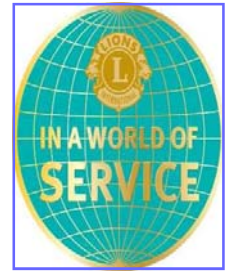




# District Governor's Newsletter



## BIKES AND BOTTLES IN MALAYSIA



Just before Christmas I returned from a holiday in Malaysia. I went to visit my son, who is currently working in Kuala Lumpur (KL). I took this as a great opportunity for visiting local members of the Lionistic Family. My first visit was to the Lions Club of Bukit Kiara in KL. As you can see from the picture it was a full blown business meeting, with most of the members dressed in their exceptionally smart blazers. I had been introduced to the Club by PDG Sam Leong, following email contact. I was fascinated to hear the Club members talking about their work in and around the city. Each day, they and other clubs in KL arrange for the feeding of nearly 100 of the poorer residents. The Club VP then talked about a health vetting programme they were carrying out on the following Sunday on an offshore island. They were working in partnership with several local organisations and hoped to be able to have local health education volunteers based on the island. The cost of providing bikes for these was about £35 each.

My ears pricked up at this and after getting confirmation of the cost I asked the Club to leave the matter of funding to me.

Fast forward to the Wednesday night following my return to Urmston and I put the suggestion to the Club that Urmston fund the bikes. Everyone was in favour and agreed to send £200 to Malaysia by way of my son Gareth. A real result money leaving the UK and fast forwarding to Malaysia,

the Family of Lions is truly worldwide.

As most of you will know I am a Message In a Bottle bore and could not resist explaining the concept to our Malaysian friends. I got an email from PDG Sam just before Christmas to say that his Club, Kuala Lumpur North had agreed to adopt the scheme and could I send him some bottles. My son Gareth will be taking them back to Malaysia when he returns after Christmas.

It really is a small world, and I have not told you about the evening I spent With a bunch of Lions from KL North at a Chinese Karaoke evening, have I? Another time when I have more time. It was fantastic going to somewhere where local Lions are working on projects which we help to fund. Cataract clinics, KL Lions Eye Health Clinic, etc. are all there, making a difference can be seen to work, the benefits of the funds we send abroad are palpable.

John Jones, President Urmston Lions



## Round the Clubs

### Bully for Alsager

Alsager Lions along with local companies and other charities were recently approached by one of the local Primary School head teachers to see if we could help financially with their "Anti Bullying Week in Schools" campaign.

The school had decided to have a local artist work with the children and together they would create a permanent structure to be the focus point of their bullying awareness display. On completion the work will be displayed in the entrance hall of the school, to support the nurturing and caring ethos provided in the years to come.

Pictures shows Headteacher Mrs G Tindall along with Lions Pam Lowerson and David Nixon and the work in progress tree.



### Come Dine With Cannock Lions Club!



Cannock Lions Club invited some local Senior

Citizens to St Luke's Church Hall in Cannock to tuck into a fabulous Christmas Lunch. Lions donned their pinnies and cooked up homemade soup, a scrumptious turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pud and mince pies. The wine flowed and a good time was had by all. Jean Martyn came and joined them for lunch and regaled the audience with some funny stories about her experiences since she appeared on BGT( Britain's Got Talent). Shirley Brown got the party going by singing and encouraging us all to join in. Thanks go to MP Aidan Burley, Lidl, Asda, Famous Grouse and Phil Dickenson for donating some of the food and drink to make the event go with swing.

### Travelling Lions: Who's the Daddy now?

Christmas saw Lions Mark Thomas (Congleton Club) and Sheila Lee (Urmston Club) brave temperatures of 34C to visit Winston Hills Lions Club on Sunday 23rd December in Sydney, Australia to ensure their Clubs continue to compete in the longest travelling lion competition!!!





## ***DG Says Get yourself Noticed in 2013***

I hope that all Lions in our district enjoyed Christmas and greeted the New Year with celebrations; Maureen and I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2013.

The first half of our Lionistic year saw welcomed recruitment of new members, approximately 46, which included 7 in the new branch club in Hednesford. The Sandbach club "revival team" worked hard and it is planned to badge the first new members this month. These achievements prove that we do have clubs that, for a variety of reasons, are attracting new members. Often it is difficult to pin-point the specifics but clubs will increase their potential for recruitment if Service work is publicized locally and Lions are "seen around the town", clubs have a good social calendar and members have fun, with friends and acquaintances invited to participate in these occasions. Club workings need to be open and democratic with "everyone being aware of everything", all members should have some specific responsibility such as club officer or be on a committee, and whilst there will often be differences of opinion, they should be openly discussed and, if applicable, the majority decision accepted. We must guard against any differences or personality clashes smoldering over a period and then igniting with dramatic results; ideally they need to be resolved at an early stage, after which normality resumes and the club moves forward with greater strength.

Remember Signature Projects? The main aim of these is for clubs to put a "stamp" on their community by doing something that everyone would recognize as being a significant "Lions" initiative. We have already achieved this with Message in a Bottle. We have a proud affiliation with many Sight programmes and for the future, with our Youth projects. Signature Projects takes one element each from Sight and Youth, and these are Lions Eye Health Programme (LEHP) and Young Leaders in Service (YLIS).

