



travel for those needing special care

## Winter 2006 Newsletter

### A message from the Chairman

Dear friends, colleagues and supporters of ACROSS, it is hard to believe that another season has come to an end and we are nearly at Christmas. 2006 has just flown by and again it has been very successful in that ACROSS has taken 27 groups to Lourdes with a total of 269 VIPs and 390 helpers. None of this would have been possible without your valued support and, on behalf of all of the trustees, I thank you most sincerely. I firmly believe that Our Lady continues to intervene on our behalf because she wants us to continue to provide this essential service which brings the sick and disabled to her shrine in Lourdes.

We all acknowledge that our organisation could not function without the dedication of our drivers, the office staff and of course our resident staff in Lourdes. Again on behalf of all of the trustees I thank you for your hard work and support which ensures we fulfil the ethos of ACROSS, which is 'to make the impossible possible'. I should also like to thank Eric, Alain and the staff at the Hotel Mediterranee for the courtesy and kindness shown to all of the groups and for all their efforts to go out of their way to accommodate our VIPs.

We celebrated a beautiful Mass at Hinckley in February and another at Carfin in May. We had our annual Jumboball in Bellshill in November and of course we are due to take delivery of the new Jumbulance just before Christmas. It will be fully operational for the beginning of next season. I ask those of you who have not already become a friend of ACROSS to consider becoming one, an application form can be found at the back of the Newsletter.

I again thank you for your continued support and I believe that ACROSS will continue to grow from strength to strength and that 2007 will be even more successful.

I should like to wish you all, your families and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. All at ACROSS look forward to seeing you next year.

God bless,

Kindest regards,

Alan Green MB CHB MRCP  
Chairman of ACROSS

### New Jumbulance progress report

Stef Frank, our Transport Manager, and Yvonne Robb Pearson, Trustee and Chair of our Medical Committee, recently made a follow-up visit to Van Hool in Belgium, where our new Jumbulance is under construction.

The vehicle is now painted in our distinctive blue and white livery and clearly stands out on the Van Hool production line.

At the time of the visit, the production team was working on the interior. With the lift, toilet and seating virtually complete, Van Hool hope to make the vehicle available to us, as planned, in mid December.



*Where did all these people come from?*

*Answer – the last 2006 group (pictured above), as well as the first 2006 group, was a double group.*

### New Jumbulance appeal

With £250,000 being made available from the existing reserves of ACROSS, our appeal for funds for the building of the new Jumbulance only needed to be set at £125,000. Most of this has now been raised – as we go to print, we are just £12,000 short. Contributions to enable us to fill this gap will be gratefully received.

In addition, donations to help us kit out the new Jumbulance will be very welcome. We have already received gifts of cups, dishes, plates and cutlery but we need donations to enable us to purchase a long list of other items: mugs, tea/coffee/sugar canisters, tea pot, coffee pot, plastic cereal boxes, beakers, plastic food storage boxes, oven gloves, headrest covers, foot stool, brush and pan set, mattresses, bed blankets, blankets for seats, pillows, small pillows for feet, torches, bathroom cabinet, knee trays – the list goes on!

If you can help with a donation towards any of the above, please complete the appropriate section of the form on the back page.

## New Jumbulance dedication and goodwill visits

As soon as the new Jumbulance is 'run in', we will be arranging for the dedication ceremony and we are also planning three goodwill visits for Group Leaders, and others who can attend, at convenient locations in Scotland, the Midlands and the London area. We will advise Group Leaders as soon as we have confirmed dates and locations.

## Lourdes Groups by Jumbulance

2006 was another busy season for ACROSS with 27 groups and 659 pilgrims travelling to Lourdes. Two of the groups, the first and the last, were double groups when two vehicles in the Jumbulance fleet drove in tandem and around 44 persons made up the complete group.

In addition, two groups diverted to Nevers and stayed overnight, visiting the convent where St Bernadette lived out her short life as a nun after the Apparitions of Lourdes.

Every week in the 2007 season is now booked although nurses, doctors, priests and helpers are still required for the following groups:

| Depart     | Return     | Group Leader    |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 5 April    | 14 April   | Kenny Stark     |
| 3 May      | 12 May     | Mary Madden     |
| 31 May     | 9 June     | Paul Savage     |
| 5 July     | 14 July    | Maureen Duffy   |
| 9 August   | 18 August  | Patrick Gormley |
| 13 Sept    | 22 Sept    | John Reed       |
| 11 October | 20 October | John Campbell   |
| 18 October | 27 October | Sylvia Stark    |

Bookings for local groups are well advanced for 2008 and indeed there are bookings up to 2010.

