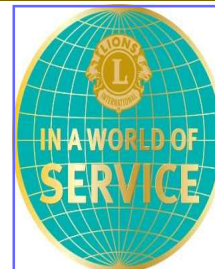




District Governor's Newsletter



The Ramblings of the Talbots



Pam & Rick Talbot, from Gnosall Lions Club accompanied by fellow Lion John Atkinson from Chester Lions Club successfully completed the Two Saints Way Walk arriving at the doors of Lichfield Cathedral on Friday evening after completing 90 arduous and at times rather wet miles. Setting off from the doors of Chester Cathedral on a dry, overcast Monday morning, the first day taking us, from Chester to Nantwich over mainly flat rather boring canalside terrain, short of both hostels and people. At first the weather was fine until early afternoon when the skies opened and we got the first of our soakings making the final few miles into Nantwich seem very long and uncomfortable.

Day 2 of the journey and possibly the most difficult included walking over ploughed fields, long grass, up 6 hills, mud & in excess of 60 stiles including over one 5 mile segment 38 of them. This was all OK until again the weather took over and we got soaked to the skin, having to take shelter in a stable (wondered if that was why it was called the Two Saints Way as no-one came forward bearing gifts) so we had for the second consecutive day finding ourselves completing the final miles towards Chesterton in Stoke on Trent. We were however buoyed by the fact that those who we were walking for were far worse off than we ever were, and that skin is waterproof. We had also christened the walk, The

Tree Idiots Walk as again we hardly had encountered any sign of life when out in the countryside, only us fools. We also heard that in South Shropshire and Herefordshire that they had had 2 inches of snow, and south of us has had hail storms, so perhaps we had got off lightly.

Day 3, from Chesterton to Stone started off with no respite in the weather, rain lashing down all morning but thankfully easing off after lunch, and thereafter for the remainder of the week apart from a short shower on Thursday. We did however, have to modify our route slightly as going underfoot via the Sutherland monument at Trentham was considered too dangerous. The 4th day took us from Stone, accompanied by Ed Rule, President of Rugeley Lions Club, via the picturesque hamlet of Burston, through Sandon, Salt to Hopton, into Stafford and finally ending at Milford. This was possibly the most beautiful, and John, from Chester was astounded of how lovely and how lucky we are to live in mid Staffordshire. We were also blessed with great weather, always a bonus.



The final part of the journey took us over the Chase to Lichfield via the Castle Ring where we



Round the Clubs

The Ramblings of the Talbots Continue^d

were met by the family including our grand - daughter Rhiannon ,whose HAE condition Pam & I were walking for, and the incoming Gnosall Lions Club Lion President Pat Hunt of Haughton who had also taken us to the start at Chester. It was thanks to fellow Lions like Pat and Ed for their support, , Maureen and Don from Stoke on Trent Lions Club, and Glenys and John Sanders of Stone Lions who gave us Bed & Breakfasts en route and picked us up

and dropped us off at pre arranged places that we were able to complete our walk, and raise considerable sums for our charities. For this we would like to thank all who supported us in any way, either with transport, contributions and the many emails of encouragement which we received on a daily basis. We haven't got a final total yet but it stand at present at in excess of £650 with much still to come in.

Cheadle Lions Duck and Dive

Cheadle Lions Club held their annual Easter Egg Raffle which was very successful again this year, raising much needed funds to support local charities. The annual Duck Race took place in glorious sunshine on Monday 6th May and again proved a great success. This year is of course our 25th anniversary and to celebrate with the town the title of the car show and fun day has been changed to The Cheadle Lions Carnival.

Finally, please continue to donate your used spectacles (collection points E & E Stores & any fire station in Staffordshire) Please note that Vari-Focals or Bi-Focals can not be used.

To Date thanks to lions clubs throughout Staffordshire over 6000 pairs of old spectacles have been sent for recycling to those in need, and nationally Lions clubs in the UK have sent over 1 million pairs for recycling Good used spectacle cases are donated to the Douglas Macmillan charity.

Marie Curie Moment

Holly Smith (Marie Curie), Mel North (Secretary) Phil Westhead (President) and Anton Selvadurai. Holding the numbers of the amount collected.

Holly had visited the club to thank them for their recent efforts in

collecting the sum of £425.00 at Tesco Kidsgrove, Staffs for the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal and also to collect the cheque from Lion President.





Round the Clubs

THE Football Final

On Sunday April 21st the district youth football final was played at Macclesfield Town football club. The teams playing were Cheadle and Gatley sponsored by Wilmslow and district lions club and Atherstone Rangers sponsored by Tamworth lions club. The winners were Cheadle and Gatley. The prizes were presented by P.D.G. Frank Marnell. Each entrant received a medal and the winning team were presented with the shield.



Visitors to Shrewsbury Funday invited to kick football at Joe Hart



Visitors to Shrewsbury Lions Fun Day on May Bank Holiday Monday were able to pitch their skills against England, Manchester City and former Shrewsbury goalkeeper, Joe Hart, in an exciting new football game.