LEHP promotes healthy vision and raises awareness of the causes of preventable vision loss; it encourages sight tests which may save

sight through the early detection and timely treatment of diabetic eye disease, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Whilst there are several ways to promote this locally, it can be as simple as handing out our Sight Tests leaflets (available from MDHQ at £5 per 100) to the public in your town centre.

YLIS recognizes young people who provide significant levels of service to their communities, and is open to those between the ages of 11 and 18 years. The scheme would apply to scouts, guides, cadets and other similar youth groups, to youths caring for a family member with a disability, or caring for the homeless. It could be youngsters assisting with public health in the community such as creating awareness of substance abuse, they could be preserving the environment by clearing litter or, closer to home, they may be helping Lions with their activities. They are presented with a Silver Seal Award for providing at least 50 hours of service in a twelve month period, or a Gold Award for at least 100 hours. Many of you will know eligible youths who are already achieving these hours; with just a little effort, you could promote deserved recognition for them. And the bonus of YLIS is that you become indirectly linked to their parents, who are potential members for your club!

Having referred to YLIS, the great news is that we have four potential Leos clubs in our district, with a tenacious Frank Marnell, our Leos & YLIS district officer, pursuing each relentlessly. It would be great to get just one established as, apart from the obvious benefits to the youths themselves, it creates a link with schools or youth organizations which opens paths to our established and worthy competitions such as Peace Poster, Young Ambassador and the Young Musician contest. Whilst we can be proud of our achievements in these events, statistics show that entries are from only a few clubs; if we can double the number of participating clubs, then our chances of winning at MD level greatly increase.

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## DG Says Get yourself Noticed in 2013 *(Continued)*

Following the disastrous effects of the major floods at St Asaph, I wrote to all BS clubs, asking for donations. The letter was also circulated to all other districts in MD105 and, although the circumstances were not relevant for a LCIF Emergency Grant, I did request financial assistance from the MD Disaster Fund. Taking into account £10,000 received from the latter and £2,000 from our BS Emergency fund, the St Asaph Appeal fund currently totals £33,000. Many thanks to those clubs which have already contributed and to those who have yet to consider the Appeal at your next meeting, please give generously. President Kevin and treasurer Tom of Prestatyn & Rhyl club sit on the St Asaph Relief committee and it has been confirmed that 362 homes were evacuated of which 200 families lost all their belongings and of those, around 75 had no contents insurance. It is estimated that the timescale for recovery for these unfortunate people will be between 1 and 3 years; the local Lions will be providing their Service for as long as necessary, and they will need as much money in the Appeal fund as possible.

Finally a reminder that our District Convention is only about 10 weeks away; it is both a fun and business occasion, and ideal for meeting old

friends and making new ones. I always emphasise that the social aspect of Lionism is very important for every club, and this also applies to Convention. The Host Night is an optional fancy dress event with a "Black & White" theme; there will be sights not to be missed as many clubs compete for the titles of Best Fancy Dress and Best Performance. The Banquet & Ball is equally enjoyable but in "sensible" attire. The business day on Saturday will be interesting and varied, recognizing achievements but importantly looking at forward plans. Phil Nathan MBE and Past International Director is our guest for the weekend; he is an excellent and motivational speaker and is looking forward to his first official visit to BS.

I congratulate all clubs on the Service provided to communities during December; I am sure that it was a demanding but rewarding period. I am positive about our District as we move forward into 2013, and I wish all Lions well in building their clubs and fulfilling our motto "We Serve".

**Rob**

**DG**

### Vale Royal Lions Toy Appeal

The Vale Royal Lions Club is delighted with the success of its 2012 Toy Appeal, which has become a Christmas tradition over the years, thanks to the generosity of our local churches and congregations.

Toys were donated by churches in Winnington, Castle and Cuddington for the Vale Royal Lions to be able to bring Christmas joy to more than 160 children from needy families in the Vale Royal area. The toys were distributed by Women's Aid and Cheshire West Social Services. Vale Royal Lions are seen below, sorting and packing the toys:





## News from Clubs & District

### Visiting Lion

### Latest Results

2012-2013

At 18th December



### USED STAMPS

It seems as though nobody bothers any more as I have not had any from clubs in the last 12 months.

Brian Ward Wrekin Lions  
Collector and sorter for Zones 5 - 10.

### PR CORNER

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you are not too tired from all the festivities. Did you see the Quarterly Briefing that was sent to your President? Didn't it look professional? It was sent to all the MP's throughout the country. The next one will be in Word format so you can put your own story in and send it to your local councilors, organisations etc... We need personal stories from your clubs These appeal to the public. There must surely be some from the last month or so. This in the only way we can put across what we do and that we are not an exclusive organisation. Even you made someone's

### 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	194
Stone	135
Flint	105
Newcastle under Lyme	83
Llandudno	78
Little Orme	77
Telford	76
Leek	60
Cannock	58
Beaumaris	57
Tamworth	57

Christmas special. Please be proud to roar! If you send them to me I will pass them on. Something else I need to mention. I have been visiting clubs for one reason or another and there are still old logos being used. Please could we use the Blue and Yellow one. It has been around a few years now so it is not exactly new. Let's make 2013 the year that Lions are truly recognised for what we do!

Bev Stanyer

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

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