



Hornsey—The Undiscovered Hideout for Talent!

I bet you didn't know that the undiscovered talent of the young is in Hornsey? On Saturday, 6th December at the Greig Academy, Hornsey, Lion Roselle Antoine, the newly appointed Women's Membership Development & Participation Officer and Committee, in collaboration with Hornsey Lions Club, hosted a magnificent evening which was both educational and cultural—and before you switch off, let me just say that we witnessed some of the most intense sounds and visions you could imagine.

This night gave young people of all walks of life a chance to "realize their dreams" whether it was reciting a story, playing the sax or acting out plays. This wasn't a group of prima donnas, looking for the limelight, with pushy mothers in the wings. No, these were extremely streetwise students in normal schools, who were putting their energy into something that they enjoyed, something that would give them a chance in life to go that little bit further.

It is difficult to express the heart swelling pride that we all had for those who took part. Some of us had never met, but one thing is for sure: we will all be seeing them in the future, these poets, speakers, singers, actors and musicians.....

DG Recruited to Santa's Chain Gang

Amersham & Chesham held their 33rd annual Christmas Parcels Scheme on Saturday, 13 December 2003 at the local Red Cross centre.

Elliot was the *first* DG to actively participate in the scheme. The room was filled with tables overflowing with many different food items worth over £5,000. Food items were either bought by the Lions Club or another voluntary organisation (Age Concern, Griffin Club, Inner Wheels, Ladies Circles, Rotary Club, Rotaract, Round Table, local schools, and Women's Institute) or donated by individuals to Lions who were collecting at the local supermarket.

Over 30 Lions and non-Lions were on hand to put a variety of tinned and packaged food items into individual plastic bags. This required military precision. As the volunteers snaked around the tables, they were required to place one item of tea, meat, fish, bean, soup, rice, biscuit, mince pie, two each of fruit and sweets, 9 bananas, and one "Merry Christmas" card into bags. The bag, once finished and full, was quite heavy. Despite the repetitive work, it was quite fun and sociable, even if you did feel like you were on a chain gang at times. It took several hours of teamwork to fill nearly 600 bags. In addition, there were 44 family boxes (equivalent to 2-3 bags), and 88 potted plants. Over 700 individuals or families will benefit from this Lionistic activity...a very worthy cause. Lions members distribute the bags and boxes to individuals and families in the area, which have been identified as needing help by Social Services and Age Concern.

DG Elliot would like to extend his personal thanks to President Mike Boxshall and the Lions of Amersham & Chesham for their warm hospitality and as a luncheon guest at a local a pub.

Lions Club of Chinatown

Would like to inform you of a change of venue for their monthly meeting to:

Aaura Chinese Restaurant
38 Gerrard Street
London W1D 5PB
Tel No. 020 7287 8033

with immediate effect. The date and time of meetings remain the same, ie 2nd Monday of each month, at 6.45pm for 7.00pm.

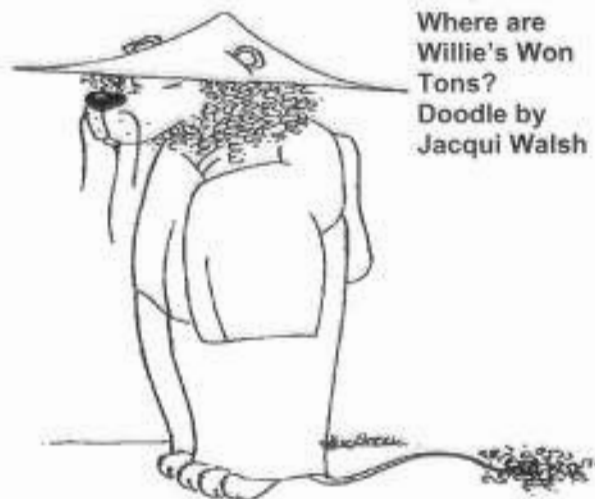
Willie's Wok Night a Roaring Success

St Albans Lions Club celebrated what has been referred to as "a social highlight where East meets West".

