

Dear Family of Lions

October is almost over, the clocks are going back, the dark mornings and nights are here. It is a time to reflect on the last four months and how much I have enjoyed them. Even though a third of this Lionistic year has finished, it has been so full of good things!

Divali - a time of great celebration for many of our Lion Members.

Happy New Year to you all!

Hendon & Mill Hill Leos Formed

The formation of two Leo Clubs, Hendon and Mill Hill, young people who will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm into the District.



The Beer Festival

The St Albans Leo's who worked so hard at the St Albans Beer festival, ably assisted by Region Chairman Luke, I'm not sure who enjoyed themselves most.

New Members

There has been a staggering 19 new Lion members between July and September, which is pretty good going. I welcome you all!

Palace of Westminster New Club

The formation of a new Lions Club, the Palace of Westminster on Tuesday 17th October was innovative and exciting. The International President and also the Immediate Past International President were both present. We were kept on our toes as the division bells were expected to ring and all the new Lions would have had to race off to vote; fortunately it didn't happen. Great amusement was caused however, when reading the Purposes when it reached the part where 'politics' shall not be discussed". The Club, you will be glad to know, is cross party, cross house Club. Some MP's are already members of their local Lions Clubs and will be transferring into the

new Club but staying as associate members of their present Club. I presented the new Club with my banner, and showed them the District they now belong to and represent as Lions. The comment "there are a lot of MP's in the House, so we can increase our membership" was heard a few times.

Europa Forum

There were sessions on many topics. A couple that were particularly well attended were the Certified Guiding Lion and the Vice Presidents Session. It is so good to meet up with friends from Europe! We might only see them once a year but catching up with each others news and exchanging ideas is what it is all about. It was so good to see so many Lions from 105A working as volunteers, I hope they all enjoyed it as much as I did.



Winter Forum

The end of October brought the Winter Forum. PDG Lion Mike Baldwin had worked hard to put together a programme which would appeal to all, I hope you were there.

Back to the Future

November: the month of bonfires and fireworks - a great fund raising opportunity for many Clubs. I hope the weather is good and you all make lots of money! To all Lions of 105A I say **keep safe and enjoy!**

Dagenham Leos

The Formation of the Leo Club of Dagenham sponsored by Redbridge Lions Club, is the success story of a school based Leo Club. It started as the Robert Clack Leo Club but attracted so many members it has divided into two, intake year to 14, then 15 to leaving school. A success story to follow perhaps? We all have secondary schools, near our Clubs and Community service is part of the curriculum, what are we waiting for?

The Lord Mayors Show

The Lord Mayors Show is due to take place over in two weeks time. Two members from this District, VDG Ken and Lion Tony Hurley, are on the committee doing a great job. Members of 105A will be walking, so please watch TV on that Saturday morning to see if you can spot us, and yes, Andrew and I will be walking...

Charter Anniversaries

During this coming month there are no less than 10 Charter Anniversaries to celebrate. I'm just glad it wasn't me who was weighed at the beginning of the year!

More Leos on the Horizon

At the beginning of December we will have the formation of another Leo Club sponsored by Sudbury Lions.

Have a great month!!



Louvain

My Diary

NOVEMBER

1 st Nov	Finchley OV	16 th Nov	Tacade in Harpenden
2 nd Nov	MK Central OV	17 th Nov	Louvains 25 years with Betchel
3 rd Nov	Carterton CA	18 th Nov	Oxford CA
4 th Nov	Fireworks in Harrow	19 th Nov	Stevenage Coreys Mill CA
5 th Nov	Wallinford CA	20 th Nov	Ampthill OV
6 th Nov	Redbridge OV	22 nd Nov	Hayes & Harlington OV
7 th Nov	Club Peace Poster Judging	24 th Nov	Fairlop CA
8 th Nov	Stony Stratford OV	25 th Nov	Swiss Cottage CA
9 th Nov	Osterley OV	26 th Nov	CSFII Breakfast Mtg Redbridge CA
10 th Nov	Lord Mayors Show Royston CA	27 th Nov	Wanstead & Woodford OV
12 th Nov	CSFII Breakfast Mtg Luton CA	28 th Nov	Chipping Norton OV
13 th Nov	Hadley Wood OV	29 th Nov	MERCLPR Mtg
15 th Nov	Biggleswade Sandy OV	30 th Nov	Peace Poster Final

WHAT'S IN YOUR DIARY?