Manchester City gave their permission last month for a photograph of the local hero to be used by Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions when they refurbished the game that has been one of their

most successful show fundraisers for many years. John Marsh, a member of Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions, said: "The football game has always been a popular attraction at shows, with youngsters trying to kick a ball through one of three holes. Over the years it has helped us to raise a great deal of money for charity but, as you can imagine, it has also taken a fair bashing.

"When we decided to refurbish the game a couple of months ago we thought it would be a great idea to increase the profile of the attraction by having a huge picture of Joe Hart in goal. Much to our delight, not only did Joe and his club agree to it, but Joe also signed the photograph for us.

"Bank Holiday Monday was the new game's inaugural outing, so lots of people were able to visit our stand and 'kick the ball at Joe', as well as enjoy the arena events, funfair and charity stalls in The Quarry."

Tamworth Lions In a S.P.I.N.

Tamworth Lions President Linda Hunt, making a presentation to Tamworth S.P.I.N. [Special People In Need],

a local organisation that organises a Youth Club, to support teenagers and adults with special needs, and provide social, sports, art and craft, and other activities. SPIN is for anyone aged 14 and over.

The cheque presented, for £350.00, was to cover the cost of a visit for the members of the club to attend a Pantomime – O yes it did!

Pictured, from left to right are Lions Trisha, June, Lion President Linda, Tamworth's Lion, and Sylvia and Lorrianne of S.P.I.N.





Round the Clubs

Tamworth Lions Make Headway!

Tamworth Lions President Linda Hunt, making a cheque presentation to Tamworth and Lichfield Headway Group, who are a support group for the people of Tamworth & Lichfield06.

Headway provides support and information for people with acquired brain injuries, their families and carers.

Tamworth club successfully applied for funds from PDG Eric Roberts District Governor's partner's appeal, and have duly presented a cheque to Headway.

Pictured, from left to right at the presentation of the cheque for £352.00 are Lions Trisha Lambert and Kate Darby, Tamworth's Lion, Headway Secretary Dawn Perry, Lions President Linda Hunt, and Headway Chairperson Rob Elliott of the Tamworth and Lichfield Brain Injury Support Group.



Tamworth Lions Make Spectacles of Themselves

Tamworth Lions President Linda Hunt, with Tamworth's Lion, collecting used spectacles from one of the Opticians and Charity shops that act as collection points for Tamworth Lions ongoing used spectacle and hearing aid collections, for re-use in third world countries.

To date, Tamworth Lions have collected with their partners over 42,000 pairs of used spectacles and sunglasses, making them one of the UK's largest contributors to this Internationally supported scheme.

Lions President Linda Hunt pictured with Tamworth's Lion, who has 'borrowed' the giant sunglasses from Optician's Philip Howard, whilst collecting the latest batch of spectacles.



**SPACE FOR NEWS
FROM YOUR CLUB**





From the DG

How time flies when you are having fun!! Seriously, I really have enjoyed my year as DG; there has been lots of fun and enjoyment and yes, the 12 months have passed very quickly. There are many responsibilities of the position but, as most past DGs have said, the most rewarding are club visits, joining in with business meetings and chatting to all members, learning of the community Service work provided and of the fellowship and friendship engendered by social functions. Being surprised by both the variety of ways in which funds are raised and the many aspects of Service work; being amazed by the volume of community Service provided even though I thought that I was aware of clubs' strengths in this area. WE SERVE; we certainly have the right motto as that is exactly what we do in BS, in abundance.

I have emphasised the importance of Teams throughout this year, and this is clearly evident in all areas. My wife Maureen has complimented and supported me constantly, every week and every month; I could not have given 100% without her. I believe that this team of two has worked well. As a DG team, I have met formally with 1st Vice Dave (now DGE) and 2nd Vice Carole (now 1st VDGE) every two months to discuss all aspects of the district and clubs, and also attended many other meetings and events with them in between. There has been a constant flow of information, questions, answers and views, all of which have hopefully improved the district operation. I have met with the team of zone chairs after each cabinet meeting and there have been benefits of general discussion and learning from each other's experiences. Both GMT and GLT have worked effectively as teams, using each other's strengths as a benefit to the group. And I know that clubs have worked well with their zone chairs when close teams have been formed at this level. Teams are good, they

do work effectively and give added strength to the group but, in all such bodies, there must be participation from all members.

My main aim for this year has been to bring clubs and district closer together; after all, the district team is formed of club members. Whilst Lions join our organisation to Serve their community, which makes them the most important element of LCI, the Service that a club provides can be beneficially influenced with the support of district officers. They are experienced Lions themselves and can draw on resources to give assistance to clubs when required. District officers may attend club business meetings and contribute to their effectiveness, but they will not become involved with club operations unless asked to by the club. Clubs often, and quite naturally, work within their community with little involvement beyond these boundaries. Each club develops its own strengths over the years and, as a district, we should utilise these experiences in other clubs. So to me, it makes sense to use district officers as the go-between in spreading these benefits within their areas, and this will improve the overall Service that we Lions provide. And if a club has a specific problem, there will be a district officer somewhere who can help with this issue, probably being able to draw on experience with a previous similar problem elsewhere in the district.

