



# LOUVAIN'S LETTER



# Pride of Lions



## District 105A News

Issue 4, October 2006

DG Lion Louvain Allen

### Dear Family of Lions,

The summer is over we have had our holidays, put away the BBQ and now look forward to the Autumn.

This is the time of planning: - the firework parties, the Autumn fairs, Charter nights to name but a few things...

It is also time to take stock of what we have done as members of our Club and even the state of our Clubs, are we bemoan the fact that we haven't enough members, the members we have haven't pulled their weight etc. We are!

Then what are you doing about it? There are people who can help. The Region Chairmen have a specific role this year to help the smaller clubs. Have you spoken to your RC? Is he coming to visit? Has he made suggestions? Are you following them up or have you tried it all before and it didn't work?

**Branch Clubs** are a relatively new idea. To start one all you need is a minimum of two people who would like to be Lions but wouldn't join your club because perhaps they are a younger or/and they have different interests. They could slowly build up their membership to the 20 required to form a new club, whilst they are doing this you will have extra hands to help.

Also there to help are the members of the MERCLPR committee, but who on earth are they, I hear you ask? Chairman is **Lion Kumar Acharya** - he is the District Membership Extension/Club Development /Leo Officer, Membership Retention Officer is **Lion Minesh Mehta**, Leadership Development Officer is **Lion Mike Baldwin**, Public Relations Officer is **Lion Steve Gledhill**.

These are all experienced Lions, please call them to ask their help but please remember your Region Chairmen, they are your first port of call, as they know your Club and the area you work in.

I have started visiting the Clubs. It is wonderful to see the diversity, in fund raising ideas, meeting places and also the members, each and every one bringing something different to the makeup of their Club.

This month is very busy, not just the official visits and Charter Anniversaries, but IT training day at the beginning of the month, a Cabinet meeting, then down to Bournemouth for a Council of Governors meeting, closely followed by the Europa Forum and to finish the month the Winter Forum at the Belfry Hotel in Thame. An exciting programme has been planned by Lion Mike Baldwin. See you there.

Have a great month!

Louvain

### WINTER FORUM 29 OCTOBER 2006

**The Oxford Belfry Hotel  
Milton Common Thame.  
9.00am for 9.30 start**

Once again the *Winter Forum* is with us and I am hoping that you and your club members will support this event in large numbers. This year there will be a discussion on the position of a paid Chief Executive and we also have a very interesting item on hearing dogs for the deaf including a visit of one of these great dogs.

In addition the vulnerable persons District Officer Chris Bryant is now an accredited CRB officer.. Therefore once we know who will be attending that particular session we will contact the participants with details of information they must provide for Lion Chris to do the vetting, after the session. HOWEVER please help us by responding early.

The session on Diabetes Education Programmes will be comprehensive and there will be a chance in the afternoon session for delegates to that session to be diabetically tested. Please note this is a double session and delegates should preferably enrol for both sessions.

The session on orientation will be particularly helpful to delegates from clubs formed in the past two years. Please make every effort to attend in numbers.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

**Future Leaders:** To prepare yourself in Leadership skills ... to lead your Club and Association to success and beyond!

**New Lions:** To learn about our International programmes ... and attend special orientation sessions specially designed to bring you up to speed on Lionism

**'Senior' Lions:** To hear new ideas and learn new techniques ...

### WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR US?

Interactive session Membership and Leadership issues 2006 -2007. Hear from the prospective DG and VDG(s) on their plans and ambitions for this district.

I am sure you will welcome the chance to re-establish old friendships and to forge new ones. Attached to this letter is a programme and a registration form for completion by club representatives.

The overall cost per delegate will be £15 which covers the cost of two servings of coffee/tea and a buffet lunch.

Our District Governor extends a warm welcome to you and your club members.

