



We Serve

Jungle Jottings

THE NEWSLETTER OF BRIGHTON LIONS CLUB
TWINNED WITH FREEDOM DISTRICT LIONS CLUB
ORDINARY PEOPLE - AMAZING THINGS
OCTOBER 2007

THANK YOU, GEOFF

It is not that unusual for the club to receive a letter of thanks, but one such recently received by the President was a little more fulsome than normal. It came from Mr Metcalfe, the fund-raising governor of Downs View School, to which the club recently made a donation, and reads as follows:

“As you may well know the Brighton Lions Club kindly made a generous donation to the School last year to support our disabled pupils. Obviously I wrote to thank you all for the financial help which was given. Fortunately this contact brought me an introduction to Mr. Geoffrey Edwards, who has been such a huge help to me, in that he has regularly provided me with a constant flow of sources, which I have been able to approach for financial help for the school and for the Brighton & Hove City Schools’ Rugby Association.

“I feel that you, as President, would like to know how very much I appreciate the support and help which I have received from Mr. Edwards. A number of the organisations to which I have written have kindly replied and have advised me that they will present my letters to their appropriate committees at their next meetings.

“Thank you, everyone in the Brighton Lions, and especially Geoffrey Edwards, for your kindness to these unfortunate young people, many of whom are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme, and to our young boy and girl rugby players.”

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, 3 October, 7.30 for 8.00pm.
White Horse Hotel, Rottingdean.

Names to George Wood or Tricia Burns
no later than Friday, 28 September.

Menu: mushroom soup; roast beef etc;
rhubarb crumble.

Cost: £12 a head.

JUST A THOUGHT

“The service a man renders his friend is trivial and selfish, compared with the service he knows his friend stood in readiness to yield him, alike before he had begun to serve his friend, and now also. Compared with that goodwill I bear my friend, the benefit it is in my power to render him seems small”

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803-1882

CLUB DIARY

- 3 October . . . Dinner meeting, 7.30 for 8.00pm - White Horse, Rottingdean.
4 October . . . Visit to Crawley Lions Club.
6 October . . . Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
7 October . . . Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
9 October . . . Blind club transport (Hugh Barron).
9 October . . . Zone meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
10 October . . . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
12 October . . . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
13 October . . . Lancing & Sompting Lions Charter Night.
14 October . . . Autumn Forum.
15 October . . . Visit Tonbridge Lions Club.
16 October . . . Stroke club transport (Tony Crapnell).
17 October . . . Board & business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
18 October . . . Region Chairman's visit to Southborough & District Lions Club.
18 October . . . Lewes Lions toad-in-the-hole social, the Dorset pub, Lewes. 7.00pm start. £8.50 per head.
24 October . . . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
26 October . . . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
2 November . . . Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
3 November . . . Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
5 November . . . Fireworks, Sussex County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove.
7 November . . . Dinner meeting, 7.30 for 8.00pm.
13 November . . . Blind club transport (Doug Taylor).
13 November . . . Region Chairman's visit to Bexhill-on-Sea Lions Club.
14 November . . . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
16 November . . . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
20 November . . . Stroke club transport.
21 November . . . Board & business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
24 November . . . Henfield Lions Charter Night.
28 November . . . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
30 November . . . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
30 November . . . Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
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SEPTEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

- ▶ £250 donation to Tacade agreed to assist in development of material for partially sighted children.
- ▶ Tacade material has been delivered to Carlton Hill school.
- ▶ £50 donation from the admin fund to the Belarus Trust to help pay the international dues of the new Lions Club being chartered in Gomel.
- ▶ The club will not support the appeal from Guildford Lions for sponsorship in their 'Round the World in 36 hours' fund-raiser.
- ▶ Renewed appeal from Abbeyfield Society in connection with the housing society declined.
- ▶ The membership committee is considering another 'Meet the Lions' evening and is investigating the possibility of forming a Friends of Brighton Lions group.

BINGO ROTA

An asterisk (*) indicates the Lion responsible for collecting the equipment from Jason Bristow and returning it to him after the session. For the sessions on 26 and 28 September, 10 and 12 October, equipment should be collected from and returned to Tony Crapnell.

If you are unable to undertake your allocated place on the rota, please find a replacement before contacting Jason. Perhaps a straight swap with another Lion?

LIONS DENE Contact: Brian Sivier (caretaker)		EVELYN GLENNIE Somerset Street Contact: Mrs Johnson (manager)	
26/9	Tony Crapnell *, Guy Butterworth, Joe Matthews	28/9	Tom Novis *, David Sawyer
10/10	Tony Crapnell *, Richard Lintott, Joe Matthews	12/10	Brian Slater *, Clare Elliott
24/10	Hugh Barron *, Allen Bryan, Joe Matthews	26/10	Brian Slater *, Pete Dilloway
14/11	George Wood *, David Bryant, Joe Matthews	16/11	Jason Bristow *, Guy Butterworth
28/11	Tony Crapnell *, Pete Dilloway, Joe Matthews	30/11	Ron Fowler *, Doug Taylor

SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING

It was a great pleasure to welcome a couple of old faces to our meeting at the Brighton & Hove Golf Club early in September - Derek Smith and Keith Pratt, both past presidents of the club.