2008 is a special year in Lourdes with it being the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apparitions. The Lourdes authorities have been planning the year's events for some time and, to cope with the larger than usual number of visitors expected, for 2008 the season will be extended from 11 February right through the year until December.

The Hotel Mediterranee, which accommodates our groups, will be open throughout the year and, if there is a demand from groups, ACROSS will operate the Jumbulance over the extended season. If you are planning a pilgrimage for 2008 and have not already done so, or are thinking of visiting Our Lady's Shrine in this very special year, please contact Sylvia or Julie at the ACROSS office to check out availability.

## Holidays by Jumbulance

With the coming on stream of the new Jumbulance dedicated to Pope John Paul II, ACROSS has greater flexibility than before and is willing to provide transport for any local group wishing to organise a holiday at a destination of their choice.

Local group organisers will be responsible for arranging accommodation and settling this direct with the hotel. ACROSS will provide the vehicle, the drivers and travel insurance.

## Diocesan Pilgrimages

Finding a way to transport very sick and severely disabled persons to Lourdes has been a long-standing problem and was the reason why the Jumbulance was invented. Today, as ever, some disabled persons are still being rejected from some Diocesan pilgrimages because their condition makes it unsuitable for them to travel with the main contingent.

ACROSS will now provide a tailored package to suit any Diocese in the UK by providing the Jumbulance to augment the main travelling party. The Jumbulance will uplift the group at the Curia Office, Cathedral or other chosen location

## Trustees

The trustees were sorry to say farewell at the end of October to Father Sean O'Toole, a trustee and our Spiritual Adviser and Chaplain to many ACROSS Groups. Father Sean has felt obliged to resign from these appointments because of the increasing demands he faces as a parish priest in a busy London parish.

Father Sean's message to us is one we can all take to heart: 'I pray that you continue to grow in the wisdom and understanding of the Holy Spirit through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary. Never lose sight of who, and what, we serve!'

## Finance report

The season has now ended, but work does not cease – the vehicles are constantly maintained throughout the season but the out of season period is the time for their annual overhauls. So, until we have the final bills, it is a little premature to forecast the likely financial outturn for the year but we expect that the shortfall on operations will be within the budget of approaching £100,000 – equivalent to support of £150 for every pilgrim.

It remains the trustees' view that the contributions we seek from pilgrims, while falling well short of the amount needed to cover our costs, should be reasonably affordable. With this in mind, the increase for 2007 has been held at a little under 4%, to take the contribution to £550.

We are able to sustain this policy only because of the great generosity of our friends and supporters, most of whom are themselves pilgrims and who recognise that the cost of a pilgrimage far exceeds the amount we seek to recover.

For 2006, we again expect that our shortfall on operations will be more than covered by voluntary income – comprising the regular income from the Friends of ACROSS, other donations, legacies, and fundraising. But we have to sustain this level of voluntary income year after year, and deeply appreciate the commitment of our many friends and supporters in helping us to achieve this objective.

## **'My Special Moments' – by Mary Laver**

Mary is well known as a long-standing fundraiser for ACROSS (she has taken part in a number of Great North Runs, being pushed in her wheelchair by volunteers, see Fundraiser's report later) and as a regular ACROSS pilgrim to Lourdes. This is what she had to say following her 2006 pilgrimage.

I have travelled, as a VIP, on an ACROSS Pilgrimage to Lourdes for the past 7 years. On every one of these Pilgrimages there have been 'My Special Moments'. I have seen a person who is not a Catholic, or doubting if they were Christian or not, cry when they have emerged from taking 'the baths'. I have seen a person who is confined to a stretcher bed and near the end of their life, enjoy the joviality of their fellow ACROSS travellers. My personal special moments are always when I see the Jumbulance arrive at my pick-up point, and I just know that, in a few moments, I am going to be where I want to be more than anywhere else in the world, on a stretcher bed, on the Jumbulance, going with a special group of people, to Lourdes. A tear will always appear.

