

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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### THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MARCH CALENDAR

District Governors look forward to March, thinking they are on the downward slope to the end of their year, a time to enjoy the last period of their tenure as District Governor and look forward to some rest and 'me' time.

Far from it! We may be close to finishing our Club visits, but the next two months are the busiest time in the District Governor's calendar. It is District Convention season, we have UN day to celebrate (and District 105M can be proud that PDG Roger Handcock instigated this in MD 105 when he was Governor) and there are many other things that have occurred this year to make March a very busy month.

### I Could See Me Fitting into the Palace of Westminster

Jackie and I started the month off by attending Lions UN Day at the Palace of Westminster and both IPDG Neil and I can see us fitting into this scenario (and if Neil had kept his hand and head still I could have shown you the picture).



We were welcomed by Lion President Mark Francois, MP. I have total sympathy with my counterpart John Savell District Governor 105A, as once every five years (approximately) the DG of 105A has no idea whether he is about to have one of his clubs totally wiped out at the whim of the UK electorate. Last election, the Palace of Westminster Lions Club was devastated and reduced to five members overnight but now it is healthy once more.

[Continued.....](#)

### ..... Palace of Westminster continued

Lion President Mark made us very welcome but I did find it interesting that he kept an eye on the monitor in the corner of the room and disappeared to vote on an interesting debate on apprenticeships (although there appeared to be more people at our UN meeting than in the chamber of the House of Commons).

It is good to know that our MPs are fully up-to-date with the debate and arguments taking place in Parliament and able to make reasoned and informed decisions at the division (I must slap my wrists for allowing politics to creep into my newsletter!)

The presentations made at our Lions UN meeting were interesting and stimulation. We had presentations from Jo Youle on Missing persons, Anne Callaghan of UNICEF, an update on the Korle Bu project by Michelle Beaconsfield of Moorfield Hospital and a thank you from Angharad McKenzie of Wateraid.

Our International guest and representative of Lions Clubs International was PID Lion Guorunu Yngvadottir from Iceland.

All too soon the event was over and whilst we encountered the wrath of the security police as we tried to leave the Palace of Westminster through the wrong exit, both Jackie and I would like to attend again next year.

### MEMBERS

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

Gary Beresford	Balsall Common
Thomas Blair	Balsall Common
Peter Cowley	Balsall Common
Grudip Singh	Birmingham Edgbaston
Mary Haines	Bromsgrove
Gill Onslow	Kidderminster and District
Robert Gibbens	Nuneaton
Claire Kilmurry	Warwick

I wish you a long, fulfilling and enjoyable life as a member of Lions Clubs International

**Please circulate to all Club Members**

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHARTERS

This month Jackie and I have been privileged to be the guests at two Charter Anniversary celebrations. But these have both been different because they have been joint celebrations with neighbouring clubs.



The first was a joint charter celebration between Hinckley and Burbage and Barwell and Earl Shilton Lions Clubs. This was our third consecutive invitation as guests to Hinckley and Burbage Charter Anniversary and so I was prepared for the sweepstake on the length of time for the DG guest.

The first time I responded to the toast of "Lions Clubs International", expecting to be able to 'ad lib' some comments about the activities of the club from the proposer of the toast, I was confronted by that wily (but lovable) old fox Lion Jack Tierney standing up and saying 'The toast is Lions Clubs International' and then sitting down.

However, I am pleased to say that, on this occasion, Lion President Lorraine Shipley did propose a conventional toast. The only difference was the toast preceded the meal and, to be honest, we all sat down and enjoyed our meal (with a drink) knowing we did not have to abstain in case we made a fool of ourselves.

The following week it was Nuneaton and Bedworth Lions Clubs joint Charter Anniversary and, yet again, the DG speech was subject to a sweepstake.

Knowing that Lion Peter Thomas had been at the Hinckley and Barwell Charter I decided to change my tactics and give a very short speech. **But he still won!!**

If I'm ever invited again I really will have to do a long (and I mean long) speech.

**BE AFRAID - BE VERY AFRAID!!!**

## YELLOW LIONS

Throughout the whole of March, strange yellow-dressed Lions have sprung up across the District. No, there has not been an epidemic of jaundice, but District 105M Lions have responded to our new partnership with Marie Curie and have been supporting their Daffodil Appeal and collecting, predominantly at Tesco stores but also at other supermarkets and locations within the District.

