



TOUCHING THE
HEARTS OF THOSE
IN NEED

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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ANOTHER MONTH FLIES BY

November is normally a grey dismal month that is wet and foggy. It is a month to get through with December and Christmas around the corner. Yes, weather-wise November has been grey and miserable, but in other respects it has been sunny and full of happiness.

The sun first shone at Malvern when Jackie and I were invited to attend the club's 'It's a Knock-out' for disabled at the Three Counties Showground. It's about twenty-five years since I last attended one of these events when, as a fresh faced Zone Chairman in 105A, I ran a similar event as a Zone project.

I had forgotten the enjoyment that the event brings to so many people, the smiling faces, the sense of achievement and the competitive spirit of the contestants.



This year the theme was 'The Olympics' and Jackie and I were asked to judge the poster competition and the best Joker, which was not an easy task as there had been a lot of imagination used to create the posters and jokers.

I congratulate Malvern Hills Lions for putting on such a great event and bringing so much pleasure to so many people.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Sunday saw us attending the service in Whitehall at the Cenotaph. It was an early start for us as we had to line up in our positions in the parade from 9.15 a.m.



It was a very humbling experience to line up alongside the thousands of brave ex-service personnel who had seen service, including many Chelsea pensioners.

Although it was a bright and sunny day, it was bitterly cold and the regular attendees knew to bring hip flasks containing warming liquids. Jackie and I have watched the service many times on the TV but the experience of being there in person is something that will remain with us.

We were both taken with the instant silence that descended on the crowd as Big Ben struck the first stroke of eleven and the respect shown, not only those in the parade but also the thousands of people, including many families with young children that lined Whitehall.



It was with pride we marched (reasonably in step) passed the Cenotaph to present a wreath on behalf of Lions Clubs International and took the salute on Horse Guard Parade from Prince Edward. As we marched we were applauded by the onlookers and, although we felt the military personnel deserved it more, we accepted it on behalf of those that have laid down their lives for all of us.

Please circulate to all Club Members

CELEBRATIONS

Another month and more friendly club visits and Charter anniversaries. Charter celebrations at Marston Green & District Lions Club are always a party occasion and highly unpredictable.



It was my great pleasure to be able to present a Melvin Jones Fellowship on behalf of the Club to PDG Lion Wim Hoogerwerf and, for once, he was gob-smacked.

As usual, VDG Simon and Lion Mick Taylor entertained everyone with a specially written song dedicated to the President and I was amazed how many rhymes for Hoogerwerf they managed to find!



But everything was eclipsed by the cabaret act, when PDG Heather Lee was transformed into Tina Turner for the night.



Heather has been telling everyone that membership is sexy for the past two years but, dressed in enormous red knickers, now perhaps we should believe her.

She performed to 'Simply the Best' but I think Kenny Bernard's reggae song 'Big Panty Woman' would have been more appropriate!

NEW CLUB CELEBRATIONS

November also saw the chartering of a new club in District 105M, when Market Harborough 2005 branch became Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club.

More than a hundred Lions and friends attended the Charter Presentation Dinner at the Three Swans Hotel in Market Harborough to witness the twenty branch members inducted as charter members of the new club and Charter President Mike Gee receive the framed club charter, his chain of office and brand new shiny gong and gavel.



YOUNG AMBASSADOR

November finished with the District Final of the Young Ambassador of the 21st Century at St John's Hotel in Solihull.

It is becoming a habit that our District Final always have an unforeseen hiccup and, true to form, this year's Final did as well. However, Ashleigh Woodall, sponsored by Marston Green & District Lions Club, was a worthy winner and I have no doubt will be a credit to the District at the MD Final in February.



Please circulate to all Club Members

RELIEVING HUNGER

As we start to plan for Christmas, order the turkey, make Christmas cakes and puddings and write extensive shopping lists for the food we need to see us through the festive season, it is sobering to reflect on the facts that today nearly one billion people worldwide go hungry - every five seconds a child dies from hunger-related diseases, and one out of four children in developing countries is underweight.

Another sobering fact is that hunger is not restricted to famine-struck corners of the developing world; food banks are springing up across the UK and the need for food parcels is on the increase.

Hunger is the No. 1 health risk in the world.

During December and January, Lions around the world are invited to relieve hunger.