This year, June 2006, on my Pilgrimage to Lourdes, I had special moments I want to share with you. We had a young lady with learning and a physical disability. She also has speech impairment. Her name is Claire.

Claire could walk quite well around the hotel with the aid of a walking frame but used a wheelchair for any trips when we were out and about. So what are the special moments I want to tell you about, because with Claire there were many of them as our group will only be too pleased to testify?

As someone who is wheelchair dependent and severely disabled, I always go to the front when we have our Mass. Claire, on this particular occasion, was in her wheelchair next to me. I had noticed, over the previous two days that she seemed to be weighing me up, working me out. I was to read the lesson and as I sat there, Claire's hand stretched over and she just gently held my arm. I, in turn, held her hand and read the lesson.

This small, but very moving gesture was to happen a few more times at the different venues when we were at Mass and she was close to my wheelchair, the last time being at our final Mass before we left Lourdes. I really and truly believe that, as she received the Blessing, our Lord Jesus was there with us both and she knew it. The touching of my arm was telling me we were both sharing a very special moment in time. I do hope so.

So how did Claire making such a gesture become one of 'My Special Moments'? In the whole time I have been severely disabled, about 20 years, I felt that this one person, Claire, through that touching of my arm on the occasions she did (including the dance floor, but that is another story), this one person, a stranger, was telling me that she knew who I really was and felt real empathy with me. She knew what was un-said in my heart; she knew how I really felt deep inside. No one has ever made me feel that way before and I dare say will never make me feel that again.

Thank you Claire for 'My Special Moments'.



*Mary Laver in Lourdes with Claire*

## **Baptism**

An ACROSS Pilgrimage brings many spiritual benefits and other rewards, but taking part in a baptism is not a regular feature of the programme.

In September a daughter was born to an Irish family spending the summer in Bartres. They asked if an English speaking priest could baptise their child and Father Kevin, chaplain to the ACROSS group then in Lourdes, performed the ceremony.

Members of the group joined the family in the Bartres parish church to participate in this joyful occasion.



*Father Kevin baptising baby Norah*

## **Thanks from Ralph Quinn**

Ralph Quinn would like to thank the many ACROSS friends who sent him good wishes at the time of his operation in August and subsequently. We are delighted to report that Ralph has made good progress following his operation and hopes to be back at work before long.

## **Your questions answered**

A number of Groups have asked our drivers why there is a blue line that runs down the hard shoulder on a lot of French motorways Stef has researched this and discovered (thanks to the auto-route company) that it indicates where the cable is buried for the auto-route emergency phone system.

## A young helper's experience

*One of the helpers on the final pilgrimage of the season was Thomas Lovegrove (aged 17). Thomas had received some help towards his contribution from the Catenian Association and, in return, they asked him for a report on his experiences. Much of his report contained information that will be very familiar to ACROSS pilgrims but the extracts that follow will confirm the benefits of being a helper and, in particular, could be used to encourage other younger people to come forward. Please bring the article to the attention of any potential younger volunteers.*

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October I boarded my ACROSS Jumbulance at South Mimms, along with several others.

During the first night on board all the helpers were allocated a two hour shift so that the VIPs could be assured of help should they need it in the night. My shift was from 10pm until midnight and it was quiet as all the VIPs had been settled into bed. I got water for a couple of people and helped lift one lady down from her bunk so that she could go to the toilet. Once my shift was finished I did my best to get some sleep sitting in one of the chairs.

Each VIP had a helper allocated as a room mate. Those requiring nursing care were allocated to rooms with a nurse. I shared with a team leader but was allocated to help the main carer of a man with Cerebral Palsy. Before the day was out I had helped shower him using a hoist. I spent a lot of time with this particular VIP who had a wicked sense of humour. He was difficult to understand and a feeling of panic would come over me as I failed to understand what he was saying to me for the second and then third time. He was very patient with me and would keep repeating his sentence until I got there. I frequently sat next to him at meal times and would help feed him as he could not do this for himself. I had to be careful as he could choke on his food very easily. He enjoyed going to the Grotto at night when it was peaceful – and I had the privilege of being able to take him myself one evening.