Keith recalled how, during his year as president, he had suggested that members of the club should retire on reaching the age of 55. Fortunately his suggestion had not been taken up.

He had found amongst his memorabilia one of the club's original banners which he returned to the club for safe keeping. As far as is known, this is the only one still in existence.



VOTE FOR US!

You've never heard of the Brighton Digital Festival? Well, both Brighton Lions Club and Leo House are involved in it. The festival comprises a large number of digital media, technology and art related events aiming to promote and bring together Brighton & Hove's ever-growing digital community.

The Brighton & Hove Web Awards are

part of the festival and both the Lions and Leo House web sites are entered, the Leo House site in the charity section and the Lions Club site in the on-line community section.

Voting starts on 3 October and anyone can take part - so visit www.brightonwebawards.co.uk and help us win - preferably both awards.

SUSSEX MS CENTRE

When we heard that the Sussex MS Centre was facing an unexpected demand for VAT on their new extension running into five figures, we started investigating the situation. Fortunately they were successful in appealing against the VAT but it seems likely that they will soon be approaching us for financial assistance. Club members might therefore like to know something of the background to the centre.

The centre was founded in 1984 by Don Hawkins. His wife, Paddy, suffered from MS and in 1982 he read an article in The Sunday Times by John Simkins of ARMS (Action Research into Multiple Sclerosis), a registered charity based in London. ARMS had already established a nation-wide counselling system and funded medical research for MS. High Dosage Oxygen treatment (HDOT) was part of the ARMS research programme. Although medical science has been aware of multiple sclerosis for well over a century the cause remains unknown and a cure has yet to be found. HDOT is used to help manage the symptoms and even slow down progression of the disease. HDOT treatment is administered by breathing pure oxygen through a mask for one hour whilst sitting in a decompression chamber similar to those used by divers.

Don Hawkins contacted John Simkins and was given information for building an HDOT treatment Centre. Advertisements were placed in the local

Press calling for a public meeting to discuss the venture and seek support. The months following the meeting were spent raising money to finance the new centre. An anonymous donor promised to double the first £10,000 raised to finance the opening of a centre. Suitable premises were acquired and the centre was opened at Southlands Hospital in West Sussex with name of The South Weald Friends of ARMS (HBO). The hospital authority offered the centre a lease on generous terms in a hospital annex.

A United Kingdom network of over 50 HDOT centres gradually developed, each linked to the central ARMS office. The centres operated as independent registered non-profit making charities making donations to ARMS to assist in research and development. Unfortunately ARMS ran into financial difficulties and was forced into liquidation.

In 1994, following the collapse of ARMS,

Don Hawkins and his Executive Committee transformed the centre into a private limited company changing its name to the Sussex MS Treatment Centre Ltd. There now exist more than sixty HDOT centres throughout the country, all of which are independent organisations.

The centre costs about £80,000 per year but receives no grants from the government or local medical authorities. Everything is financed by voluntary donations and fundraising activities. Alan Taylor and his assistant Tania Hobbs are the only paid members of staff. The Executive Committee and the pressure chamber operators are unpaid volunteers.

The membership has reached 400 and each member pays a £10 annual subscription fee. The centre is a registered non-profit making charity with special tax exemptions and is not permitted to charge for the service offered. It is however permitted to request that each person needing HDOT make a donation towards the cost of each oxygenation session. This voluntary contribution is £10 to cover some of the costs of the treatment. No one is denied treatment if they cannot afford to pay. In the USA and Canada and Europe HDOT can cost the equivalent of about £100 to £500 per hour.

Alan Mullen, whose wife Zena has MS and is the editor of the centre's newsletter, The Belle, designed the new

premises. The site management was carried-out by John Roberts JP, now retired, when the pressure chamber was lifted onto the new foundations and a prefabricated building erected around it. The new building, completed in 1994, has a lounge, an office, the pressure chamber room, three therapy rooms, a kitchen, three toilets including two disabled toilets. The parking facilities are also excellent.

Since moving to the new premises there have been great efforts in the field of fund-raising and, in addition to other generous donations, the centre received £44,000 from the National Lottery fund to finance the renovation of centre. The renovations included the installation of air-conditioning, redecoration of the premises, provision of a kitchen and general refurbishment of equipment and furniture, a mobile electric hoist and modern wheelchairs.

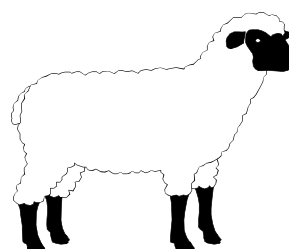
Some of the members travel considerable distances for the treatment and other therapies available at the centre.

Following the rapid flow of information on the Internet other severe medical conditions such as cerebral palsy and stroke victims are being given HDOT. Demand for HDOT has therefore grown and evening and Saturday morning sessions have become a regular feature. Parents with children suffering from cerebral palsy regularly visit the centre from the USA, Canada and Europe.

