

# Introducing W.O.G.L.E.

(The Weybridge Old Georgians Lourdes Experience)

by Ben Hunt

WOGLE is a charity group set up by Old Georgians that organises accompanied holidays to Lourdes, France for the sick and disabled. At the heart of Lourdes is a shrine to Our Lady and millions of pilgrims travel each year to visit this special place.

We began travelling on the St George's College Sixth Form trip in 1992, and enjoyed the experience so much that we have carried on travelling every year since.

Our first trips were with a charity called *The Across Trust* on specially adapted coaches called *Jumbulances*. These impressive vehicles are purpose built for people with disabilities and are equipped with beds, toilet facilities, and an airline style kitchen; everything needed for the long overland journey to the South of France.

Since the Across Trust ceased operations we have organised trips with the HCPT and more recently directly with Tangney Tours. We are also delighted that a new charity called Across Jumbulances is again successfully running Jumbulance trips to Lourdes. Travellers on our recent trips have had the option of going by aeroplane or by Jumbulance.

Our current travel arrangements work very well. For our guests who are not able to fly, the Jumbulance offers the only opportunity to travel abroad and experience a holiday such as this. For our guests who are able to fly, the journey time is more manageable with a flight time of a little over two hours.

In Lourdes we stay in a centrally located hotel adjacent to the river that runs through the centre of Lourdes. The hotel is wheelchair friendly and has all the facilities you would expect to meet the needs of the group.

Our trips are specially run to provide all the help and support needed to enable our special guests to enjoy a unique week and partake in a wide range of activities in a fun group atmosphere.

## Would you like to travel with us or how can you help?

WOGLE is always looking for new people to travel with us to enjoy a fun week in Lourdes. We usually travel during the summer in either July or August with our next trip running from Friday 21st to Friday 28th July 2006.



Our group usually numbers about fifty people with half travelling by Jumbulance and the other half flying. The trip costs about £520 per person but please contact us if you require assistance.



You can help us by:

- Coming with us and joining in the Lourdes experience for yourself.
- Telling others about WOGLE; you might have friends or family who would enjoy travelling with us.
- Joining in one of our fundraising events; we are holding our next Charity Ball at the Cobham Hilton on 28th October 2006.

For more information on WOGLE and the opportunities we offer please contact Ben Hunt on **07766 762 130**.

