



TOUCHING THE
HEARTS OF THOSE
IN NEED

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

DG Lion Paul Anstice: dg@lions105m.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Lion Pauline Hoogerwerf: hoogerwerf@btopenworld.com



SUMMER IS OVER



When September arrives and the nights begin to draw in, when early morning mists hang across the field and there are the first signs of leaves beginning to turn brown, when the children return to school you can always rely on the weather improving and the arrival of a late summer. So it was at the beginning of September this year but it did mean that Lion Jackie and I have been able to support a couple of clubs with their late summer outdoor fund-raising events.

The first we attended was the Foxton Fun Day organised by Market Harborough branch club and which they run in conjunction with the local school. It was a typical village fete with a myriad of stalls designed to extract as much money as possible from the public which they were doing very successfully. There was also entertainment in a central arena with one of the highlights being a display by a local group of young majorettes. The performance was very good despite the odd baton going slightly astray. I was pleased to find information about the club and contact details available at most of the stalls and I thought giving away the information in the form of a bookmark at the book stall was a good idea.



Jackie and I also attended a charity 'Clay Pigeon Shoot' run by Rushden and District Lions club. I was flattered with the personal invitation made by the club at my official visit in August, but I quickly discovered that the personal invitation to attend was really an invitation to 'come and work' (I think a similar personal invitation had been given to Lion George King of Rugby Rokeby Lions Club!). The club had the good sense not to trust me with a loaded rifle but, instead, put me in charge of serving tea and burgers from the barbecue that was being run for those taking part in the shoot.



CHARTER SEASON BEGINS

September has also seen the start of the Charter Anniversary season and I had the pleasure to attend two so far - at Wolverhampton and Bilston and Willenhall Lions Clubs.

Wolverhampton Lions always honour a 'Citizen of the Year' at their Charter celebration and this year it was Percy Simmonds, Wolverhampton's Town Crier, who at 90 years of age is the oldest crier in the country. Percy is an ex-Lion and still proudly wears a Multiple District badge on his red uniform.

Returning to Wolverhampton for Bilston and Willenhall Lions 28th Charter anniversary the following week, meant that Jackie and I met up with the Mayor and her consort at the top table again, but it also meant I had to write a different speech!

We were delighted to meet up with the Babbacombe and St Marychurch Lions again, especially Past District Governor Jim Rowley and Jackie. Congratulations to Lion President Michelle Bate and Lion Tony Duncombe for receiving ten and twenty years of service chevrons respectively and to Laurence Darby of Wolverhampton Lions Club, who received a thirty year service chevron at his Charter.

Past District Governor Jim Rowley presented Lion President Michelle with her chevron as he was her sponsor as a Lion – he has not lost his skill at hogging a microphone!



I have now received 2012-2013 service chevrons for Lions in this District, so, with those outstanding from last year, that leaves just over two hundred more to present!

It is hard to believe that Jackie and I have completed the first three months of our year and that Christmas will soon be upon us. So far our year has been very enjoyable and we are both impressed by the amount of work and service Lions in this District provide in their respective communities. Thank you for reaching out and **"touching the hearts of those in need"**.

Please circulate to all Club Members

THE YOUTH TRUST EXPLAINED

Do you know what the Youth Trust pays for? How it is funded? If not read on.

At MD convention in Birmingham there was considerable discussion about the MD Youth Trust and related issues. It was apparent that many Lions are not clear about its role and funding, some dissatisfaction was expressed and so the Council of Governors set up a small committee to review all aspects of Lions MD105 Youth activities and their funding.

This committee is chaired by MD Youth Coordinator 2008-12, PDG Shirley Vaughan and comprises two Governors from 2011-12, IPDG Frank Lees and IPDG Larry Pearce; with two current Governors, DG Paul Anstice and DG Ken Wild.

Given the recent changes and debate the committee feel one of its priorities must be to provide information for clubs about the Youth Trust to encourage more contributions - hence this article.

The money comes in. The trust is administered by the MD Charity Treasurer and has as its trustees the MD Youth Coordinator, the MD Leo officer, the MD Young Ambassador Officer and the Council Chairman. The Trust's income comes from contributions made by clubs across the Multiple District, in the past this was a request for £60 per club; following the resolution in Birmingham this year the request is £3 per member, which is thought to be fairer. The request for this donation is made via District Treasurers who collect all contributions from their District and send it on to the MD Charity Treasurer. The donation to the Youth Trust counts as a charitable expense and can be paid from the club's charity account. Club contributions to the Trust for 2010-11 totalled £30,965

The money goes out. Funds from the Youth Trust are used to defray the expenses of MD105 Youth activities at national and international level. Some of these have very significant costs e.g. Youth Centre and Young Ambassadors; some only nominal costs e.g. Peace Poster. In the past the Trust administered club donations to Tacade but did not contribute directly.

