



SWANWICK LIONS NEWSLETTER

October 2011

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This Newsletter is owned and published by the Lions Club of Swanwick

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*A Message From
Lions Club President Ivor*

The National Memorial

Arboretum Lions Shelter officially opened



HRH The Countess of Wessex, as the patron of Lions Clubs International in the British Isles and Ireland, officially opened the shelter on Wednesday 14 September. Following months of fundraising to pay for the building, Lions from across the four countries gathered for this special event.

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance, located in the heart of the country within the National Forest near Lichfield, and comprising 150 acres of over 50,000 trees and over 150 memorials. A spiritually uplifting place which honours the fallen, recognises service and sacrifice, and fosters pride in our country. Visitors from all walks of life number around 300,000 per year and include Service personnel, veterans, students of all ages, groups and individuals.

So that visitors can take a rest or shelter from the weather, Lions Clubs Inter-

national in the British Isles and Ireland has risen to the challenge of creating a purpose-built new shelter at the site.

The new building will have a screen where the names of members of the Lions family, who have

passed to higher service during the last 12 months, will be placed. This will be renewed each year. Lions International is very proud of its work with young people in developing the ethos of peace around the world and, as such, they will be putting the winning picture from the annual Peace Poster and Poetry Competitions on a screen for people to read as they sit and reflect.

Chair of the Lions Council, Tony Gadsby, comments: *"This is a wonderful occasion and particularly because our Patron will be able to open the building. It shows the spirit of Lionism to Serve the community by providing a building where people can shelter from the elements and take time to remember their relatives and friends who have died in whatever circumstances. Lions Clubs from across the British Isles and Ireland have pulled together to raise over £30,000 to achieve this goal and I am sure that the visitors to the Arboretum will appreciate all the hard work it has taken to raise this money for such a worthwhile cause."*

2011 has been a tragic year for many internationally, as well as nationally, with Floods, Earthquakes, Riots and Mining disasters. As Lions, we have endeavoured to ensure that aid has reached those most in need, be it through financial aid or purely being supportive.

Locally, we the Lions of Swanwick, have successfully taken part in functions such as the Sarisbury, Warsash, Swanmore, and St Georges Day Fetes, not only to raise funds to continue our work in the community, but also to bring to peoples' awareness the importance of Lionism in the community. We are a non profit making organisation adhering in every way possible to our Motto of **"WE SERVE"**, wherein part of our purpose is to serve the Community without reward.

For example, over several years we have freely given of our time to actively help the JDRF (Junior Diabetes Research Foundation), at an event where adults and children alike have taken part in the Annual Walk to raise funds for necessary research into this most debilitating of illnesses. This September we once again manned the Refreshment Tent, serving Breakfast and Lunch snacks to the participants.

This year I have chosen to support the Rainbow Centre with our Christmas Sleigh runs. Details of the Centre and it's work are given on page 3.

As President of Lions Club of Swanwick I am honoured to serve, as Lions we are proud.

Activities

Since January, the Club have been involved with numerous events:-

- **Friends 'Thankyou' evening'**, where we presented our cheque for £3,000 to the Countess Mountbatten Hospice- (see *photographs below.....*)
- **Leisure & Pleasure Exhibition**
- **Easter Craft Fair** at the Lockwood Centre
- **Giant Chocolate Easter Egg Raffle**
- **Stubbington Lions St Georges Day Fete**
- **Sarisbury Green Fete**
- **Lions Day Tea Party** for senior local residents
- **Warsash Fete**
- **Swanmore Fete**
- **Annual Duck Race** - organised with Solent Lions Club.
- **Walk for Junior Diabetes**



The Refreshment tent at the Walk for Junior Diabetes in September



The ladies of 'Solent Sound' performing at the Leisure & Pleasure Exhibition in February.