Our IPDG, having recovered from the rigours of the past three years, dusted himself down and collected at his local store.



Even Jackie and I were not able to escape from having to don yellow hats and resemble overgrown leprechauns.



But we were able to wear our own club tabards, we were recognised as Lions and, during the time I was collecting, I had three enquiries about Lions Clubs and hence the opportunity to discuss with and follow up possible future members. In my view that is a result.

To date I have received the total raised by four clubs in the District amounting to just over £5,300. If this is repeated across the District by only half the clubs, Lions will have raised close on £40,000 for Marie Curie.

**Thank you for your hard work.**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**

**JACKIE TAKES CENTRE STAGE**

In the middle of the month it was Jackie's turn to be centre of attention, as she received large donations from two Clubs in the District for her chosen charity for the year, Teenage Cancer Trust.

First up was an invitation to Sunday lunch with Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club. Jackie was delighted to accept, as it meant that she did not have to cook Sunday lunch and it was lovely to meet up for the



first time with all the members of our newest Club in the District.

Jackie was so pleased to receive a donation of £500 from the club towards the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The next day it was off to Kenilworth as guests of Balsall Common Lions Club at their President's Charity Evening to watch a performance of 'Lock Up Your Daughters' in the Priory Theatre. Whilst both of us had heard of the show, neither of us knew anything about it, but trusty Google informed us it was a 'bawdy restoration comedy musical' by Lionel Bart. We are both great lovers of the live theatre and the intimacy of such a small theatre made the performance so special.

If you know the story of 'Lock Up Your Daughters' you will not be surprised to know that there were certain 'intimacies' taking place on stage but, of course, using the words of the late Kenny Everett, 'in the best possible taste'. At the end of the evening, Jackie received another £500 for her charity, for which she is most grateful to Balsall Common Lions.

Jackie's appeal for Teenage Cancer Trust is progressing well so far and £4,000 to £4,500 has been raised to date and Jackie thanks every club who has supported her, for their generosity.

Jackie will be shortly visiting the Teenage Cancer Trust wards at the Birmingham QEH, where she will identify what equipment the money that you have given to her appeal will be used for. This equipment will be donated in the name of Lions Clubs International, District 105M.

We will keep you informed. There is still three months of the appeal to go so if you have any spare pennies in your charity accounts please do not forget Jackie's appeal.

**A CONVENTION TO REMEMBER**

When Lion Joy Haffner promised a Convention to remember I did not expect her to mean it quite so literally. I did not expect to draw back the curtains of my hotel room at the end of March and be presented with this view. But we live in the UK and anything is possible these days!



Despite being convinced that everything is fully planned and every eventuality covered, life always presents a curved ball and the unexpected does happen. Our curved ball occurred at about 2.30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, when our International guest arrived at the Pear tree Hotel; his luggage was still at Schiphol Airport courtesy of KLM Airways. But ID Benedict Ancar and Milena were reasonably 'laid back' about the situation, since KLM had three more flights from Schiphol to Birmingham and the luggage was guaranteed to be on the next flight.

It was 10.00 p.m. when their luggage eventually arrived at Birmingham Airport. However, the airport refused to guarantee that it would be delivered in time for the start of Convention the next day. So the only 'sober' Lion at the Host Night, PDG Suresh Gohil, saved the day by taking our guests to the airport to collect their luggage. I'm certain that getting to bed at 1.30 a.m. was not in either of their plans but I am eternally grateful to PDG Suresh for saving the day.



Host night was great fun and Lion Joy Haffner certainly put on a 'Children's Birthday Party' to remember.

We had jellies, cakes and those fish paste sandwiches we all 'loved' as children. We played pass the parcel, Pin the Tail on the Lion and a strange game involving a bamboo stick.

Continued.....

**Please circulate to all Club Members**

**..... District Convention continued**

We were also entertained with a pantomime by Lions from Bromsgrove parodying 'Cinderella'. At one point Lions Wim and Pauline Hoogerwerf, Cath Kendall and Joy Haffner were convinced they had great mystical powers and could levitate me by using four fingers, but as I feared my weight defeated them!

Despite the bad weather we were all pleased that the majority of Lions in 105M who intended to be at Convention for the business session actually attended. We were not missing too many delegates and certainly had sufficient for a quorum.

Convention was opened by the Mayor of Worcester, Councillor Roger Berry, and he invited Lions to start a club at the university so, Worcester and Malvern Hills Lions, it is up to you to take up the challenge.

