



District Governor's Newsletter

District Governor 2012/2013 Rob Brown



Woody's Day out



Gnosall Lions Club, working on the success of World Sight Day 2011 changed things around this year in bringing in two dogs - Woody and retired dog Yuma, the companions of Eleanor Roberts, a visually impaired lady from Newport in Shropshire and also her mother to assist.

The day basically followed the lines of last year with another local Primary School on board and due to the inclement weather we had to move indoors. We had a blind course where the children working in pairs took turns to guide their partner around the hall blindfolded. This year we managed to get **210 children** through the experience of how to approach someone who is visually impaired, and how to guide them through a selection of obstacles. We had the children in pairs working together, one guiding and one blindfolded passing and getting around obstacles placed around the hall (it was raining otherwise we'd have used the playground.)

The children all met **Woody & Yuma** in small groups with Eleanor talking to the children outlining her experiences and holding a **Question and Answer** session with each class in turn. The children were spellbound and asked many interesting and varied questions which Eleanor and her mother Maureen found wonderful and inspiring.

We also had a blindfold feel **What's in the Bag Challenge**, a display of lenses courtesy

of the local Opticians (a Rotarian with whom our club works closely) and a collection of spectacles and hearing aids which we are forwarding to Chichester Lions Club for processing.

Was it a success? Well the 210 children and their teachers thought so, all chanting at the end of the day for us to come back. One school have turned the day into a major project, both schools holding a fund raising event in the New Year for Guide Dogs, with both requesting that we spend a full day at each, and not half a day to ensure that ALL classes can partake. Word has also got round to a school in Newport, Shropshire requesting that we go along to them as well as they also want to take part.

How can we improve it? By, as requested, having a full day at each school, having more RNIB involvement which has been promised. We ran the day with 4 Lions, each watching a pair of children on the obstacle course. Had we had 3 more then we could have had 10 children on the Obstacle Course giving each more time on the experience, and also have someone supervising the 'What's in the Bag Challenge'

Would we do it again? Without a doubt from all of us, including the schools, the children, their teachers and support staff, Eleanor, her Mum, Maureen, Woody and Yuma and all at Gnosall Lions Club the answer is a resounding **YES YES YES**





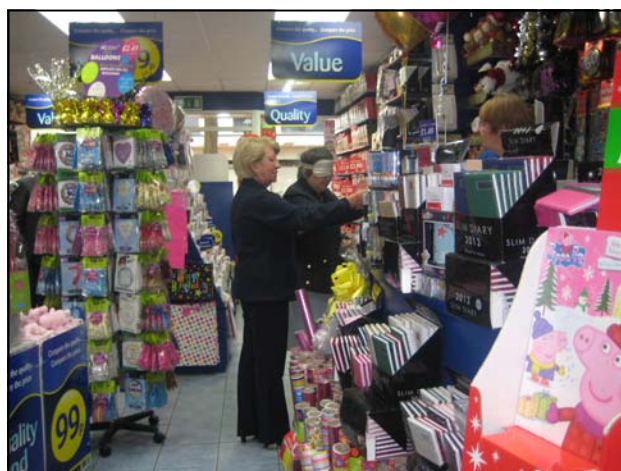
DISTRICT IS SAD ALL OVER

Newcastle Lions Club Sight Awareness Day 2012

On their Sight Awareness day Newcastle under-Lyme Lions Club collected 146 pairs of used spectacles on the day, to add to their regular collections from 3 points in Newcastle.

The event was featured in the Sentinel and on Radio Stoke, and the presence of the RNIB during the day also helped to raise the awareness of sight-loss to the general public.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle were given the task of purchasing items from 3 stores in the Roebuck Shopping Centre and during the day they put down their thoughts on the shopping experience. Their main positive comment was the helpfulness of the entire store staff,



their main negative comment was the clutter they had to encounter, which is highlighted on the photo.

Flint Host District Walk For Sight



Lions clubs members from all over District 105BS, which serves North Wales, Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire, descended on Flint to support their District's annual Walk for Sight Day, and were given a tour of the castle and local coastal path, blindfolded!

Every year the District raises awareness of the difficulties that visually impaired people suffer during everyday normal routines. Last year, the Walk for Sight days were held at Llandudno, and participants were blindfolded as they were "shopping".

Flint & District Lions Club, the hosts of this

year's event, decided it would make interesting research if participants were taken to a historical ruins with magnificent views over the Dee Estuary. John Gregory, one of the organisers for the event said, "It was our intention to show members of District 105BS the problems faced by visually impaired persons as they visit heritage attractions, the dangers faced as they attempt to navigate the hazardous ruins and their attempt to decipher the descriptions of the view over the Dee Estuary given by their guides."