Friends of Lions 'Thankyou Evening' in January:



Our fund raising activities help local needs, and each year we also decide on a few local charities to support financially. Up to July 2011 these were:-

- **Countess Mountbatten Hospice**- donation of £3,000
- **KIDS- Fareham**- donation of £250.
- **Royal British Legion**- £95
- **Local welfare need**- £500
- We also donated £1,000 to the national St. Dunstan's Project-. (see P4)

The Rainbow Centre

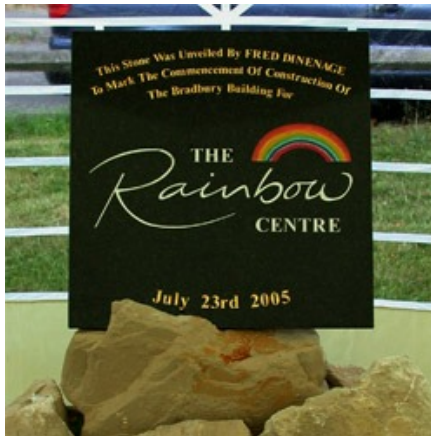
Our Club President, Lion Ivor Dugdale-Jenkins, has chosen The Rainbow Centre as the focus of our December Christmas Sleigh collections. The Centre, founded in 1990 and based in Fareham, inspires and supports children with Cerebral Palsy and adults with a stroke, MS and Parkinson's disease, and their families.

Through a system of learning called Conductive Education the centre encourages and teaches children/ participants to take an active role in their own development.

Developed in Hungary from 1945 founded on the work of András Peto: ***"Ask me not what I can do for the children with cerebral palsy but ask me what they can learn to do for themselves"*** (Dr Andras Peto).

Conductive Education in its fullest form is a unified system of rehabilitation for people with neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy, Parkinson's Disease, multiple sclerosis and those recovering from strokes or head injuries.

Children / participants learn new ways to become active and happy individuals who are proud of their own achievements and ready for lifes' challenges. Focus is placed on what you CAN DO and staff inspire all children/participants to reach their full potential.



History of the Rainbow Centre – the Bradbury Building:

Fareham Borough Council made land available at a nominal rent at Cams Alders to the South of the Borough. Following an extensive planning period, groundbreaking for the new building was achieved on 24 July 2005.

Chairman of Trustees, Janet Blann and Co-founder Helen Somerset How welcomed visitors and distinguished guests and spoke of the significance to the Rainbow Centre of the day. The Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Reverend Kenneth Stephenson blessed the ground.



The one million pounds raised for the new building was not enough to develop the specialist play areas wanted for the back garden or to "finish off" the barren area at the front of the building, so fundraising was initiated for this 'Play Away' project.

An application was made to The Big Lottery - Peoples Millions Grant programme - which is aimed at helping to make the local community a better place in which to live by improving the environment. After careful vetting by the Big Lottery, the public chose the winning project by telephone vote. The promotional film about the project was screened on ITV "Meridian Tonight" on Tuesday 14th November 2006, when the public was asked to vote between the Rainbow Centre and one other project. Following this broadcast the Centre were thrilled to win the public vote and received almost £50,000 towards the Play Away Activity project.

On Thursday 20 September 2007, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Dame Mary Fagan J.P. officially declared the new garden open. She also opened the Play Away Wild Garden.

The St Dunstan's Project:

St Dunstan's is a national charity providing crucial assistance to blind ex-Service men and women and their families. St Dunstaners are helped to regain their independence and make the most of the opportunities available to them through rehabilitation, training, support and advice.

Sir Arthur Pearson, a newspaper proprietor who owned the Evening Standard and founded the Daily Express, established St Dunstan's in 1915. Pearson, who lost his own sight through glaucoma, was shocked at society's attitude to blindness. He decided to help those who had lost their vision in the recent First World War by giving them the care and rehabilitation they needed to lead constructive, self-sufficient lives.

Nearly a century later, St Dunstan's still cares for those blinded in action, but also supports blind and visually impaired ex-Service men and women who have lost their sight through accident, illness, or old age. St Dunstan's also helps those who have served in the Emergency Services.