We were accompanied on our trip by Father Sean who said Mass every day. Going to Mass was not boring. I enjoyed Mass and looked forward to going. Each day we went to a different venue. We had Mass at the hotel, in two of the chapels in the Basilica, in the Polish Convent and in the Ukrainian Catholic church. During our journeys to and from France, Father Sean said Mass on the coach. He brought communion to anyone who missed Mass. Two VIPs had short stays in hospital but they either had communion when they got back to the hotel or Father Sean brought it to them in hospital. Not everyone was Catholic but everyone was included within the Mass. The kiss of peace was a hug – to everyone. For many of the VIPs this human contact was exactly what they needed as they had lonely lives. Watching one of them change from an expressionless lady with a left sided weakness from her stroke to a chatty smiling, singing lady was amazing. The human contact and the fun made a huge difference to her.

During the week we went to the Grotto, those that wanted to went to the Baths and everyone participated in a hand washing service in the Meadow, across the

river from the Grotto. Our Lady said to wash in the water so it is not essential to go into the Baths. I did go to the Baths – it was as cold as everyone had warned me but it was an experience that I would not like to have missed. We had picnics in local parks, had free time to do as we wished and even visited the Hypermarket. We took part in the Torchlight Procession and the Blessed Sacrament procession. On our last day we visited the Crowned Virgin to pray to her to enable us to return to Lourdes if that is her wish. Father Sean says that if it is Our Lady's wish it will happen. The motto of ACROSS is to make the impossible possible – and for the VIPs on my trip this was certainly true.

Sylvia, the Senior Group Leader, worked like a Trojan. Most of the helpers and nurses were in their fifties and sixties. This is a problem as younger people are not coming forward to volunteer their services. It was very hard work. I was up by seven every morning as the VIPs needed help with washing and dressing, I 'worked' all day helping with meals, pushing wheelchairs and chatting. I did not get to bed early as many of the VIPs enjoyed sitting in the Bar in the hotel – with a pint and I felt obliged to join them! I was glad to get home, to have a bath and 'escape' from the ill health and disabilities. But I am lucky to be able to do that. The VIPs are taking their problems home with them. So, anyone out there who thinks that they would like to accompany ACROSS on their pilgrimages to Lourdes as a Helper, a Nurse or a Doctor should contact Sylvia Stark at ACROSS. It is great fun and very worthwhile.



*Thomas learns how to use the hoist*

## Snippets from letters

*From Christine Foy*

Eileen Cairns was a much loved VIP on our 2002 pilgrimage from Glenrothes and District. She was a real character who also helped with our fundraising.

One year later Eileen, who had mobility problems, ordered a motorised scooter. Before receiving her scooter she was to lose her battle against breast cancer. Her sister, who was disabled, asked me if I would pursue the case to return her money. After a two year battle and help from Trading Standards and the Sunday Mail I eventually won her case.

With her family's blessing, two wheelchairs were purchased and donated to ACROSS in Lourdes in Eileen's memory. Here we are on our 2006 pilgrimage handing over the wheelchairs and some blankets for the Jumbulance.



*John Divers receives the wheelchairs – from left to right Peter Duff, JD, Christine Foy, Dave Taylor, VIPs Stuart Nuttall and Betty Houston*

*From Mavis Burt*

I was with Group 3033, 20-29 July 2006 when I had to go into hospital because of a stroke. First I want to say a big thank you to all on the pilgrimage. In fact I would like to say a big thank you to Una McCarrick, nurse, who helped me in hospital. I don't know what I would have done without her, we have become great friends. Also Father Paul and Dr Eileen with the care they gave me.

I was in hospital three days and came back to the hotel and the welcome I got from our group was wonderful. The group knew how badly I wanted to go to the Grotto so the group came.

Pam, I must say something about you. You have a wonderful group - don't know what we would do without you. Then Stef and JD got my oxygen and arranged for an ambulance to bring me home from Weybridge.

So I send all my love to everyone on our Group and hope to see you next year.

God be with you all.

*From Mrs GA Grant*

I regretfully report the death of my sister, Iolande Sidoli. I should have informed you earlier. She died in 2004 and I am still unable to come to terms with my loss.

Iolande had learning difficulties and in later years was also badly crippled with arthritis. She loved Lourdes, she got such stimulation and joy out of her pilgrimages. I think in her lifetime she journeyed to Lourdes about twelve times.

Her last visit was in 2003 with the Chingford Group. This time she was very frail but was wonderfully loved and cared for. She was so happy and to see her laughing with everyone was a great joy. We hoped that she would be able to go again in 2004 but this was not to be.

