



TOUCHING THE
HEARTS OF THOSE
IN NEED

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



a tiered floor for the seats and the less than favourable acoustics resulting from the ceiling. However our valiant MD International Convention team did a great job ensuring that MD105 were seated reasonably close to the stage on each day.

The first plenary session comprised a review of his year by President Tam in which he particularly mentioned his pleasure in meeting our patron, Sophie Countess of Wessex. He also proudly announced that as of Sunday June 24th 12,856,322 trees had been planted in response to his challenge to Lions this year and that, by the end of June, this would rise to about 13.2 million. This session finished with a spectacular and colourful Flag Ceremony carried by officer cadets resplendent in their smart white uniforms from the South Korean Naval University.

The keynote speaker at the second session was Dr Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organisation who spoke of the work that Lions have done in partnership with the WHO, particularly in blindness prevention, care for people with visual and hearing impairments, diabetes awareness and early detection, and screening for cancers, particularly those that are the biggest killers of women in the developing world. She was proud that WHO and LCI have recently signed another memorandum of understanding to renew their long-standing and fruitful partnership for the next 5 years and that our current measles initiative to eradicate the disease which is a leading cause of childhood blindness in the developing world.

The final plenary session is the highlight for all DG Elects as it is the day they take their oaths and become District Governors. Unfortunately it was spoiled to a certain extent as many Multiple Districts decided to 'do their own thing' which disrupted the auditorium to such an extent that, without the large screens, it would be difficult for us to have known when to take our oath. However, MD105 stood proudly and we took our oath and became District Governors.



Please circulate to all Club Members

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION continued.....

Each plenary session began with entertainment, the most spectacular being kept for the final day when Convention was entertained by the Performance by the Chinese Disabled Federation Arts Troop - a group of Chinese blind musicians and profoundly deaf dance troupe.

The dance routines were spectacular and complex and, but for two people visually beating the time of the music for the dancers, it would be impossible for any audience to know of their disability.

We all expected Busan to be hot and humid; in reality it turned out to be overcast, wet and cool as Convention coincided with the start of the rainy season in that part of the world. However, the gods smiled on us for the day of the parade which was warm and sunny.



The overall parade took over five hours to complete and that is not surprising as we were continually being stopped as the locals dived into the parade to be photographed with us. The welcome we received from the local Koreans was amazing and it is a memory that will stay with Jackie and me for a very long time.

We did manage to get a few days rest and relaxation before and after Convention, visiting Seoul and Hong Kong.

AND MORE

The most surreal experience was our trip to the Demilitarized Zone at the border between North and South Korea when we visited Panmunjeom.

Here tourists are lead out onto a paved area to find that they are standing some twenty yards from the border, (the mid point along the length of the two blue buildings).



We were being protected by three South Korean soldiers wearing mirrored sun glasses, staring over the border and being watched by a North Korean guard through binoculars. We were then instructed which photographs to take by our GI escort.

Apparently this spectacle of machismo and tension by both sets of guards only occurs when the tourists are present, so my overriding question is 'Why take the tourists?'

BACK HOME AGAIN

And then it was back to the UK to 'hit the ground running' with a busy July schedule, three functions in the first week, District Handover and Council of Governors to prepare for.

Unfortunately my first duty was to attend the funeral of Lion Gordon McQuillan, a dedicated Lion for over thirty five years who was loved by many and will sorely missed by his club, Barwell and Earl Shilton and this District.

My second was a much happier affair which was to attend and present prizes at the International Sports Olympics and Fun Day organised by Market Harborough branch club (soon to be chartered as Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club).

Twelve local primary schools each adopted a country and competed against one another in a number of events – running, jumping and throwing. I had the pleasure of presenting gold, silver and bronze medals to winning contestants of Year 1 and 2.

That evening we attended Edgbaston Lions Club's Indian Evening and I was delighted to be asked with IPDG Neil and PDG Suresh Gohil to induct three new members into the club. Lion Praful Modi taught me a dancing action he called 'changing the light bulb' and there is a photograph but I'm not going to share that with anyone!

Please circulate to all Club Members

DISTRICT HANDOVER

The highlight of this month was our District Handover, where I discovered that the weight of the chain means I need not worry about spilling food on my white jacket at Charters as it gives the wearer a natural stoop forward. Jackie and I would like to thank all the Lions that attended to celebrate with us as we take over the tenure of this District for the coming year.



READING ACTION PROGRAMME

International President Wayne Madden's major initiative for Lions to take part in this year is the 'Reading Action Programme' or **RAP** for short. It is aimed at helping to eradicate illiteracy around the world.

Education and literacy are crucial in overcoming poverty, disease and other social issues. Yet today, nearly 800 million people worldwide are illiterate, that being one in four of people of reading age. Of those 800 million people, two thirds are women and 90% live in developing countries. It is reported that if all children in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.

You may say that, as a developed country, this is not a problem in the UK. However, a report in the Guardian in 2010 reported that 17% of sixteen to nineteen year-olds were functionally illiterate – meaning they were unable to handle much more than straightforward questions. And how does this set them up for their future lives and employment opportunities? We may be a developed country but illiteracy is still a significant problem within the UK.

How can the Lions in District 105M make a difference?