Lion Willie Martin has, for the last few years, organised what has been one of the most relaxed and fun evenings in St Albans' social calendar, namely Willie's Wok Night. This is an occasion where culinary skills are put to the test and Lions get to say "thank you, I'll cook the dinner tonight darling" to their loved ones.

An extensive Chinese menu is prepared and each participant is given a recipe to prepare and cook, but—wait for it—not at home, where spouses can slowly take over the cooking and have to do the washing up to boot, but over at the local school kitchens, where loved ones can chill out and relax whilst Lions sweat over a hot stove—and get to do the washing up!

This wonderful dinner was followed by a trivial pursuit type quiz, which was a much needed distraction before the washing up had to be done. President Paul Day, (who it has to be said can cook quite well for a single guy), said, "Nobody got burnt, nobody burnt the noodles, but where were Willie's won tons? We had a fantastic night—thanks Willie and all who took part. One for next years diary for sure!"



Where are
Willie's Won
Tons?
Doodle by
Jacqui Walsh

**DG and Santa Meet up to Bring
Festive Cheer to Bedford
(Elliot is the one without the Beard)**

Bedford Harpur Lions Club held their annual Christmas collection in Bedford town centre on Saturday, 20 December 2003.

Arriving in Bedford at 9.00 AM by train from London, DG Elliot was greeted by President Derek Beazley. It was an icy cold and rainy morning, which, in theory, should not be conducive for a cheerful Christmas spirit. However, with the bon amie already in full flow, it wasn't long before they forgot just how cold it was.

Once in the town centre, they met Tony Sanderson, who was waiting for them. Tony had, what can only be described as, a "little house on a trailer", which he towed with his car. (Could have done with the "little house on the prairie", but Mary Ingles was elsewhere). This little house was beautifully decorated with fake snow and Christmas lights, and a hidden speaker was broadcasting cheerful Christmas music. This little house was so cleverly built, that a person, dressed as Father Christmas, (sorry, I mean Father Christmas himself), could stand on a stepladder and poke half his body out of the chimney. Tony/Santa happily rang a bell and amid many ho ho hos, waved to the children, who readily waved back (Ok, so did the adults, it has to be said!). However, Santa did look a bit strange, because he was holding a bright red and green umbrella. The rain was chucking down! DG Elliot stayed reasonably dry by shaking a tin under cover of the shop overhang.

Since it was the last Saturday before Christmas, many people were out shopping despite the nasty weather. The sight of Santa in the chimney and the music raised everyone's spirits and the citizens of Bedford were very generous with their donations. It helped that children wanted to put money in the tin, which their parents could not refuse. As the morning wore on, the weather improved and the rain stopped. DG Elliot had to stop collecting by 11.30 AM, because he had to catch a train back to London for another appointment.

However, hardy Santa and his happy helpers continued collecting until 4.00 PM and £381 was collected on the day.

On other days, leading up to Christmas the "little house on the trailer" was parked at the local supermarket or pulled through the local neighbourhood. A total of £3,500 was raised this way. Bedford Harpur also had a Santa's Grotto at the local garden centre; An amazing 852 children were delighted to tell Santa their Christmas wishes and £2,800 was raised. Altogether over £6,000 was raised for good causes and I am sure the Bedford Harpur Lions brought, not just smiles on shoppers faces, or a wave from someone in the street, but a lot of cheer to the less fortunate of Bedford and the surrounding area.

Roary Roars in 2004!

Treat yourself or someone to a New Year pressie and help raise funds for Lion Dr Eileen Cox (DGs partners') nominated charity, The Mental Health Foundation. By buying this one off calendar full of Roary and his family. Donations up to you, but recommended at about a fiver. Contact PRO for orders.



He's Behind Youuuuuu Elliot!!

