



DISTRICT 105BS NEWSLETTER

District Governor 2013-2014

Lion Dave Handley



Lions help to improve students' life skills

A Telford special needs school was given a financial boost today when members of a local Lions club handed over a cheque for £200.

Special points of interest:

District Governors Partners Appeal

Information on page 5 with further details in District Mail

Inside this issue:

	Page
Life Skills	1
New Members	2
Visiting Lion	2
What's this!	2
Good News	2
DG Daves Bit	3
MJF Award	4
Good Deeds	4
Ladies Evening	5
December NL Deadline	5
World Sight Day 1	5
New Life News	6
Fitting Legacy	6
Seeing Again	7
Bevs PR	7
Goodies for the Troops	8
World Sight Day 2	8

The money, given by **Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions**, will go towards a new fund-raising initiative launched in the summer holidays by Southall School teacher, Andy Faichney, to enable students to participate in life enhancing outings they may otherwise not get the opportunity to experience.

Ironbridge Lions are long-time supporters of Southall School in Dawley, where a high proportion of the students suffer from autism and other learning difficulties. Their latest support came after hearing how Mr Faichney had kick-started the fund-raising with a gruelling nine day sponsored cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End.

Mr Faichney, who is aiming to raise a staggering £20,000 through a variety of fundraising events, got the idea for the initiative after taking several students from the school on a trip to London last year.

"None of the students had been away from home before and the experience of doing and seeing things that others just see as part of everyday life has made a massive difference to their confidence and even their level of independence in some cases", he said.

"All the activities we have planned, once we have raised the money to make them a reality, are designed to promote and improve the life skills of the students. Trips could entail something as simple as us hiring a minibus and taking the children to a town centre where we can show them first-hand how to ask and pay for a cup of coffee in a shop. Or, being more ambitious, they could involve spending a night away from home."

June Softley, President of Ironbridge Lions, said: "We have a long association with Southall School and we believe Andy's aim is very commendable. We are therefore glad to be able to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause."



Picture:- June Softley, President of Ironbridge & Severn Gorge Lions, with Students Rebecca and George along with Teachers Andy Faichney (receiving the cheque) and Andy Gulliver



Welcome October New Members ...



Name	Club
Nathan Perry	Cannock
Kate Perry	Cannock
Vivienne Wooll	Cannock
Alan Robinson	Leek
Ann Flanagan	West Wirral
Richard Peacock	Colwyn Bay

GOOD NEWS FOLLOWS SAD NEWS

In the September issue of the Newsletter an article appeared concerning the Crewe & Nantwich Calendar Girls.

Sadly the submitter of the article, and driving force behind the calendar, Lion "Toni" Pownall passed to Higher Service on 20th September, aged only 41, after becoming ill suddenly after the Launch night of her Calendar for Diabetes UK.

The information below has been received from Lion Debbie Owen of Crewe & Nantwich Lions:

"This is extremely emotional time for me ... Lion Toni's loss has been difficult personally and as a Lion also, but today we received some amazing news that even in her death she won the Signal 1 Radio Pride of the Community award, I think its amazing and news like this should be shared "

Spot the What!!!!

Lichfield Lions go to unusual and extreme lengths to raise funds for local charities - our picture shows farmer David and Lions John Whitehouse and Chris Pritchard scrutinising the winning splat! The annual Cow Pat Draw raised over £2000



Farmer David, Daisy, Lion John Whitehouse & Lion Chris Pritchard

for South Staffordshire Young Carers and other local charities with the lucky winner receiving not a cow pat but £100 with eight runners up getting £10 each.

The success of the event rests on the generosity of local people, the support of Shenstone Garden Centre and the network of local public houses that allowed the Lions access to their customers.

A big thank you to all those who participated, particularly Farmer David and of course Daisy.



Travelling Lion

**Latest Figures as at
17/10/13**

Club	Points
Stoke on Trent	188
Stone	96
Tamworth	79
Cannock	59
Llandudno	51
Little Orme	45
Telford	45
Newcastle under Lyme	37
Flint	36



The DG's Bit

International

Lion Barry Palmer, our International President has asked us to look at doing something for Diabetes in November as it is Diabetes awareness month and Thursday 14th is Diabetes Day.