St Dunstan's has two well-established Centres with the flagship centre based at Ovingdean, located on the outskirts of Brighton, and the other in Sheffield. With an increasing demand for services a third centre has recently opened in Llandudno, North Wales.

On Monday 19th September the new St Dunstan's Centre at Craig-y-Don, Llandudno opened and received its

first St Dunstaners – the Centre will provide treatment and rehabilitation for Service personnel who have lost their sight either in current conflicts such as Afghanistan, or whose sight has deteriorated with age.



Over the past 12 months the Lions Clubs in the British Isles & Ireland (MD 105) have been busily raising much needed funds for St Dunstan's to build the new centre of excellence in Llandudno, North Wales, to support blind and visually impaired ex service men and women.

Young men and women from our armed forces whose sight has been damaged, as well as older beneficiaries, will benefit hugely from the new Centre. Using the latest techniques and training available, Llandudno will give vital support to those with sight related medical and rehabilitation needs. In addition to medical help, there will be sporting, social and training activities with a strong focus on rehabilitation. St Dunstan's offers a superb community spirit and camaraderie that are both so important in recovery.

Across Lions Clubs International in the British Isles & Ireland some £90,000 plus has already been raised towards its target of £100,000 which will mean two day rooms in the new centre will be recognised through Lions support. The first room will be named the Lion Melvin Jones room, after the founder of Lions Clubs International, and the second will be named the Lion Bert Mason room, after the only International President from the British Isles and Ireland.

Lions Clubs International has been committed to the elimination of preventable and reversible blindness ever since Ms Helen Keller challenged them in 1925 to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness". Initiating sight campaigns and projects that have, across the globe, seen the sight of over 28 million people being saved or improved.

Lions Clubs International British Isles and Ireland have entered a partnership charter with St Dunstan's that will benefit the inclusion and increase the independence of blind and visually impaired ex-Service men and women. This partnership works on a basis of service as well as the raising and provision of funds.

Lions and St Dunstan's are proud to be working together to help blind and visually impaired veterans and their families as they have helped us.

OBITUARY

Lion Alan Ketchell-

A Lion for 30 years, Alan twice served his Club as President and was secretary for many years. He was honoured with a Melvin Jones Fellowship in 2007.

Lion Alan also served on cabinet as a district officer for many years and visited clubs in Canada and Australia. He was also known as a champion for the mentally handicapped and the disabled and was the driving force for our club's work for the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation.

His experience and gentlemanly way of conducting himself was a great asset to Lions - and his ability to speak at events without the need for amplification was an additional bonus!!! Always supported by his wife Irene, he was involved in many of our events, and we will be hard pressed to fill his place.

Mr Bob Noel-

Husband of Past President Lion Marian Rose, and although not a club member, he supported many of our events, and was always there to lend a hand. An ex-Navy man, Bob was involved with local charity work such as driving the 'Communicare' bus.

He was also famous for his special chocolate cakes, and his brand of caustic humour could always brighten up an apparently serious issue.

He is sadly missed.



Lions Clubs International –Disaster relief

Introduction by Lion Barry Woolcott

“The Swanwick Club has always sought to serve our local community, and wherever possible plough the money we raise at local events back into the community. Having said that we have also made contributions to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) who time and time again has made vast sums of money available to international disaster funds, such as the tsunami, earthquakes and floods.

In this respect one can see the strength of Lions International in that we as a very small club can make a difference when thousands more clubs like us all pull together

In my privileged position of Zone Chairman I am able to meet specialists’ district officers in our district who can offer guidance and inspiration under headings like Sight, Youth development, Mobility speech and hearing, Medic alert, Dentaaid, environmental and our latest initiative ‘Message in a Bottle’. All these specialists belong to their own little clubs like ours and we, like them, are part of the 1.3 million members throughout the world who are striving to make a difference.”