24th November 2006

Fairlop Charter Presentation Evening

13th January 2007

LCIF Gala Night

4th February 2007

District Senior Citizens Party

District 105A



A sad loss

We regret to advise the demise of Lion Subhash Raichura, a recently inducted member of Lions Club Loudwater & Rickmansworth. Our thoughts are with family, friends and fellow Lions.

A Fond Farewell & Thanks

Lions, friends and families from District 105A gathered to bid a final farewell and thank you to Past International President Lion Ashok Mehta at the ever popular venue of Muraya Restaurant in Stanmore. As we have seen, PIP Lion Ashok has featured vastly within our District over the last 18 months or so. He has made some new friends and wanted to say thank you to us for supporting him in his year of office. Amongst the speeches, he gave out various awards, including 20 special pins, which have only been given to the twenty recipients for outstanding dedication, as well as a couple of Melvin Jones Fellowships. Congratulations must go to these, as well as a big thank you to the organisers of this wonderful event.

HELPFUL HINTS

Watch Out!
Roary's About!

Hemel Hemsstead Lions Club have now been going for 45 years and is still as vibrant as ever! With the passage of time, however, some of the equipment they have used over the years has become a little tired. Having recently attracted some new members, it was time to say a fond farewell to an old "buddy", namely Roary the Lion. This outfit, which takes on a life of its own, once it is put on by a member, has walked the streets of Hemel and has brought many smiles to young and old alike, whilst promoting the worthy causes. Having decided that "Old Roary" should be put into retirement and sent to a farm somewhere in the Serengetti, (so we have been told), members went on the search for a replacement. Not an easy task, but one which proved fruitful when local fancy dress hire shop Backstage, went out of their way to find a "future Roary". The local paper even sent down a photographer to witness this rare event.. It was not so much of a case of putting a "Tiger in their Tank", but "letting a Lion Loose in Hemel!" "It's fantastic PR", said President Mike Clingo, "and let's face it, you can't exactly walk past Roary and ignore him now, can you?"

Royal Mail Postal Scam

This scam has been confirmed by Royal Mail and is especially relevant as Christmas is fast approaching. A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at www.icstis.org.uk, or your local trading standards office.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Awards - Why so many?

We received an email from a member who wishes to remain anonymous so as not to upset anyone, who brings up some food for thought. This is the letter:

Dear Editor,
Why are so many awards given out? Have we lost the art of saying "thank you" or "well done" without giving a piece of plastic to go with it? What does a Melvin Jones mean to members? To me, as a Lion of a couple of dozen years, it means years of hard work, of commitment, of standing in the rain on a Saturday morning. Why then, are Melvin Jones bought with cash? At first, I was really anti them, but since reading letters to the editor in The Lion Magazine, I have come to view them differently. Whereas I still cannot get my head around the fact that they have to be purchased, I now understand two things: Firstly, it depends on the spirit in which they are given. It is a lovely gesture to say to someone "thanks and well done", and when someone who has received and MJF sees it, perhaps on their mantelpiece, they would smile and think "that's nice of my fellow Lions to think of me". Secondly, we would not be able to send millions of dollars to victims of disasters at the drop of a hat if these awards did not exist. Maybe this is a debate that will go on for time in memorial. Not everyone has to agree with me. After so many years of being anti MJF, I now understand it. By the way, I do not have an MJF, but if I did now, I would certainly see it in a different light. Thank you for letting me have my little rave in this column, aptly named "Have Your Say".

Editor writes: Thank you for your thoughts. Yes, like you say, this is your magazine and this column is especially for your "little rave", as you put it. although I do think your viewpoint is very valid. I hope you get your MJF soon!



The Leo Club of Mill Hill Formation

The Lions Club of London Mill Hill held the Formation and Certificate Presentation of the Leo Club of London Mill Hill on Saturday 23rd September 2006 at GKII Restaurant in North Finchley. 26 New Leos have joined the Lions family.

The event was very well attended with over 70 people, including the District Governor Louvain Allen, PDG Lions Parveen Verma, Mike Baldwin, and Erach Amaria, Region 3 Chairman Lion Niten Shah, Zone F Chairman Lion Sanjay Shah and Mill Hill Club President Lion Ashwin Sodha.

District Extension and Leo Officer Kumar Acharya conducted the Formation ceremony. Principal Officers of the new Leo Club are Leo President Suraj Shah, First Vice President Leo Rikki Shah, Secretary Leo Olly Sohan, and Treasurer Leo Rikin Patel. The Leo Club will meet on the 1st Sunday of every month.