There many different ways that Lions can help in their community, for example:

- Volunteer at local schools and pre-schools as a reading assistant, listening to and helping young children to learn to read. Most schools are desperately short of people to give that one-to-one time to pupils with their reading and will gladly accept you as a volunteer.
- Volunteer to read to children at your local library. Again libraries are short of volunteers.
- Work with local literacy experts and agencies to promote adult reading.
- Read or record books on tape for the blind and visually impaired.

RAP continued.....

These are just a few ideas, they are simple and cost little or nothing except our time, yet can and will have a huge impact on the lives and futures of so many.



It is an opportunity for Lions in 105M to provide quality service in our communities, an opportunity to bring us into contact with new peoples and tell them about Lions and an opportunity to find new members. I ask you all to take this project forward and add it to your programme of activities for this year.

'STAND AND DELIVER'

If you feel nervous talking to the public about the things that Lions do or just want to improve your face-to-face communication, then '**Stand and Deliver**' is just for you. Run by Heather Yaxley and organised by the District Public Relations Officer and the Communications Portfolio committee, '**Stand and Deliver**' is an interactive workshop to help you with those skills, to be held at St John's Hotel, Warwick Road, Solihull on Sunday 25th November between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Free coffee and tea will available to delegates on arrival and a hot two course lunch will be provided at a cost of £12.75 Any subsequent tea or coffee will be charged to delegates.

To book your place please send a cheque for £12.75 payable to LC1105M with a covering letter to District PR Officer Lion Graham Sharp, The Old Coach House, The Poplars, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7AU.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S DIARY

August

- 2nd Bilston and Willenhall Lions Club
- 6th Rushden and District Lions Club
- 9th Dudley Lions Club
- 13th Evesham Vale Lions Club
- 16th Aldridge and District Lions Club
- 19th District Cabinet
- 20th Bromsgrove Lions Club
- 23rd Walsall Lions Club
- 28th Governors Team Meeting

September

- 5th Coventry Godiva Lions Club
- 6th Rugby Rokeby Lions Club
- 10th Malvern Hills Lions Club
- 11th Stour Valley Lions Club
- 15th Wolverhampton 39th Charter Anniversary
- 17th Knowle and Dorridge Lions Club
- 22nd Bilston and Willenhall 28th Charter Anniversary
- 25th Governors Team Meeting

Please circulate to all Club Members

NEW MEMBERS

It is a new year and there are new Lions to welcome into the family of Lions within District 105M:



Jujhars Bilkhu	Birmingham Edgbaston
Narinders Matharu	Birmingham Edgbaston
Kamaljits Kalsi	Birmingham Edgbaston
June McKowen	Knowle and Dorridge
Gillian Breeze	Market Harborough Branch
John Ragg	Market Harborough Branch
Lynda Ragg	Market Harborough Branch
Sue Sharp	Market Harborough Branch
Rebecca Madeley	Sandwell
Guy L'Estange	Southam
Roger Lymath	Southam
Rakesh Cahndarana	Thurnby
Suresh Kachela	Thurnby
Amit Kanani	Thurnby
Harshad Kavia	Thurnby
Champaben Pan	Thurnby
Usha Pandya	Thurnby
Anilkumar Patel	Thurnby
Rajnikant Patel	Thurnby

In addition, congratulations to Market Harborough Lions and the branch club which now has twenty members and will be chartered as Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club on Saturday 24th November. It is a time for District Lions to come together and celebrate with the Charter members of the new club so please put this date in your diaries. The details of the evening will be circulated soon.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT?

2nd VDG Ian Haffner is looking for a Lion who is not on Cabinet, to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee this year.



The Committee is currently formulating the five year plan for the District and the main responsibilities of the role would be:

- To attend Long Range Planning Committee Meetings and become thoroughly familiar with the five year plan.
- To actively participate in the discussions and the formulation of the long range plans for the District.

If you are interested, please contact Lion Ian Haffner at vdg-2nd@lions105m.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

World Sight Day – Thursday 11th October 2012



As Lions this is our opportunity to take up Helen Keller's challenge for Lions to become 'Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness' and raise the public awareness of blindness and visual impairment. It is our opportunity to educate the public on blindness prevention through our Signature Project 'Lions Eye Health Programme'. Now is the time to plan an activity.

Autumn Forum – Sunday 14th October at St John's Hotel in Solihull.

The programme for Autumn Forum is in the final stages of planning and will be published with a booking form in mid-August. Three interactive workshops are being planned together with a presentation on 'Life Skills – The Future' and the Teenage Cancer Trust. There will also be stands manned by the District Officers promoting their programmes. It is your chance to learn a little more about things you may not know but it is also your chance to express your views.

October Membership Growth Month

We have already started the year well by welcoming nineteen new Lions to the family of Lions and we should always be looking for opportunities to bring new members into our clubs. Lions Clubs International, however, ask us all to make a special effort in October by making it Membership Growth Month with associated International President Recognition Awards for clubs and members.

AND FINALLY

Seen at reception in the Haeundae Grande Hotel in Busan - a notice extolling the benefits of staying at the hotel:



'Pumping air into a tube is free of charge'

and

'Lead free a picnic basket'

If we had known what these benefits were, I am sure we would have taken advantage of them!

Until next month, continue "Touching the Hearts of Those in Need"

Please circulate to all Club Members