

LIONS OF IRELAND

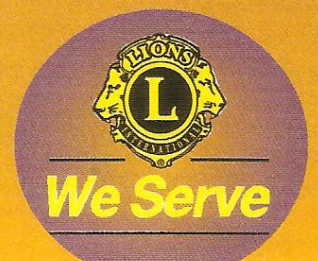
1955-2008

Over 50 years serving the Irish community



A helping hand at Eric's party

February 2008



Cork Lions Club

A Proud History

Cork Lions Club was chartered in November 1957 and celebrated the Golden Jubilee Charter Anniversary of its formation on 23rd November last.

It was formed under its first President, Commander George Crosbie with 22 other members and it is the second oldest Club in Ireland. The first Lion President was the head of the Cork Examiner and Evening Echo Newspapers family and Cork Lions Club maintains the close connection with Thomas Crosbie Holdings plc to the present. Lion Sean O'Leary was the first Secretary and was the Head Brewer and later the Production Director of Beamish & Crawford Brewery. Lion Sean and Lion Tom Maloney are the only two original Charter Members who are still members of the Club today.

The meetings of the Club for many years took place at the Imperial Hotel on the South Mall in the city centre. Later, the Club moved to Moores Hotel and today meets in the Ambassador Hotel, conveniently located off Wellington Road and with no parking problems.

In 1960, Cork Lions Club sponsored the formation of Cashel Lions Club and initiated the expansion of Lionism throughout Munster and the District. From the early seventies to the nineties District Extension Officer Gerry Horgan with the active support of PDG George Glendon formed about thirty new Lions Clubs around the District.

In the meantime from its inception, the Cork Lions Club has been serving the community in Cork in many areas of social needs and is an example of how people in Cork commit to voluntary action. This is also reflected by the fourteen other Lions Clubs around the City and County of Cork today, including Douglas, Carrigaline, Kinsale, Ballincollig, Cobh, Fermoy, Bishopstown, Middleton, Charleville, Mitchelstown, Macroom, Youghal, Bantry Bay and Skibbereen.

Presidents over the past fifty years have included many notable personalities in Cork from George Crosbie onwards. These include Sean O'Leary and Tom Maloney already mentioned as the only two Charter Members still in the Club; James N. Healy, the famous Theatre Producer, Author and Historian, Billy Horgan, Gerald Y. Goldberg, later the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Cork,

Donal Kenneally, Niall Welch, David Power, Ted Whittaker, Ned Corbett, Tim O'Sullivan, Nick Comyn, Colonel Paddy Flynn, John Roche, Ned Lambe, Colonel Terence Fleming and Colonel Tim Donovan, Pat Fleming, the former manager of Cork Opera House, Val Griffin, Finbarr McGrath, Jim Foley, Commander Frank Troy and currently Pat O'Brien.

Three Past Presidents subsequently went on to serve as District Governor for District 105-I, Commandant George Glendon, Gerry Horgan and Donal Horgan.

The Club revitalised its membership in the past six years and our last three Presidents, Simon Stokes, Paschal Horgan and Kevin Harty, the District Convention Officer, have youth, commitment, enthusiasm and a sense of fellowship and fun, which augurs well for the future of the Club. The Club is very proud that Lion Cyril Desmond, Club Treasurer for many years, continues to organize the Golf Classic and has both a daughter, Mary Rose and a son, Pat as members. Mary Rose served as Multiple District Leo President, when a Leo and as a Lion was the District Secretary for 2003-2004.

The Club immediately lived up to our motto "We Serve" in the Cork Area. Among the innovative Service projects undertaken by the Club in the 1960s included a day trip to the seaside at Red Barn Strand for incapacitated children from Lota House, a Christmas Party for the Blind and the residents of the Leonard Cheshire Home. Another service which the Club provided was visits to Fords, Dunlops, Beamish & Crawford, Cork Examiner and other large Industries for mildly handicapped youths with gainful employment being secured for a large number over the years as a result. The 1968 Club President, Billy Horgan of W. Horgan Ltd. offered one of the youths an apprenticeship and he went on to qualify as a plumber.

