



We Serve

JUNGLE JOTTINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF BRIGHTON LIONS CLUB
TWINNED WITH FREEDOM DISTRICT LIONS CLUB
ORDINARY PEOPLE - AMAZING THINGS
FEBRUARY 2008

JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING

It is rarely that we feature a business meeting summary on the front page, but there was so much discussion at the January meeting which will be of interest that we are making an exception this month.

The Trust Fund trustees' report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2007 were quickly approved, the accounts being as previously published in JJ.

The discussions started with Jason Bristow's report on bingo. When he had indicated to the players at Evelyn Glennie that we would be happy to see more people participating, he was asked by one player if her grandson, aged about 20, could attend. Jason had responded that he thought it unlikely due to the restrictions placed on our use of funds, but he promised to raise the matter at a meeting.

The general view seemed to be that as we use Manison legacy money, ie restricted funds, to cover the costs of the bingo sessions, only elderly persons could take part. It was suggested, however, that the inclusion of a younger person might make for a livelier atmosphere and thus increase the enjoyment of the more elderly players. This, it was agreed, would be within the spirit of the restriction. But the admission of one younger person could lead to further requests of a similar nature which it would be difficult to decline. The meeting finally came to an agreement that if the grandson happened to be visiting his grandmother on a bingo evening, he would be welcome to join in.

It was noted that the East Sussex Association for the Blind had omitted to undertake the promised CRB checks on volunteer drivers from the club and it was agreed that we should arrange for these checks to be undertaken, not just for the drivers for the blind club, but for others who might conceivably be considered to require them.

Richard Lintott reported that Leo House had recruited two new outside trustees whose experience would be of great value. Unfortunately, his report in December that a fifth nurse had been recruited had proved to be precipitate as, after being offered the job, she declined it. The recruitment procedure had been recommenced.

It was pointed out that the club had provided very little financial support to Leo House during the last two years. The meeting approved a suggestion that the club should donate £1,000 a year to Leo House for the three years commencing 2008.

This led to a request that the club reinstate the scheme whereby each member could, once a year, nominate a charity to receive a donation of £100. Although the trust fund has a comparatively small balance until the fireworks accounts are settled, this was approved. [See page 3.]

CLUB DIARY

- 1 February . . Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 2 February . . Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
 2 February . . Lewes Lions Charter Night, White Hart Hotel, Lewes, 7 for 7.30. £25.
 5 February . . Region Chairman's visit to Hailsham Lions Club.
 6 February . . Dinner meeting.
 9 February . . District 105SE convention.
 12 February . Blind club transport - Hugh Barron.
 13 February . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 14 February . Region Chairman's visit to Hove Lions Club.
 15 February . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 16 February . Adur East Lions line dance & country music evening. £7.50.
 16 February . Burgess Hill District Lions Valentine's Hop
 19 February . Stroke club transport - Tony Crapnell.
 20 February . Business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 27 February . Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 29 February . Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 29 February . Book fair preparation, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 1 March Book fair, Lions Dene, 10.00am till 12 noon.
 5 March Dinner meeting, Brighton & Hove Golf Club, 7.15 for 7.45pm.
 6 March Adur East Lions charity greyhound night.
 11 March Blind club transport - Ron Fowler.
 12 March Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 14 March Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
 19 March Business meeting, Lions Dene, 8.00pm.
 26 March Bingo, Lions Dene, 7.30pm.
 28 March Bingo, Evelyn Glennie, 7.30pm.
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FEBRUARY & MARCH DINNER MEETINGS

February

As the White Horse cannot accommodate us on 6 February, Ron Fowler will be making other arrangements. Please ring him between 31 January and 3 February to advise your attendance and to learn the venue etc.

March

In accordance with what has become a tradition in the club, the March dinner meeting will be at the Brighton & Hove Golf Club. The date is 5 March, time 7.15 for 7.45.

We are not yet able to advise the menu but expect the cost to be £15 a head.

Names to Ron Fowler by 29 February please.

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?

LIONS DENE Contact: Brian Sivier (caretaker)		EVELYN GLENNIE Somerset Street Contact: Mrs Johnson (manager)	
13/2	Hugh Barron *, Allen Bryan, Joe Matthews	15/2	Tom Novis *, David Sawyer
27/2	George Wood *, David Bryant, Joe Matthews	29/2	Brian Slater *, Guy Butterworth
12/3	Pete Dilloway *, Lisa Dilloway, Joe Matthews	14/3	Ron Fowler *, Doug Taylor
26/3	Brian Slater *, Richard Lintott, Joe Matthews	28/3	Tony Crapnell *, David Sawyer

£100 A LION - HOW IT WORKS

Each member of the club may, on one occasion during the course of the Lions year (July to June) ask the club to make a donation of £100 to a charity of the Lions choice. Although all members are able to have their say regarding donations made by the club, it is hoped that this scheme will help every Lion to feel that s/he is involved in how money is spent.

Anybody wishing to have a donation made should remember that the proposed beneficiary must be generally acceptable to other members and that the donation must fall within the guidelines usually followed by the club.

It is suggested that any Lion wishing to have a donation made should first contact the treasurer to ensure that funds are available and that he considers the beneficiary suitable. The Lion **must** attend a business meeting at which the request can be made.

JUST A THOUGHT

Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

Oprah Winfrey

LEO HOUSE ACCOUNTS

Some interest was expressed after the January business meeting in the financial situation of Leo House. Below is an extract from the annual accounts for the year ended 30 June 2007. Explanatory comments from the Leo House treasurer are on the following page.

