



We Serve

JUNGLE JOTTINGS

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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

DECEMBER DINNER

**5 December, Brighton & Hove Golf Club, 7.15 for
7.45pm - £15 a head.**



Menu:



Goujons of Sole

Roast Beef

Christmas Pudding or Pavlova

Mince Pies and Coffee



Names to Ron Fowler by 30 November please.

JANUARY DINNER

The date of the January dinner meeting has been changed to **9 January 2008** in accordance with the wishes of the members at the November business meeting. The venue will be the White Horse, Rottingdean.

ZONE MEETING

All members are invited to attend the zone meeting on 4 December at Lions Dene, starting at 8.00pm.

District officers attending will be John Wilkinson (PRO), Steve Carley (Leo Advisor), Bob Harvey (SightFirst II) and VDG Jacque Prebble.

CLUB DIARY

- 30 November Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
30 November Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
1 December . Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
4 December . Zone meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
5 December . Dinner meeting, Brighton & Hove Golf Club, 7.15 for 7.45pm.
10 December Region Chairman's visit to Battle & Villages Lions Club.
12 December Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
13 December Region Chairman's visit to Newhaven, Peacehaven & Seaford Lions Club.
13 December Lewes Lions Christmas concert, 7.30pm, All Saints Centre, Lewes.
14 December Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
18 December Children's outing to pantomime.
18 December Stroke club transport (Tony Crapnell).
18 December Blind club transport (Richard Lintott).
19 December Board & business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
28 December Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
4 January . . . Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
5 January . . . Book fair, Lions Dene, 1.00am till 12 noon.
8 January . . . Blind club transport.
9 January . . . Dinner meeting, the White Horse, Rottingdean, 8.00pm.
9 January . . . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
11 January . . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
15 January . . Stroke club transport.
16 January . . Business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
23 January . . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
25 January . . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
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NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

We were pleased to welcome Lion Marcus Ferreira da Silva from Brazil who is attending the University of Brighton on a year-long course.

A number of grants were approved:

- £500 to Off the Fence towards the costs of their project to support disadvantaged women in Brighton & Hove.
- £150 to cover the cost of a Christmas party at Martlets Court.
- Up to £2,500 to the Sussex Deaf Association for the purchase of equipment for their new project aiding communication and access for people who are deaf.
- £5,000 to the WRVS Meals on Wheels service, the second in a series of three annual grants promised.

BINGO ROTA

An asterisk (*) indicates the Lion responsible for collecting the equipment from Jason Bristow and returning it to him after the session.

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?

Please note changes of personnel on 12 and 28 December.

The rota for January onwards will be available shortly.

LIONS DENE Contact: Brian Sivier (caretaker)		EVELYN GLENNIE Somerset Street Contact: Mrs Johnson (manager)	
28/11	Tony Crapnell *, Brian Slater, Joe Matthews	30/11	Ron Fowler *, Doug Taylor
12/12	Hugh Barron *, Allen Bryan, Joe Matthews	14/12	Tony Crapnell *, Clare Elliott
		28/12	Brian Slater *, Pete Dilloway

PANTOMIME CHANGE

The children's outing to the pantomime, originally scheduled for January, has been moved to 18 December, and the school will not now be Hillside as they are unable to accommodate that date. Instead, children from Whitehawk will be

taken by bus to Worthing for a special morning performance.

The children from Hillside school will be taken to Drusilla's in the summer.

JUST A THOUGHT

"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

Helen Keller, 1880 - 1968

FIREWORKS

Once again we were lucky with the weather. A light shower started just as the first firework was being lit, but it never came to much and had cleared away within about ten minutes.

The ground capacity this year had been increased to 9,500 but there was still room when the display started. As always, this was delayed because of queues of people trying to gain admission, despite the valiant efforts of the Lions manning the gates. We are still waiting for the official figures from the cricket club, but rough estimates put

the crowd at about 8,000 people.

Takings at the gate on the day were up on last year by some £6,000, but advance sales through our web site were lower than last year by about £2,000. We do not yet know the value of advance sales by the cricket club, but we have banked over £31,000 so far, which should be sufficient to cover our costs and still leave a reasonable profit.

We congratulate all involved, especially Guy Butterworth, fireworks chairman, on a splendid evening.

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

The board of Lions Clubs International have apparently approved a new mission statement as follows:

“To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote

international understanding through Lions clubs.”

