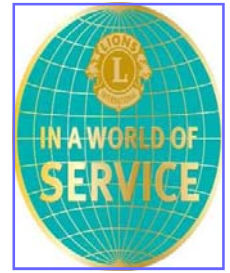




# District Governor's Newsletter



## SANTA WITH ESP!!!!

From ZC Steve Ellesmere Port Lions Club.



On the weekend before Christmas, my fellow Lions and I were busy conducting our annual Christmas Charity Collection outside Morrison's Store in Ellesmere Port.

Picture the scene. The weather was cold and damp, I was stood outside in front of the store on the Saturday afternoon, dressed as Father Christmas with my very authentic long white beard, hair and very convincing red Santa outfit.

I was greeting everyone and waving to the approaching families who responded by returning my wave before continuing their shopping..

In the distance I saw a family approaching, Mum, Dad and twin girls aged about seven years, They were beautifully dressed in identical pink coats. I waved to them and all the family waved back, the children looking very excited. As they got close to me the little twins stopped and stood directly in front of me, gazing up at this vision in red and white. After being inspected up and down, from my black boots to my white hair for what seemed to be an eternity, one of the twins said to me in a very meaningful tone "Are you Real, are you really Father Christmas?" Well, being taken aback by the question I immediately replied, "Of course I am real, Why wouldn't I be?". The girls pondered for a while then one said "If you are real, what have I asked you for?". As quick as a flash ( and don't asked

me where I plucked the answer from, because I really don't know ) I said in a definite and best Santa voice " A hamster, if I remember correctly".

With that, the girls faces lit up like beacons and both shrieked with joy " He is real, he is Father Christmas", Mum glanced at me and mouthed, " Where did that come from ?". I shrugged my shoulders and gently shook my head, indicating that I was also surprised at my answer. I had obviously used my Super Lions ESP!! to give the correct answer.

Following that encounter, the twins, along with Mum and Dad went into the store to complete their shopping, the girls being very excited at the outcome of their meeting with Santa.

About forty five minutes later the store entrance was very busy with shoppers, I looked down and there once again stood in front of me were the twins with their pink coats and beaming faces. I thought to myself, please don't ask me another hard question, as my ESP powers are exhausted for one day. Then a question came!!.

One of the twins said to me " Santa, Please can we sing to you ?". I looked down towards them and replied, " I would love it if you would sing to me". With that, they began to sing Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer, completing every verse, in time and with beautiful angelic voices.

By this time a small audience had gathered to listen and when the girls had finished, the gentle applause fading away, I crouched down to their level and thanked them for making Santa very happy. The audience dispersed and the family Mum, Dad and the beautiful twins in their pink coats proceeded to return to their car with their shopping, As they did Mum turned to look back at me and mouthed "Thank You ". The girls skipped all the way back to the car, turning and waving all the way.

I thought to myself, How good does that feel to give a good, happy memory to a family who will remember that visit and meeting Santa for years to come.

**I am proud to be a Lion.**



## Round the Clubs

### FATHER CHRISTMAS LETTERS PROJECT

Father Christmas (alias Stone Lions Club) has answered 910 letters to Santa received from pupils at 8 local schools. Not all the letters are just Argos lists! Some quotes are as follows: -

*'I hope you have a good rest after Christmas. I have been a good boy and been kind to my friends'*

*'I hope you feel fantastic because it will be a very busy day on Christmas Eve delivering all the presents to all the children in the world'*

*'How is Rudolph, Donna and Dasher? I will leave them some carrot, gin (!) and some mince pies for you. Don't get stuck up the chimney'*

*'I would like you to give other people presents too'*

*'How many elves have you got? How many shops have you been to?'*

*'There is a world shortage of Furbies, is it possible you have them all?'*

*'Please get my dad some aftershave and mum new sponges and Jack a babby bottle.'*

Obviously, there are many, many more worth quoting! Please note, spelling adjusted for easy reading! The idea came from one of our members (Hilary King) who has spent the last three Christmases in Australia and supported Waverley

Lions Club (Melbourne) whilst there. They have been doing this project for some years. Hilary brought back a copy of the letter the children complete, along with copies of the different replies used.

Needless to state, when members of the club visited the relevant schools, they were all happy to be involved! The schools copied the original blank letter for the children to complete and Lion Sylvia managed to get the replies copied at little cost.

The final number of replies came as somewhat of a shock! However, Lion Hilary and her Australian partner, Bernie along with Lion Sylvia set to sort out replies. They were put into envelopes with a Lions sticker on, addressed and delivered back to the schools.

Interestingly, the project had one unexpected outcome. A few children used it as a medium to ask Santa to help with problems at home. We could obviously not deal with this aspect, but took those back to the school to ensure they were aware of such problems.

Although this project had time constraints, it was very worthwhile and Santa will be answering letters again next year.