The participants ranged from schoolchildren to pensioners, and each one that had donned the blindfold agreed that they felt nervous as they were guided around the castle.

Karen Filipe, who has been to the last two events said "It was very nerve wracking being guided around the castle. There were so many uneven surfaces, steps and obstacles, I kept tripping, despite the best efforts of my guide!" Monies raised on the day by Flint & District Lions Club were donated to the District's Eye Health Program, one of the Signature Projects of Lions Clubs in the UK.



From the DG

WORK AND PLAY HARD, BUT ENJOY IT



In this year of Jubilee celebrations, I was pleased to be invited to join Holyhead Lions at their 25th anniversary gala event held at the Trearddur Bay hotel near Holyhead. Club members were joined by many Lions and friends from around the district, and farther away, to recognise and applaud the many ways that these Lions have served their community for over 25 years. The atmosphere of the evening was evidence that Holyhead Lions also enjoy themselves, a key element in any strong club. It was a privilege to present 25 year chevrons to four charter members, including PDG Tom Montgomery.

On Sunday morning we drove from Holyhead east along the north Wales coast to Flint to join many Lions from The District in our annual Walk for Sight. The event was well supported, enjoyed good weather and introduced many of us to the delightful setting of Flint, its castle and beautiful views across the river Dee estuary. The walking varied from a ramble to more strenuous distances, blindfolds were worn by some and we were asked to report on how we felt that Flint could make their town attractions more welcoming to visually impaired visitors. Many thanks to both DO John Sanders and Flint Lions for organising such an enjoyable event, which was rounded off by a delicious buffet lunch. Whilst highlighting Sight issues during World Sight week, our Walk is also a great social event at which we can enjoy a little exercise, meet old and make new friends and explore beautiful parts of our district. I do recommend attendance as a great day out.

An article explaining the MD Youth Trust was included with the October Newsletter and you will now be aware that a committee is due to compile proposals on the future of this Trust to be reviewed by the Council of Governors early in the New Year. As it is funds from this Trust that finance the annual MD Youth competitions such as Peace Poster, Young Ambassador, Football and others, it is important that the proposals reflect the views and wishes of all Lions. I would therefore urge you to complete the Questionnaire that was sent to you by DS David Slack, which will represent your clubs views, and return it to the email address on the form as soon as possible. You support the MD

Youth Trust financially each year so you should have a say on how it is run. Still on the subject of Youth, I hope that you are actively considering ways that you can get involved with IP Wayne Madden's RAP (Reading Action Program) that I mentioned in September's Newsletter. You may have noticed an additional project that links into RAP; The Children's Audio Theatre. Started by the Kiama Lions Club in Australia three years ago, it provides audio stories for children with visual impairments and medical disabilities and helps in the understanding and pronunciation of English. It is free to download from a website and full details are shown on the MD105 website opening page, on the left top side. Please have a look at this project which may be useful in your Youth work.

Whilst still a few months away, plans are well advanced for our District Convention being held in Runcorn in March 2013. There will be fun, interest and some business in this, our AGM. It is a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones, have your say on important issues and, on this occasion only, meet and chat to Past International Director Lion Phil Nathan MBE, who will be our international guest. He has a wealth of experience in Lions, is a motivational speaker and also a genuinely nice guy. The weekend package available offers exceptional value so I urge you to book without delay; let's make in a convention to remember.

The next two months are often the busiest in Service work, particularly with Santa arriving soon. It reminds me that Dedication + Preparation + Team Work = Excellence, as all three of these elements will be applied in abundance during this period. Please also remember CRB's when involved with the vulnerable, and insurance and health & safety for many events. If in any doubt, please discuss concerns with DO's Chris Handley (Vulnerable Persons) and Allan Gardiner (Insurance and H&S).

Best wishes for all Service work and your enjoyment in providing this for your community.

Rob

Together in a World of Service

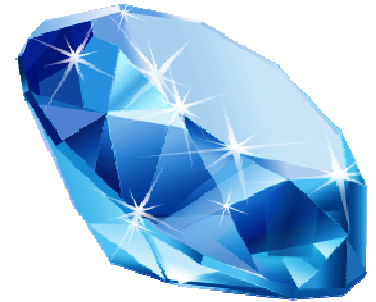


SANDY IS A DIAMOND GEEZER

Lion Sandy Halliday of Little Orme Lions Club has been chosen as one of 60 regional "Diamond Champions" for work done as a volunteer in the Community. He was chosen from over 4500 nominees.

