for the many, many cards and good wishes that we have received, it has been so moving, you Lions really are wonderful people, thank you!!

Christmas is now behind us and we head into the New 2009 Calendar Year, with the signs being that the present economic climate is going to create a tough time ahead, with the need for Lions Service being in even greater demand to assist those less fortunate and with fundraising becoming much more difficult with less money in the public purse to support our effort.

One very sad incident, a true story that occurred locally this Christmas tide, a family of Mum, Dad and four children, the eldest 17 years old. Dad was taken very seriously ill two weeks before Christmas and flown to Southampton Neurological Unit in a coma, Mum and the children travelled daily from the Isle of Wight to be at his bedside.

The Lions club of Newport received an appeal for help as the family Christmas money had been depleted by the travel costs and arrangements were made to meet Mum and the children first thing in the morning on Christmas Eve to take them shopping, only to receive a phone call to say that Mum had collapsed and died in the night and the children taken into care, we can only pray that Dad will recover and bring back a little happiness to the family.

Yes my fellow Lions there are many genuine cases out there who need our help and make us feel so proud to be a Lion, thank you all so much for the dedication you show with your fundraising efforts, and all of the good work that you are doing with your Service in the community, for many unfortunate people. Lions really are creating miracles and making it a better world to live in.

As the December activities reports have been coming in, it is truly amazing to see the number of hours that have been put in with the many Christmas activities in the community within our District.

Departures to Higher Service

We sadly report that the following dedicated members of our Lions family have recently passed to higher service, Lion Bert Prior (Fareham). Lion Keith Binny. (Portsmouth) & Lion Roy Tranter (Reading). May they rest in peace and remain in our thoughts at all times.

A very special welcome to the following members who have recently joined us.

Lion Eamon Fulcher and Lion Geraldine Trufil (Bracknell Forest Lions Club). Lion Jean Smith (Sandown & Shanklin Lions Club).

Lions International Peace Poster Competition.

Well done once again to the Lions Club of Wokingham who sponsored the District winning entry by Meg Stratton age 13 This entry has now been put forward to the Multiple District Competition.

The District Young Ambassador of 21st Century Award.

The District finals will take place at the Hinton Firs Hotel, Bournemouth Friday 9th and Saturday 10th January, with a morning Youth Workshop lead by the District Youth Chairman Lion Ann Twining commencing at 10.00am on Saturday 10th January. Contact: Do Lion Don Crabtree. District 105D Young Ambassador Officer. Tel 01425 480609

Congratulations to the Revd. Lion Steve Tancock and Ellie of the Wincanton Club Branch on your wedding day Saturday 3rd January, have a great day. We also look forward to meeting up with both of them again and hopefully welcoming them back into the Lions family once they have re-located and settled into their new post in the Portsmouth Diocese. Good luck Steve and Ellie, we wish you both well with your new challenges, keeping you both in our thoughts and prayers.

District Health & Safety Questionnaire.

Can I say a very big thank you to all clubs, the survey within our District is now 100 percent complete, including the two active Branch Clubs. I also express a special thank you to District Secretary PDG Lion Godwin Micallef for keeping the pressure on and collating the questionnaires as they came in, in some cases this was a thankless task, with a few clubs having to be contacted some 14 times, for the return of their questionnaire. Surely we should be trying to make life much easier for one another than this.

CONVENTION

District Convention 20th - 22nd March 2009 Norton Grange, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. This will be a great weekend, it is your AGM and our International Guest will be Past International Director Lion Ron Luxton from New Zealand. Bookings at this stage are already up, if you haven't yet sent your booking form in, they are available on the District WEB site for down load, please send it in today.

Monthly Membership Reports

May I thank all Club Secretaries for responding to the appeal to submit their reports on time, at the time of writing this towards the end of December, there is just one club in the District that has not yet submitted their (WMMR) membership report to Oak Brook, and there is still hope that this will be in before the cut off deadline, yes I know that to the annoyance of some Club Secretaries we had to chase these up in the last few days of the month, but we are only trying to help. December is a critical month for Oak Brook to calculate the next six months per capita dues from January, and if your club is billed incorrectly it creates even more work and problems for the District and Club Treasurers. Club Secretaries have just one club to take care of, the District Officers have 67 clubs to monitor, so please do try and co-operate and work with us, please ask if you need help, by working together we can make life so much easier for all of us.

DG's Diary

January 2009

5th Cosham OV.
7th Dorchester OV.
9th-10th District Young Ambassador Final, Bournemouth.
12th Bournemouth OV.
13th Maidenhead OV.
14th Yateley OV.
15th Ringwood & Fordingbridge OV.
18th District Cabinet.
19th Convention Meeting, Norton Grange.
21st Southampton Membership Drive.
23rd 24th 25th Council of Governors Birmingham.
26th New Milton OV.

February 2009

1st PDG's Lunch Salisbury.
2nd Meon Valley OV.
3rd Portsmouth OV.
4th Lymington OV.
5th Poole OV.
7th Wareham CA.
8th Burnham CA.
9th Goring, Woodcote OV.
10th Crofton OV.
11th Romsey OV.
12th Trowbridge OV.
14th Zone G Social?
18th Bradford on Avon OV.
19th Bracknell Forest OV.
20th MD Young Ambassador Final, Dudley.
21st Weymouth & Portland CA.
22nd MD Young Ambassador Final, Dudley.
28th Sandown & Shanklin CA.

Lions Orientation Day

As a new Lion, I often found there were many items discussed at meetings that went straight over my head, and although questioning the more experienced of the members answered my immediate queries.

I still felt like I was only scratching the surface of what there is to know about Lionism. What I needed was some kind of assembly dedicated to new Lions, to give us an understanding of the history of this organisation we had dedicated our efforts to.

Fortunately, just such an opportunity arose. A letter appeared one day inviting me to a Lions Orientation Day on a Sunday in November, at the Holiday Inn in Southampton. The day was run by Lion Mike Hendy (District Leadership Officer), Lion Graham Drayton (District Training Officer), and Lion Devan Kandia (District Training Officer). The agenda included:

A history of Lionism and significant events along the way;
The Lions structure – from club level up to the International Board of Directors;
Programmes of Lionism,
And Membership growth

After these matters had been discussed, there was an open forum, and the District Governor also appeared to briefly welcome the 'fresh blood'.

The new members present (unfortunately, in this instance, only 5 of us) were asked at the beginning of the day what we wanted to gain from being there. This ranged from a general curiosity about the international community of Lionism and the functions of this invisible entity known as 'Oakbrook' to the individual functions of appointed club representatives.

The day was very well organised and we all went away feeling well educated and having had all of our questions answered. I can thoroughly recommend these sessions to new Lions, even if they have no specific questions, as it is very interesting to know, for example, why one of the main goals of Lionism is to do with curing preventable blindness, and where the name Lions comes from (did you know it is an acronym?). All these answers can be found in a friendly, welcoming environment, where the only cost apart from travel is the nominal charge for refreshments.

In 105D, The next sessions In 105D should be later in the Lionistic year, and new Lions will receive a letter inviting them along. To anybody who has the opportunity, I would say it is well worth giving up a morning to take advantage of the chance to have questions answered, whether or not you have asked them in the first place.

Lion Richard High (Loddon Valley)

Finally may we wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year

DG Roger & Ann