## My Diary

Add these to your diary		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	St Albans OV	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct Hammersmith OV
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Aylesbury OV	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct Bletchley CA
5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Enfield OV @ 182 Preston Road	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct Teddington CA
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Osterley CA	15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Oct CoG Bournemouth
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Cabinet Meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct Europa Forum
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Corey's Mill OV	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct Letchworth OV
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Westminster OV	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct Staines OV
11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Leighton Buzzard OV	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct MERCLPR meeting
		29 <sup>th</sup> Oct Winter Forum

### WHAT'S IN YOUR DIARY?

#### DISTRICT CHARTERS

2006

- 6<sup>th</sup> Oct - Osterley
- 8<sup>th</sup> Oct - Hemel Hempstead
- 21<sup>st</sup> Oct - Berkhamstead
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov - Luton

2007

- 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - Tring
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mar - Harpenden
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mar - St Albans
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun - Dunstable

#### 7<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Inaugural "Moonwalk" in aid of WaterAid and other causes  
Bletchley Milton Keynes

#### 29<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Winter Forum  
at The Oxford Belfry

### SENIOR CITIZENS ANNUAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007  
AT  
HARROW LEISURE CENTRE  
HARROW  
MIDDLESEX

Enjoy 3 Hours of Fun Packed Entertainment!

BINGO ~ MUSIC HALL ~ COMEDIAN

GOOD FOOD ~ SOFT DRINKS ~ TEA/COFFEE

To enjoy the Senior Citizens Party  
You don't have to be hale and "hearty"

Just come along, join in the song  
And take part in our fabulous "Party"

TICKET PRICE ONLY £7.50 PER PERSON INCLUDING FREE RAFFLE AND BINGO WITH EXCELLENT PRIZES

SO BE READY TO HAVE SOME FUN

### HELPFUL HINTS

#### Have you put ICE in Your Mobile?

In Case of Emergency (ICE) would let the emergency services know who to contact in case of emergency.

Simply type "ICE" plus a name and number and help them to help you.

#### Announcing the Lions News Network & LQ Magazine

This summer Lions Clubs International is launching the Lions News Network (LNN) – a place for Lions and non-Lions to watch a variety of video programs, including the ground breaking Lions online news magazine "LQ-Lions Quarterly". LNN is accessible through the LCI Web site ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)) and also offers Lions the chance to order video presentations and download public service announcements (PSAs) online. Visit the LNN in the News and Events section under "PR Tools". This is a phenomenal resource along with the original "LQ". Please submit story ideas, information about interesting upcoming activities and eye-catching photos to [LQ@lionsclubs.org](mailto:LQ@lionsclubs.org)

#### Gift Aid Works!

Hemel Lions recently reported that over £300 was received from HM Inland Revenue by using the Gift Aid Forms when doing a sponsored walk. Check with your local Inland Revenue Office of details of how to apply.

#### Diamond Geezer Steve

District Governor Louvain recently presented Lion Steve Mitchell, of Hemel Club with a double diamond pin, presented on behalf of PIP Ashok Mehta. As President last year of Hemel, Steve's Club achieved a positive net growth. Also on the same day, the Club inducted it's 17th newest member, Lion Ramnet Patel - Welcome Lion Ramnet! Hemel was on the critical list only one and a half years ago. How did they do it? Just call them and ask!

### HAVE YOUR SAY!

#### Its that time again, Winter Forum 2006 Hooray!!!!

There are so many good things going on this year that it is difficult to know where to start. The only way to savour the atmosphere is to come along, so do come and join us.

What can you expect? Plenary sessions on "Hearing dogs for the deaf" and "Campaign Sight First 11", Come and hear the lions who wish to be your next Vice District Governor, who are they? What do they stand for?

What are their aspirations? Support your Vice Governor as he tells us a little of his ideas for 2007/2008. (or perhaps a lot)

Split into sessions to learn more about Diabetes Education, the Vulnerable Persons Act, LCIF, what is it, where does your money go?

Message in a Bottle/medic alert, Emerging Lions/senior Lions Institute, Campaign Sight First 11 and Orientation for Lions.

Come and enjoy fun and fellowship with DG Louvain, meet old friends make new friends.

**Who?** Future leaders, new Lions, established Lions, experienced Lions, in fact **everyone!**

Hear a great panel of speakers including our own **DG** who will be leading the session on Emerging Lion/Senior Lion institutes

**Where?** Oxford Belfry, Milton Common, Thame

**When?** 29 October 2006

**Time?** 9.00am for 9.30 start

**Cost?** Just £15 including lunch and two coffees

All information and application forms is on the District Web-site and is available through your club secretary or Zone Chairman.

**See you there** **Lion Mike Baldwin**

#### The Little Mouse that Roared!

Having a meeting at a hotel in the middle of the countryside posed its own distraction for Hemel Hempstead Lions, as they had an unexpected visitor to their meeting when a little field mouse decided to join in. Although Hemel Lions carried on courageously, there was one incident of a guest from another club, who having worn shorts to the meeting, was so worried that said mouse was going to go "exploring" up his leg, he decided to stand on the chair and, I quote directly from members there, "screamed like a girl!". Come to think of it, in this case it wasn't the mouse that roared...