She met so many wonderful people during her trips to Lourdes. Words will never be able to express the happiness and love she received from all the helpers. We were told that she was a constant source of laughter on the pilgrimages. I am enclosing a photograph of Iolande on one of her many visits.



*Iolande Sidoli with helpers*

## Joe Barrett RIP

On 22 June 2006, Joe Barrett aged 54, who suffered from a neuro-degenerative disorder and was severely disabled, left the Thornton Manor Nursing Home in Chester to travel with the local group to Lourdes by Jumbulance.

Confined to a trolley bed and unable to consume anything by mouth, Joe was accompanied by his 84 year old mum, Annie and, despite being in constant pain, he was cheerful and looking forward to his visit to Our Blessed Lady.

Cared for by the group nurses and helpers, Joe visited the Shrine he had been so looking forward to seeing, but deteriorated on the Sunday night and had to stay in bed all day on the Monday. During that time the helpers prayed the Rosary with him in his hotel room and the Group Chaplain, Fr Charlie, administered the Sacrament of the Sick on the Monday night.

Just before breakfast on Tuesday 27 June, in the presence of the group leader and others in the group, Joe passed away having been visited earlier by his mum. It was his mum's wish, and that of his family at home, that Joe would be buried in Lourdes and so the ACROSS staff hurriedly made arrangements in order that it could take place before the group departed for home.

On Thursday afternoon, the day before the group departed, a requiem Mass was conducted in the Church of St John the Baptist in Lourdes, celebrated by Fr Charlie and Fr Peter Sharrocks of Chester, who by coincidence was in Lourdes, in the presence of some of the group and some family members who had travelled from the UK. With thanks to Charles Nicholson of The Across Trust, permission was granted for Joe's remains to be laid to rest in a grave belonging to the Trust in the Bon Pasteur cemetery in Lourdes.

May he rest in peace.

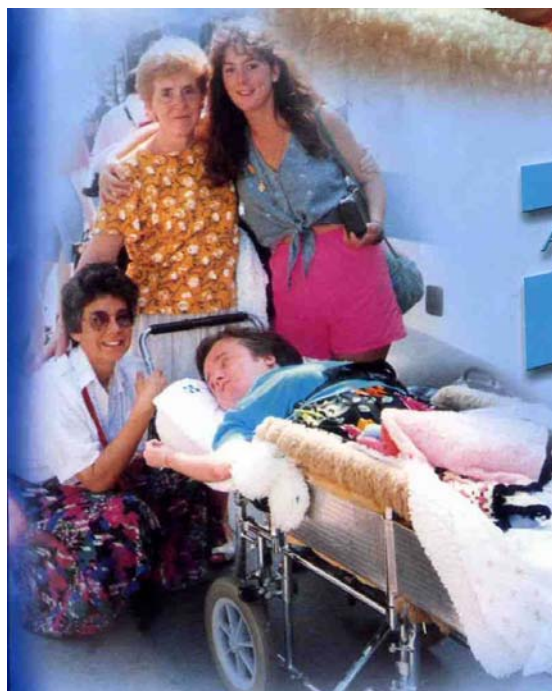
## Maggie Slattery RIP

On 7 November 2006 God called from this world Maggie Slattery whose story launched the appeal for ACROSS in 2001, which allowed the purchase of the two Jumbulance vehicles now dedicated to Cardinals Winning and Hume.

Maggie Slattery was born in Tipperary in 1960 with a catalogue of horrific illnesses – hydrocephalus (water on the brain), quadriplegia, dislocated hips, epilepsy, double incontinence and a hiatus hernia. The family moved to England and Maggie's home became the Queen Mary's Children's Hospital in Surrey.

Her condition was such that she was never able to leave the grounds of the hospital, and the highlight of the week was the visit from her mum Judy and loving family. In 1973, when Maggie was just 13 years old she discovered the Jumbulance and at Easter that year was on the very first Jumbulance pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Annually from then on Maggie and Judy experienced the fun, laughter, love and spiritual uplift shared through the Jumbulance experience in Lourdes. A dream had become a reality, the impossible was made possible!



