



## LIBRA FUNDS GROW THIS SPRING WITH A HELPING HAND FROM SUPPORTERS

**F**rom skydiving and go-karting, through to cycling 54 miles from London to Brighton, our supporters are really pushing the boundaries this year with many taking on some exciting challenges to help boost funds.

Not only are the number of sponsored activities on the rise, over the past few months we have received a number of generous donations from Lions Clubs across the UK and we are grateful to their members for this much needed support.

LIBRA Chairman Lion Andrew Lodge commented: "We are so proud of our supporters and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work. The donations that we receive make a huge difference to the blood research team at King's College Hospital (KCH).

"The new Clinical Research Facility at KCH is really taking shape and we hope to arrange a tour of the new Haematology Department which it will house later this year. Health experts at the hospital are calling on us to help cover the costs of equipment for the new facility. With your ongoing help we can provide the hospital with these vital funds.

"LIBRA Trustees would like to wish all of our proactive supporters the best of luck with their fundraising efforts over the next few months. Finally, please enjoy the latest edition of The Good News."

### IN THIS EDITION . . .

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## LIONS CLUBS PROVIDE VITAL SUPPORT



**A** number of Lions Clubs have made generous donations recently or taken part in fundraising activities for LIBRA. Clubs including Tenterden, Midhurst, Rye and Seaton have all helped to boost funds.

Trustees issued an appeal letter to Clubs last year and received a positive response from members. LIBRA relies on public support and also the kindness of Lions across the UK and overseas.

Tenterden Lions made a fantastic donation of £1,000 and the majority of this money was given in memory of the Club's Past President Lion Albert Crannis through his wife Joyce. Tenterden Lions provided some additional donations making it such a large sum.

Midhurst and Rye each donated £500 and Seaton gave £250. Donations like these make a huge difference to the Haematology Department at King's. The blood research teams rely on LIBRA to help purchase vital equipment which is extremely costly.

President of Rye & District Lions Club Lion Conrad Freezer, commented: "Our Club voted unanimously at our September meeting to donate £500 following the appeal from Trustees which was sent out shortly before that.

"We think that the work done by the Unit at King's is in the front-line in its efforts to understand and, hopefully find, cures for leukaemia, myeloma and other blood cancers.

"They can't do this without adequate funding and in these days of spending constraints, the help from Lions Clubs could literally mean the difference between life or death to many people, including children.

"Most Lions will know of someone, family or friends, that are suffering from such diseases and hope for a cure to be discovered.

"Personally, I have a high level of paraprotein in my blood, which is an early sign of myeloma, which requires regular blood tests to monitor its level, hence I have a vested interest in the research carried out by King's and also the LIBRA campaign."

Rye and District Lions Club has 20 members who raise funds through the Annual Rye Raft Race and Fete, where some 5,000 spectators attend. Other large fundraisers they hold include a Brass Band Concert and Easter Egg Raffle.

**Image top left:** Rye Raft Race, supplied by Tony Coombes Photography



**Image above:** Lion Jackie Robinson skydives for LIBRA

Individual Club members have also made huge efforts to raise funds for us. LIBRA Assistant Secretary Lion Sheila Pook and Lions District 105SE Secretary Lion Jackie Robinson both took part in a sponsored skydive, raising more than £3,200 for our appeal!

***If you are planning to hold an event for LIBRA or make a donation please let us know. We are keen to publicise your good work. Email [events@libralionscharity.org](mailto:events@libralionscharity.org) with details for inclusion in our next newsletter.***

## A SPOTLIGHT ON SEATON LIONS



Image from left: Lion Rosemary Partridge-Hogbin, Lion David Rickard, Lion Peter Mattocks, Lion President Clive Millman, Lion Fred Paulley, Lion John Norcott, Lion Ian Beckett

**A**t a business meeting in 2010 Seaton Lions Club decided to make a special donation to LIBRA. The proactive Club raises funds through jumble, table top and book sales. Members also organise craft and street fares, concerts and street collections over the Christmas period.

Seaton and District Lions Club was chartered in 1985. It serves the small town of Seaton on the south coast of England, together with the neighbouring communities of Axmouth, Beer, Colyford and Colyton — a population of about 13000. Seaton currently has 33 members.

Seaton Lion David Rickard commented: “The profile of LIBRA has increased over the last couple of years spurring us on to make this donation.

We support the appeal and understand how important it is to raise funds for King's College

Hospital. Work carried out at the hospital is vital and we are pleased to know that our donation will go towards equipping the Haematology Department.