Figures from Charity Treasurer's report for 2012 MD105 convention show net expenditure for 2010-11 at MD level as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Young Ambassador | £13,339 |
| Youth Football | £6,044 |
| Youth Centre | £18,919 |
| Young Leaders in Service | £4,073 |
| Peace Poster | £100 |
| Leos | £100 |
| Music | £2,832 |
| Miscellaneous net figure (mainly audit fees) | £472 |
| Total expenditure | £45,879 |

Youth Trust Continued.....

The difference between income of £30,965 and expenditure of £45,879 resulted in a deficit of £14,914 for the year.

The problem. Increased demands on the Trust in recent years have given rise to the significant negative imbalance between income and expenditure; this has been met by using surplus funds from the early years of the Trust. However such reserves will not last forever and so the 2011-12 Council of Governors concluded some significant changes in both the income and expenditure of the Trust were required. As yet the effect on the trust's income of the change in the way the request for a contribution from clubs is phrased is unknown.

At the same time changes were also made in the Trust's expenditure, principally removing funding from both the Music and Football competitions. The Music Competition has since received business sponsorship for the next three years. The MD Convention of 2012 voted to suspend the 2012-13 Football Competition at MD level to save money. **Even this will not balance the books**, hence the in depth review currently being carried out. In the long term it is essential to bring income and expenditure on to a level footing. This means more money in, less money out or a combination of the two.

In order to gain a fuller picture the committee has been asked to consult widely and to canvass the opinions of as many Lions as possible. Your club can have its say by completing the questionnaire that you have already received or will be receiving very shortly. Alternatively you can download the questionnaire from the MD Website. Please complete the questionnaire "on screen" and return it to dg105m@lionsmd105.org before the end of October, but ideally well before that date. All responses will be included in a summary and reported to Council of Governors.

The problems we are currently facing arise from a shortfall of funds as not all clubs choose to contribute. At our conventions we all proudly clap our District Young Ambassador winners and display our winning District Peace poster. These competitions are both funded by our MD105 Youth Trust. **All Districts** take part in at least two of the Youth projects funded by the Youth Trust and therefore **all Districts** have to assume some responsibility for the running costs.

The future of our Youth projects should be decided by their intrinsic value, their relevance, their role in supporting young people: It is right that these factors are considered periodically, it is wrong that such reviews be dominated primarily by finance considerations. Funding has already been withdrawn from two projects; without greater support for our Youth Trust from clubs the question may well be **what goes next?**

Please circulate to all Club Members

AUTUMN IS COMING.....

The leaves are beginning to turn brown, Autumn is coming, **and so is Autumn Forum.** Have you booked in yet as you do not want to miss it?



It is your chance to meet with other members of the family of Lions in the District.

It is your chance to share ideas.

It is your chance to express views.

It is your chance to discover the latest information on Lions projects from the specialist District Officers at their stands.

It is your chance to take part in interactive workshops.

It is your chance to be involved.

Time is running out to book for this year's Forum on Sunday October 14th at St John's Hotel, Solihull from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

A two course lunch is available at £13.00. Bookings are made through Lion John Barnes at events@lions105m.org.uk or on 0121 474 5087.

THE CHILDREN'S AUDIO THEATRE

Through our Chairman of Council, Martin Morgan, the Multiple District has been introduced to an initiative started by the Kiama Lions Club in District 201N2. Just over three years ago the Kiama Lions launched The Children's Audio Theatre project, initially targeted at visually impaired children, or children with medical disabilities.

Now they see the project as one which supplements President Wayne's Reading Action Program. The children who have heard the stories love them and gain advantages through learning pronunciation through listening.

Many Lions Clubs in Australia have supported this project and the Kiama Lions Club has been fortunate in obtaining sponsorship to enable the stories to be made available as **free** downloads for children teachers and parents across the world from www.kiamacat.podbean.com Hard copies of the CDs can be obtained from the website at www.childrens-audio-theatre.org.au.

Further details will be made available on the MD Lions website in the near future.



WORLD DIABETES DAY

The 14th November is approaching and is the day recognised around the world as World Diabetes Day. World Diabetes Day was jointly introduced by the World Health Organisation and the International Diabetes Federation and is now internationally recognised as an official United Nations Day.



Started in 1991 as an awareness campaign, resulting from an escalating diabetes problem worldwide, the date was chosen to mark the birthday of Frederick Banting who was the co-discoverer of insulin in 1922.

Diabetes is a condition where the blood sugar level is higher than normal. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas gland which controls the use of glucose within the body. The blood sugar level will rise if:

- The pancreas produces little or no insulin (Type 1 diabetes)
- The pancreas produces insulin, but it is inadequate for the body's needs and its effectiveness is reduced (Type 2 diabetes). This type of diabetes tends to affect adults over 40 and overweight people.