DG Louvain presented the Certificate of Organisation to Leo President Suraj amidst much applause. The Leo President then gave his first official address in which he spoke about the formation of the Leo Club and the determination of all the Leos to serve help the less fortunate. Lion President Ashwin Sodha spoke and encouraged the new Leos. The 1st VP Leo Rikki followed by a humorous speech that brought the ceremony to a cheerful conclusion.

Though the club has just been formed, the Leos of Mill Hill have already been present at the Zone F Cricket Match, the District Cricket Match and the Lions London Golden Square Fete, which was their first fund raising event. Several more activities are planned for the next few months, and with the support from Leo Club Advisors Mill Hill Lions Lalit Patel and Niten Shah, they wish to continue to help the community and raise much needed money for many charitable causes.

New Arrval

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our baby girl on Saturday 28th October - 17days past her due-by date!! We have called her Megan and she weighed 7lb 9oz. Ally and Megan are both fine and Daddy Luke has a permanent smile!

Ally & Luke

Pride of Lions

“ROAR” To Your Next Event With Letchworth Lions

As good, practising Lions, it would not be proper to state that we have a ‘tiger in our tank’ however, Letchworth Lions are now proudly roaring around Hertfordshire in their club minibus.

The bus is a 16 seater with tail lift and quick release seats making wheelchair access entirely possible.

Although this is a relatively new addition to our club we have already had numerous happy passengers and have visited among other places, Flitwick Music event, Bletchley Park, bingo nights for our elderly residents and of course the Lions Cricket match.

The minibus is certainly making a difference to our local residents and is reducing our transport costs significantly. In certain situations, this bus may be available to hire (complete with a driver) and subject to availability and distance required. For further details, please contact Letchworth club president, Lion Harry Lote.



DG's Cricket Day at Tring Club
President Harry Lote, PP Dave Upson and
DG Louvain Allen

In the next edition

“The candidates Presented”
As the Candidates for the post of Vice District Governor have now been published. Pride of Lions will be asking each one of them to write something so you can get to know them all a bit better.

From the Editor

I made a bit of a booboo in the last edition of Pride of Lions when I accidentally got my fellow members’ name wrong, for which I have paid my dues. Hemel inducted it’s 17th member, who’s name is actually Ramnik Pattni. Sorry for that. Things are hotting up in the District with many Senior Citizen Christmas parties, (including the District one) being planned, collections, hampers being ordered etc. When am I going to have time for my family and friends, let alone to buy their presents? Very simply, short of inventing an extra two hours in the day, this year, there will be no cards,

Europa Finds its Model Club for CSFII

Lions Club of Osterley has been selected as the Model Club this year for CSFII.

Such a new club, which was only chartered a year ago, has they been selected in this role as Model Club. This is due to the magnificent effort by members, headed by Lion President Nimmi Suri. The members of Osterley have done extremely well in raising £13,000 for CSFII last year and on the 6th October at their first Charter they raised a further £3,500 for the cause. Helped by other volunteers at the Europa Forum, President Nimmi was one of the dedicated Lions at the SightFirst II Stall. Together they sold £400 worth of wrist bands costing £3 each, designed in the Lionstic colours to support this worthy cause and show our European friends how we do it here. This was all organised by our very own District Officer and past DG Lion Max Mongia and other CSF Officers.

In order to help raise funds, eight members of the Osterley Club raised from £600-£1000 and were granted the MJF in their first year and more will qualify this year. There was also a progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship awarded to Nimmi.



Bletchley, Milton Keynes Lions Club Moonwalk

It was a beautiful moonlit evening in Woburn on the second Saturday of October when teams from far and wide gathered at the “olde village hall” to set off on the inaugural Moonwalk. Two hours and several miles (longer for some than others)of finding their way in the woods and village by torchlight and moonlight faced the intrepid walkers. Braced with coffee, a fresh bap and bottles of water, courtesy of Coca-Cola, they set off at somewhat uneven intervals, into the unknown. Would we ever see them again, would we ever get the sponsorship money, would the Woburn Abbey security round them all up as a suspected ravers???

Back at HQ, the devious planners waited in trepidation and growing anxiety. Two hours gone and nobody in sight. Then as if by miracle, out of the gloom came PDG Mike Baldwin and his team, a scary apparition topped by the most glorious woolly Peruvian hat that you may ever see in Woburn, at least if the fashion police get there first!