	£	£
<u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u>		
Voluntary income:		
Donations	51,329	
Legacies	100,941	
Activities for generating funds	435	
Investment income	32,251	
Total incoming resources		184,956
<u>Resources expended</u>		
Costs of generating funds:		
Cost of generating voluntary income	3,459	
Fundraising trading costs	0	3,459
Net incoming resources available for charitable application		181,497
Charitable activities		93,211
Governance		3,889
Total resources expended		100,558
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		84,398
Fund balances at 1 July 2006		583,264
Fund balances at 30 June 2007		667,662

LEO HOUSE ACCOUNTS

As you can see, the last financial year was a pretty good one for Leo House with income totalling all but £185,000. Donations came in at the rate of £1,000 a week and we received a legacy of £100,000. We did nothing in the way of running fund-raising activities ourselves, leaving others to do this for us.

The main outgoing is, of course, the cost of the Leo House nurses, and this is the item called 'charitable activities' that cost £93,000.

After other fairly minor but unavoidable expenses, there was a surplus for the year of £84,000 which has been added to the revenue reserves to bring the total funds held by Leo House to over £660,000. But that is just a broad brush picture and rather more is appropriate by way of explanation.

First, I should point out that for most of the year efforts were being made to recruit a further nurse. Had those efforts been successful, the cost of charitable activities would have risen quite substantially, with a corresponding reduction in the surplus. Furthermore, over half the income for the year was in the form of one legacy. Had we not received that, we would have spent more money than we raised.

And people will understandably ask

what we propose to do with over £600,000 in the bank. Bear in mind that we are employing five nurses (or will do when the vacancy is filled). With salaries, employer's National Insurance, pension contributions and travelling, each nurse costs us between £25,000 and £30,000 a year - a senior nurse rather more than £30,000. Our current commitments require us to budget for expenditure on charitable activities of up to £150,000 a year, increasing year by year.

Our commitment to the National Health service is for a rolling term of five years, with a requirement that we give 12 months' notice of our intention to withdraw funding. This is vital for the families we support. It would be useless to commit to providing care for, say, three or six months, so we need to know that even if our income dried up completely, we could keep the nurses on the road for a considerable time. We have therefore put aside a special reserve of £375,000 which was, when we did it, the equivalent of five years' salaries but would now cover only about three years.

The trustees would dearly love to expand the service, but we are not prepared to do so unless we can put aside further money in case of years of famine.

AND FINALLY . . .

The hurricane came unexpectedly. The ship went down and was lost. The man found himself swept up on the shore of an island with no other people, no supplies, nothing to do. Only bananas and coconuts.

So for the next four months he ate bananas, drank coconut milk and longed for his old life. He fixed his gaze on the sea, hoping to spot a rescue ship. One day, as he was lying on the beach, he spotted movement out of the corner of

his eye. It was a rowing boat, and in it was the most gorgeous woman he had ever seen. She rowed up to him.

In disbelief, he asked her: "Where did you come from? How did you get here?"

"I rowed from the other side of the island," she said. "I landed here when my cruise ship sank."

"Amazing," he said. "I didn't know anyone else survived. How many are there? You were lucky to have a rowboat wash up with you." "Its only me," she said, "and the rowboat didn't wash up; nothing did." He was confused. "Then how did you get the rowboat?"

"Oh, simple," replied the woman. "I made the rowboat out of materials that I found on the island. The oars were whittled from gum tree branches. I wove the bottom from palm branches and the sides and stern came from a eucalyptus tree."

"B-B-But that's impossible," stuttered the man. "You had no tools or hardware. How did you manage?" "Oh, that was no problem," replied the woman. "On the other side of the island there is a very unusual rock formation exposed. I found that if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into iron. I used that for tools, and used the tools to make the hardware."

"But enough of that," she said. "Where do you live?" Sheepishly, he confessed that he had been sleeping on the beach the whole time. "Well, let's row over to my place then," she said.

After a few minutes of rowing she docked the boat at a small wharf. As the man looked to the shore, he nearly fell out of the boat. Before him was a stone

walk leading to an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white. While the woman tied up the rowboat with an expertly woven hemp rope, the man could only stare ahead, dumbstruck.

As they walked into the house, she said casually, "It's not much, but I call it home. Sit down, please; would you like a drink?" "No, no thank you," he said, still dazed. "I can't take any more coconut milk." "It's not coconut milk," the woman replied. "I have a still. How about a pina colada?"

Trying to hide his amazement, the man accepted, and they sat down on her couch to talk.

After they had exchanged their stories, the woman announced, "I'm going to slip into something comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There is a razor in the bathroom." No longer questioning anything, the man went into the bathroom. There in the cabinet was a razor made from a bone handle. Two shells honed to a hollow ground edge were fastened on to it's end. "This woman is amazing," he thought. "What next?"

When he returned, she greeted him wearing nothing but vines and smelling faintly of gardenias. She beckoned for him to sit down next to her. "Tell me," she began, suggestively, slithering closer to him, "we've been out here for a very long time. You've been lonely. There's something I'm sure you really feel like doing right now, something you've been longing for all these months. You know..." She stared into his eyes.

He couldn't believe what he was hearing. "You mean--?" he replied, "I can check my e-mail from here?"

That's all, folks!