The board has also approved a vision statement *[sic]*:

“To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.”

(Many Lions might think that the motto - “We serve” - says it all anyway. Editor)

CLUB SURVEY

At the time of writing, just eight forms have been returned to the President, which represents only 25% of the club membership. A few interesting facts are beginning to emerge, but in order to make the effort really worthwhile, more

returns are needed.

If you have not already done so, please complete the survey and return it to the President as soon as possible.

CLUB SCRAP BOOK

Lisa Dilloway is appealing for items for the club scrap book she is compiling and asks if any of us can help with the following:

Blind club transport – pictures of each activity, a short write up on each activity/visit and a short write up/description of the blind club transport in general

Stroke club transport – Short description of service provided + any pictures.

Pantomime – Short write up of service provided, details of school etc, pictures from visit if possible, copy of programme if poss, & copies of letters received from school following visit.

Drusillas – As for panto

Bingo – Short write up of history of bingo service provided + details of venues covered and pictures of bingo sessions

Fireworks - copy of poster advertising event, copy of ticket, pictures of event

Social events – pictures of dinner meetings (handover, Christmas etc), attendance at other clubs activities, Charter night, skittles matches, attendance at convention etc. Charter night menu, guess the speech length (incl winning time), pictures of charter night.

Housing society – Short history of housing society, details of current portfolio, pictures of present venues, poss minutes of AGM

Membership activities – Copy of leaflet, material relating to any membership drives

Fundraising – Description of fund raising events, pictures of book fair, pig racing + any new activities in current year.

Large Print books -

Region Chairman travels – Calendar of events/visits, pictures of handover, Conventions etc

Postcards for sick children – short write up

Jungle Jottings – few copies of JJ newsletter

Service activities – List of expenditure during year on service projects.

Please don't just assume that someone else will do it. If you don't, no-one will - and he doesn't belong to Brighton Lions Club!

TEDDY BEARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A project of Krugersdorp Lions Club, South Africa

It is early Saturday morning. Usually, the courtrooms would be quiet, but in this court building the passages are filled with children, and their parents, or care-givers. Why are they here? Well, in this court building, the Abused Child Support team of the Teddy Bear Clinic are hard at work. Today, most children will be receiving counselling, some will be receiving instruction on court procedure, and the parents will be discussing their child's progress with social workers and other support personnel.

In the Parents Discussion area, there is a sense of anguish and dismay. Tears are clearly visible as parents are asked how the children are responding to the support they are receiving. Many are advised when the children will be required to be in court. It is horrifying to stand in the room and hear of young people that have been abused. Ages are varied but most of the children receiving counselling on this day are below the age of 15. Some are much younger, and the large majority of them have been sexually abused.

One mother relates how a family member abused her daughter for over 6 years. The child's father stands stoically behind the mother, obviously distressed that his daughter had been subjected to this long term abuse. "We never knew where to get help," was their plaintive cry. A father relates that, because of the workload of the investigating officers, his child has been waiting for over 5 months for a court date. In the mean time, wherever possible, the Teddy Bear Clinic personnel are trying to rebuild shattered lives. Unfortunately, there are just not enough counsellors to go around.

In a number of other rooms, there are social workers, helping the young children to come to terms with the horrors they have faced. The children have been divided into similar age groups, and the counsellors take great pains to reach beyond the despair that

surrounds the children. It is not obvious to the eye, but a social worker relates that some children, often aged 8, 9, and 10 have received abortions. They look like any ordinary child, but behind the sombre faces is a story that would shock most right-thinking people.

Four-year-old Patience is at the Teddy Bear Clinic for Abused Children, and she's been brought here for a medical examination by her distraught mother who, after noticing an unusual discharge on her child's underwear, fears she may have been sexually molested. And Patience is not alone. By the end of today, three other children – all with different symptoms, but inevitably a similar cause – will undergo the same examination.

Across the hall, a door opens and Dr Lorna Jacklin, one of three paediatricians on the staff, emerges to fetch Patience for her medical. Softly spoken, with a gentle manner, she leads the child and her mother into a bright, tidy examination room where yellow teddy bears dance across the walls. A doll lies on the bed, and in front of it are the camera and TV monitor that are used to photograph victim' genitals or other evidence of abuse.