Anyone want 910 letters? '

### STROKE DONATIONS

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, members of Stone Lions Club attended the regular weekly meeting of Stone and District Stroke Club for a very special reason – to present the members with a cheque for £352.00. As Lion President Mark Green explains "Each year the partner of the Lions District Governor selects a charity to support, and the Lions Clubs within our District (from Anglesey to Staffordshire, Greater Manchester to the North of Birmingham) raise funds for this appeal. Last year's chosen charity was The Stroke Association, who promised that the funds raised would be used to support local Stroke Clubs, and we are delighted that a total of 13 Stroke Clubs within the District have been

presented with donations as a result".

Stella Winsor, who has been running Stone and District Stroke Club for many years, is very appreciative of the support from the Lions. "This most generous donation has come at an opportune time as we are in the process of finalizing the Stroke Club programme of days out during the summer months. The £352 donation will cover the cost of a coach for our visit to the Anderton Boat Lift in Spring, with maybe enough change for ice creams all round as well! We really appreciate the support we receive from Stone Lions – as well as this donation we are fortunate to have three members of the Club who regularly attend our meetings as volunteers".



## *DG Says What a Relief*

We Serve; recognise the phrase? Of course, it is our motto and the relevance of it has been clearly demonstrated with the St Asaph disaster appeal. District treasurer Rob and I recently met with Kevin and Tom, Prestatyn & Rhyl president and treasurer respectively, at St Asaph, to bring ourselves up to date with the local situation. The fund now stands at £47,000 and this represents over 40% of the total funds available for relief. Lions are the major charity involved and it is remarkable how, when there was an urgent need for "community service", Lions answered this call with great generosity. Tom has received donations from over 120 sources throughout our multi-district, mainly clubs but some from central emergency funds; he has personally sent a letter to all donators, expressing gratitude for the money received, and both he and Kevin continue to spend many hours on this project, working closely with the Disaster Relief Committee.

Rob and I saw some of the houses that had been evacuated and, observing a high mound that runs along the river bank, it was amazing how much the water level rose to overcome this barrier and flood the properties. The area was a hive of activity with workmen everywhere repairing the houses. Hopefully it will not be too long until the first evacuees can return to their homes but for others, it will be a long wait. The committee is reviewing various means of distributing the relief funds, but you can rest assured that Kevin and Tom will ensure that Lions' assistance will go to those most in need. Despite our sizeable pot, the extent of this disaster means that more money will be well used; please consider donating as much as possible.

Having provided the festive service during the latter period of last year and hopefully recovered from these demands with a well-earned break over Christmas and New Year, there is often a lull in activity during January before preparations commence for a busy spring, particularly around Easter. This is a time when teamwork pays dividends; it helps spread the workload and ensures the involvement of more club members. These Lions gain experience of organising events and many will

then have confidence to become club officers in time. This is all part of building club strength by giving individuals the opportunity to participate, which provides valuable experience and, of course, a sense of achievement in providing a community service, the main reason for joining our organisation. I do realise that developing a club takes time, but it is all these different elements, such as teamwork and member participation, that combine and will gradually strengthen a club. As the advert says, "every little helps".

We have done well with new members, having recruited 46 during the first six months of our year. Please ensure that every new member has a mentor within your club, someone who can spend time with the new member to explain all they need to know both about Lions generally and also how your club operates. Whilst every new member receives our Welcome to Lions booklet, this only provides a general and standard overview of our organisation; how this applies to your club, the detail between the lines and answering the many questions is the role of the mentor. The two members should be liaising regularly for at least 12 months but ideally for 18, until the new member feels totally at ease in our "Lions world" and can contribute fully to the club's operation and activities.

There is a letter from MD Officer John May in this month's mailing on the subject of Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB) and the English Federation of Disability Sports (EFDS). Please take time to read this to gain a full understanding of both the relationship between the two organisations and the work that is done to assist and develop those members of our communities with learning disabilities. It is of particular interest that there will be related events and athletes within the vicinity of your club; details can be obtained on request from John May. This would be an ideal opportunity for clubs to become involved in disability sports and what better way to provide a service in your community! Please give



## DG Says What a Relief *(Continued)*

consideration to donations as requested; these are most worthwhile causes.

Fifteen years ago Lions of MD105 took up the challenge of saving young lives; the project was known as Gift for Living. It was focussed in the then war-raged area of Bosnia / Herzegovina in Eastern Europe, and over this period there has been continuous progress in providing the medical staff and facilities needed in this still developing region. Please read the article in this Newsletter on Gift for Living; you will be both amazed and proud of the achievements to date. Throughout that period, Past International Director Lion Phil Nathan has been closely involved with Gift for Living. Phil is international guest at our Convention at Runcorn in March and I hope to arrange for him to speak to us on this project. You will find the achievements

remarkable and, hopefully, after knowing far more about it, we can consider giving more support from our district.

And on the subject of our 2013 Convention, there is still time to book for this great event; a weekend of fun, friendship with some business thrown into the mix. They say "the more the merrier" so please join us; the package arranged with the hotel offers exceptional value. If you have never attended convention before, give it a go; you will not regret it.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention and wish you well in providing community service as we move into the second half of our year.