## Birthday Celebrations with a Heart



Lion Berice Andrews of Watford Lions Club had, what I think is, a fantastic idea. Like most of us, as we progress through life, she didn't know what she wanted for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday from family and friends. So instead of the usual chocolates, wine and flowers, when sending out the invitations for her birthday party, she requested that people made a donation to Cancer Research UK. Boxes were provided on the day for donations to be left in. She raised a significant sum, £500, for the charity (a sign of her popularity). A representative from Cancer Research UK came and collected the donation. Lion Berice will receive a certificate to commemorate the donation in due course.

The birthday party started as a small occasion but ended up with over 100 guests attending. The party was held in Lion Berice's home and garden. It was a wonderful day, including the weather, and one she will remember for a long time.

## A Grand Day Out!

After arriving at Virginia Water, the sun shone brightly on this picturesque part of the country, (the "back garden" of Windsor Castle). Over fifty walkers enjoyed taking part in this sponsored walk in aid of SightFirst II. Lions Peter, our dog Shelley and myself just being three of them. In the words of Wallace and Gromit, "a grand day out" was experience by us all. Thank you to the organisers, our sponsors, fellow Lion explorers and those that laid on such welcome refreshments, and for District Governor Louvain and Lion Andrew for taking time out of their very busy schedule they have to greet us and make us feel a very special part of the "Family of Lions".

By Lion Maggie Pepper  
Biggleswade Sandy Lions

Pride of Lions

## Gee Up Watford Lions!

The Great Westwood Equestrian Park, Langleybury, was the venue for the annual Watford Lions sponsored horse ride.



As the fog lifted over the Park, horseboxes from every part of Hertfordshire and surrounding areas began to arrive along with the very much appreciated help from members of Berkhamstead, Hemel Hempstead, Tring and Luton Lions clubs, and one ex-Watford Lion, Arthur Park, who travels from Boscombe every year to help (that's dedication!)

## Golders Green Lions Hosting A Casino Royale

Lions Club of London Golders Green is organising a Casino Night aboard the Dixie Queen to help us raise funds towards Campaign Sight First II and other Lionistic charities. The night should prove to be a high class event on board this wonderful vessel.

So, all you James Bonds and Miss Moneybags out there can enjoy a glitzy and glamorous evening, with a three course dinner included. For tickets and more details, contact Lion Kishore Patel on 020 8238 5816 or Lion Pareh Shah on 020 8385 1999.

Right: Photo of the Dixie Queen



## From the Editor

Again, it never ceases to amaze me how much we learn within our Lions roles. Our roles as caring compassionate Lions spill out into our everyday lives. I have learnt a very valuable lesson: how NOT to turn the other cheek, but to fight for those without a voice and to help wherever we can. Take yesterday, as an example: I was driving with 4 under 12's in the car when right in front of us, a young boy was hit by another car as he tried to cross the road. A few other drivers stopped, but some even tried to manoeuvre their cars around! Most onlookers were shouting and passing

the blame around. I had to control this situation, as no one knew what to do. The police and ambulance were called; I sat with the boy who was bleeding and crying and just spoke to him and comforted him. I got his parents on my phone and within a few moments, the situation was sorted. When Lions events don't always go to plan and a solution must be sought we just sort it. Indirectly, Lions helped me turn a potential critical situation to one of calmness. The boy will be fine thanks to Lions!

Maria

**CORRECTION!!**

**If clubs wish to email other clubs they should do so directly and not forward emails to District Secretary or Webmaster.**

Over 160 riders took on the 25 cross-country jumps on a lovely late summer's day. Presentation cups are given later for Best Turned-out horse and rider over 16 also under 16, and Best Sponsored rider over 16 and under 16. Completion Certificates and Gold Rosettes were given to every rider by Watford Lion President Florian Kruger.

All proceeds go to charity especially the Riding for the Disabled Association



## Leo Club of London-Hendon Chartered



The Leo Club of London-Hendon, sponsored by the Lions Club of London-Hendon was presented with their Certificate of organisation on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at Maurya Restaurant in Stanmore.