There are many things we can do, such as:

- Donate food to replenish a food bank or at a homeless shelter
- Help to deliver prepared meals to the elderly, particularly over the Christmas and New Year festive season
- Prepare and deliver food parcels to families in need
- Help serve meals at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter

So as we think of ourselves and the food we will be having during the forthcoming festive season, let us remember those amongst us that suffer from hunger and give them the gift of food for Christmas and throughout the New Year.



DISTRICT CONVENTION

If you are wondering what present to ask Santa for in your stocking, you could ask for a special package deal for two to attend District Convention on 22nd to 24 March 2013 at the Pear Tree Inn and Country Hotel in Worcester.



Convention weekend starts on Friday evening with themed 'Birthday Party' Host Night full of 'fun and entertainment'.

On Saturday there is the formal business session and a chance to hear our guest, International Director Benedict Ancar from Romania. It is also your chance to elect the Governors Team for 2013-2014, have your say on a number of Resolutions put to Convention and generally comment on the running of the District during the year. But most of all it is a chance to meet up with friends from across the District.

For those who wish to be otherwise entertained on Saturday morning, a Guided Tour of Worcester has been arranged as the Partners' Trip, to see such sights as Worcester Cathedral, the magnificent Guildhall, the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum and, no doubt, the shops.

In the evening there is a formal 'Black Tie and Tiara' Banquet. Finally, on Sunday there is a chance to talk to ID Benedict Ancar at the end of Convention Question and Answer session.

There are two special package deals

- Package Booking £260 per couple including two night's accommodation at Convention Hotel (limited numbers)
- Package Booking £230 per couple at Fownes Hotel, Worcester including transport on Friday and Saturday evenings

There is also a Package Booking for singles which will be £200 at both hotels.

So don't delay, book today.

For further details go to the District website on www.lions105m.org.uk and look under 'Latest News'.



Charity Number 510331



Please circulate to all Club Members

WINNERS

Congratulations to our two District Youth Project winners of the year.

Our first winner, for the Peace Poster, is Leah Day, who was sponsored by Nuneaton Lions club. Leah's poster, which was judged by the District Officers at the recent Cabinet meeting, is based on the theme 'Imagine Peace' and depicts a dove of peace being released from a pair of cupped hands whilst the hands are holding a circle of people surrounding the world, which is covered with the flags of the world.



Our second Youth winner is Ashleigh Woodall who, as I mentioned on page 1, won the District final of the Young Ambassador of the 21st Century and was sponsored by Marston Green Lions Club.



Both are worthy winners and will go forward to represent the District at the Multiple District rounds of the respective competitions.

Both contestants will be present at District Convention in Worcester to receive their prizes.

MEMBERS

It is with sadness that I start this section with the passing to higher service of Lion Dave Petiffer from Redditch Lions Club.

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

Stewart Sherman	Birmingham Chinatown
John Lynch	Corby and District
Caroline Farrimond	Warwick
Paul Farrimond	Warwick
Mike Hall	Warwick

DIARY DATES: DECEMBER & JANUARY

District Governor

December

- 3rd Bedworth Club visit
- 5th Shirley Club visit
- 8th Christmas collection - Mayor and Bedworth LC
- 12th Rowell Club visit
- 13th Kidderminster and District Club visit
- 28th Governors Team Meeting

January

- 3rd Bedworth Lions Awareness Month
- 8th MD Youth Activities Review meeting (MDHQ)
- 8th Alcester branch
- 9th Thurnby
- 14th Hinckley and Burbage
- 16th Northampton
- 19th Kenilworth Lions 43rd Charter Anniversary
- 25th-27th Council of Governors Meeting
- 29th Governors Team Meeting
- 30th Convention Committee meeting

1st Vice District Governor

December

- 1st-24th Club Christmas fund-raising & service activities
- 28th Governors Team Meeting

January

- 4th-6th District Governor Training
- 14th Kingswinford and Stourbridge
- 25th-27th Council of Governors Meeting
- 29th Governors Team Meeting

2nd Vice District Governor

December

- 1st-24th Club Christmas fund-raising & service activities
- 28th Governors Team Meeting

And FINALLY

As we approach the end of 2012 we can all look back at our achievements, proud of the fact that we have made a difference to the lives of so many people. And as we look forward our New Year's resolution is simple, more service and more 'touching the hearts of those in need'.

Jackie and I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas, relaxing with the ones that you love, and a prosperous and successful New Year, with good health and renewed vigour.



Please circulate to all Club Members