Since it was formed, Cork Lions Club has promoted several exciting projects for the city. In 1985, Cork celebrated the 800th Anniversary of its Charter as a city. Lions Donal Kenneally and Pat Fleming organised "A Night of Stars" in the Opera House with a huge cast of famous Cork stars of stage, screen, radio and television. It was considered the highlight of the year with

everyone from Danny La Rue to Dan O'Herlihy of Hawaii 5 O appearing to do a party piece.

The Club began to co-ordinate environmental activities with the Probation Service and cleaned and renovated cemeteries around the city and county. In 1997, building on the expertise and experience from this work, George Glendon and Donal Horgan headed up a representative committee to renew the Famine Graveyard at Carrs Hill. More than 60,000 Cork citizens were buried in unmarked graves in the year 1846-1847. An Gorta Mor Remembrance Day ceremony was held under the Lions banner on June Bank Holiday Monday 1997 to mark the 150th Anniversary. Several thousand people attended the event. The graves were rededicated and a Memorial Plaque was unveiled by the American Ambassador, Jean Kennedy Smith, sister of President Kennedy.

The unveiling was followed by prayers for the Famine Victims by Bishop John Buckley, for Peace in Northern Ireland by Rev. Ken Todd, Methodist Church, for Voluntary and Community Workers by Alan Haughton, Society of Friends, for the starving people of the 3rd World by Bishop Roy Warke, for Peace and Reconciliation in Ireland by James McCully, Elder Presbyterian Church and for the Economic Success of our Country by Gerald Goldberg, Jewish Faith.

The next Public Environmental Project was begun in 1999, when members reported that the Cenotaph on the South Mall, erected in 1925 was starting to deteriorate and become weather beaten leading to the loss of the names on it. The Cenotaph commemorates those who died in World War 1 from the three city centre parishes, mainly members of the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Cork Lions Club again formed the committee and invited the City Council, Royal British Legion and the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen to become members, under the Lions Chair. This is a cross community effort and the committee has had seven years of negotiations leading to a successful conclusion on the method of repair and renovation and the upgrading by Cork City Council of the area, which will be called "The Peace Park" in future. We hope to have the rededication ceremony during 2008.



On a different note, for many years the Club held the heats and the Regional Final of the Over 55s Talent Contest for the Live at Three Programme on RTE. The finals were broadcast live and the District was acknowledged as the body which did all the work for a very popular and successful show.

In 1987, Cork Lions Club co-operated with Cork Rotary Club, Soroptimists International Cork and Cork Altrusa Club, to build and manage a sheltered house for the elderly of the city. This is the Abbeyfield Society Cork Ltd House on the Curraheen Road, with eight self contained apartments. Three Club members, John Boylan, Colin Mangan and Donal Horgan are Directors of the Charity Company. Since then, Douglas, Middleton, Carrigaline and Bishopstown Lions Clubs have all completed extremely impressive sheltered house projects. Cork Lions Club has started the preliminary work on providing our own sheltered house and a home for the Club in the Cork city centre area.

Every year, the Annual Lions District Christmas Food Appeal is held and many people come into contact with the members of Cork Lions Club when they see our members and volunteers collecting the food and cash donations at the various Supermarkets. Over the past years, about ?1 million worth of food was distributed to poor families in the city, and last year over 300 Hampers were provided.

Some of the many fundraising projects now undertaken by Cork Lions Club include:

The Secretaries Day Out, or, Secs. in The City, as it has become branded raises substantial funds for Club charities and provides an enjoyable and entertaining day out for the 300 or so, who are nominated to attend. It celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year and funds went to Breast Cancer Awareness. The Corporate sector are encouraged/persuaded to recognise the help of their Personal Assistants/Secretaries and pay the Club to wine, dine and entertain them for an afternoon with Lunch, Fashion Shows, Raffles, Beauty Treatments, Music and Dance.

The Christmas Concert is held in the Lough Church on 8th December each year with major operatic stars, Choirs and Orchestra serving up a Seasonal Selection of Christmas Music. The proceeds are for particular Cork Lions Club charities-usually for a definite and worthwhile high profile community initiative.

An Annual Golf Classic, which will

celebrate its 28th Anniversary at Douglas Golf Club in May this year and was inaugurated by Past President Donal Kenneally, who sadly passed away in October last year.