Lion Sandy attended an award ceremony in Cardiff City Hall on October 15th, where he received a Diamond Champions Pin that has been specially commissioned by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, Patrons of the campaign.

10 Diamond Champions will be announced at the event to go forward to a reception at St James's Palace in London – Good luck Sandy. Many Congratulations Sandy, from all your friends in 105BS



Message in a Bottle / Wallet – a case history from Beryl IPDG

In July of this year, four of us went to Turkey for a fortnight's holiday.

Beautiful apartment, wonderful sunshine.

On the third day of the holiday one of our friends fell down a stone staircase. She was badly hurt and in a flurry of activity was rushed to hospital.

The rest of us followed on by taxi arriving in a very busy reception area.

Formalities had to be carried out and we established that she was fully insured etc. and we finally got to see a doctor who rather warily started inquiring how old she was, what medication she was taking etc.

We handed him our friend's 'Message in a Wallet' card containing all her details. The relief was palpable. Our friend went straight through for treatment and in fact we were able to see her in her ward whilst some other cases in the reception area were still at the interview stage before treatment could commence.

The moral here is perfectly obvious, the message is get your Message in a Bottle in use, and have a Message in a Wallet card completed and carried with you at ALL times.

This story is TRUE and at more than one time during the very stressful exercise and since we have considered it a life or death situation. Our friend is in her 70's and has made a good recovery. The result could have been VERY, VERY different.

Lions, Teas and Horses

Earlier this year Lymm and District Lions put on afternoon teas in the High Legh Community Centre to raise money for the Camsley Grange Riding for the Disabled (RDA).

The funds raised were supplemented and the Lions were able to present the RDA with a cheque for £600. The money is sufficient to provide about 7months shoeing and farriery costs or 20 weeks feed for four horses.

Horse riding for the disabled not only benefits mobility, posture and coordination but also

encourages the development of personal confidence and self esteem.





IT IS WHO YOU KNOW THAT MATTERS!!!

Being a past serving member of Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service (38yrs). I approached the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) some 12 months ago to enquire if the service could team up with Lions as part of their community safety initiatives. The CFO readily agreed as they had just formed a partnership with RNIB, and after numerous meetings crossing 'T's' and dotting 'I's' The scheme was finally launched on World Sight Day at service HQ.

The service has agreed to make all stations including HQ collection points for recycled specs, giving an additional 33 points of collection around the county. These collection points are in addition to any and all Lions points of collection.

The service has been to great pains to ensure that this remains a Lions project and has supported us with all necessary posters etc for the campaign. The good thing is that there has been no cost to Lions.

The collection is in partnership with all Staffordshire lions clubs (Z8 & Z10). This is a scheme which can be used in all counties within 105BS subject to the particular fire service.

For further information please contact lion Graham Dow Cheadle Lions Club.



The Photo shows L-R Graham Dow, the Chief Fire Officer of Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service Peter Dartford & ZC (8) Lion David Field

STOLEN FROM WILMSLOW



If you are visiting a club meeting, or attending a Charter Anniversary you should always have your ears pricked and your notebook handy!! Such occasions present you with ample opportunities for theft, and I do not mean bells, gongs or banners. What I do mean are ideas!

Recently I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Wilmslow Charter dinner, an excellent evening, with good company and good food. I was in conversation with one of the Wilmslow Lions, talking about this and that, but not the other. The conversation ambled and rambled around and somehow we got onto the subject of games for events. I offered the Fabulous sand Game from Urmston, (Paper cups, coin in the bottom and a covering of sand: the punter then selects a cup, empties out the sand and keeps whatever coins they find), in return I got the Wonderful Wilmslow Sock Game (A washing line filled with socks, each containing a present; the punter picks a sock from a box and matches it with it's pair on the line, keeping what is in the sock). An excellent swap as far as I was concerned. Neither game will make a lot of money, but both appear to be great fun. Give them a try.

If you have other brilliant ideas, please let me know, Share – not re-invent! ED.