The formation and Charter Presentation was attended by the District Governor, Lion Louvain Allen, parents of the Leos, members representing 14 Clubs and 3 Leo Clubs and several well wishers. The ceremony was conducted by District Leo Chairman, Lion Kumar Acharya.

Leo Club Advisor, Lion Minesh Mehta said it was a proud moment for the Lions Club to have sponsored the Leos of Hendon, giving these young people a platform to develop their skills in Leadership, experiencing voluntary service and the opportunity to serve and raise funds for others less fortunate than ourselves. The Charter President, Leo Mihir Sanghvi said in his speech that the 26 Leos of Hendon will endeavour to do their best in everything they take on, be it a service or fund raising activity. The Leo Club will meet on the first Sunday of the month at 12 noon.

Pictured are (left to right): Lion Minesh Mehta, Charter Leo President Mihir Sanghvi, Sponsoring Lion Jayesh Sheth, Lion Kumar Acharya and District Governor Lion Louvain Allen.

## EAST MEET WEST

In September I received a call from Lion Rachana from Lions Club of Baroda, India, who was visiting UK.

The story goes like this: Lion Rachana asked her landlady to find out if there was a Lions Club in the area. She had been

told by her club in Baroda to make contact with a Lions Club for twinning. The landlady rang a few people but without success. Then one day while shopping, she saw a poster from Lions Club of Osterley. She noted the contact information.

I received a call, a pleasant voice enquiring about Lions Club of Osterley. She introduced her self and told me she was visiting from India and was in Hounslow. I live minutes away from Hounslow. I asked her the address. Her reply amazed me even more. Worton Way, she replied. What number I asked, Number 2. I announced that I was staying at number 94. We both were so surprised as we were meant to meet. I invited her to visit me.



Lion member from our Lions family across waters.

Lion President Nimmi Suri

We exchanged Club information over a cup tea and cakes and hours passed, talking. She was so happy and before she left we exchanged Banners and took photos. What a wonderful day spent meeting a

## High Wycombe and Beaconsfield Lions In Good Voice

High Wycombe and Beaconsfield Lions Clubs presented cheques totalling £5,000 to three local charities following an open-air concert in June, which was a total sell out success. Three local choirs performed songs from the shows, pop medleys, and traditional choral material to a packed and enthusiastic audience. Officials of the choirs attended the cheque presentations along with representatives of the Chiltern Shakespeare Company whose set at Hall Barn was used to stage the event.

Representatives of the three organisations benefiting from the money were: The National Society for Epilepsy (based at Chalfont St. Peter), Thames Valley Air Ambulance Trust, and Wycombe Hospital Stroke Fund. Their spokes person spoke about their work to club members.

The President of High Wycombe Lions Club, Eileen Wheatley, said, "The concert was a great example of the way in which a number of different organisations can work together to help those in need. We are very grateful to the choirs, the Chiltern Shakespeare Company, the owners of Hall Barn, and everyone who helped with or attended the concert. It was great to hear from the charities how the money raised will be used for the benefit of people in our community."

## LIONS EUROPEAN MUSICAL COMPETITION

I need your help to promote this competition by sponsoring candidates from your Club. I am sure with your support we will have even more entries this year.

### Rules & Regulations District Competition

Participants must not be more than 25 years of age on 1st January 2007, and must have been resident in the United Kingdom for at least 3 years prior to 1st January 2007. Each year a different instrument is chosen for the competition. Last year it was the **Flute** and this year instrument is the **Piano**.

An entrance fee of £25 will be applicable for each participant, to be paid by the sponsoring Lions Club. District will put only one candidate forward for the MD Final.

Each candidate will be required to play the imposed piece plus one piece of their choice. Details of the piece chosen has been emailed to all Clubs, but I will happily talk forward another copy.

An independent panel of two judges plus a chairperson shall preside at District Competitions.

### Prize Money

**The District Prize:**  
First £250 and second £100.  
**The Multiple District Prize:**  
First £500 and second £200.  
**The Europa Forum Prize:**  
First Euro 3,500 second 1,000 and third 500

### Programme Schedule

**10 January 2007**  
Closing date for District Competition Entries  
**11 February 2007**  
District Finals,  
Royal Academy of Music, London  
**7 April 2007**  
MD Finals  
**September 2007**  
Competition at Europa Forum in  
Bucharest, Romania

I look forward to receiving your Club's entry for this competition. In the meantime if you need any more information then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lion Vijay Arora  
Cultural & Community Affairs

Pride of Lions

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