Our Club will continue to support LIBRA over the years. We have made donations before and today these total £650. We also support Multiple District and International projects where possible.”

LIBRA Trustee Lion Glyn Upjohn added: “We are grateful to Clubs like Seaton for their ongoing support. We rely on these donations so that we can continue provide King's with funds as they regularly require new equipment.

“Even the smallest of donations all add up and make a huge difference to the health experts at King's as they develop new life improving and even life saving treatments for patients.”

## LONDON TO BRIGHTON CYCLE CHALLENGE



**S**ix LIBRA supporters are gearing up to stake part in the London to Brighton Cycle Ride on Sunday 11th September 2011. This is the first year that we have secured places in the event and we are delighted with the response that we have received.

Our cyclists will begin the exciting challenge in South London, travel through Mitcham, Carshalton, Chipstead, Banstead, Haywards Heath and finally to Brighton having completed 54 miles.

Andrew Lodge, LIBRA Chairman and Lion, commented: "We are delighted that our supporters have shown so much interest in this challenge. It is a great cycling route and those who take part are sure to enjoy it.

"We have a staff member from King's involved, a team of four colleagues and a Lions Club member from Billingshurst. The good news is that more people can still enter."

If you are interested in taking part all you need to do is pledge to raise £100 for LIBRA and you can secure a place. Remember that spaces are limited so please confirm your interest by contacting Adam Allaker on 01483 425363 or email [info@libralionscharity.org](mailto:info@libralionscharity.org) and you will be provided with an entry pack.

Alternatively you can register online by visiting the home page of the LIBRA website and following the details provided. Please visit today to book your place, [www.libralionscharity.org](http://www.libralionscharity.org)



## IN MEMORY OF MIKE MEDLEN



**F**ormer Lions Club President Lion Mike Medlen has died aged 81. The retired BT Manager from Whitstable leaves a widow, Yvonne, two children, Guy and Emma, and six grandchildren. During his career he helped build the first transatlantic phone line and founded the first mixed Lions club in the South East.

Mike was born in Dartford in 1929 but at the beginning of the war his father, who worked for the Air Ministry, was moved to Harrogate. Mike and his mother followed.

On leaving school he entered the Civil Service and later moved back south to London to join the Post Office (later British Telecom). He was involved with the transatlantic telephone project and also set up a computerised telephone billing system.

Mike and Yvonne were married in 1959 and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 2009.

Mike retired from BT in 1987 on the day of the Great Storm. Yvonne recalled: "He always said he went out with a bang!"

The following year he joined Farningham Lions Club, now Swanley & North Downs, but in 1991 he and five other rebel members broke away

to found the Darent Valley Lions Club, the first mixed club in West Kent.

He said later: "It was the first in the region to be open to men and women. Now it's quite the norm."

In retirement he settled into the idyllic life of golf, writing, travel and Lions – until South Darent was hit by the proposals to build the high speed rail link through the village.

He and Yvonne founded an action group which eventually persuaded British Rail to change the route to its present line.

The couple also spent six months in Australia and New Zealand as "geriatric backpackers" and writing a book about their trip.

In 2000, life changed for Mike and Yvonne when they moved to Whitstable with the idea of having a quieter life. They transferred to Whitstable and Herne Bay Lions Club but life became busier than ever.

Mike held several offices within the club becoming President in 2003 followed by Zone Chairman, covering Canterbury, Thanet and Deal.

In 2005 he became Region Chairman covering 21 clubs stretching from Woolwich in the north to Hythe in the south.

He served on the District Cabinet as Speech and Hearing Officer and Welfare Chairman. These posts included travelling throughout the district attending meetings and giving talks.

For his dedication he was given the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the highest award a Lion can have. Colleague Lion Mike Shaw said: "Mike was a true gentleman and will be sadly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to have known him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Yvonne and family."

Mike Medlen's funeral was held on February 2. **Donations are being made to LIBRA and the Pilgrim's Hospice through Woollard & Kent funeral directors, 128 Tankerton Road, Tankerton, Whitstable, CT5 2AN.**

**For details, call Lion Maureen Warn, president of Whitstable & Herne Bay Lions, on 01227 266919 or e-mail [lionmaureen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lionmaureen@tiscali.co.uk).**

[www.libralionscharity.org](http://www.libralionscharity.org) 5

## LIBRA SUPPORTER RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR



**We are delighted to announce that Lion Len Honey recently received the Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF), recognised as the highest honour from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to highlight his dedication to humanitarian service.**

Len received special recognition at a recent Lions South East District Convention in Eastbourne. After receiving the MJF he celebrated with his wife Lion Julie and fellow Lions Club members.