With thanks to Syd Tucker, Sussex MS Centre

AN ALTERNATIVE VERSION

Mary had a little lamb.
Her father shot it dead,
So Mary took that lamb to school
Between two bits of bread.



REMEMBER, REMEMBER 5TH NOVEMBER

The club's annual fireworks display will be held at the County Ground once again on Monday, 5 November.

As always, it is important that we have as many 'hands on deck' as possible so (to mix my metaphors) this event is subject to a three-line whip.

Duties will be advised later, but plan to be there no later than 5.30pm.

AUTUMN FORUM

The District's autumn forum is to be held on Sunday, 14 October, at the Ramada Hotel Pembury. There is an interesting selection of sessions during the morning covering Project Refresh, LCIF, Life Skills, Peace Poster, LIBRA, MedicAlert, Young Ambassador, CSF II etc. It looks distinctly more interesting than the spring forum.

The club will pay for lunch for any members attending (Cumberland sausage & mash or Thai chicken and rice or spinach & ricotta pancakes) followed by chef's dessert.

If you are interested in attending please contact Hugh Barron immediately.

TEDDY APPEAL

Krugersdorp Lions Club in South Africa has been active in the Teddy Bear Clinics for Abused Children. These clinics provide both medical and short term counselling services to sexually abused children and their families and also offer training in a wide spectrum of child abuse issues. In any one month up to 500 children can be assisted by the clinics. On arrival each child is given a teddy bear they can keep. It becomes a symbol of stability in the trauma of abuse and investigation and a constant stream of teddy bears is required.

Because of an urban legend that has been advanced by some witch doctors in South Africa, rape of the young and the old has become a national crisis. The witch doctors have told people that

having sexual intercourse with a young girl or an elderly women will give immunity to HIV and AIDS. The situation is so bad that the South African Government now has an embargo on crime statistics.. The Krugersdorp Lions have tried to harness the abilities of woman who have the ability to knit and sew, and have time on their hands. The Club provides wool, stuffing materials, eyes and noses and sends the completed bears to the clinic.

If any Lion here can knit or knows somebody who will be prepared to knit teddies to a pattern, we understand that the knitted teddies can be sent to South Africa for stuffing etc. Contact Brian Slater for more details.

AND FINALLY . . .

Being British

Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. And the most British thing of all? Suspicion of all things foreign!

Only in Britain can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in Britain do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in Britain do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a DIET coke.

Only in Britain do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

Only in Britain do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.

Only in Britain do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Only in Britain are there disabled parking places in front of a skating rink.

NOT TO MENTION..

3 Brits die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue.

142 Brits were injured in 1999 by not removing all pins from new shirts.

58 Brits are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

31 Brits have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

19 Brits have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolate.

British Hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after Xmas cracker-pulling accidents.

18 Brits had serious burns in 2000 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.

A massive 543 Brits were admitted to A&E in the last two years after trying to open bottles of beer with their teeth.

5 Brits were injured last year in accidents involving out-of-control Scalextric cars.

and finally...

In 2000 eight Brits were admitted to hospital with fractured skulls incurred whilst throwing up into the toilet.

With thanks to Pete Dilloway

Bill Gates dies in a car accident. He finds himself in purgatory, being sized up by St. Peter.

"Well, Bill, I'm really confused on this call; I'm not sure whether to send you to Heaven or Hell. After all, you enormously helped society by putting a computer in almost every home in America, yet you also created that ghastly Windows '95. I'm going to do something I've never done before in your case; I'm going to let you decide where you want to go."

Bill replied, "Well, what's the difference between the two?"

St. Peter said, "I'm willing to let you visit both places briefly if it will help your decision."

"Fine, but where should I go first?"

"I'll leave that up to you."

"Okay then," said Bill, "Let's try Hell first."

So Bill went to Hell. It was a beautiful, clean, sandy beach with clear waters and lots of bikini-clad women running around, playing in the water, laughing and frolicking about. The sun was shining; the temperature perfect. He was very pleased.

"This is great!" he told St. Peter. "If this is hell, I REALLY want to see heaven!"

"Fine," said St. Peter, and off they went.

Heaven was a place high in the clouds, with angels drifting about, playing harps and singing. It was nice, but not as enticing as Hell.

Bill thought for a quick minute, and rendered his decision.

"Hmmm, I think I'd prefer Hell," he told St. Peter.

"Fine," retorted St. Peter, "as you desire."

So Bill Gates went to Hell.

Two weeks later, St. Peter decided to check on the late billionaire to see how he was doing in Hell. When he got there, he found Bill, shackled to a wall, screaming amongst hot flames in dark caves, being burned and tortured by demons.

"How's everything going?" he asked Bill.

Bill responded, with his voice filled with anguish and disappointment, "This is awful! This is nothing like the Hell I visited two weeks ago! I can't believe this is happening! What happened to that other place, with the beautiful beaches, the scantily-clad women playing in the water?"

"That was a Beta version," replied St. Peter.

That's all, folks!