PDG Femi gave a moving In Memoriam and this year, in addition to a lighted candle to remember those Lions that have passed to higher service, this year we commemorated each with a yellow rose. This is an idea that a number of my compatriots have copied from District 105C and it has been received well at each Convention.

The business session went to schedule and I am pleased that the obligatory embarrassing pictures of the District Governor were not too bad. They did prove that there was life before a beard (not much I admit), there was life with a head of hair (again not much I admit) and there was life when I was considerably lighter than I am at the moment (quite a lot of that).

I would like to congratulate DGE Simon Moss, 1<sup>st</sup> VDGE Ian Haffner and 2<sup>nd</sup> VDGE Heather Jeavons on their election as the Governors Team for 2013-2014.

I would like to offer my commiserations to ZC Anita Bedi on her defeat. She acquitted herself well and I am sure will back again next year.

Some of the Resolutions sparked lively debate amongst the delegates and that always makes Convention interesting. In the end, all the resolutions were passed including the Emergency one allowing a donation to be made from the District Administration Account towards a memorial for our late International President Bert Mason.

Convention is the time that the District Governor is able to say "thank you" to Lions across the District for the work and service they have given.

Like all my predecessors I would have liked to recognise everyone but we have to select a few and that is extremely difficult.

Continued.....

**..... District Convention continued**

I was delighted that PDG Heather Lee was awarded the International President's Leadership Medal for her work leading the District GMT and I know she was pleased to receive it from our International guest, so much so that once he had pinned it on her chest she asked him to do it again!



I would also like to congratulate Shakespeare, Kingswinford and Stourbridge and Marston Green and District Lions Clubs for receiving International President's Certificates of Appreciation for their work in their communities and Lions Janet Long, Cath Kendall and Barbara Dutton for their outstanding District Officer work.

**PROSTATE CANCER PRESENTATION**

As many of you know I was challenged this year to promote Prostate Cancer Awareness and, amongst the stands at Convention, we had one carrying out PSA testing. I am pleased to say that virtually every man attending was tested.



During the afternoon session Convention was addressed by Mr David Baxter-Smith a leading consultant in the field of prostate Cancer. He made what could have been a difficult subject light-hearted, without losing any of the associated messages.

We men now know the prostate gland is the size of a walnut and that, for some reason, eating tomatoes and tomato products helps prevent the problem. I am sure, like me, most men have now eaten tomatoes every day since Convention and tomato ketchup is back on the table. We men also now know that Prostate Cancer can be treated if identified early and that we should have regular PSA tests to ensure that, if we have a problem, it is quickly picked up.

**Please circulate to all Club Members**

**..... District Convention continued**

And then all too suddenly all the Competition Prizes were presented, the Lions flag transferred from the care of Lion Joy Haffner to Zone Chairman Terry Smith and we were singing 'Land of Hope and Glory'; another Convention over.



Immediately following close of Convention we had Tea and Cakes for Club Presidents, giving them an opportunity to meet ID Benedict and the Governor Team.

The Banquet and Ball is the time for the District Governor and the rest of the delegates to let down their hair and enjoy themselves. This was no exception.



I did manage to keep my promise and keep the speeches to about a minute each, giving us plenty of time to enjoy the entertainment and dance the night away to a great duo.

And just when we reached midnight and Convention and my birthday was over, we discovered it was PDG Femi's birthday and just had to start all over again!



**AT THE END OF THE MONTH, IT WAS A ROYAL VISIT.**

As a result of a casual comment by Lion Brigitte Waterfield from MDHQ at last year's Lions UN Day, inviting our royal patron to drop into MDHQ for a cup of tea when she was passing, Sophie, Countess of Wessex took Brigitte up on her invitation and visited on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

As your incumbent DG, Jackie and I were on parade and proud to be representing the Lions of District 105M.



However, once Special Branch had taken over and the local dignitaries, in the form of the Lord Lieutenant and The Mayor, had taken over, tea and biscuits were off the agenda but the Royal visit did take place. What a whirlwind event it turned out to be. Whilst Special Branch were wrapped up in warm clothes directing operations, the reception committee consisting of the Lord Lieutenant, the Deputy Mayor (I'm not sure where the real Mayor was), Martin Morgan and Jill, together with Jackie and I, stood shivering outside MDHQ.