*Maggie with her mum (centre), and some Jumbulance friends*

Maggie herself was more than an inspiration. She warmed every heart she touched, her penetrating smile and generous spirit healed other's wounds. Her resilience and humour defied all understanding and it was a pleasure to hear her beautifully spoken bidding prayers at Mass.

In 2001 Maggie's Story – The Power of Love – was brought together with pictures in a special leaflet to raise money for the Jumbulance and her story featured in the major appeal which raised over £200,000 in ten weeks.

With the continued running of the Jumbulance to Lourdes, her legacy lives on! Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy and the rest of Maggie's family into whose lives there is now a large void but also so many happy memories!

May she rest in peace.

## Eddie McArthur RIP

ACROSS was saddened to hear of the death of a long-standing friend of the Jumbulance on 28 June 2006. Eddie McArthur, a Scot by birth, lived for many years in Henley-on-Thames from where for many years he led a Jumbulance group to Lourdes.

Sadly, about three years ago he was diagnosed with a serious illness to which he eventually succumbed. Over the years Eddie was responsible for many persons visiting Lourdes and, in a spate of light-hearted letters about six years ago, Eddie was recognised as being the longest serving Jumbulance group leader of all time.

To his wife Georgie and family we offer our sincerest condolences and grateful thanks for all the pleasure and graces he brought to others.

May he rest in peace.

## Obituary

We have heard of the deaths of the following friends and supporters of ACROSS since the publication of the Summer 2006 newsletter. May they rest in peace.

Joseph Barrett, Chester  
Ellen Bennett, Milton Keynes  
Roddy Brass, Glasgow  
Geraldine Brooker, Folkestone  
Julia Budgen, Milton Keynes  
Mary Cairns, Rochdale  
Jane Hickson, Walsall  
Edward McArthur, Henley-on-Thames  
James McKenna, Ayrshire  
Lou Michels, Denny  
Stephanie Murphy, Denbighshire  
Robert Nixon, Glasgow  
Iolande Sidoli, Berkshire  
Grace Simms, Glasgow  
Kevin Sheridan, Preston  
Maggie Slattery, Clapham  
Julia Sween, London  
Rose Wallace, Fife  
Ivo Whittington, Cornwall  
David Wood, Colchester

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

## Edinburgh Marathon 2007

We have one place for the Edinburgh Marathon, which takes place on 27 May 2007, and are looking for a volunteer to fill this slot and undertake to raise at least £1,000. Please contact Sylvia or Julie.

## 'Towards Advent'

'Towards Advent' is a national festival of Catholic Culture, which celebrated its sixth year in November in Westminster Cathedral Hall. For the past three years we have taken a stand and a Jumbulance has been on display in the road outside. This year Martin Conn and Kenny Stark demonstrated the Jumbulance to the many visitors, while Shelagh Allen looked after our stall. A similar event will take place in Liverpool Cathedral in December, where Anne Quirk and other supporters will be representing ACROSS.



*The ACROSS stand, with Shelagh Allen and Kenny Stark talking to visitors*

## Fundraiser's Report

**The Great North Run** on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October had our faithful supporter and VIP, Mary Laver, as one of the entrants. This was Mary's eleventh time being pushed round the gruelling course and she revelled in it. Unfortunately we did not have a pusher for her from ACROSS and a Children's Charity came to her rescue, resulting in her having two young ladies and two seasoned lads who shared the task of pushing her chair. They pushed, Mary egged them on with her 'Oggi, oggi!' and a great time was had by all. Mary booked them for next year unless **YOU** feel up to the challenge for ACROSS!!

**The Glasgow Phoenix Choir** gave a wonderful performance of music on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock. This was the perfect setting and the Choir sang to a capacity audience who showed their enthusiasm at the end with a lengthy standing ovation.

We are indebted to Canon Quinlan and members of the congregation for their warm welcome, hospitality and efforts in making this event such a resounding success. The Choir are booked for a reprise on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in St Joseph's as we have become a regular fixture on their calendar.

## Forthcoming Events

**Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2007** In response to many requests, I have arranged a dinner and entertainment by Frank Holden, who interprets Frank Sinatra and will be accompanied by a twelve piece big band. When was the last time you danced to a live BIG band? How about taking a table for ten and bring your friends. As before, this will take place in Bothwell Bridge Hotel. Tickets will cost £35 and be available early December. More information will be on our website. Rooms will be available at a cost of £70 double and £60 single, including breakfast.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007 Our Annual Ladies Dinner** will once more be held in St Bridget's Hall, Baillieston, and Quigley's Point are booked to have the rafters resounding again.