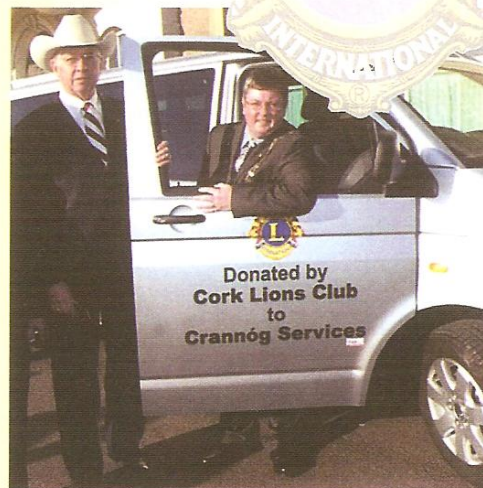
Casino and Race Nights held as fundraisers for various projects.

The last major fundraiser undertaken by the Club was a monster Charity Auction which took place at the Ambassador Hotel in April. The proceeds of the auction went specifically towards purchasing a community service ambulance to provide essential transport for the residents of Lota House, who are in the course of being relocated to community housing in the Cork area. The ambulance will be of vital assistance, to severely physically disabled residents as they begin to build independent lives. It marks an association of almost fifty years service with Lota House, our first service project. We were honoured that Past International President Jimmy Ross handed over the keys in the presence of our Past International Director, Phil Nathan, Club President Pat O'Brien, Vice President Gary Ryan, Past Presidents Kevin Harty, Jim Foley, Simon Stokes and Donal Horgan and Club member Kenneth Kling, who negotiated a very good deal for the vehicle with Volkswagen on our behalf.

For 27 years, the Lions Clubs of Ireland have organized a one week Holiday for the elderly who could enjoy a break. Some 1,200 guests went to the Mosney Holiday Centre for 20 years, and, since 2001, 900 go to the Trabolgan Holiday Centre on Cork Harbour in June. Food, entertainment, accommodation and physical activities are all provided. Cork Lions Club has supported the District Holiday since its inception with George Glendon as the Liaison Officer for the Club for 17 years, followed by Donal Horgan. The Club currently sends the biggest group of senior citizens, provides the leadership for the week since 2006 when PDG Donal Horgan succeeded IPDG Gerald Langford as District Holiday Officer and through Jim Foley and John Carey obtains sponsorship of two Hertz minibuses for the week to transport the guests to and from the houses.

The Lee Swim Fundraising Event in July is the latest project with which the Club is associated, and co-ordinates with the Cork Masters Swimming Club. Fundraising from the sponsorship of the competitors was used to send a group of children from the leukemia ward in the Mercy University Hospital on a holiday to Tenerife with the co-operation of the Lions Clubs in Tenerife.

On the International scene, the Lions



Past International President Jimmy Ross with Past President Kevin Harty.

Clubs International Foundation and Lions Sight Conservation Trust are both registered charities. The foundation gives humanitarian aid to areas affected by natural disasters like the Tsunami in South East Asia or the effects of war in Bosnia. The Trust is associated with Lions Sight Savers International, which deals with river blindness in Africa and funds cataract operations in Asia and China. This comes from the request by Helen Keller in 1925 to Lions to address sight problems. Since then Lions invented the white cane and are particularly concerned with the protection and preservation of sight and dealing with preventable blindness. Cork Lions Club gave huge support to the Campaign Sight First initiative of the International Associations Foundation. The Club is a model Club for Campaign Sight First II.

The Club supports the other District Projects, like the Feather Project to raise awareness and prevent suicides, youth football competition in which our sponsored teams have a good record of success, including MD 105 Winners, youth award competition and Public Relations activities. The Club has an excellent PR profile in the city, because of our association with Thomas Crosbie Holdings for press coverage, and 96FM, who give continuous coverage on radio to the Christmas Food Appeal and publicise the activities of all the Clubs in the Cork area.

Cork Lions Club has hosted the Multiple District 105 Convention on two occasions, the last in 1993 and the District 105-I Convention twice and our third will be on 29th February 2008 when we hope to welcome many Lions friends, old and new, to Cork.

Compiled by Charter Member Tom Maloney, Convention Chairman Kevin Harty and PDG Donal Horgan.