Then, slowly but surely we heard that the teams had passed the first marshals, and after some slight detours, the second marshals and with a little shepherding from our stalwart sweepers we finally got all the walkers back. The brave teams with names like Mourinho’s Marauders, The Angels, the Night Crawlers and Fit for Nothing gathered in the warmth of the village hall, wrapped their fingers around some delicious hot soup and tucked into yet more scrumptious rolls.



A family of Moonwalkers enjoy a hot drink

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Everyone was upbeat, many already wanting to know when next year’s walk would take place. Lots of discussion about how they could so easily have got lost without the fantastic instructions provided by the team at Bletchley (well, a bit of artistic license by the organisers has to be allowed!) Then a clear up, Lion President Derek Hoovering away and we were all off to our warm beds and a good night’s sleep.

A great night out and over £3000 will be on its’ way to organisations like CLIC, Get Kids Going, Cancer Research, Willen Hospice, Childline and our main beneficiary Wateraid.

See you next year ?

Lion John Stupples

Stevenage Coreys Mill Lions Summoned To the Foreign Office

On Tuesday 26 September a group of members of Stevenage Coreys Mill Lions Club accepted an invitation to attend an official reception at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, hosted by the UK-Baltic States Society and in the presence of HRH the Duke of Kent. The reception was part of the build-up to the visit to the Baltic States by HM the Queen later this year.

In his speech the Duke stressed the firm links between the UK and the Baltic and later expressed pleasure that Lions were present, since the Countess of Wessex is our Patron.

During our visit we were fortunate to be able to see parts of the Foreign office not normally open to the public, including the offices of the Secretary of State, State and Meeting Rooms plus Ballrooms and reception areas dating back to the 18th Century and a back entrance to No 10!!

Club members, who have close ties with Estonia, were able to speak to Ambassadors and VIPs including service organisations such as Rotary. and hopefully these contacts will result in interclub cooperation in the future.

The party included Lion President Mike Sage, Vice President Avo Hiimae (who is Estonian) and Lion Monica Sage. Unfortunately, no photographs were allowed, so we can only share this wonderful and once in a lifetime experience with you via our Newsletter.

Believe me when I say I won’t forget this is a hurry!

Lion President Mike Sage

High Wycombe Lions Visit their Twin Delmenhorst-Burggraf Club

For Mae and me this was to be a completely new experience. We expected a warm welcome from a great group of friendly fellow Lions, but WOW! Did we *underestimate*! They could not have been more friendly, or more generous in their hospitality. Our party, led by Lion President Eileen, arrived at nearly 11pm when we were whisked off to a lovely Spanish Restaurant. Having settled into our host’s homes later that evening, we were slightly alarmed by the news that our Saturday would start at 6.30am (5.30 am UK time!!) for a day in Hamburg.

Nearly 40 people made the one and a half hour trip from Delmenhorst by coach. Arriving at the port area of Hamburg, a professional, English-speaking guide came aboard and took us on a fascinating tour of interesting parts of this reconstructed city. We were trying really hard to mention The War, and in the end it was actually the Guide who referred to it no less than 17 times!! After an excellent seafood lunch we joined our privately hired launch for a glorious river trip through the locks and right into the huge harbour area with its massive dry docks. The elegant spires of its churches define the skyline, and its shopping area made the ladies drool.

Our Saturday evening was spent back in Delmenhorst, over a lovely leisurely dinner in the restaurant where they hold their Lions Club meetings. We had a private room and a buffet meal of the finest quality. The speeches were kept to a minimum and Eileen really did us proud with her eloquent speech of thanks in immaculate German. Our donation of 500 euros towards their charity of choice – Lifeline Express in India - was received with gasps of appreciation. Sunday was beautifully bright and sunny again, and a group of us met up in “downtown” Bremen for a walking tour of that lovely historic city with others visiting Bremerhaven, to see an exhibition at a museum there. Among the attractions of the old town of Bremen we were able to enjoy the famous carillon of bell ringing: We then met up again for another waist-expanding meal. This was in the famous cellar restaurant of the RATHAUS (not what it sounds, but the Town Hall!) Again our cry went up “not more food”! But we forced ourselves... Then to the airport and home by midnight - sated, exhausted but exhilarated! A memorable experience which we hope will be repeated often, over there and over here. An example of Lions fellowship at its best. Many thanks, Delmenhorst Lions!

Pride of Lions