This situation is repeated in all of the clinics served by the Teddy Bear clinics. Children are taken into the system, where they are examined, and then counselled.

Due to the social breakdown of the family structure, as well as the fallacy that says that having intercourse with a young child will prevent perpetrators from contracting AIDS, rape has become common in South Africa. A small proportion of the abuse that is carried out is actually reported. Once the report has been made, the matter is investigated and where possible the matter is brought before the court.

TEDDY BEARS cont

In Johannesburg, three clinics operate to try to reduce the trauma of children suffering abuse. It is horrific to hear that in bad months; around 500 children may be brought into the clinics. These children are just some of the ones that are actually abused, and represent only those children who abuse has been reported.

The clinics provide children and parents with skills, emotional support and knowledge in preparation for their appearance in court. The Teddy Bear Clinic has three branches, one in Protea Court in Soweto, the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court and another at the Krugersdorp Court. Support is of a predominantly medical nature, this is performed by the clinics on an ongoing basis.

One part of the Teddy Bear Clinic trauma counselling is the provision of a teddy bear to each child that comes into the clinic. These teddy bears are usually donated, and are sourced from many different sources, including Lions Clubs, as funding is limited. The teddy bear becomes a starting point in the rehabilitation of the emotional status of the child, and is provided without cost to the clinic, or the child.

The clinics are hard pressed to supply all the needs of the children that are referred to them by the courts. In any one day, at least eight children are receiving specific trauma counselling (Krugersdorp Clinic alone), and there is a waiting list of needy children that should be receiving help. Unfortunately, there are not enough counsellors, or funds, to handle the need.

How did the Lions Club of Krugersdorp become involved?

About 2.5 years ago, a social worker from the Krugersdorp Clinic visited the Lions Club in Krugersdorp. The request that was made was for supplies and equipment required for the needs of the administrative section of the clinic. However, it was also obvious that there was a massive need for teddy bears, and the Lions Club Teddy Bear Clinic Support Project was born.

One of the members of the Lions Club in Krugersdorp lives in a retirement village about 25 kilometres outside of the city. A number of elderly ladies reside in the village and a project was put into place to ask the ladies to knit teddy bears for the clinic. Wool was sourced, stuffing materials were found, and pattern were obtained. These items were provided to the ladies, and they started knitting.

Since then, the project has grown and teddy bears are being supplied from South Africa and the United Kingdom. Initially, all the bears were knitted, or sewn, by the ladies of the Golden Harvest Village, but gradually the message was passed on and ladies from all over the Gauteng province of South Africa got involved.

This Lions project has become larger than was originally envisaged. It has become one where international co-operation between clubs has occurred. There are opportunities everywhere for help and co-operation. Let's broaden the net, and reach the lost, and the hurting with a symbol of love. Let's serve.

Ladies at Evelyn Glennie are now knitting teddies for us to send to Krugersdorp Lions Club.

FIRE SAFETY CHECKS – FREE!

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service is offering free home safety visits and, where appropriate, the free installation of smoke alarms in a major programme to prevent fire and reduce the devastating effects that can too often follow a fire in the home.

If you, your friends or neighbours would like to receive a FREE home safety visit you can request one by telephone (0800 177 7069), by mini com (01323 462002) or by e-mail to homefire.safetyvisits@esfrs.org. Please quote reference ROC.

AND FINALLY . . .

Christmas Fruit Cake Recipe

Ingredients:

1 cup water
 8oz. mixed nuts
 1 cup brown sugar
 1 cup butter
 1 tsp. salt
 2 cups dried fruit
 4 large eggs
 Juice of 1 lemon
 1 tsp baking powder
 Brandy

Method:

Sample the brandy to check quality.
 Take a large bowl.
 Re-sample the brandy to ensure it is of the highest quality. Pour one cup and drink. Repeat.
 Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.
 Add one tsp sugar and beat again.
 Make sure the brandy is still okay. Cry another tup.
 Turn on the mixerer.
 Break two eggs and add to the bowl, chuck in the dried fruit.
 Mix on the turner. If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loos with a



drewscriver.
 Sample the brandy to check for tonsiscency.
 Next sift two cups of salt, or something. Who cares?
 Check the brandy.
 Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.
 Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find.
 Grease the oven.
 Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.
 Don't forget to beat off the turnerer.
 Throw the bowl out of the window, check the brandy again and go to bed.

That's all, folks!