Re-Zoning

What!? Is that what I hear you say? You should know the DG Team has had the topic raised during their visits to Zones and Clubs and I am very aware that with no information people often become suspicious and unsettled. So, some facts.

1. As you may recall, in April 2011, we did not have a Lion willing to serve as Zone Chair for Zone 5.
2. The decision was taken to break Zone 5 up with its clubs distributed within Zone 3 and Zone 6.
3. Also, since then, we have lost both Hazel Grove and Sandbach Lions Clubs.
4. We currently do not have a Zone Chair for Z7.
5. At the DG Team meeting with the Zone Chairs that took place immediately after the August Cabinet some of the Zone Chairs stated that a number of clubs and they themselves were finding the existing Zone arrangement geographically hard to work with.
6. We also have clubs that would benefit from greater mutual support.

So What Has Been Done?

1. The District Constitution has been checked and it states quite clearly that any decision as to the number of zones, the number of clubs within a zone and the arrangements of the zones within a District is a matter solely for the DG. Any proposed changes should be advised to the membership via the District Convention and they can only be brought into effect at the start of the Lionistic Year.
2. Long serving Past District Governors, who may have experienced or who may have had to consider re-zoning themselves have been consulted as well.
3. I am now putting **my** thoughts on paper for the 1st and 2nd VDGs to consider, with the aim of giving **our** thoughts to the Zone Chairs after Cabinet on 17th November for their comments.
4. Zone Chairs will be asked to **consult** with those clubs directly affected and advise those clubs indirectly affected by any proposals and to feed their comments back to the DG Team.
5. A decision will be announced in time for Convention 2014; of course that decision could be one of 'no change'. We will have to see the outcome of the consultation process.

One More Thing! Of course, the simple answer might be to re-instate Zone 5 as was, but before that is viable I would need to be certain that we had lions willing to serve as ZCs for the next 2 terms; that is 2 lions servicing for 2 years each so that a stable position can be held for 4 years during which time it should be possible to identify and encourage future ZCs for a re-instated Z5.

Autumn Forum

The Autumn Forum has come and gone. It was quite well attended, although there is always room for more. The initial feedback the GLT and myself have had was that the 'workshop' approach worked very well indeed and that, in the main, the topics offered were well presented and informative. We know there are things we can do to improve; there always are! So we need you, the membership who went, to let us know what you thought about the topics offered and your view of the day overall now that you have had time to sleep on it. Please let PDG Lion Shirley or any one for the GLT know. My thanks to PDG Lion Shirley for all her hard work to pull the 9 workshops and 2 presentations together and to all the presenters and discussion facilitators for their efforts to stimulate good discussions. One last comment on the Forum – if you went, during AOB at your Zone and Club meetings, please tell your fellow lions your thoughts (the good, the bad; perhaps we will forget the ugly).

Final Thoughts

As I write this I am sat in the meeting room straight after the Council of Governors has finished business for the day and, as promised during my various chats to Cabinet and Clubs, I am looking at a consolidated list of projects that preceding Councils have committed Lions to over the years. It is quite extensive and I will go over it carefully and spread the relevant information through Cabinet, Zones and Clubs in the usual way.

DG Dave



Colwyn Bay honour Lion David



At an emotional evening recently Colwyn Bays Lions Club awarded a posthumous Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion David Durrington, which was received by his widow Jeni, and members of his family.

Lion President Caradog Jones spoke of Lion David as "a very loyal and dedicated member of the Colwyn Bay club for almost 22 years"

DG Dave Handley, in presenting the award, spoke of Lion David's commitment to

Lions, and to his family.

After receiving the award Jeni Durrington spoke of her sadness at not being able to thank those that attended David's funeral, but that she was greatly appreciative of the care and kindness offered to her from Lions throughout the District, and beyond. She wanted to thank all Lions for their support during the last 12 months.



Lion President Caradog Jones, Mrs Jeni Durrington & DG Dave Handley

Lions see results of their good deed

A level student Laura Smith, from Lawley, had written to Ironbridge Lions asking for help to enable her to take an active part in sport again after being inspired by cyclists at the Paralympics. Ironbridge Lions made a £500 donation to Laura, who suffers from complex regional pain syndrome that causes extreme pain in her legs and joints. A new bike would have cost around £5,000, but after contacting Paralympic bronze medallist Rachel Morris who suffers from the same condition, Laura managed to buy a second hand bike from her for just £800.

June Softley, President of Ironbridge Lions, said: "We were so impressed by Laura's determination to improve her quality of life that we didn't hesitate to offer our support. Despite having to cope with a debilitating condition since the age of nine, Laura faces up to all her life challenges with a smile. The bike is an incredible piece of machinery and we were delighted to see how well she is handling it already."

Laura said: "I am very grateful to Ironbridge Lions for their donation, and of course to Rachel Morris who, by selling me one of her old bikes, has enabled me to get a bike sooner. Through the "Ican2" sports and leisure programme I am able to take the bike on the track at Oakengates and I am really starting to find out what it, and I, can do."



June Softley, President of Ironbridge & Severn Gorge Lions, with Laura Smith

Ironbridge & Severn Gorge Lions



CANNOCK HOST LADIES EVENING

Cannock Lions Club organised a Ladies Night on 10th October 2013 at the Premier Suite, Cannock. The event raised funds for Stafford Hospital's Breast Care Unit. Studies have found that holistic treatments such as Reiki, aromatherapy and acupuncture are beneficial to Breast Cancer patients during their treatment so the event raised a fabulous £1150 to enable them to have some TLC and help them on their journey to recovery as



the hospital does not have the funds to do this. This will be the beginning of this fund and it is hoped that it can be built on for the future.

At the Ladies Night there were stalls and beauty treatments and a fashion show in which breast cancer patients modelled some glamorous clothes and they had their hair and make up done by pro-

fessionals. There was belly dancing with audience participation and the evening ended with a fantastic band and we danced our cares away. It was a lump in the throat and inspirational evening.

Forget X Factor the evening had the 'Feel Good Factor'.

NEWCASTLE RAISE SIGHT AWARENESS

Newcastle Lions Club staged a Sight Awareness Event in the Roebuck Centre, Newcastle, at which representatives from Action 4 Blind and the Macular Society were also present.

Since April the club has collected over 3500 pairs of spectacles and forwarded them to Chichester Lions Club. Many were collected on the day.

Lion Jean is pictured making a spectacle of herself for the Sentinel newspaper photographer, which resulted in a report in the paper, and a video clip on their web site. Also shown are Lions Pam Jarvis and Lisa (hands in pockets) Tyler



The copy deadline for the next issue of the District Newsletter is 22nd November

Please send everything in electronic format (Word documents with **separate** Jpegs) to me.

Can correspondents please check days and dates for accuracy.

Please identify key people in any relevant photographs otherwise the impact of the story line may be severely compromised by the omission.

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

Many thanks. John Whitehouse (Editor)



My Fellow Lions

We have now funded our first Newlife Kit Box! At our October Business meeting Stone Lions Club handed over a cheque for £434, raised through selling a portion of the contents of a jewellery box, to Chris Belyavin of the Newlife Foundation.

Our Kit Box will be loaned to a child with special needs for 2-3 months and will then pass on to another child. With the average life of a Kit Box being 4 years, we expect up to 16 children will benefit from the loan of the box.

Each box we provide will contain a flyer stating that the box has been funded by a Lions Club in 105BS and will include details of Lions Clubs International and the work we do in our communities. We currently have 7 clubs involved in the 'Box for a Box' scheme and I'd like to say a big Thank You to all who are taking part. If anyone would like more information about Newlife, please give me a call.

Chris Handley



"A FITTING LEGACY"

Before Ann's elderly grandmother died, she spoke to Ann's husband Mick and told him not to buy flowers for her funeral, but to "Buy a kid a pair of shoes."

After the old lady passed away, Lion Mick went to a local children's home to find out about the need for shoes. He saw for himself that in a world of hand-me-downs, new shoes would be very much appreciated. He went out and bought shoes for two needy children to put a smile on their faces.



Lion Mick always said that when he died, he wanted people to do the same-to buy shoes, not flowers.

Following the sudden death of Lion President Mick in March this year, members of Stoke on Trent Lions Club decided to set up a memorial fund for Mick, starting with donations from his friends, relations and fellow Lions.

They contacted a local food bank which serves many needy families and found out that shoes for the children would be a Godsend in today's difficult economic climate.

Wynsors Shoes in Hanley were then approached and readily agreed to accept Lions vouchers in return for children's shoes. They were so impressed with the scheme that they agreed to a 5% discount on all shoes purchased with the vouchers.

