



DG Erach's News



Sad Passings

It is with much regret that I have to report the passing of PDG Lion John Smith. Lion John was a member of Spelthorne Lions Club, (now changed to Staines and Ashford) for over 30 years. He was a policeman prior to that for over 25 years, after which he ran his own business as a builder and decorator. He will be much remembered also as a humourist and a poet. He even wrote his own poem for his Memorial Service held at Chobham Church. He was buried in his local village, attended by over 150 Lions, friends and relatives. He will be greatly missed by all his colleagues. Our condolences go to Lion Jenny and the family. Jenny: you are, and always will be a close member of our great Lions family.

Also our condolences go to Lion Bhasker and Lata Patel of Ruislip for the loss of their daughter Vibha, and Ranjena, wife of Kirit Parmar, Lions Club of Sudbury. The memories of these loved and cherished ones will remain with us all, and our sympathies go with you and all your families.

In my own family as well, I have this last week lost my much loved and cherished sister, Khurshid. My family and I thank you for your beautiful thoughts and prayers.

A Personal Story by Arnawaz Amaria

As you would have read in the other part of Pride of Lions, I too was invited together with Erach to the WheelPower Junior Games at Stoke Mandeville. I met many children with some sort of disability, amongst them too were children with Cerebral Palsy. I watched them as their parents tenderly clasped their hands giving them words of encouragement. Whenever I looked at their faces, full of hope, expectations and quiet desperation, I was moved to offer a grateful prayer of thanks of the amazing and wonderful work the charity does. There are many desperate parents looking for some guidance, some professional help for their little ones, who are victims of Cerebral Palsy. Through SCOPE, professional help such as counselling can comfort and alleviate their anguish. The needs of these children are paramount. To bring a smile to a child's face is the motivating factor. Your donations, however small will help. May God bless this haven of hope and bless all within it who have made it so.

"As the world revolved unshakable like the sun, my heart resolved like a wall so firm and tall. I will stand and never crawl. Disorder I will one day tame and not quiver like a leaf. If Autumn came, destiny's cup steady in my hand, my feet firm, hold the hand and my soul will dance with glee, like my faith, unshakable I will be".

I salute the spirit of all those affected with cerebral palsy.
Arnawaz Amaria

Lions Charity Golf Days

I would like to thank London Host Club for arranging an excellent golf day in September. This was enjoyed by Lion participants and guests with interesting scores. The day was followed by a barbecue serving an array of most delicious foods. Congratulations to all the winners! Thank you Lion Girdhar Sodha and Lion Vijay Jain. May I also say HAPPY SWINGING to all other clubs who are organising such Lions Charity Golf Days. These are enjoyed by golfers and non golfers alike. Also such fantastic golf days were organised by Lion Peter Gent and PDG Lion Elliot Schubert, played on the lovely grounds of High Wycombe. Well done Lions and keep it up.

Congratulations!

To Lion John Hunt and Brenda Hunt who have just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and also to my wife Arnawaz for sharing 40 years of marriage with me on October 31st. Best wishes also to all other Lions celebrating birthdays, anniversaries & births.

We are all saddened to hear of the devastating earthquake which caused such destruction and loss of life in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. Our heartfelt sympathy to all those bereaved and injured and all affected by this terrible disaster.

My Diary

- 3-6 Nov Europa Forum
- 6 Nov Regional Life Skill Day (Hatfield)
- 6 Nov Stevenage Charter (CA)
- 7 Nov Swiss Cottage (OV)
- 8 Nov Kenton (OV)
- 9 Nov Stanmore (OV)
- 10 Nov Wantage & Grove (OV)
- 11 Nov Milton Keynes (CA)
- 12 Nov Amersham & Chesham Charter (CA)
- 13 Nov Remembrance Day
- 14 Nov Hendon (OV)
- 15 Nov Bedford & Harper (OV)
- 16 Nov Watford (OV)
- 18 Nov Fundraising Event
- 19 Nov Redbridge Charter (CA)
- 20 Nov D & D Young Persons Christmas Party
- 22 Nov Staines & Ashford (OV)
- 23 Nov Hayes & Hartlington (OV)
- 26 Nov Enfield Charter (CA)

Don't forget the Minibus Appeal appeared in last month's Pride of Lions

Did you know? The Webmasters can put nearly anything on the Website.

Pride of Lions



Pride of Lions



District 105A News

Issue 5, November 2005

DG Lion Erach Amaria

Betty Atkins - MBE

Yet another Lion has been recognised by HM The Queen. **Lion Betty Atkins** is a member of the Wallingford & Didcot Lions Club and has recently been awarded the MBE for services to the Community. For many, many years Lion Betty has been very involved with many charity organisations in Wallingford helping raise money and often being a 'leading light' with various action groups e.g., to save the local hospital from closure etc. She has been a Town Councillor for longer than I can remember and has been Town Mayor twice. She joined Lions' 7 years ago. She is currently President of the Lions Club. Members of the Wallingford & Didcot Lions Club are proud of the fact that one of their members has been awarded the MBE and warmly congratulate Betty. All the District join in congratulating Betty.



