



**We Serve**

**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL**  
*Ordinary People – Amazing Things*

DISTRICT 105BN  
 DISASTER PLANNING CHAIR  
 PDG LION GEORGE KISSANE

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**Briefing on the Cumbria Floods – 21.00hrs 25/11/09**

Fellow Lions,

I have continued to maintain regular contact with Lions Clubs in Cumbria and provide this 2<sup>nd</sup> brief for update information to all Lions of the District and Multiple District.

**Cockermouth:**

Cockermouth have attended a series of evening meetings with the local council and are working in tandem with the local Rotary club. Donations to the Cumbria Flood appeal is being managed by the Cumbria Foundation stands at over £150K and Lions are also assisting those in need to complete the necessary application forms to access financial assistance. For further information see [www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org) Lion President Roger Hart reports that there is a shortage of cash in the town as cash tills have run out of money and not been replenished. They are also looking to salvage undamaged stock from businesses to provide Christmas presents for children but permission is needed. Cockermouth Lions have decided to postpone their forthcoming Charter Anniversary Luncheon which had been arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> November. It was felt that due to immense physical and psychological damage to the Community it was not appropriate at this time to celebrate.

**Workington:**

The emergency services and local council are providing most of the much needed help as the damage to the infrastructure of the town is having a major affect on day to day living. A walk across to opposite side of the river that took just a few minutes a week ago is now incurring 40 mile round trip. The bridge that collapsed causing the death of PC Bill Barker was just 200 yards from the sea where he was quickly swept away. Most of this small community knew Bill whose funeral is this Friday. Our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time.

**Keswick:**

The clean up operation is well under way and the Lions of Keswick are continuing to meet and work closely with the local Council providing the much needed physical presence in their community, delivering information letters from the Council and special anti flood bags similar to sand bags.

**Furness:**

The nearby town of Ulverston, not reported in the initial briefing, has been badly affected by the floods. Over 100 homes were evacuated and the Furness Lions Club are monitoring the situation and offering assistance.

**Penrith:**

The majority of residents in the village of Eamont Bridge have returned to their homes. However 19 residents have not been able to go back. They are staying in local Bed & Breakfast accommodation. Penrith Lions have supplied them with toiletries, nightwear and other emergency clothing and a restaurant is providing meals.

**Windermere**

Lion President Andrew Irvine reports that several areas around Windermere have suffered from flooding including Ambleside and Hawkshead. He said “The scale of the damage is unbelievable. Roads have been ripped up and solid stone walls knocked down”. There have not been any requests for help yet as people have insurance cover and companies are assessing damage as quickly as is practical. However, they are on standby in case there are any calls later and are currently monitoring the situation of a couple of families who do not have any insurance.

There is a general backdrop to the situation in Cumbria. There have been several incidents of flooding throughout the region over the past 5 years since that floods experienced in Carlisle and the Eden Valley in 2005. We have found that families come to us at a late time when they have been able to move back into their homes.

Our thanks go to everyone who have passed on their good wishes to the Lions and communities of Cumbria and a very special thanks to those who have sent donations and pledges.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the flood recovery fund can send a cheque to:

LCI 105BN annotated on the back “Cumbria Floods” c/o District Treasurer Lion Beryl Kissane,  
8 Hanwell Close, Leigh, WN7 3NU,