

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



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HOW TIME FLIES!

Back in August when I started out on my programme of official club visits in the District it seemed a huge undertaking with many miles and hours to spend in the car on the motorways. At the beginning of April with only four left to do I wondered where it had all gone. This month I completed three of those outstanding visits and I have only my own club visit to complete in early May.

It was my pleasure to visit Worcester Lions Club at the beginning of April to thank them from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful District Convention they had arranged for me. It was also a delight to visit Birmingham Edgbaston and I have had several false starts trying to fix a date during the year. At the beginning of the year the club was effectively four members, but now there are eight and there is still hope that there might be one or two more by the end of June. We met at Jee Jee's Indian Restaurant in Smethwick but the club is still trying to find a suitable venue in Edgbaston. Things are looking a bit brighter for the club and I wish them well for the future.

My final club visit this month was to Birmingham Chinatown. Whilst I spend a lot of time in and around Birmingham, I have not actually been to the centre since I lived in Birmingham in the early seventies, when I left university and worked for Lucas.



And yes, despite a SatNav, I got lost but did eventually find the Mung Moon. Again, the welcome was warm and it turned out to be a red letter day as the club unanimously approved the induction of their first lady member and by now that might be two lady members. It was my pleasure to present several service chevrons including a 25 year charter member chevron to Lion Joe Lee and to receive a generous donation to the District 'Shopping List'.

CHARTER ANNIVERSARIES

The waist line has been bashed a bit this month, as Jackie and I have been guests at three Charter anniversaries and I have been given the pleasure of presenting two Melvin Jones Fellowships.



The first was at Towcester and was given to Lion President Keith Giffin for his service to the club over many years. Last year circumstance forced Towcester

to move their Charter anniversary to the middle of the week and, as it was such a success, it was repeated again this year.

The second Melvin Jones Fellowship was presented by Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions at their Charter anniversary, to Immediate Past President Lion Mike Blaxland.

Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions also had a magician performing at tables during the meal and then entertaining after the speeches.

Whilst we all know that it is done by sleight of hand, even when he was doing a card trick a couple of inches away, we still could not see how it was done.



At the end of his performance he suspended one of the guests in mid-air between two chairs without the aid of a safety net.

Please circulate to all Club Members

AIRBORNE PLASTIC DUCKS AND 'AIR UKULELE'

And now as the official club visits have almost been completed, there is more time to support clubs at fundraising and social events. The first such event was at Bewdley at Kidderminster and District Lions Club's re-arranged New Year's Day Duck Race that took part on April Fool's Day.



Whilst the temperature during the morning was akin to New Year's Day, it did not stop the crowds turning out and certainly Kidderminster Lions were rushed off their feet selling plastic ducks.

The club did take the opportunity to run a membership drive and Lions in the Zone rallied around to support the club.



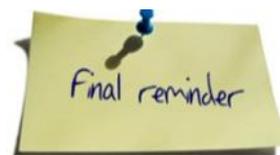
At midday, the town bridge was crammed with people clutching plastic ducks and as the cannon fired, thousands of plastic ducks took to the air as they were thrown from the bridge into the River Severn and drifted off towards the finishing line.

Another such event was an organ concert by Nicholas Martin at the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough and organised by Wellingborough Lions Club. We were entertained to a wide range of music including some from films and musicals, popular tunes, waltz music and music typical of Reginald Dixon. The tempo of some pieces was incredibly fast and his rendition of Widor's Toccata was the fastest I have ever heard it played; in fact if he were ever to play it at a wedding I am sure the bride and groom would have to sprint down the aisle to keep in time.

Towards the end he played a medley of 'old favourites' and I saw Lion Roger Handcock take the concept of playing air guitars to a new height as he played 'air ukulele' to George Formby's 'When I'm Cleaning windows'!

FINAL REMINDER

This is the final reminder to all incoming District Officers and Club Officers that the District Global Leadership Team is there to help you have a successful and enjoyable year in your new role.



They have arranged training days at the Arden Hotel close to the NEC and Birmingham Airport to give you all the skills you need. The training days are:

Incoming District Officers, Arden Hotel: 4th May
Incoming Club Officers, Arden Hotel: 12th 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.

If you have not done so already, this is your final chance to book into your training session by contacting Phil White on philpwhite@talktalk.net or 0121 785 0392

SECOND FINAL REMINDER



I know by now that all the clubs in the District will have elected or be very close to finalising the choice of their Club Officers for 2013-2014.