He said: "I find it hard to put into words the pleasure I had on receiving my MJF, to just say thank you seems so little but it really comes from my heart.

"I first learnt about LIBRA when I became President of London Crystal Palace Lions Club in 1984, in that year they opened the Mounbatten Wing at King's and my wife and I were asked to act as escorts to Lady Mountbatten.

From then on I stayed on the fundraising team until I took up a District post. As a born and bred London boy I was aware of the need for this type of blood research in the community and just wanted to help LIBRA, and I still do."

*Melvin Jones Fellows are patrons of humanity, possessed of a world view, performing deeds that outlast a lifetime.*



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**

Len has supported us for many years and kindly produced some pin badges in 2010, helping to raise funds for our 'Acorns to Oaks Project'.

Thanks to Len and other supporters we are nearing the £249,000 target and continue to raise further funds to help equip the new Clinical Research Facility at King's.

### **What is the Melvin Jones Fellowship?...**

The Fellowship was created in 1973 and takes its name from the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones. It is an honour, not an award.

The MJF is the backbone of LCIF, providing 70 percent of the foundation's revenue. An MJF is awarded to those who donate US \$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others. Melvin Jones Fellows receive an attractive lapel pin, a plaque and a congratulatory letter.

Individuals become Melvin Jones Fellows through their commitment to finding ways to improve the quality of life in their local communities and in the world community.



**Image top left:** Lions Len and Julie Honey

**Image left:** The Acorns to Oaks pin badge that Len produced

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**For a free information pack call**

Adam Allaker

Email: [events@libralionscharity.org](mailto:events@libralionscharity.org)

Telephone: 01483 425363

Mobile: 07795 255393

**LIBRA**  
Lions International Blood Research Appeal

## LIBRA GRAND PRIX



**The annual LIBRA Go-Kart Grand Prix is fast approaching and supporters are preparing to race around the well-known Bayford Meadows track in Sittingbourne, North Kent. The high speed event will take place on Sunday 10th April 2011 at the championship course.**

This year Gillingham Lions are encouraging teams of three to take part in aid of LIBRA. The exciting event is being organised by LIBRA Trustee Lion Chris Iles and will include practice time and an endurance race.

Urging supporters to take part, Chris said: "This event is great fun for a great cause. Please consider putting in a team of three. We welcome everyone including local companies and youth groups, Lions Club members and any other interested parties.

"The karts that we will use have a single engine and are safe for drivers aged 17 plus but equally are great fun for people of all ages to drive as they can reach speeds of 45 miles per hour."

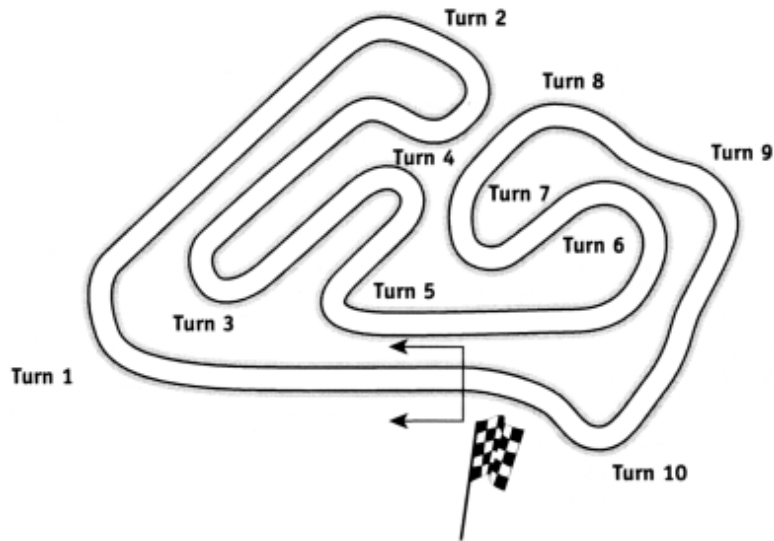
Bayford Meadows is considered as one of the leading competition kart circuits in the country,

thanks to the fast and consistent asphalt racing surface which makes a demanding and technical circuit that tests driving abilities to the full and endurance to the extreme.