**District Governor's Newsletter***District Governor 2012/2013 Rob Brown*

**Is it a Bird?
Is it a plane?
No, it's a
Marnell**



Friends and Fellow Lions,

I at last did my sky dive with my daughter Nickola .We jumped over Whitchurch on the 6th of September after being cancelled before . 10,000 feet up and I still kept my head . Friends, I and my family are grateful for the generosity of the Lions in our district. In memory of my brother John, you helped us raise over £6,500 to date for MND

Thank you

Yer Mate in Lions

**YOUR CLUB NEWS COULD BE
HERE**



LAST NIGHT OF THE ALSAGER PROMS



Alsager Lions recently held a musical evening at St Mary's Church in Alsager, with the Crewe Brass Band, its musical director being Jamie Meredith and featuring local girl Esme Turner, on the flute. Although the audience was a little lower than hoped

for, they certainly made up for the lack of numbers with fabulous audience participation, especially in the second half with Jamie and the band's "Last Night of the Proms" renditions. Although making a late appearance, the Union Jacks had a good airing. The audience was wooed with music, such as tunes from Carousel and The Lion King, Jerusalem and Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance, plus a somewhat rousing rendition of Land of Hope and Glory with flags aloft.

Esme played two pieces, an Allegretto by Benjamin Godard and a Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy by Franz Doppler. As Jamie said "You could hear a pin drop in the church as she produced such a lovely sound". The venue's acoustics really did the music proud. Jamie Meredith, who not only conducted, but compered the evening, was both humorous and witty in his presentation, encouraging the audience to tell their friends what a great evening it had been and make next year's concert a must. The Lions thanked St Mary's Church members for such a superb venue, for a musical evening.



THAT GAP WITH YOUR NEWS

GIVING WHERE IT IS NEEDED



As with all lions we in Cheadle support numerous good causes and the needy. One of our constant welfare support areas is a women's refuge. Details on location etc cannot be given for security reasons suffice to

say its in the vicinity somewhere.

However, what we do as a club is to provide welcome packs for the women and their families when they arrive at the refuge (with nothing I might add). We also provide Turkeys, Fruit & Veg along with presents and Sweets (and Santa) every Christmas. In addition we also send them on a day out to the seaside each year, this trip is also supported jointly with Stafford Lions Club.

A picture of the welcome pack contents is shown to give other lions clubs some ideas. The cost of each pack is approx £12:50 and all goods are purchased from a local cash & carry. This of course is very well received and is thanked every time we are in contact with the refuge. This project is not reported in our local press for obvious reasons.



News from District

District Governor Team Travels from November 2012

Contacts

DG Lion Rob Brown:-

mrmap@talktalk.net

1st VDG Lion Dave Handley:-

davidhandley41@yahoo.co.uk

2nd VDG Lion Carole Hodgkinson :-

carole.hodgkinson@virginmedia.com

Important Note to Clubs

regarding DGT Visits

If any of these dates are not suitable then please contact the Officer due to visit your club as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBERS : HEDNESFORD STYLE

The latest additions to the Lions Family:

Jim Card,
Shaun Middleton, Suzan Middleton ,
Peter Randall,
Carly Trusler, Jackie Trusler,
Wendy Yates

Date	Club	DGTM
01/11/2012	Rugeley	RB
05/11/2012	Llanrwst	RB
06/11/2012	Wirral	CH
06/11/2012	Prestatyn & Rhyl	DH
06/11/2012	Vale Royal	RB
07/11/2012	Cannock	CH
12/11/2012	Shrewsbury	DH
13/11/2012	Colwyn Bay	CH
26/11/2012	Buckley & Mold	DH
27/11/2012	Chester	CH
03/12/2012	Stafford	CH
03/12/2012	Tamworth	DH
10/12/2012	Telford	DH
11/12/2012	Vale of Llangollen	CH
12/12/2012	Urmston	DH
07/01/2013	Wallasey	CH
12/03/2013	Caernarfon	RB
TBA	Leek	RB
TBA	Biddulph	DH

The Lions Youth Brass Band Autumn Concert

The Lions Youth Brass Band, together with The Grange School's Cantores Roborienses Junior Choir, will be performing an autumn concert at The Grange High School Theatre in Hartford on Friday 9th November. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start and tickets cost £8 per adult and £5 for under 15s. All profits will be distributed by the Vale Royal Lions to needy causes within the local community. Tickets are available from members of Vale Royal Lions on (01606) 888687 or 888613.

From the Editor's Chair

It is really disappointing that clubs do not appear to be taking full advantage of the Newsletter. I sit here each month, pounding away at the keyboard, not being sure if anyone reads what I am organising. Please everyone remember that the Newsletter is an important part of your PR effort. Practice with putting pieces into the newsletter and then

work out to your local paper and the Lion Magazine. I know from my own club that it gives the club a lift when they get something in the Newsletter or any other publication. My plea to all of you is write about what you are doing, do a bit of bragging, you know it makes sense!!! Ed



District Officers page

Pauline is appealing

Please could you circulate an appeal for host families for some Australians & one from New Zealand coming December/January.