Once the very quick formalities were completed we hurriedly went indoors and into the warmth. After being introduced to the staff at MDHQ, we were able to talk to Sophie, Countess of Wessex, the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Mayor about a number of Lions projects, including Young Leaders in Service, Young Ambassador, Lifeskills and Message in a Bottle.

We discovered that the incoming Mayor of Birmingham has chosen youth projects for his charities and we will be soon organising a meeting to work out how we can work together. Yet again this is another opportunity to work with the local authority for the mutual benefit of the community and a good result in my view.

Sophie, Countess of Wessex's visit ended with her signing the brand new version of her official Lions portrait and, whilst I have a copy, I am not allowed to publish it until the official launch. However, I can say she looks lovely.

And then she was whisked away to her waiting helicopter to be rushed to Sandwell for her next official visit, so the cup of tea will have to wait until the next visit.

Being a DG is bad enough trying to spread oneself across the District to satisfy Lions requests, but to be a royal.....

**Please circulate to all Club Members**

## BE PREPARED

Stepping into a new office in your club? Becoming a Zone or Region Chairman? Taking on the role of a District Officer? Then be prepared!

To help you have a successful year, the District Global Leadership Team has arranged a programme of training days at MDHQ to give you all the skills you need for your new role. The training days are:

- Incoming Zone and Region Chairmen: 14<sup>th</sup> April
- Incoming District Officers training at MDHQ: 4<sup>th</sup> May
- Incoming Club Officers training at MDHQ: 12<sup>th</sup> May.

It is a chance to put all the worries of your new role behind you, to share experiences with others if you have done the role or a similar one before and to hear the DGE Simon's and IP Barry Palmer's plans for 2013-2014.

The District Global Leadership Team is there to help you have a successful and enjoyable year

## ST. ASAPH

Earlier this year, clubs in the District responded magnificently to a humanitarian request for money from DG Rob Brown



of 105BS to help alleviate the devastating effects of flooding in St Asaph in North Wales and I would like to take this opportunity again to thank all that responded.

As you know, we were able to send a £2,000 donation immediately from the District Humanitarian Fund and use the donations from clubs to replenish the fund. Such is the generosity of the Lions of District 105M that we have received approximately £1,500 more than we donated.

There are two ways we can deal with this additional money as we have done before in similar circumstances:

- We can leave it in the District Humanitarian Fund for the rapid response of future disasters
- We can refund a part of the over-donation to each club that wishes to receive it, in proportion to the amount that club donated of the total amount

If clubs wish to receive a refund please contact the District Treasurer, Brian Burgess by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 on [treasurer@lions105m.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lions105m.org.uk) so we can deal with this matter in this Lions fiscal year. It will be assumed that clubs that do not request a refund agree that it can remain in the District Humanitarian Fund for future use.

## CAN YOU HELP?



DGE Simon is still looking for a few people to volunteer to fill some remaining cabinet offices for 2013-2014.

Every year District Governors are accused of 'putting the same old faces on cabinet'. Every

year incoming District Governors appeal for new blood to come forward and join cabinet, but every year there is a dearth of volunteers.

If you want to buck the trend and volunteer your service please contact DGE Simon on [vdg-1st@lions105m.org.uk](mailto:vdg-1st@lions105m.org.uk)

## MD CONVENTION IN TORQUAY

There are still six rooms available on the 'Harry and Janet Fry Weekend Away at MD Convention' in Torquay at the end of April.



The weekend away is staying at the Inglewood Hotel, Belgrave Road, Torquay.

The package comprises two nights' bed and breakfast from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April until Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, evening meal and entertainment on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April for those not attending the banquet and ball, and lunch on Sunday. The cost of the package is £72.00 per person. Unfortunately, as this has been priced as a package to get a good deal, there will be no reduction for any meals not taken.

There is the option of staying Sunday night bed and breakfast at an extra cost of £25.00 per person and many Lions from the District are staying the extra night. A buffet and get together with DG Paul and Jackie has been arranged for Sunday night at a reasonable price (still to be advised.) THIS IS OPEN TO ANYONE FROM 105 M regardless of whether they are staying in hotel or not but please let Harry or Janet know as they need to advise the hotel of numbers in advance.