Important Date for your Diary:

Senior Citizen's Party
Sunday 5th Feb 2005



Real Power Behind WheelPower

Friday 23rd September was a day to remember for many when the Junior Games took place at the impressive Stoke Mandeville Stadium. It is the only facility of its kind in the world, where some of the world's most amazing athletes can train to become the futures' Paralympians. The games are run by WheelPower, the charity the District is working with and sponsored by Norwich Union. Hopeful athletes were coached and challenged to be the best in such sports as fencing, track sports and what has to be my favourite, hockey. This is no ordinary stadium, or these no ordinary athletes, for everyone taking part has some form of disability, be it spinal, through a debilitating disease or accident, or perhaps cerebral, such as Cerebral Palsy. DG Erach and Arnawaz, Steve Foot, front man for the Lions in this project, VDG Louvain Allen and Lion Andrew, as well

as myself as editor and other Lions looked upon, in what can only be described as awe. Children as young as 11 took up challenges that most of us would not only take for granted, but would shy away from taking part in, because it is too strenuous. Once we were showed around, we were invited for lunch by the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. I was privileged to have lunch with Paddy Hopkirk and the Countess of Westmorland, who are real activists in this field and who were a pleasure to meet. For me, top of the agenda was meeting one of my and my boys' heroes, **Ade Adepitan** whose team won silver at the Paralympics last year in basketball. The endless world of possibilities that opened before us on this day affected us all. More importantly, the help we give to WheelPower will affect the lives of hundreds of young adults and children.



Pride of Lions

HRH Countess of Wessex Visits Moorfiled Eye Hospital

By PDG Lion Max Mongia

World Sight Day was marked this year by a trip from our Patron HRH Countess of Wessex, when she officially launched Sight First II at the Moorfiled Eye Hospital in London. This occasion was marked when she unveiled a plaque for the Lions at the hospital, which restores the sight of over 500 people annually. This successful event was supported by the Multiple District and LCI was represented by our Past International Director, Howard Lee. This extraordinary event was publicised both in The Times and the Daily Express, who ran the article with photographs.

ANNUAL LCIF GALA NIGHT COMING SOON!

It is time to book your tickets for the District LCIF GALA NIGHT on SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2006. Let us celebrate the birthday of the founder of Lions Clubs International MELVIN JONES and the achievements of Lions Clubs International Foundation at LONDON HEATHROW MARRIOTT. Ticket price is only £30 per person includes a four-course dinner, live music, multi-cultural show and much more. An evening not to be missed. To avoid disappointment please book early. For more details and booking forms contact Vijay Arora 020 7323 0580, 077 1244 7408 or E-mail: lcif@lions105a.org.

Help Needed Urgently

A couple of months ago I reported that I could no longer hold the District PR boards. I now live in a smaller house than when I took them on, and I need to convert that room into a study area for my boys. I am now having to hold up much needed work as no one has volunteered to take them on. **PLEASE can someone help.** The display boards are normally out at Clubs, so there should be no time where all the boards are together. Call me, Maria on 07814 883 485 or email me at news@lions105a.org.

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Full House at Northwood

Northwood Lions Club will be filling the house on Saturday, 19th November, when all are invited to take part in the Christmas Bingo. For just £6, including a buffet, come and take part in this fun event, with prizes for everything from a full house, to four corners and lines as well. All prizes, we have been informed, will be "Christmassy". So come along to the Haste Hill Golf Club, The Drive, Northwood, 7.30-8.00pm. For more information, please call the club secretary, - details in the directory.

Lion Keith Tooley Honoured

Bletchley Milton Keynes Lions had a little surprise for long standing member Keith Tooley, the District Distribution Officer of The Lion, when they awarded him with a Melvin Jones Fellowship award. Keith was absolutely delighted, if a little surprised to be honoured in such a way. A fuller interview will be forthcoming in a future edition, when we will find out a little bit more about him. Congratulations Keith!

Don't Forget...

The first ever District Christmas Party for **Disadvantaged and Disabled Young Persons** is taking place on

Sunday, 20th November 2005

This has been appearing in Pride of Lions for a few months now. If you can support it, or wish to send children along, then please talk to:

Alf Sanders on 020 8847 2407 or
Alf Greenbank on 020 8894 1600.