Dominique Curtis age 19 from New Zealand, needs hosting 2nd December to 22nd December. This could be split into two 10 day hosting periods.

Phillipa McCourt age 19 from Australia needs

hosting 22nd December to 14th January. This could be split into two hosting periods.

Tamsin Mackie age 18 from Australia needs hosting 22nd December to 14th January. This could be split into two hosting periods.

If anyone can help, please contact me by e mail bandp.hodgkinson@btinternet.com or 'phone 01782 613787



Environment Matters!

The theme for this month's article is most definitely recycling! A big thank you to all the clubs who have already taken the time to complete the recent survey that I sent, in order to update the information regarding recycling within the District.

Many Clubs continue to recycle glasses, hearing aids and stamps. With regard to the latter Brian Ward of Wrekin Lions Club has been collecting new and old stamps, British and overseas, plus old postcards for Zone's 5 - 10 this last few years. Lion Brian is happy to also collect such stamps, first day covers, presentation packs and albums from Clubs in Zone 1 - 5! His address is 7 Plover Gate, Shawbirch, Telford, TF1 3QD He will sort all the stamps out and package them ready for distribution to Charities. Something for each Club to give serious thought to with Christmas fast approaching!

Lion Ted Davis of Chester Lions sent me the following information with regard to recycling mobile phones.

"This may be of interest to you. There is a company called Fonebank that will buy recycled mobiles. Go on to their website www.fonebank.com. If you have only one of two phones select the make and model, fill in your details and send them the phones. The

address is: The Fonebanker, c/o CMR 3 Long Yard, Holborn, London, WC1N 3LS.

If you have many, get an order number by registering just one phone, then ring them on 0207 404 6440, give them the order number and they will arrange collection on a convenient day for you."

Finally I would like to recommend that Clubs also consider recycling printer cartridges via the RNIB website <http://tiny.cc/rnib>

Clubs/Zones with a large number of cartridges or mobile phones to recycle will receive a collection box (or boxes). This box will be delivered to the desired address and collected when full, free of charge. When the collection box is full all you have to do is ring the number on the side or complete the online form. Collections will usually be made within 48 hours of receipt of your request. Please note that all cartridges should be packed in their original boxes or a suitable alternative so that they don't get damaged. If the Club does not have a large number of items to recycle, freepost bags can be sent instead of a box. These freepost bags are only suitable for small quantities and are ideal for home users.

I encourage all Lions to **Reduce - Reuse - Recycle** and would be interested to hear of environmental projects being undertaken within the district.

Teresa Nickson (Environment Officer)



News from Clubs & District

Visiting Lion

Latest Results

2012-2013

At 16th October



Travelling Lions: a quotation from the Rules:-

For visits to any Region (including Zones) in any one year of the Competition, the award of points shall be limited to three visits in total.

(There are clubs who appear not to be aware of this rule, and they'll probably wonder what happened to their points).

Travelling Lion	
Club	Points
Stoke on Trent	146
Stone	107
Flint	96
Newcastle under Lyme	79
Telford	76
Leek	55
Little Orme	53
Beaumaris	51
Tamworth	47
Cannock	36

PR CORNER

I have a little task for you. I would like you to look at the website and I bet you will find out something you didn't know about Lions Clubs International. It has a mine of information there and some surprising facts. Let me know what you have found it may be new to me too! Information on the changes in PR will be in next NL but one of the things I can say is that I will be relying on clubs to send me information. In these days of security and data protection you really should be encrypting sensitive details on your PC's especially if you keep the public's details i.e. Food

Parcels addresses etc. There is a programme called Truecrypt and it's quite easy to do. Also if you have any payment details i.e. credit card info .It is most important that we do not keep payment details anywhere on your PC.I bet you are busy sorting out your sleighs if you do them if you have any funny stories about being Santa? Please let us know. I remember one child admonishing Santa for the Reindeer s*** left in the living room and could he clear it up this year! I bet there are some really funny stories. I sure we can persuade our Editor to include some in a festive newsletter!

The copy deadline for the next issues of the DG's newsletter 22nd Nov please get your copy in by then, I will be returning from holiday and will not be able to accept ANY late material.

Newsletter Contact is:- bsnewsletter@lions105bs.org.uk