I also know that this year's Club Secretaries have been efficient in their reporting but this one final reminder that the names of the new Club Officers must be reported through using the MyClub website or via the PU101 form by **May 15th 2013**. This will ensure that the new Directory for 2013-2014 will have the correct officers for the clubs in the District.

I also ask that Club Secretaries check that the details for your club officers are correctly entered in the MyClub website, as this data will be used for the details in the Directory and eliminate the number of corrections that are circulated as soon as the Directory is published each year.

MEMBERS



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



- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Emily Namba | Corby and District |
| Joan Stephenson | Northampton Eighty |
| John Stephenson | Northampton Eighty |
| Graham Yates | Rugby Rokeby |
| Geoffrey Allen | Southam |

Please circulate to all Club Members

THE MONTH ENDS AT TORQUAY

The month ended with a trip to sunny Torquay and, yes, it was sunny although most of the time we saw the inside of a Council meeting room or the inside of the Riviera Conference Centre.

Convention was great and the Lions of 105M turn out in force especially on Host Night where 105M occupied eight tables and probably the largest representation of all the Districts. It was also a good opportunity for many of us to relive our youth and floral shirts, flared trousers and kaftans abounded. 'Peace man' was definitely the in phrase that evening!

The business session on the Saturday was conducted in an efficient manner and the resolutions were passed or rejected as most Lions would have predicted. The resolution to change the Lions motto from 'We Serve' to 'We Serve – We Care' was rejected as predicted but the proposer's speech was the funniest of the day and certainly livened up the afternoon proceedings when tiredness was beginning to creep in.

There was also an amazing presentation by Lifesavers who have created an emergency clean water system which can convert infected river water into safe drinking water for about £150 and provide clean water for a family of four for up to three years without refurbishing the filtration system. In a matter of seconds, Convention watched muddy river water turned into clear water and watched the speaker drink it.

Sunday is the session that most delegates enjoy the most, as it is the day when the current Council is presented to Convention but, more importantly, it is the day when the incoming District Governors are paraded into the Convention Hall and each District tries to outdo each other with hooters, streamers and confetti.



I had warned Simon and Christine that it would be a blur, as every PDG and partner will testify. And as Jackie and I met and welcomed them to the stage, we could not believe that it was twelve months ago that Neil and Beryl welcomed us to the stage at Birmingham.

As every PDG says, this is the fastest year of your life!



Sunday is also the day when the International President earns his keep with an address to Convention. I think most delegates learnt the rigours of being an International President during the Saturday session, as jet lag was clearly affecting Wayne Madden, but on Sunday he was in fine form and spoke well.

It was good to learn that like last year's IP project to plant trees for the environment has continued, the International Board has approved that his Reading Action Programme to reduce the level of illiteracy throughout the world will continue for at least ten years as a Lions programme. From a personal point of view I am pleased as it is a good project and I would encourage all clubs in the District to take it forward over the next ten years.

Wayne Madden also reminded the District Governors that there are still eight weeks to go and set us all a challenge to complete in that time. I have decided to have a go at the challenge but more about that in the next (and last) edition of my newsletter.

Those that attended the Banquet and Ball enjoyed a lovely evening but, as usual, most of the Lions from the District ran their own competing event which was equally successful. I also gather that part of the entertainment was a serenade by Elvis Presley aka PDG Lion Roger Handcock.



Jackie and I had a chance to join most of the Lions from the District for a buffet meal on the Sunday evening and we both thank Janet and Harry Fry for organising the meal. Attending Council and Convention was hectic and it was nice to relax with our friends in the District for an evening. Despite there being only eight weeks to go, the diary is still full and there is still more to do. This Council may have held their 'Last Supper' in Torquay and we may also have arranged our first weekend away as PDGs in York next February but we are also looking forward and planning what we are doing next year at District and Multiple District levels.

So it is business as usual.

Please circulate to all Club Members

PEACE AND LOVE IN TORQUAY



'FAIRY TALE' WEDDING

Brigitte tells the story that Tim romantically proposed to her in front of castle at the Magic Kingdom in Orlando and, lo and behold, her wedding cake was a model of the castle with icing models of Mickey and Minnie Mouse as bride and groom, standing at the entrance.



Jackie and I were delighted to be asked to share in Tim and Brigitte's special day by attending the evening function. It was a great evening and everyone enjoyed themselves. True to her dedication to Lions Clubs International, the newly married Mrs Waterfield-Green was back in the office on Monday to prepare for Multiple District Convention at Torquay, and, yes, the honeymoon was in Torquay.