From the Editor

I often find that by the time I start writing this part of Pride of Lions, I have to re-write it as things happen and perspectives change. As Lions involved in the fortunes and misfortunes in the World, I started off this piece with a heavy heart, wanting to do something for the victims of the earthquake. I then see things are being done and my mood lifts. I then remain on a high after the Cabinet meeting, where ideas are exchanged, decisions made. I then have the need to get rid of the adrenalin by taking to the road in my leathers on the back of a powerful bike. But then I get to write the obituaries and am reminded of how frail life is, how we mourn the loss of a loved one, or are moved by the sadness affecting others' losses. This brings me full circle to a calm state of mind when this goes to print. You see, I am very privileged to belong to the Lions, to be part of this organisation where news - good and bad - will affect me and make me want to do something pro-active. I am lucky!

Amphill Race to the Finish Line

On October 8th Amphill District Lions Club ran a Race Night with a difference. Amphill donated the Race Night to the Bedfordshire Cheshire Homes. They provided the hall with a bar, and a ploughman's supper on the night. Amphill and Biggleswade Sandy Lions, together with a well-known Past District Governor, our Vice District Governor and their partners supported the residents and their friends on the night. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and The Cheshire Home made £836 profit, five times the value of Amphill's Donation!

Lions Go Footie Mad by Lion George Matthews Youth Football Officer

This new Lionistic year and the onset of rain, drizzle and high winds always brings the beginning of the football season. We did extremely well last year,

and this year we are hoping to go right up to the top of the League again. The Clubs that are taking part in the Youth Football Competition in our District are Berkhamsted, London West, London Central and Echo Youth who is a non sponsored team by a Lions club. The draw of the teams took place on the 4th September 2005 at Birmingham HQ. This information has been sent to the FA for sanction and we await the result, for matches to be played by early November.

There are a total of 86 teams in the Multiple District that are in the competition this year, of which the competition has been opened to League Clubs that are not sponsored by Lions Clubs. I will report on our progress as the matches are played. Good luck to all!

Admin Matters

The Lions Affinity card has been around for the last 10 years and the concept is that Lions and their family members apply for the credit cards and use them for their everyday purchases. That generates royalty income for the District which goes towards keeping our Admin. costs down. A very simple concept with NO cost to Lions - only benefit to the members. Unfortunately, so far this idea has not had the success that it deserves. Very few Lions have applied and carry the Affinity card. In my visits to Clubs or Zone meetings I have come across a reluctance on the part of Lions to apply for this card. I am aware of certain difficulties with procedures of MBNA bank (who manage this card for us) but these are not such that it should stop a Lion from applying. New application forms will be available in the near future....Please apply. Lions who already have the card....do all your shopping using the Affinity card. Support the card and let us help ourselves

Shirish Sheth

St Albans Leos Say "Cheers"

It was one of the most looked forward to events in St Albans when the St Albans Leos joined in for yet another St Albans Beer Festival, hosted by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. This wasn't just a jolly for those hardened ale drinkers however. As people attending, such as DG Erach and Zone Chair Luke Adams, could also try an array of ciders as well. The outcome of what turned out to be most enjoyable few nights out, will be many thousands of pounds to local charities.

Music Competition Reminder

Don't forget that the deadline for the Music Competition is 30th December 2005. The chosen instrument this year is the flute. All details can be obtained from Lion Vijay Arora, Cultural Community Officer.

Lions with WATERAID and Water for Life by PDG Ram Jaggi

Safe water and sanitation are now recognised as human rights, vital for everyone in the world. Yet 1.2 billion people still don't have access to safe water and 2.6 billion people are without adequate water contributing to the deaths of 15 million children a year. Many women and children spend hours each day walking miles to collect water which is often unsafe to drink. This prevents women from carrying out other work and stops children from going to school. This is such a startling array of facts and statistics. By 2025 two thirds (66%) of the world's population will live in conditions of water shortage compared with 40% today.

As Lions our partnership with WaterAid has been useful and successful. WaterAid works by helping local organisations such as Lions set up low cost, sustainable projects using appropriate technology that can be managed by the community itself. One of this year's objectives is to assist in the provision of 200 water points in Malawi either through new construction or rehabilitation.

I visited rural Malawi. The only words I can use to describe my trip with the charity WaterAid are amazing and ghastly. I travelled to raise awareness of the charity's work, so of course I expected that I would see poverty first hand, but what I found was totally shocking. It has made me more determined than ever to alert others to the plight of those living without clean water and sanitation. Would you let a loved one drink water that you know is contaminated with human waste and harmful bacteria? Of course not. But many mothers in Africa and Asia simply have no choice. **You and I can give them that choice.** With our gift their communities can dig and maintain wells of their own. It costs an average of just £15 to provide somebody in the developing world with a supply of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. This year, we hope that Clubs will do all they can to ensure that people are spared the poverty that comes without these.

To unite the clubs in the bond of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding

To Aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy