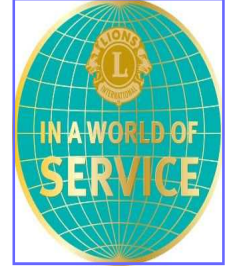




District Governor's Newsletter



Wonders of Modern Technology

I have just had a pleasurable task to perform which I would like to share with fellow Lions.

I received an email from a lady in New Zealand who was trying to get in touch with her mother's cousin in Helsby. She had tried Internet searches to no avail and then she thought of Lions. Her mother and her cousin are both 90 years old. They have corresponded since they were 10 and had recently lost contact. Her mother had been writing and getting no replies and they wondered if the Helsby cousin had passed away.

I found the lady alive and well but she had

been in hospital for some time following a bad fall. She was thrilled to know that her cousin down under was well too. Normal service will be resumed using me as the 'mailman'. Happy to serve.

Margaret Marsh
President
Helsby & Frodsham Lions



Working in Harmony

Cannock Lions Club organised a concert at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock. They invited 3 local schools and the local arts centre to perform. Acts ranged from a choir, solo acts and even a steel band. The event brought the community together with a song. It was a

brilliant show and it proved that Cannock has got talent. Requests for another one have already been heard and hopefully Cannock Lions will repeat the performance next year.

NO NEWS IS NO NEWS

What you see in this newsletter is all that was submitted by the clubs and district officers. It is understood that there may be perfectly good reasons why some clubs have not done anything and some of our District officers have

been suffering from ill health, but for the vast majority of our Clubs not to have done anything this month stretches credibility. Not doing anything, not telling anyone about what we have done is not the way in which we will encourage new members.



From the DG

All clubs should have held their AGMs by now and elected new officers who will commence their year in July. I have referred to “strong and active” clubs throughout the year, and it is club officers who have most influence in guiding the club and members in this direction. Clubs that aspire to and achieve this level are likely to be the ones that both provide more community service and are attractive to new members. But what makes strong and active clubs? Well there are many elements but the keys factors are working as a team to provide community service with participation from all members, structured and effective business meetings that are relaxed and enjoyable, and also an active social calendar which engenders friendship amongst club members.

Participation by all members is vital; everyone should have a specific role and these will vary from club director or officer to committee member. Engaging all members will both maintain interest and generate a sense of achievement and that they are fulfilling their role as a club member. You may recall that every member at their induction agrees to “contribute your share to the programs of your club, your district and LCI”. Most clubs have various committees which normally meet outside of the business meeting but report to it; but they also promote team work and demand participation so, in my view, are a very useful part of the club structure. Make meetings interesting, distribute and work to an agenda and ensure that all members have the opportunity to express their views. All aspects of your club should be discussed at full meetings so that all members are aware of all issues, there should be no “secret agendas”;

take all member votes when necessary and ensure that the majority decision is accepted by all, as we must be democratic.

The positions of club president, secretary and treasurer are key roles in all clubs and, whether it is your first appointment to them or a subsequent one, you should take advantage of the district training sessions that have been arranged for these positions. They are being held at three venues to minimise travel distances; Newcastle-under-Lyme on May 15th, Llandudno on May 23rd and Chester on June 9th. Please make every effort to attend and benefit from updates on the position responsibilities and by meeting other Lions holding the same positions.

We are successful at recruiting new members which number 62 to date this year. They are valuable to clubs so please optimise their experience as club members during their formative first 12 months by effective mentoring. The mentor should be a member with an extensive knowledge of both Lions and the club, have time and a desire to assist the recruit and be able to effectively train and develop him or her into a participating and enthusiastic club member. Failure to do this may well result in the recruit’s disappointment of membership and early departure. Again there are district training sessions for new(ish) members who all receive an invitation letter; please encourage their attendance together with their mentor.

As Lions, We Serve; we raise money locally and quite rightly, most of that money goes back into your community, in various ways. But we are part of an international organization, part



From the DG

of a global service network. The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) relies on donations from clubs to support all their International programs and this funding comes from Lions Clubs all over the world. Our international humanitarian programs are focused in four main areas: Preserving Sight, Supporting Youth, Providing Disaster Relief and Meeting Humanitarian Needs. As at the end of February only 17 of the 60 clubs in our district had made donations to LCIF; I do urge all clubs to consider this most worthwhile aspect of our Service work. Many clubs recognise the outstanding Service work of individual members and award MJF's, Melvin Jones Fellowships, one of the highest awards in our organisation. Clubs can receive an MJF by donating US\$1000 (in one sum or accumulatively) to the main areas that I mentioned or to Areas of Greatest Need, from which LCIF can direct funds to any of the four main areas.

