



# PRIDE OF LIONS



District 105A News  
DG Wesley de Mendonca

Issue 2, September 2009 • www.lions105a.org.uk • info@lions105a.org.uk • T: 0845 833 4964

## Handover 09

July is a month of change all over the world Lionistically speaking. A sort of changing of the guards. Club Vice Presidents become Presidents, the International Vice President becomes International President and in all some 750 District Vice Governors become District Governors.

In our District the change took place on 19 July at the Holiday Inn High Wycombe when DG Vijay Arora handed over the chain of office to DGE Wesley De Mendonca. Those present enjoyed a very good lunch and the noise level during lunch indicated plenty of fun and fellowship.

Following lunch DG Vijay spoke for the last time as DG in outlining the main highlights of her year. She thanked all members of the District for their support at whatever function she and Krishan had attended. She had been proud to be District Governor and had enjoyed every minute. DG Vijay then made her final presentations which included a fitting tribute to Lion Ivor Poole for all his work for the District over many years. Krishan was also pleased to announce that £10,000 had been raised over the year for his chosen charity, the NSPCC.



It was then time to handover to DGE Wesley and although inducted at the International Convention this is the time for our own induction. After repeating the necessary words Vijay placed the chain of office around Wesley's neck and so she became IPDG and he DG.

So as to give members a first hand insight into our International President's themes for the year DG Wesley played a DVD produced by IP Eberhard Wirfs.

DG Wesley then went on to introduce the cabinet for 2009/2010 by firstly inducting Lion Martin Morgan as 1st District Vice Governor and then the remainder of the cabinet. In doing so DG Wesley said that the international school ( which all DG's attend at the International Convention ) had been hard work but inspirational to him.

All members of the District wish DG Wesley and Brenda and VDG Martin and Jill all the best for the coming year and thank IPDG Vijay and Krishan for the past year.

With a final toast to Lions Clubs International, and in keeping with tradition, the guards had been changed.

Lion Mike Baldwin



*VDG Martin Morgan at the July Handover*



*DG with Zone Chairpersons at Handover*

## NOTICE BOARD

Winter Forum at Doubletree by Hilton, West Milton Keynes on 4th October 2009  
Contact Lion PCC Viresh Paul

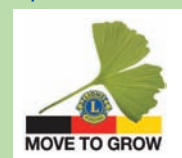
Lions World Sight Day 8 October 2009

Lord Mayor's Show - London 9th November 2009

**FUNDAY** organised jointly by the **LEO CLUBS OF HADLEY WOOD AND MILL HILL**, with the backing of all Zone F Lions Clubs. The **FUNDAY** is taking place between 1.00 - 6.00pm on Sunday, 11th of October, 2009, at the Aspire Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4AP.

### LCI Purpose:

*To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.*



## Maison des Landes – Jersey

This is a 27 bed hotel sponsored by the **Lions Club of Jersey**, and situated a few miles outside St Helier at St Ouen's Bay. The holiday was a unique experience and I was able to see at first hand what this very special project was all about. It is specially for handicapped people and families but also caters for ordinary folks as well. The Lions motto 'We serve' in action.

Minibuses picked guests up at the airport. It was raining but we all enjoyed the lovely countryside and sea views. At the hotel Steve, the Manager, greeted us with a nice 'Cuppa and sandwiches' Steve is handicapped, uses a walker and has a real insight into special needs. The rooms were spacious with walk-in showers and emergency pull cords everywhere. There were ceiling tracks with pulleys for really disabled people. If one requires help the district nurse will arrange to call.

If you are on diet then... forget it. The wonderful French Chef makes mouth watering meals and French pastries! A lovely packed lunch with sandwiches, fruit and treats are given out at 10.30am before the day out begins at 11am.

Four minibuses are used each day, equipped for scooters and wheel chairs as well as ordinary seats. Each minibus had a caring, cheerful driver, who took us to all the lovely places and also down to the beach. There are so many wonderful places to visit. Evenings were fun with Quiz nights, Bingo, Country and Western, fancy dress, and even ten pin bowling which was hilarious. On the

Thursday evening members of the Jersey Lions club came to dinner and chatted with us all.

Trips into St Hillier were a must. The whole town was getting ready for the 'Battle of the Flowers' and everywhere was a blaze of colour – what wonderful displays.

One family of eight came over in the ferry from Weymouth. The mother only 52yrs, unable to speak or move from neck down, husband, gran and grandad and sister plus three children. The drivers rigged up one of the mini buses to take the flat wheelchair and the whole family went out each day. To see the delight on their faces after the sight seeing trips and the chat of the teenage children was something to remember.

I have nothing but praise for the Lions Club of Jersey for this caring project. We all were given every assistance, every mobility aid was available and we were treated with kindness and dignity.