**Bedford Harpur Lions
Having a good Christmas**

(with the grateful help of our DG)



Santa listens very hard to all the children and makes their dreams come true, (with some help from Lions)



Just how Many Christmas Puddings did our DG Eat at Lions' Christmas Parties?

This is question which has been asked around the District lately. How many crackers did he pull, apart from Eileen of course?

Eileen and Elliot were invited to the Luton Christmas Party on the 16th of December and the Banbury Christmas Dinner and Dance on the 22nd of December.

They were fantastic evenings, both were informal occasions, that is, strictly social and fun, and no speeches!

The Luton Christmas party was held at a village pub and about 40 Lions and their spouses/partners attended. The atmosphere was very relaxed and the food was excellent. Of course, there was the usual raffle draw. Eileen would like to thank the Luton Lions for donating the raffle proceeds to her chosen charity, The Mental Health Foundation.

The Banbury Christmas Dinner and Dance was held at Whately Hall Hotel. The hotel was built in the 17th century and some of the original features are still intact. About 80 Lions and their spouses/partners enjoyed a three-course meal followed by dancing to a DJ spinning 50s and 60s music. The music got everyone up and on the dancing floor. For both of these parties, it was an opportunity for Eileen and DG Elliot to socialise and have a relaxing evening without the formality. They would like to extend a heartfelt thank you .



DG'S NEWSLETTER

Festive Season

Eileen and I wish everyone a joyful festive season. Through an oversight, I overlooked the festive November season and Eileen and I would like to wish everyone a belated Happy Diwali and Eid as well as a happy Christmas and Hanukkah. Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable New Year!

NPower: Power to Lions!

District Partnership Officer, Dipak Shah, and District Activities Officer, Manish Chotal, have been working to develop partnerships with small and large companies to raise money for the District and to increase awareness of Lions.

One of the companies they are working with is **NPower**, which is the second largest supplier of gas and electricity in the UK. **NPower** is going to help us meet our goal! The plan is simple...

If you change your gas and electricity supplier to **NPower**, the District will receive £17 for each new Lions' customer. With over 1,800 members, it means that the District has the potential of raising extra funds for good causes. Information was sent to all clubs. Please consider subscribing to the plan. If you do decide to participate, please complete the application form and post it, as soon as possible, to Danwise Sales and Marketing, 12, Nicoll Place, Hendon, London NW4 3PD. **NPower** will, by return post, send you your copies and any other paperwork. Please be assured that all of your details will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you have any questions, please call Dipak Shah (M 07958 224643) or email him at partnership@lions105a.org

Lions from the Republic of Georgia visit London

I had an opportunity to meet two Lions members from the country of Georgia, Dr George Tsilosani and Dr Tamara Gegenava.

They are members of the first Lions Club in Georgia, which formed in Tbilisi with the assistance of Dr Trish Blair, who is a member of the Lions Club of Fayette (Missouri USA) and Director of A Call To Serve (ACTS) International. With the assistance of Dr Blair and a \$30,000 grant from LCIF, a Lions/ACTS Diabetic Education Camp was established in Georgia, which is helping children to learn how to cope with their diabetes and to receive medical treatment.

I arranged for Drs Tsilosani and Gegenava to visit the London Central Lions Club. They told me that they enjoyed the meeting very much. Thank you to the Lions of London Central for hosting the Lions from Georgia.

Delinquent Clubs

Each month I receive a printout of the amount each club owes International listed as current balance, 30, 60, 90, 120 and 150 days old.

Currently there are 53 Clubs, which have overdue balances over 90 days. 13 clubs owe \$683.85, which are 90 days old. 47 clubs owe \$5,531.27, which are 120 days old. And 4 Clubs owe \$157.99, which are 150 days old. Ninety plus days overdue affects the image of our District. I urge all Club Treasurers to be diligent and keep your club arrears below 60 days. If you have an unresolved dispute with LCI, please contact the District Treasurer, Dilip Shah, who will assist you.