ANY SPARE PENNIES WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

As we move towards the end of this Lions year, it is very often the time that clubs look at their finances and make decisions on which donations they are able to and would like to make. If you are stuck for ideas and have not already done so, I would like to make a few suggestions:



- The District Officers Recommendation list aka the 'Shopping List'
- The National Arboretum Appeal
- A Gift for Living
- Music and the Deaf
- Niger Water Wells
- Jackie's appeal for 'Teenage Cancer Trust'

If you are able to make any donations to these causes please send your cheques the District Treasurer made out to LCI District 105M and which cause you wish to support written on the back.

Please circulate to all Club Members

DIARY DATES FOR MAY AND JUNE**District Governor****May**

- 3rd Birmingham Chinatown 26th Charter Anniversary
- 4-6th Rushden membership drive at Rushden Show
- 7th Northampton Eighty Lions Club visit
- 11th Aldridge and District 24th Charter Anniversary
- 12th Kidderminster and District Lions Raft Race
- 18th Northampton 80 Coffee Morning in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust
- 18th Knowle and Dorridge 37th Charter Anniversary
- 19th District Cabinet meeting
- 19th Thurnby 5th Charter Anniversary
- 28th Governors Meeting

June

- 3rd Wellingborough and District Club visit
- 4th Zone H and I Games for Special Needs Schools
- 8th Sandwell 4th Charter Anniversary
- 14th Rugby Rokeby 45th Charter Anniversary
- 22nd Rowell Summer Dance
- 23rd Wellesbourne Raft Race, followed by PDG lunch
- 28th Governors Meeting
- 29th Malvern Hills 38th Charter Anniversary
- 30th Northampton Eighty Handover Dinner

District Governor Elect**May**

- 4th Incoming District Officers training at Arden Hotel
- 12th Incoming Club Officers training at Arden Hotel
- 19th District Cabinet meeting
- 28th Governors Meeting

June

- 8th Castle Bromwich 23rd Charter Anniversary
- 9th District GLT meeting
- 27th District GMT meeting
- 28th Governors Meeting

1st Vice District Governor Elect**May**

- 4th Incoming District Officers training at Arden Hotel
- 11th Coventry Godiva 19th Charter Anniversary
- 12th Incoming Club Officers training at Arden Hotel
- 19th District Cabinet meeting
- 28th Governors Meeting

June

- 7th-9th DG Training at St John's Hotel, Solihull
- 27th District GMT meeting
- 28th Governors Meeting

NORTH SEA LIONS PROJECT IN BURKINA FASO 2011-2012

It is with a degree of disappointment that we have learnt that the North Sea Lions Project for last year in Burkina Faso has been cancelled. As you will remember, the project aimed to set up a permanent Eye Clinic in the country. However, Lion Knud Løkkegaard of District 106C has informed us that, despite two years of hard work in preparing for the project, the decision not to proceed has been reluctantly made.

The final brick in the wall for the project to start was to secure a grant from LCIF for \$55,000 which was agreed, provided the team delivered a five-year budget, a plan for man-power and the building drawings. This requirement was considered to be a formality as it was being dealt with by the club in Burkina Faso.

However, despite numerous email communications and telephone calls when this information was promised by the club, nothing was forthcoming. As the deadline for the LCIF grant was approaching, the Lions of 106C asked the Ambassador of Burkina Faso in Denmark to intervene - which she did. However, the documents received from the club in Burkina Faso were not sufficiently detailed to comply with the need of LCIF and, as the deadline passed, LCIF withdrew their grant.

The Lions of 106C find themselves in an unhappy situation and feel the trust in their fellow Lions in Burkina Faso has gone. This is one reason why they have not pursued finance from an alternative source.

The money donated by 105M towards the project will be returned to the District Treasurer who, in due course, will consult with clubs in this District on what they wish to do with the money - either to hold it in the District Accounts for next year's project or return donations to clubs.

MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL APPEAL

As those who attended Convention in Torquay know, Lions around the Multiple District collected just over £146,000 for Marie Curie during their Daffodil Appeal during March.

This equates to some 7,300 hours of nursing care that Lions have provided. I am proud that Lions within this District responded magnificently, with many Lions collecting for the first time, and would like to thank you all again for your dedicated time and effort.

I am sure this is the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between the Lions of MD105 and Marie Curie as we work together to relieve the sufferings of those with cancer.

Please circulate to all Club Members