Have you heard of **DRAGON BOAT RACING**? Have you experienced this form of rowing? If you have any information please contact me at the address below.

I look forward to hearing from you: email [fundraiser@across-uk.org](mailto:fundraiser@across-uk.org) or telephone: **07946 273 227**.

**Margaret McElroy**

## Scottish Jumboball 2006

The 17<sup>th</sup> Scottish Jumboball was held in November at the Strathclyde Hilton, when the 130 present enjoyed an energetic evening of music provided by the Kingdom Folkband. Presentations during the evening included a most welcome cheque for £5,000 from the Friends of L'Astazou and gifts of cups, dishes and plates from individual donors, all for the new Jumbulance.

## Grand Jumbodraw

After a very successful 2006 Jumbodraw, which raised £5,500, two books of raffle tickets have again been sent to you unless you have advised us that it is your wish not to receive raffle tickets.

First prize this year is a one week stay, bed and breakfast, for two persons in the White Hart Inn, Bodmin in beautiful Cornwall (courtesy of Trustee Paul Savage) along with £200 spending money. The Inn dates back to the early 16th Century and is the oldest pub in Bodmin, providing good beer, good food and excellent hospitality.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize is £100 worth of Argos vouchers and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a gallon bottle of the Famous Grouse Whisky.

The draw will take place on Easter Monday.

## 2007 Thanksgiving Mass

The 2007 Annual Mass of Thanksgiving will be held at St Peter's Church (Leicester Road, Hinckley, LE10 1LW) at 2.00 pm on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007. It is hoped to have the John Paul II Jumbulance on display.

## Become a Friend of Across

The Friends raise over £30,000 each year through regular monthly donations, many of which were 'gift-aided' (*an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue for every £1 donated*). Why not join us? Please tick the box opposite or contact the office for the Friends leaflet.

## Nurses, doctors, chaplains and general helpers urgently needed!

We are always in need of nurses, doctors, chaplains and general helpers for our National groups and often to fill gaps in Local groups. Please help to raise awareness of our need by spreading the word whenever you have the opportunity.

## 200 Club

The 200 Club has been providing approaching £4,000 annually to assist with the work of ACROSS. Membership costs just £4 per month, payable either by monthly/annual bank standing order or by an annual cheque. 40% of all income is returned in prizes and currently there are two monthly prizes of £150 and £40.

Every year, at the Scottish Jumboball, a major prize is drawn dependent on the number of current members and this year the prize was £650.

If you wish to join the 200 Club, please tick the relevant part of the box opposite or contact Julie at the Office.

## Legacies

We hope it will be very many years before your will needs to be activated, but if you are preparing or amending a will, a legacy to ACROSS would help us, in the fullness of time, to continue to take pilgrims to Lourdes. Just a reminder that our legal name (which was changed last year) is now ACROSS and our registered charity number is SC030126.

## Please help promote ACROSS

The office is happy to supply you with a varied range of literature which you can use to promote the work of ACROSS in your parish, workplace or club. Please contact Sylvia or Julie.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988 we promise not to disclose your details to any third party. If you do not wish to have your details retained by us please let the office know.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PostCode \_\_\_\_\_

I/we enclose a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ for the new Jumbulance. Please enter the following name in the Roll of Honour

I/we enclose a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ towards the following item(s) for the new Jumbulance

Please enter the following name in the Roll of Honour

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the leaflets showing the work of the Jumbulance

Please send me a Friends of ACROSS leaflet

Please send me an application form for a nurse / doctor / priest / helper / unable

Please send me details of the 200 Club

Please accept £ \_\_\_\_\_ as donation towards the work of ACROSS (and Debit my Visa /Switch /Mastercard )

.....Exp Date.....

Please write your 3 digit security number which can be found on the reverse of your card .....

Signed.....Date.....

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like ACROSS to treat all the donations that I make as Gift Aid donations from today until I notify you otherwise. My annual income tax and/or capital gains tax payment will be more than the charity will reclaim.

I am not a UK tax payer

Signed.....Date.....

*Any surplus monies raised will be used by the Trustees to further the work of ACROSS* **WO6**

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