Peace Poster Competition

On Monday, 17 November 2003, the Peace Poster judging took place in the Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster's anteroom on the 17th floor of Westminster City Hall, which has a bird's eye view of Buckingham Palace.

The judging team was composed of the Lord Mayor, Cllr Jan Prendergast (honorary member of the London Westminster Lions Club), Rt. Honourable Evan Harris, MP and Mr John Harburt, Design Artist.

The judging was very difficult with entries submitted by 22 Clubs. The winners were:

- First Place:** **Brady White**, 11 years old
Bishop Challoner School
(sponsored by Redbridge)
- Second Place:** **Jennifer Khan**, 12 years old
Swakeley's School
(sponsored by Uxbridge & Hillingdon)
- Third Place:** **Lucy Foster**, 11 years old
Watford Grammar School for Girls
(sponsored by South Herts-Moor Park)
- Hon. Mention:** **Emma Ford**, 12 years old
The Sele School
(sponsored by Hertford)

Other clubs participating were: Amptill, Banbury, Barking, Berkhamsted, Bletchley Milton Keynes, Enfield, Hayes & Harlington, High Wycombe, London Central, London Finchley, London Newham, London Seven Kings, London Walthamstow, Northwood, Royston, Stanmore, Sudbury, and Wembley (Brent). A reception for all participants, parents and sponsoring clubs was held on Thursday, 20 November 2003, at the Ramada Hotel, Hatfield hosted by District Peace Poster Officer, Erach Amaria. *Yours truly* gave a short speech and announced the winners. A very sociable evening was enjoyed by all. I would like to express my appreciation to all the clubs that participated, and especially to Eric Amaria for co-ordinating and organising a very successful peace poster competition.

Club Rosters

Keith Tooley, District Distribution Officer for the *Lion Magazine*, has requested all Club Secretaries to send him a current roster of members, including addresses. This will ensure that all members will receive the *Lion Magazine*, and printing and postage will be saved by removing non-members from the list.

NEWS FLASH—STOP PRESS

Fantastic News! The District 105A Peace Poster winner was selected as the winning poster in the Multiple District competition. To my knowledge, this is the first time that District 105A has won the MD Competition. Brady White's Peace Poster will now advance to the International competition.

Gala Charity Ball

On 22 November 2003 the first ever District Gala Charity Ball was held at the Radisson SAS Portman Hotel in central London. Over 150 Lions, spouses and guests attended the black tie affair.

The evening began with a lively drinks and canapés reception followed by a gala dinner, entertainment and dancing. The honoured guests were Mr and Mrs Bhikhubhai Patel and Mr and Mrs Vijaybhai Patel. The M.C. for the evening was Alfzal Rai. There were several short speeches by *yours truly*, Mr B. Patel, Mr V. Patel, B. K. Patel, Manish Chotai, and the Rt. Honourable Keith Vaz, MP. During the evening we were entertained by the comedian Jeff Mirza and a rockin' DJ. An excellent Asian meal was enjoyed by all. With the inspirational words of Keith Vaz, funds were raised from pledges by non-Lions and Lions. The Patel brothers pledged £5,001! Afzal auctioned a bottle of whisky sponsored by Keith Vaz (with the promised signatures of Tony Blair, Michael Howard and Charles Kennedy), which was bought for £500! A high quality glossy brochure was produced by Shirish Sheth, Bounds Green Press, which contained letters of congratulations, information about Lionism and advertisements, which raised funds for the event. I appreciate the support from the following Lions members for placing ads in the brochure (VDG Max Mongia, PDG Parveen Verma, Shirish Sheth, PDG Rati Shah, PDG Ram Jaggi, B. K. Patel, PDG Vanmali Mistry, Dinesh Raja, S. H. Ruparell, Manish Chotai, Sandip Ruparell, Amit Ruparell, Kumar Achayra, G. P. Desai, Lions Club of Enfield, and Lions Club of Mill Hill). The evening ended on a high note. Everyone agreed it had been a very enjoyable and sociable evening and a successful fundraiser for District projects (party for disabled children, Senior Citizens Party, Day out at Chessington for disadvantaged children and a Habitat for Humanity home for a blind or disabled person).