Together we care and can make a difference

*DG Robb*

### THE DALEK HAS LANDED!!!



During 2012 Alsager Lions inducted a new Lion into the club in the guise of an unnamed Dalek to not only help us to raise money for "Good Causes," but to promote our club with the possibilities of hiring him out to other clubs. With this in mind we decided in September to invite all the primary/junior schools in the area to take part in a

competition to name our Dr Who opponent. The winning entry with the most novel and suitable name would win their school £50.00 towards sports equipment and a £15.00 book token for the winning pupil. Four schools responded and by the close of the competition we had some 200 names.

The winning entry after some discussions was "Cyborg Sam" named by Cameron of Excalibur Primary School, Alsager. As some of the other entries were so original and imaginative with Kobo, Oscar 823 and Fredsterminator we decided that these pupil should also receive some recognition for their efforts with a runners up book token.

Photograph shows the winner, Cameron, being presented with his winning book token by the now friendly Dalek, Cyborg Sam. Picture by kind permission of the Alsager Chronicle newspaper



**News from Clubs & District**

**Visiting Lion**

Travelling Lions: No change this month

**Latest Results**

**2012-2013**

At 18th December



**USED STAMPS**

Please send your stamps to Brian Ward Wrekin Lions Collector and sorter for Zones 5 - 10.

Travelling Lion	
Club	Points
Stoke on Trent	194
Stone	135
Flint	105
Newcastle under Lyme	83
Llandudno	78
Little Orme	77
Telford	76
Leek	60
Cannock	58
Beaumaris	57
Tamworth	57

**PR CORNER**

By now your President should have received a questionnaire from MD of what your club is doing. Please return it ASAP. Let 105BS be the first to do it. The last questionnaire we had our District sent the most replies As you know convention is next month. If any clubs are entering the Scrapbook competition could you let me know beforehand ? There are still very few articles coming in any I receive will be sent to MD but you are quite welcome to send them direct to Mandy at [PR@lions.org.uk](mailto:PR@lions.org.uk) She will look at them and maybe include in a future quarterly briefing. It would be great if 105BS could be in it. Please keep sending them in it's great to hear what you are doing. Especially stories involving our I.P.Wayne Madden's

literacy theme. Hope the snow didn't stop you doing amazing things. It didn't stop this Lion



**The copy deadline for the next issues of the DG's newsletter 22nd Feb**

Newsletter Contact is:- [bsnewsletter@lions105bs.org.uk](mailto:bsnewsletter@lions105bs.org.uk)



## News from District

### Contacts

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2nd VDG Lion Carole Hodgkinson :-

[carole.hodgkinson@virginmedia.com](mailto:carole.hodgkinson@virginmedia.com)

## MUSIC COMPETITION

Susan Winch (sponsored by Tamworth Lions Club) will go forward to the Multi District Final, to be held at the Birmingham Conservatoire on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April next (start around 10.30 am).

Susan was due to play to Lions and two Judges at St. Oswald's Church, Oswestry on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January. However, due to the severe weather conditions in North Staffs. and Shropshire, this event was cancelled. It could not be rearranged as Susan is attending Aberdeen University.

Thanks are due to Lion Edmond Douglas-Pennant

and PDG Eric Roberts for their work, to PDG Bill Bowen for arranging the venue, to Oswestry Lions who were to provide a buffet lunch and to Lion Roger Bragger for providing a candidate.

As only nine Lions, two judges and Oswestry Lions would have been present, it is hoped that as many, possibly more will be able to support Susan Winch as the candidate for 105BS when she competes against other District Competitors in Birmingham in April.

The correct start time will be announced when known.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS



On Tuesday 22nd at the North Wales Golf Club, the Lions Club of Llandudno presented cheques to the

beneficiaries of the Christmas fund raising events. The main beneficiary this year was Breast Cancer Wales who will receive a cheque for £2,500. Unfortunately the area representative Anna-Marie McConnell could not be present to receive the cheque.

Cheques were presented by Club President Lion George Gilpin to the Llandudno RNLI for £200. Captain Marcus Elliott gratefully accepted the donation. Next was Mr. Geoff Gower who received a £200 cheque on behalf of St Johns Ambulance. Lion John Boyle acted as representative for the Llandudno Town Band who will receive a further £200 donation. Finally there was a cheque for £700 going to Ty Gobaith. This was received by fund raising Representative Beverley Bradley .

## Editors Thoughts

Happy New Year to everyone! I seem to be moaning every month, Let me know what you are doing PLEASE!

I am ready willing and able to spread the good news of what Lions throughout the District are achieving. If you looked at my Mailbox you would think we are doing nothing, I know this is not true. Tell me, tell the press, tell the world. Get credit for what you are doing, get the publicity enhance our

profile. Public recognition can lead to more people thinking about joining our great organisation. Make regular Press Releases a must .

You are doing lots, get the publicity. If at first you do not succeed in getting into print, keep on trying. If you need help talk to the PR team, help is available. Use the new social Media, get to the youngsters. Do it or I worry about Lions Future. What do you think?

**Editor**