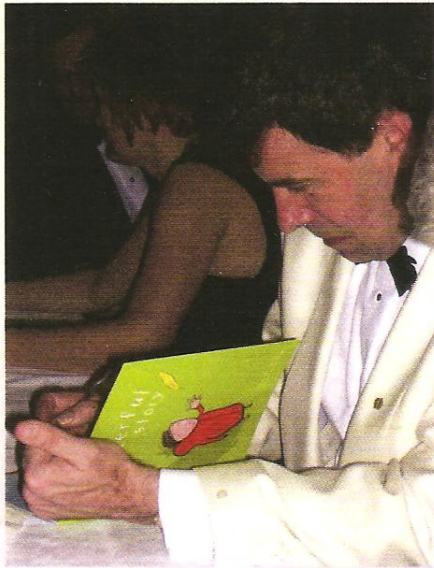
Lions Feather Project

By PDG John Mooney



In Ireland every day 50 people try to take their own life, and out of these, two people manage to succeed. It was this fact that made Lions all over Ireland come up with the concept of the Lions Feather. To put it in the simplest form; we try to encourage people to acknowledge the deep value and worth in somebody they know, and this acknowledgement could be the difference between life and death.

The Lions Feather project is aimed at the prevention of suicide in Ireland. One of the tools we use is a simple story book titled "A Wonderful Story"; it is full of meaning and was written by one of our members. There are also Lions Feather pins attached to cards, for people to fill out a message for someone. These tools are for sale to raise funds for the prevention of suicide, or they can be given free, if the person prefers not to leave a donation.



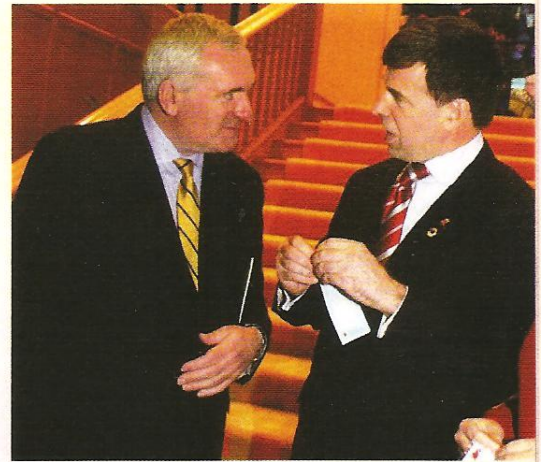
John Mooney

Our aims are challenging; just to know we have saved even one life. We have collected 500,000 euro and raised the profile of the problem of suicide. Today, we are aware that the Lions of Ireland

have saved at least 7 lives (measured by people contacting us). Through our Lions Feather account, we have raised 100,000 euro. Many clubs around Ireland have been doing their own fundraising for their area, eg Antrim Lions Club have been able to give PIPS £70,000 (100,000 euro). I know we are over half way to completing our money target. We

have raised the problem of suicide in many ways, through meetings, through the Launch of the Lions Feather by Bertie Ahern, national television coverage both North and South, radio, magazines and newspapers.

The Lions Feather has won an academy award, presented in Boston, for



An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern with John Mooney at the Dublin Launch in Government Building

the best new permanent project. This is the first time ever this award has been won in the British Isles and Ireland. It also received the Chartered Institute of Marketing Award for Ireland, for the best charity project. The book has been made into a film, and both will be going into 1000 schools as part of the School Curriculum for 9 year olds.

The Lions of Ireland are arranging for a Lions Feather week each year to continue with fundraising, and to help communities tackle the problem of suicide, including ASSIST training.

The magic of the Lions Feather pin keeps getting bigger and bigger, because the project belongs to everyone. A quote from a wonderful lady that lost her daughter Niamh "You were a great support to James and me after Niamh's death. An inspiration to our logo (a girl with wings holding the feather) which we wanted to keep in line with your book, and the meaning of the Lions Feather. It is the ethos of the charity".

Why a feather!

*A bird needs feathers to fly to freedom
Feathers are used in pillows for comfort
Feathers are used in bedclothes for warmth
And feathers are used to balance an arrow*

Your local Lions Club asked you to support the Lions Feather Project to aid the Prevention of Suicide in Ireland.



Mike Nesbitt UTV, Anne Donaghy, Antrim Borough Council, PDG John Mooney performing the magic, Mayor of Antrim Drew Ritchie, Lucy Mooney and Dr Henrietta Campbell, Chief Medical Officer Northern Ireland at Feathers launch in The Dunadry Hotel, Co. Antrim.