*Lion Barry Woolcott
Zone Chairman*

Whenever and wherever disasters strike, Lions are often among the first to offer aid—and LCIF is right there with them, ready to support their efforts with funding assistance. Working together, LCIF, local Lions and Lions leaders assess the urgent needs and quickly deliver the aid most required by

victims. This grassroots model has proven effective in tragedies around the world. Lions know that disaster can affect anyone’s community, whether it’s halfway around the world or right at home. That’s why in the last 10 years, LCIF has provided more than US\$50 million for disasters worldwide.

Thanks to the support Lions provide to LCIF on an ongoing basis, Emergency Grants are immediately available to provide for basic needs such as water, food, shelter and medicine. We have learned from experience that when a disaster victim receives aid quickly, it provides strength needed to survive the shock and loss and even a little hope for the future. After immediate needs are met, victims of disasters are not forgotten. LCIF remains committed to the important rebuilding of homes and lives, often long after a disaster occurs. Through Major Catastrophe Grants, LCIF helps with long-term reconstruction projects to help victims begin to return to their lives and regain their independence.

Haiti Earthquake Relief

* Lions established three tent cities to provide shelter to 2,500 people. Now Lions are helping rebuild vital infrastructure.

Villages and Economy Rebuilt in South Asia through Lions

* Awarded more than US\$15 million for long-term reconstruction efforts in four countries, including Thailand, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka

* Rebuilt more than 4,000 homes. In addition, community

and health centers, schools and orphanages have been constructed

* Tsunami reconstruction efforts are now complete in Indonesia and Thailand. Projects are expected to be completed within the year in Sri Lanka, and projects are ongoing in India

Relief in Four USA States Following Hurricane Katrina

* Mobilized US\$5 million for immediate and long-term reconstruction in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi

* An estimated 3 million benefited in some manner from Lions efforts

* Funds helped rebuild and equip schools, rebuild or establish Lion eye clinics and eye banks, and provide assistive and rehabilitative devices for the disabled.

*Lions Providing Immediate Relief in Japan after earthquake

Lions Clubs International Foundation is mobilizing more than US\$20 million to support Lions relief efforts. This includes grants as well as donations from Lions around the world, and Lions in Japan have given US\$9 million. At the April Board of Trustees meeting, the LCIF Executive Committee allocated US\$1.5 million from the Japan fund for a special victims assistance fund and Lions command and operation centers.

Lions Providing Relief in New Zealand after earthquake

LCIF has awarded US\$110,000 to aid Lions in their relief efforts. In addition, the Foundation has received more than US\$542,000 in designated donations from Lions and donors around the world.



★ 2011 Diary of Events ★



November 26th

Winter Craft & gift Fair-
Lockswood Centre

• December 1st-

Santa Sleigh runs start

• December 19th-

Santas' Tea Party-
Lockswood Centre

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We serve the local community by raising funds at Fetes, and other charitable events.

Funds raised at these events are used to provide a service to our local community. By enhancing the work done by official service organisations, we are able to offer additional assistance when the official route has been exhausted, and our Welfare Committee appraises every request for help.

As part of the Lions International organisation, we also use some funds to assist charitable needs throughout the world eg, the Haiti disaster of 2010.

Lions International -

- 1.3 million members in 200 countries
- 46,000 clubs worldwide
- 900 Clubs in the British Isles and Ireland with over 18,000 members

Membership of Lions

Lions membership is an ideal way to serve your local Community, and we welcome enquiries from local people who would like to give some time to help.

If you know of anyone who would like more information on joining Lions, please contact us using the details at the top of this page.

and finally.....

A large company was having a board meeting. The board meeting was being held in a room with a long table in it. The Chairman of the Board sat at one end of the table, and there were board members seated along both sides. But, at the other end of the table sat a lion.

A new board member was attending the meeting for the first time. He saw the lion, so he asked the Chairman, "Sir, why is there a lion seated at the far end of the table?" The Chairman replied, "Mr. Murphy, you have been a businessman all these years, and you still don't know about the bottom lion?"