So for these and other reasons, there are distinct benefits of clubs and district working in close harmony. I believe that we have narrowed the gap and there is a better liaison between clubs and district officers in many areas. I do hope that this continues next year and into the future.

From the comments received from many different sources, our District Convention in Runcorn in March was a great success. Maureen and I certainly enjoyed it and there were



From the DG (Continued)

compliments from our guests Past International Director Phil Nathan and his wife Heidi. Whilst all credit must go to the Convention Committee who worked hard for many months to ensure that the event ran smoothly, it is those who attend who make it an outstanding weekend. Participation by all, particularly at the Host Night and Banquet and Ball, secures success, and that is just what we all enjoyed. So my thanks to everyone who attended and took part at Convention, and I would encourage those who were not at Runcorn to join us all at Telford next year.

Our district also was well represented at the MD Convention in Torquay; another successful and enjoyable event. Next year's MD Convention is nearer to home in Manchester, so it will be an ideal opportunity to sample this experience and meet Lions from all over the British Isles and Ireland. The Palace Hotel, Manchester is already

taking bookings so I would advise planning early to avoid disappointment. Contact can be made via the MD website or using the link below;

Tiny.cc/manc-conv

So at the end of this Lionistic year, my sincere thanks go to every member in the district for your contribution to the tremendous Service that we provide, locally, nationally and internationally. Thanks to club presidents for helping to develop strength in your club, to the great district team in providing support for clubs and support and guidance for me, and to Maureen for literally being there at all times.

DGE Dave and his team have my best wishes for continuing to move our district forward, and I look forward to working with everyone in my role as Immediate Past DG.

YIL DG Rob

nnnnnnnnnnNINETEEN VOLUNTEERS

For the second year running it was a very cold start for the North Staffs Special Olympics Athletics Meeting at Northwood Stadium, Hanley. There were many chattering teeth among the 19 Lions from 6 Clubs - Gnosall, Rugeley, Stafford, Stoke, Stone & Uttoxeter - who volunteered to help out. Over 200 athletes took part from 11 Special Olympics clubs from Worcester to Wrexham. The events began at 10.00am with field sports for males and the girls on the track.

A slight drizzle started towards the end of the morning session and unfortunately during the lunch break the heavens opened. With no signs of a let up the organisers had no choice but to abandon the meeting

which was a great disappointment to all and I even saw tears from some of the coaches who put so much into the planning.

It is very satisfying to be able to give even modest help to the Special Olympics members that I am sure we will all do it again next year, hopefully under blue skies for a change. I would also like to thank the Clubs that donated to the cheque for £175 for which NSSO Chairman Tony Fry was extremely grateful.

Steve Shields

DO Physical & Learning Disabilities

NOT YETI ???
GO TO
tiny.cc/john-on-everest



Travelling Lion Competition

Travelling Lions Competition

2013/2014

Club	Points
Stoke on Trent	35
Llandudno	31
Stone	27
Telford	22
Leek	18
Tamworth	15
Newcastle under Lyne	8
Little Orme	7
Helsby & Frodsham	3
Sale	1

NEW MEMBERS MAY

Bruntwood: Kenneth Grant
 Sale: Karl Perry
 Stone: Neil Gater
 Wirral: Duncan Haworth
 Vale of Llangollen:
 Cerys Davies
 Sharon Jones

LAST THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

As the DG says in his article, this year has flown. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this newsletter, perhaps now I will be able to contribute a little more from my club in the new Lionistic year. I wish the incoming editor my best wishes for his year of office. Could I use this piece to ask those who do contribute, to make sure their pieces are in **Calibri 11 point** in black and it does help if their piece is sent with a name that gives a clue re its contents. If pictures have a name, like, Urmston Raft Race, it also makes the work of the editor a little easier.

YIL

John Jones

PR CORNER

Well it's the last month of the Lionistic year and it has flown? The changes in Lions PR is slowly changing for the better but it will be a slow process. Please be patient. There have been quite a few clubs starting a Facebook page. Please have patience it's not an instant way to gain PR but if you persevere you will reap the benefits. Like as many local organisations and local newspapers as you can. Post something on your page at least twice a week even it is a Lion's club fact. There is a lot to be gained from liking Lions Clubs from around the world. If you are on FB there is a new page called Lions SMILE (Social Media including Lions Everywhere. Catchy title I know) You can register your page, twitter, pinterest etc. on there for other clubs around the world to see. The main goal is to centralize and share all information

about technology and social media. There may be some little nuggets on there will check regularly to let you know.

After a discussion of the information committee it has been decided that Lions Clubs events will not be advertised in the NL as only local clubs to the event will be interested but have no fear. If you send me details of your event we will put it on the District Website Events calendar on the left side of home page. Please make use of your District Diary as well. Of course articles after the event can be included in the Newsletter, especially if the event is extremely successful.

I would like to thank the information committee for their fabulous support yet again. The best committee in the District!

Bev

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

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