Diabetes is on the increase, 2.9 million people are diagnosed with the condition in the U.K. and there are a further 850,000 unaware that they have the condition. It is an insidious disease, which may progress undetected over a period of years, resulting in heart conditions, strokes, blindness, visual impairment and amputation.

At present there is no cure for the condition but it can be prevented, delayed, or halted, by knowledge, and a change of life-style and diet.

To mark World Diabetes Day, Lions are encouraged to raise diabetes awareness within our communities. This can be achieved by carrying out an assessment session involving the self-completion of an evaluation questionnaire which will indicate the risk of a person might suffer from diabetes allowing the appropriate treatment by their GP.

For more details contact the District Diabetes Officer, Lion Barbara Dutton on diabetes@lions105m.org.uk

WORLD SIGHT DAY

A reminder that World Sight Day is on Thursday 11th October. Is your Club doing anything to promote the Lions Eye Health Programme? Why not approach your local optician, or ask a local dignitary to participate in a blindfold walk.

For further suggestions contact the District Officer, Lion Linda Cross on sight@lions105m.org.uk

Please circulate to all Club Members

COME AND CELEBRATE



It is not every year that the District has a new club to charter in the District. This year we do and Market Harborough branch club will be chartered as **Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club** on Saturday 24th November in The Cromwell Suite, The Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

This is an opportunity for the Lions in the District to greet Charter President Mike Gee and the other Charter Lions of the club, exchange club friendship bannerettes and celebrate with them on this special evening for the new club.

Bookings should be made via Lion Dot Gee, 47 Middlebrook Green, Market Harborough, LE16 7DW, by 24 October 2012.

NEW MEMBERS

I would like to welcome the following new members into the family of Lions:



Ankit Chauhan
Julia Ramsay
Tom Ramsay
Stephen Beer
Jaap de Jonge

Coventry Godiva
Coventry Phoenix
Coventry Phoenix
Market Harborough
Shirley



Measles is a highly contagious viral disease, spread through close contact with infected persons. It takes the lives of 450 children each day, or 164,000 children every year. Of those who survive, nearly 30% suffer complications such as vision loss, hearing loss, brain damage, pneumonia, Vitamin A deficiency or encephalitis. Measles remains a heavy public health burden in developing countries where parents do not have access to immunization services that could protect their children from the disease.

So what can Lions do? The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation challenged Lions to raise \$10 million to fight measles worldwide and pledged to donate \$1 for every \$2 raised by Lions meaning a total matching contribution of \$5 million. This money will be used by the Measles Initiative partners, a global collaboration of leading public health agencies, to rescue children from measles. **Lions donations to LCIF for the Measles Initiative can and will make a difference.**

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

District Governor

October

- 2nd Market Harborough Club visit
- 3rd Nuneaton Club visit
- 4th Castle Bromwich Club visit
- 6th Evesham Vale 35th Charter Anniversary
- 8th Kenilworth Club visit
- 10th Birmingham Sheldon Club visit
- 11th Warwick 52nd Charter Anniversary
- 13th Wellingborough 39th Charter Anniversary
- 14th Autumn Forum
- 17th Towcester and District Club visit
- 18th Aldridge and District Club visit
- 26th-28th Council of Governors Meeting
- 27th Northampton Eighty 32nd Charter Anniversary
- 30th Governor's Team Meeting

November

- 7th 'It's a Knockout' at Malvern
- 8th Shakespeare Club visit
- 10th Lord Mayor Show (London)
- 11th Remembrance Service, (Cenotaph London)
- 12th Balsall Common Club visit
- 14th Coventry Leofric Club visit
- 17th Marston Green 35th Charter Anniversary
- 18th District Cabinet
- 20th Solihull Club visit
- 21st Warwick Club visit
- 24th Harborough Twenty 12 Charter Presentation
- 27th Governor's Team Meeting

1st Vice District Governor

October

- 10th Coventry Phoenix Lions Club visit
- 11th Wolverhampton Lions Club visit
- 13th Shakespeare 45th Charter Anniversary
- 14th Autumn Forum

November

- 7th Southam Club visit
- 12th Kettering Club visit
- 13th Barwell and Earl Shilton Club visit
- 24th Worcester 43rd Charter Anniversary

2nd Vice District Governor

October

- 9th Long Range Planning Meeting
- 13th Lifeskills Non-Executive Management Team
- 14th Autumn Forum
- 16th Finance and Administration Meeting

November

- 3rd Handsworth Club fund-raising event
- 20th Zone H Meeting
- 21st Zone F Meeting
- 26th Zone C Meeting
- 29th Zone A Meeting

Please circulate to all Club Members