The project is now in full swing and a number of children are back at school sporting a pair of brand new shoes. Stoke on Trent lions will ensure that funds are topped up whenever necessary.

Lion President Pauline, Lion Ann and their trusty Lion visited Wynsors to take photographs in the store.



Let's SEE what Lions can do!

Stafford Lions marked World Sight Day with a display in the Guildhall Shopping Centre, in conjunction with Vision Express. There was equipment and technology on show that can help visually impaired people, loaned by Action for the Blind. John May from Lichfield Talking Newspapers was also there. Stafford Lions collected used spectacles on the day, and have netted 3,210 pairs of glasses and 320 used hearing aids since they took over the duty from Stafford Rotary. The glasses and hearing aids are sent overseas to help people in need in developing countries such as Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Nepal and Nigeria



Words from our Bev...

Well I am sure preps. are going on for our Winter Activities, yet it is still very quiet. At the October Forum I discussed the merits of Facebook and Twitter. There were a few sceptical faces, but it is one of the easiest ways of communicating. Members can be gained and events can be advertised. If it is good enough for Coca Cola & Lego it certainly is for us.



I was surprised that there were many blank faces when I mentioned the Quarterly Briefing which by the way is due out any day. It has been included in the District Mail since it began last year. Please ask your president about it. It can be edited to suit your club.

May you be reminded that an agreement has been made with Staffordshire Fire Service to collect spectacles and boxes have been placed in Fire Stations. Of course on your behalf I had to pop into my local Fire Station to check this out purely for research you understand!! It's a good job as our box had been used to save a family of ducklings! It may be worth the clubs in

Staffordshire checking this out and perhaps getting an article in the newspaper and social media.

It would be lovely to hear from our clubs from Wales as we have hardly heard from them at all and we would love to hear what they are doing.

Poppy wreaths are available with the Lions Logo from the British Legion order forms are online on their site.

Photo: Cannock Fire Station's lovely firemen who were very welcoming on our visit.



Goodies for the Troops

Telford Lions Club has just put together 30 boxes of goodies to be sent out to serving troops via the Support Our Soldiers campaign. Each box contains 28 items from a suggested list of goods supplied by SOS. These vary from tee shirts to toiletries; cup a soup to greetings cards and shortbread to sweets. "We hope the recipients will find the items useful and realise that people here in England are thinking of them" said Lions organiser Clive Elcock. "It is quite a challenge to ensure everything fits in the boxes."

Just 10 days later the email below arrived from Afghanistan—it speaks for itself



Photograph show Lion Clive Elcock looking at the items to be fitted into the box.

Thank you very much for the shoeboxes myself and the lads have received.

It's encouraging to know that members of the public aren't taking our efforts out here for granted. The boxes are a real morale booster. Simple things like the shower gels, sweets and instant hot drinks are a great morale booster out here in the desert.

Once again, many thanks to the Lions members, and have a Merry Christmas.

A Happier Soldier.

STONE LIONS BLINDFOLD WALK TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER, 2013

As one event in a series of events held worldwide to commemorate Lions International World Sight Day which, by tradition, is always the second Thursday in October, Stone Lions Club organised a blindfold walk in the Town Centre on 8th October. It was based on the Market Square and involved walking the High Street with stops for photos outside the two opticians who collect used spectacles for us.



In addition to a very good turnout of Club Members, the Town Mayor took part, walking blindfolded escorted by President Glenys Sanders and two Lions in lion costumes; Guide Dogs for the Blind joined us with, in addition to a full adult dog, an eleven week old puppy – Guide Dog of the future! To help raise funds for them Lions Hilary King and Peter Leatt took over two collecting boxes and managed to get £63.60 in just under an hour! We were also very pleased to have the support of Lions Rick and Pam Talbot of Gnosall Lions Club. Two local schools, Walton Priory and Christchurch First brought children along, alternating wearing blindfolds, to give them the understanding of what partially sighted and blind people experience.

During the walk used spectacles were collected from the two opticians and from passers-by.

The end result of adding these to the collection was that we were able to announce that the Club had reached a total of 10,000 pairs passed on for recycling through the procedure set up by Lion Mike Ward nine years ago.

John Sanders – Stone & BS Health Team Chair.