The daily cost of this holiday includes all the trips out and entertainment. The only extra charge would be for the trip to France. The drivers took us back for our flights home and it was like saying goodbye to dear friends.

**Food for thought; wouldn't it be nice if we got together with other clubs in our District and sponsor a disabled person to go on holiday? Put your thinking caps on!!!**

Iris (Gough)

2 new members, both for Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club: **Terence and Maureen Clinch**

## A Highland Gathering

**Harpenden Lions Club** organised another highly successful Highland Gathering on Sunday 12th July 2009 in Rothamsted Park, Harpenden. It was again blessed by lovely weather which ensured we attracted an enormous crowd during the day – probably a total of 10,000 people. The Harpenden Town Mayor, Cllr. Rosemary Farmer, was the Gathering Chieftain for the day.

The event included all the popular Scottish events, including highland dancing, piping competitions, heavy events (tossing the caber, throwing the hammer, etc) and massed pipe bands displays. There was also a falcon display, a sheepdog display, a race by the Scouts, demonstrations by the Black Watch historic re-enactment team, and interludes by the St Albans City band and the Luton Jazz Band.

Once again the event was an opportunity for crafters, charities and businesses to show off their wares from a large variety of stalls. Children were also catered for with a fun fair, Circus Whizz - an opportunity to try circus tricks, a series of races, a fun run and a climbing wall. There was plenty on site to eat and drink throughout the day.

The Gathering has raised about £12,000 for our dedicated beneficiaries: Grove House Hospice in St Albans, the Sue Ryder Care home at Stagenhoe near Hitchin, and Harpenden Lions Club Charities including Life Skills. The many community organisations which supported the Lions and helped provide such a fun day have been appropriately rewarded. Everyone was a winner!

Next year's event will be on Sunday 11th July 2010. If any Lions Clubs would like to take a stall or get involved with Harpenden Lions should contact the Chairman of the Gathering Committee, Bengie Walden to discuss this (bengie.walden@harpenden-lions.co.uk tel. 01582 462067).





## Marathon Man at Lions Club of Mill Hill

Lion Shashi Chauhan took part in The London Marathon on 26th April 09, and successfully finished in 5 hours and 30 minutes.

He promoted Lionism and raised funds for "Get Kids Going", a charity which provides sport and mobility equipment for disabled children.

He thanks all the Lion members and Clubs who generously supported him to raise £2,028 for the charity.



## Youth Exchange Day Trip, Friday July 24<sup>th</sup> 2009

We started off the day meeting at Queensbury tube station, for our journey to Waterloo Station. Lion Vivien was running late. Lion Ayn had contacted me to say that they were also running late. Great...!!! If we are late arriving at Waterloo we may miss our Day Trip, and no refunds. I contacted Lion Raza, who was also meeting us at Waterloo with another 3 students. He was also 'Going Nowhere' as the train had been cancelled. Wonderful! Now we had a party of people, and none of us joining up with the others. Nightmare!

Happily, we all eventually reached Waterloo. We walked to the London Eye, and got on the London Duck Tour. This is an amphibian vehicle and takes one through the streets of London. The guide was fantastic and told us the history of various places. We then 'drove' into the Thames River. The youths thought we were mad to drive into the river as this part was



a complete surprise to them. And to top it, the man at the barrier asked them for passports, saying that we were off to France!!! Their faces were a picture of shock. We cruised around the river looking at MI6 building and the Houses of Parliament. The students really enjoyed it all.

On our return we had lunch and spent some time in the park alongside the South Bank, where there were some entertainers. During the week we hosted an Italian Dinner at a member's home. I made Lasagne, with salad, and homemade cassata. We attended the Youth Exchange

Farewell dinner, which was organised by Lion Raza Ismail and his wife Yasmin together with the Team members. The Host Clubs gave them gifts and Club Banners, to take back to their sponsoring club in their home countries.

Lion Jen Giannoccaro  
Lions Club London Kingsbury



## Lions Club of Belmont



Brenda (Secretary) and Lion Amin Dada (Charter President) in Dar es Salaam where they presented DG Wesley's banner to the President of Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Host, Lion Shiraz Rashid. (one in yellow shirt). Lions Club of Belmont club is considering twinning with them.

## From the Editor

The summer holidays are over and days are closing in. All the Clubs have started their fundraising and service activities for the year. Let the Lions of 105A share your stories through this Newsletter. This is YOUR platform to use.

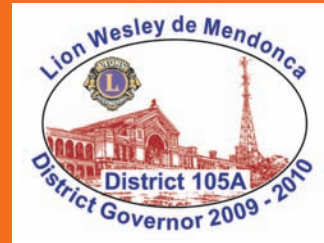
Remember to send your article and photos to [news@lions105a.org.uk](mailto:news@lions105a.org.uk) and encourage others to follow your success.