LCIF Gala Night—Coming Soon!

Friday, 16 January 2004 is an exciting *first ever LCIF Gala Night* for District 105A and for that matter MD105 and even Europe. District LCIF Officer, Kishore Pattni, and his committee is working very hard trying to raise donations and pledges to LCIF from clubs and individuals and encourage bookings on the evening. Just think if every Lions Club in 105A pledged one Melvin Jones Fellowship \$89,000 would be raised for LCIF to help less fortunate persons around the world through Lion based projects. **LCIF Gala Night** will take place at the Renaissance Hotel, Bath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 2AQ (Tel. 020 8897 6363; Fax 020 6697 1113). The reception will begin at 7.00 PM and dinner will commence at 8.00 PM. To celebrate the diversity of Lions Clubs International, District Cultural and Community Affairs Officer, Vijay Arora, has organised a multi-cultural show for entertainment. The highlight of the evening will be recognition of this year's Melvin Jones Fellowships and progressive Melvin Jones. It has the makings of a memorable evening and I encourage Lion members and their spouses/partners to attend.

Sleeping Bags for the Homeless

On Friday, 28 November 2003, twenty sleeping bags, scarves and hats were distributed to Thames Reach Bondway, a charity supporting the homeless.

District Street Children Officer, Brindar Singh Nandra, organised the event, which was attended by *yours truly*, Eileen Cox, Brindar Singh Nandra, VDG Max Mongia (MD Street Children Officer), IPDG Mike Baldwin, Harjinder Bhamrah (Golders Green), Venilal Vaghela (Sudbury), Monica Geraghty and Liz Duff from Thames Bondway Reach.

The hostel provides quality accommodation for 18 men and women, who have established histories of sleeping out. The residents will often have a complex mixture of support needs including vulnerabilities due to failing physical and mental health, addictions to alcohol or drugs and isolation from usual networks such as family and friends. The outreach and street rescue teams bring men and women, who are sleeping out directly to the hostel. The safe environment and expertise of the staff team at Stamford St helps each resident to make progress towards building a more settled lifestyle. Achieving improvements in both the physical and emotional aspects of our resident's lives is a slow, and at times painful process. Staff and residents greatly appreciated the help and care shown by District 105A Lions Clubs.

This presentation of sleeping bags was just a beginning and Brindar hopes to receive more donations from Lions Clubs, so that more bags, hats and scarves can be distributed to the homeless to protect against the cold weather. I appreciate the effort made by Brindar to organise the event and the other Lions who attended the event. Brindar's contact details are on p. 17 of the Directory.

District Musical Competition

For the first time, the Multiple District will hold a Musical Interpretation competition.

The Musical Interpretation was initiated by the Europa Forum in the early 1990s. The competition is open to young men and women between the ages of 16 and 25 years old. District Cultural and Community Affairs Officer, Vijay Arora, is conducting a competition in District 105A. Sponsoring clubs will be required to submit a £25 entry fee with the application.

This year the competition is for clarinet. Each competitor will play a set piece of a bout 7-8 minutes (Sonata for Clarinet & Piano Opus 128 by Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco – "Scherzo" & "Lullaby"), and another piece of similar length of the competitor's choice. The District competition will take place on 15 February 2004 at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

The District first prize is £250 and second prize is £100. The MD competition will take place on 18 April 2004 at the Royal Academy of Music in London. The Multiple District first prize is £500 and second prize is £200. The winner of the MD competition will compete at the Europa Forum, which will be held in Rome, Italy the end of September 2004. The winner of the Europa Forum competition will receive EUR 3,500 and second prize is EUR 1,500. Application forms were sent to all clubs. For more information, contact Vijay Arora (p. 17 of MD Directory).