For more details contact Harry or Janet Fry on [harryjan-fry3@sky.com](mailto:harryjan-fry3@sky.com) or 01922 451638

**Please circulate to all Club Members**

**DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH**

**District Governor**

**April**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kidderminster & District LC Duck Race
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcester Club visit
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Towcester 39<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary
- 6<sup>th</sup> Quiz for Teenage Cancer Trust at Scaldwell
- 9<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Edgbaston Lions Club visit
- 10<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club visit
- 13<sup>th</sup> Kingswinford & Stourbridge 38<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary
- 16<sup>th</sup> Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club visit
- 18<sup>th</sup> Wellingborough Organ Recital Concert
- 20<sup>th</sup> Harborough Twenty 12 Music Concert
- 21<sup>st</sup> Market Harborough 39<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary
- 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Council of Governors meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Multiple District Convention at Torquay
- 30<sup>th</sup> Governors Meeting

**May**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Northampton Eighty Lions Club visit
- 11<sup>th</sup> Aldridge & District 24<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary
- 18<sup>th</sup> Knowle & Dorridge 37<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary
- 19<sup>th</sup> District Cabinet meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> Thurnby 5<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary
- 28<sup>th</sup> Governors Meeting

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor**

**April**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Incoming Zone and Region Chairmen training at MDHQ
- 16<sup>th</sup> Finance and Administration meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Long Range Planning meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Council of Governors meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Multiple District Convention at Torquay
- 30<sup>th</sup> Governors Meeting

**May**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Incoming District Officers training at MDHQ
- 12<sup>th</sup> Incoming Club Officers training at MDHQ
- 19<sup>th</sup> District Cabinet meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup> Governors Meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor**

**April**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kidderminster & District LC Duck Race
- 14<sup>th</sup> Incoming Zone and Region Chairmen training at MDHQ
- 16<sup>th</sup> Finance and Administration meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Long Range Planning meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Multiple District Convention at Torquay
- 30<sup>th</sup> Governors Meeting

**May**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Incoming District Officers training at MDHQ
- 11<sup>th</sup> Coventry Godiva 19<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary
- 12<sup>th</sup> Incoming Club Officers training at MDHQ
- 19<sup>th</sup> District Cabinet meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup> Governors Meeting

**LIONS WORLDWIDE INDUCTION DAY**



Lions Worldwide Induction Day this year is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April and a worldwide event that welcomes new members and gives Lions the opportunity to stimulate membership growth and increase public awareness for your club and its activities. It is a symbolic statement to Lions in your area and the general public that Lions Clubs International is committed to recruiting quality members and meeting community needs.

Whilst it is probably short notice to run a major Membership Recruitment Drive, you do have an opportunity this month to induct any new members you have lined up to commemorate this event.

However, if you do have a membership drive planned for this month, you have an opportunity to include Lions Worldwide Induction Day as part of your PR strategy.

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**A GENTLE REMINDER**

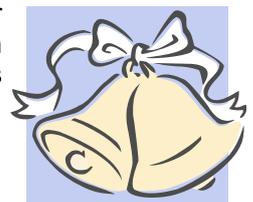
I know the Lions within this District have a reputation for forward planning and so by now you will have held your club elections and chosen your Club Officers for 2013-2014. I also know that I do not need to remind Club Secretaries that they must report their new club officers either using the MyClub website or via the PU101 form by **May 15<sup>th</sup> 2013**. But, for the few who may have forgotten, this is a gentle reminder.

When you are selecting members to take up offices within your club, this is your opportunity to start giving responsibility to your new members. This is one of the best ways to fully embrace and integrate your new members into your club. Responsibility leads to commitment and commitment leads to longevity of membership, and longevity of membership helps you overcome retention problems.

**FINALLY IMPORTANT GOOD WISHES.....**

I would like to finish by wishing Lion Brigitte Waterfield and Tom every best wish from the Lions of our District for their wedding on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

For the few of you that do not know Brigitte she is the Office Manager at MDHQ and is the cheery voice that invariably greets you when you ring to make orders or ask for help. She is also a member and Secretary of Birmingham Moseley and Kings Heath Lions Club.



**We all wish you happiness for the future.**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**



CONVENTION HOST NIGHT FUN AND GAMES

Please circulate to all Club Members



**MORE HOST NIGHT FUN**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**



**CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**



**CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**



**CONVENTION BANQUET AND BALL  
WHERE DG PAUL FINISHES HIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS  
AND PDG FEMI ONABOLU BEGINS HIS!**

**Please circulate to all Club Members**