Being located 10 minutes from junction 5 of the M2 in Kent, only 1 hour from central London and 45 minutes from the Channel Tunnel, Bayford Meadows is easily accessible and convenient for all.



**Event organiser, LIBRA Trustee Lion Chris Iles**



## **BOOK YOUR PLACES IN THE GRAND PRIX TODAY**

**Sunday April 10th 2011  
at  
Bayford Meadows Kart Circuit  
Sittingbourne  
Kent  
ME10 3SY**

**The event is an endurance race for teams of three people**

**Event begins at 9am, with practice/qualifying session from 10am approx**

**Winners will be awarded the North Kent LIBRA Challenge Trophy  
There are also trophies for 2nd & 3rd.**

**Cost only £120 per team.  
Minimum age – 17 years old.**

**To secure your place please **call** 01634 373840 or **email** [critec@aol.com](mailto:critec@aol.com)**



## PARACHUTE JUMPER TAKES TO THE SKY FOR LIBRA



**D**edicated supporter Lion Jason Pointing is set to make a sponsored parachute jump for LIBRA this summer. Based in Kent, Jason plans to leap out of a plane and raise a minimum of £400. He has signed up for a 'Tandem Skydive' which means that he will free fall from 10,000 feet.

Jason is a member of Arundel and Barnham Lions Club and has already managed to raise more than £350. He continues to look for more support ahead of the jump.

He commented: "I have always wanted to do something exciting like a parachute jump, so when LIBRA Trustee Lion John Taylor brought me a LIBRA leaflet to a meeting and mentioned that I could go Sky Diving to raise funds I decided to go for it.

"I've been raising money for charities, doing London Half Marathons, and I wanted to top it, and do something different. The fact that LIBRA raises funds to help save lives strengthens my determination to go for it.

"I've never been up in the air, or in an aeroplane but it doesn't faze me at all; I won't think about it; I'll just jump!

"As LIBRA is a Lions appeal and I'm a member of the Arundel and Barnham Lions Club it gives me another reason for doing it. I feel excited and I'm looking forward to it!"

**If you would like to sponsor Jason, please visit his online fundraising page. Or email him to arrange alternative methods of sponsorship.**

[jason.pointing@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jason.pointing@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.justgiving.com/Jason-Pointing](http://www.justgiving.com/Jason-Pointing)

## OVERSEAS CHALLENGES 2011

**I**f you would like to venture overseas this year and raise money for a good cause at the same time, look no further! You can opt to take part in one of our exciting overseas challenges. From trekking Killimanjaro through to cycling from London to Paris, there are plenty of options.

For further details about all of the overseas challenges please visit the events section of our website or email [events@libralionscharity.org](mailto:events@libralionscharity.org) to request more details.

All of the activities are coordinated by professional event organisers who will ensure that you have a fantastic trip.



**Image above:** Taken on a Killimanjaro Trek

## PROMOTING LIBRA



**P**lease let us know if you are planning to organise an event or sponsored activity to raise funds for LIBRA. Our Public Relations team can help you to generate awareness about it through our website, newsletter and media contacts.

If you are taking part in a sponsored activity we can also assist by helping you to create an online fundraising page using our Just Giving account. You can email the page details to all of your contacts who can then sponsor you via the Internet.

Just supply us with the details and we will be happy to help.

**Email: [info@libralionscharity.org](mailto:info@libralionscharity.org)**

## A HELPING HAND

**W**e need your help to raise the profile of LIBRA, using your contacts to increase awareness about our cause. We rely on you to spread the word at socials, through local clubs, speaker opportunities and public events.

We can supply marketing materials for display and distribution. Our promotional items include banners, leaflets, posters and PowerPoint presentations.

LIBRA PR and Marketing Manager, Claire Allaker said: "If there are any marketing tools that you would like to use please let us know. By lending us a helping hand and promoting LIBRA you could make a real difference this year.

"We often find that when people are informed about LIBRA they are keen to provide some form of support. With your help we can look to gain new supporters and increase fundraising activities."

**Please call 01483 425363 to request marketing materials**



## A LASTING LEGACY



**Leaving a gift to LIBRA in your will is a wonderful way for your kindness to be remembered beyond your own lifetime.**

**Legacies provide us with vital funds, enabling us to support King's College Hospital through the purchase of life saving equipment.**

**Adding a charitable legacy to your will couldn't be easier and it's tax free. To find out how we can help you to leave a legacy please call us on 07795 255 393**

**Your gift could benefit generations to come!**

**LIBRA**  
Lions International Blood Research Appeal