Maureen and I attended the MD Final of the European Musical Competition in Birmingham recently in which pianists representing 6 districts, including BS, were competing. Each firstly played a set piece by Mozart and we were amazed to hear 6 very different interpretations of the same piece; quite remarkable. After lunch they each played their chosen music and again the performances were brilliant. The qualified judges were unanimous in their decision in selecting Dominic Degavino from district E as the winner, but we were well represented by Susan Winch, sponsored by Tamworth club. This was her first competition at this level and she appreciated the support of Lions in giving her this valuable experience. Thanks to Tamworth club, thanks

to PDG Eric Roberts for the organisation of the event and to Lion Edmund Douglas-Pennant of Beaumaris-Menai-Aethwy club for his financial support. The instrument for next year's competition is the French Horn; please contact local colleges, music associations etc. to find entrants to represent our district in this most worthwhile Youth event

If you cast your mind back over the last few years, maybe 5 or 10, it is likely that you will be able to identify areas in which there have been gradual changes, such as the way that you shop, the way that you communicate with friends or possibly the way that you handle your finances, and others. Shopping may now include online website purchases, communication could now involve more emails or social websites such as Facebook and finance could be banking on line or ordering your foreign currency for holidays online for delivery to your door! The total environment has changed and it is important that we Lions also change as necessary so that we do RELATE to our communities; Service work that we provided 5 years ago may not be relevant now. Youth is the big area of change as they grow up with new technology; we need to become aware of their world so that we RELATE to them in our projects. Many of you will have seen the recent "My Ideal Club" presentations, within which clubs are encouraged to examine themselves and their service work; I do urge clubs to consider this important aspect of their operation. If we RELATE to our communities, it is more likely that they will also RELATE to us.

Thank you to all Lions for continuing with our great SERVICE work; Together we do make a Difference

DG Rob



Travelling Lion Competition

Here are the new members for this month.

1st to 20th April.

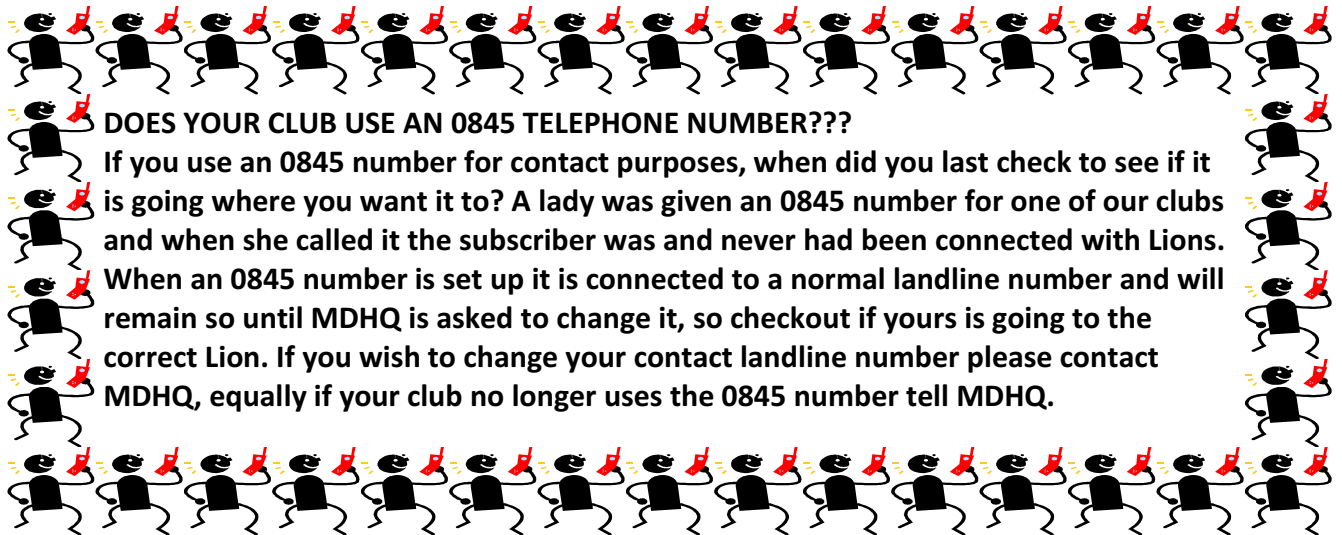
- BIRKENHEAD
- James Parsons
- CONGLETON
- John Eagle
- VALE ROYAL
- Sheila Bowker

A warm welcome to them all

Points as at 24.04.13

2013/2014

Club	Points
Stoke on Trent	82
Llandudno	48
Stone	36
Telford	27
Tamworth	20
Newcastle under Lyme	19
Leek	18
Beaumaris	18
Flint	16
Cannock	9



DOES YOUR CLUB USE AN 0845 TELEPHONE NUMBER???

If you use an 0845 number for contact purposes, when did you last check to see if it is going where you want it to? A lady was given an 0845 number for one of our clubs and when she called it the subscriber was and never had been connected with Lions. When an 0845 number is set up it is connected to a normal landline number and will remain so until MDHQ is asked to change it, so checkout if yours is going to the correct Lion. If you wish to change your contact landline number please contact MDHQ, equally if your club no longer uses the 0845 number tell MDHQ.

PR CORNER

Yet another Lionistic year is almost at an end I'm sure you have been so very busy but it is still as Bjork says Oh so Quiet ! How can we roar if we don't promote what we do ? I hope that we are publicising our achievements in the press. Please send a club news article regularly to your local newspapers shown them that being a Lion is an enjoyable experience.(Well most of the time !)

There is a video of this year's 105BS convention on You Tube here's the link tiny.cc/BS-Conv2013

and also one of the lovely George & Sophie's performances at business meeting. Did you hear the Radio 4's You & Yours programme on Monday 22nd April ? There is a pod cast but I am trying to find out how long it is available. Here's the link you may be able to hear it tiny.cc/BBC-LionsBroadcast before it expires.

Bev

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

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