

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 105D SIGHT NEWSLETTER NO 5.

LIONS EYE HEALTH PROGRAMME (LEHP)

March 2009.

This is the fifth of a series of Newsletters to give Members in District 105D a greater understanding of the various areas of activities Lions are involved with in connection with sight.

The Lions Eye Health Programme commenced more than ten years ago. Some Lions will remember it actually got off to a rather difficult start, with the need for training and the like before Clubs could participate. I am hoping the Programme can be relaunched in District 105D, in order to make the general public aware of the need for regular eye checks. The simple programme is designed to enable Lions in their own Club areas to make a difference to public awareness and ultimately to the amount of unnecessary blindness resulting from the two leading causes of preventable blindness in the UK – glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

Over the years the programme has grown and developed to cover macular degeneration and low vision services. There are hundreds of thousands of people in the UK who are at risk of losing their sight, quality of life and independence simply because they are not aware of the need for regular routine eye testing. Many more who suffer from the uncontrollable causes of blindness are

needlessly living limited lives where a professional low vision assessment and provision of appropriate aids to living would make all the difference.

The Lions Eye Health Programme is the easiest of programmes to deliver. There are no presentations to give or difficult questions to answer. It is really as simple as handing out leaflets and arranging posters to be displayed. Good locations for posters are GPs' surgeries, hospitals, libraries, sports clubs and the like. Leaflets can be given away whenever the opportunity arises.

Some excellent leaflets and posters are available from PDG Lion Stefan Erentraut, The Old Chapel, Moor Lane, Horsington, Woodhall Spa, LN10 5HH (tele: 0845 1204948). The cost for four packs of different leaflets, with 200 leaflets in each pack, is £40.00 (including postage and packing). A collection of posters (A4 and A5) is available for £10.00 per set. Cheques should be made payable to: 'Lions Eye Health Programme'.

For more assistance with the continuing Campaign, please contact myself (Email: Patrick.hamblin@btinternet.com or 'phone: 0118 9693930).

Prepared by District Officer Lion Patrick Hamblin.

Distribution: Club Presidents, Region Chairmen, Zone Chairmen, District Governor, Vice District Governor.

'I call on you to be Knights of the Blind' – Helen Keller (1925).