Lion Shirish Sheth



# DG Wesley's Words

Conservation through cooperation and service



Dear Lions

Time is passing by. Brenda and I have had the pleasure of visiting two Lions Clubs Charter functions; London Walthamstow Lions Club on the 5th September and the Banbury Lions 40th Charity Ball on the 12th September. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet Lions from supporting Lions Clubs.

Getting back to the passing of time, the main target is the Membership Growth (Goal Statement) for the 105A District submitted to Lions Clubs International. Our target has been set at a growth figure of 24 new members as against a net gain of 10 members to date for the first quarter. In support of this Membership Initiative the Lions GMT for MD 105 organised a Workshop over the weekend of 29/30th August to demonstrate the support which is available to Clubs in the Districts in their effort to achieve their individual Membership Growth Targets.

Members' attention is being directed at the contents pages of the current LION magazine. Pages 14 to 18 have a biography of the International President Eberhard Wirfs to be followed in pages 30 to 40 by his message on the Theme MOVE TO GROW, and his choice of the Ginkgo tree as a symbol "of hope and love, and a movement to peace and environmental protection".

Our next training event is the Winter Forum on the 4th October in Milton Keynes. Clubs are invited to encourage members, particularly newly inducted members, to attend and where ever possible to subsidise their attendance. I look forward to welcoming a full attendance. My congratulations are extended to the Lions Clubs of Edgware and High Wycombe on the publication of two excellent Newsletters. These Newsletters are setting the standard to follow and will contribute to a competitive Scrapbook Collection at the District Convention.

Brenda's charity this year is WaterAid, and funds collected will contribute to providing clean water in a district of Malawi, Africa. A circular letter will be distributed by PDG Ram Jaggi, District WaterAid Officer, and I look forward to clubs taking an interest in collecting funds for WaterAid.

## My Diary

September 2009

12 September

Banbury Lions Club 40th Charter

18 September

Golf Day, Elstree Golf Club

22 September

Watford lions Club holding an Inagural Meeting to form Bushey Lions Club

New Year Ginkgo Award for a special Membership Campaign between September and December 2009.

*Details in the October Issue.*

## Environment – Conservation – Global Warming

Our first letter sent to all Clubs on 1st July brought forward a very poor response – we only received 5 replies from a total of 91 Clubs! Does this mean that Lions are not interested in environmental issues and consider it something that Lions should not be involved with? We hope not.

Whether you agree or not that mankind's actions contribute to global warming, the fact is that global warming is taking place and will hugely affect the way we live in the future. Rising sea levels are creating the evacuation of low lying land, rainforests are being destroyed by mankind, rising temperatures are affecting the production of food etc. Did you see George Alagiah's three programmes recently on BBC TV about the 'Future of Food'? The evidence is that mankind is polluting the environment we live in and we urgently need to return to a sustainable way of living.

Lions need to be part of this, each individual Lion doing what they can in the way they live, and Clubs can make valuable contributions to the environment. This will mainly be improving our local environment but we can get involved internationally by donating funds to projects such as protecting the rainforests, water aid, assisting developing countries with their food production etc. Locally, perhaps you could consider taking part in one of the following:

**Planting Trees.** Planting trees enhances the environment, reduces carbon emission, provides habitat for wild life etc. **We challenge you**

**to plant one tree for each member of your Club, this year.**

**Anniversary memorial.** We wish Clubs to mark a special anniversary such as a 10th or 20th etc. Charter Anniversary, identify an area in your locality, tidy it up, perhaps plant some trees/shrubs and place a bench seat with a plaque on to commemorate the event.

**District 105A – Environment Month, April 2010.** Cabinet has agreed for April 2010 to be declared Lions Environment Month. We urge you to do something for the environment during April. Every little helps such as clean-up schemes, re-cycling initiatives, planting, cleaning streams, roadside verges, creating conservation areas etc.

**Environmental awareness.** Enter the LCI environment photograph competition. We would encourage entries in any category but particularly the category on a scheme that your Club has undertaken.

**Leos.** We wish to get the Leos involved in the above projects. We are going to launch a 'Leo environmental Poster competition' to publicise the need to live sustainable lives. When details and rules have been finalised we will contact all the Leo Clubs.

**Lions' green shopping bags.** District still has a small supply of the Lions shopping bag. This is an excellent way to advertise Lions and help reduce the use of plastic bags. If any Lions do not have bags for their personal use, please order some from us, they are priced just 95p each.

**Marline and Alan Kings – District 105A Environment Officers**