

DISTRICT NEWS

District Governor 2015-2016 Lion Chris Aked

DG message for March Newsletter

The clock is ticking...barely a week or two to our Convention! Convention Host Debbie Owen is flying around with her team, checking on the arrangements while Convention Chair David Morris is masterminding the "business" content, various reports and presentations.

While there are some serious topics on the agenda, a key element of the weekend is to HAVE FUN with everyone enjoying the social activities on Friday and Saturday nights. In between there's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends...and make new ones! If you haven't booked and would still like to attend, even just for the day, don't hesitate to do so... more information is available from Dave Morris or Debbie Owen.





Talking of enjoyment, one of the highlights of the month, indeed of my entire year, was attending the Young Ambassador programme in Dudley. 12 fantastic young people from throughout the country told us their amazing stories, each of them packing in more support for good causes than some people do in a lifetime. Our own District winner, Drew Morgan, sponsored by Rugeley Lions, did an excellent job... those attending the Convention will be able to hear her speak...another great reason for attending!

Elsewhere this month, I've attended great Charter evenings at Cheadle and Stone although I had to miss Whitchurch

due to a family illness.

As mentioned last time all the District Governors have been heavily involved in preparing and debating the resolutions to be submitted to the MD Convention in May. Clubs have been asked to consider submitting amendments to the resolutions and some have done so.

At the Convention, I will outline how I think the redistricting resolutions – if passed - will affect BS while Council of Governors' chairman, Simon Moss, will be on hand to spell out all the benefits of the proposals on a national level.

In summary, there are countless reasons to join us at Cranage Hall! See you there!

Best regards

Chris



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Bev's PR Bit

It's Convention time! Woo Hoo. Love to see you. We have more Scrapbook entries this year which is great. Use them as a PR tool. I want to see lots of selfies and even some videos. Now you all know how I keep talking about the wonders of Facebook as a PR tool? It is also a source of information for you too. Some very nice person sent me the following:-

FREE B&Q unsold stock (sign up to wastage scheme)

FEB 21 2016/

Have you heard about the B&Q Wastage Scheme? It's called Community Re-use.

The scheme is in place to donate unsellable products and materials for re-use, for the benefit of the local community and the environment.

Who can get the free B&Q stuff?

If you're an individual, you're out of luck, you need to be part of a group that is going to use the stuff for good.

Eligible groups include:

Schools and colleges

Child minders, playgroups and nurseries

Allotment associations, community gardening projects

Youth groups including scouts, guides and cadets

Registered charities

Hospices

Conservation groups including The Conservation Volunteers and Forest Schools

Community projects organised by local churches and other religious groups

Women's Institute, Lions Clubs, Rotary, Townswomen Guilds

Royal British Legion

Adult education projects, University of the Third Age

Other local community groups

What can I get?

The items are unsellable, but that doesn't mean rubbish. No electrical or dangerous product can be donated e.g. broken ladders, faulty chairs or lights. Items you'll get include wood, paint, tiles, turf etc

I've heard that schools for example have been given gardening equipment and Christmas decorations.

How do you apply?

Ask your local store to see if you apply, and if they have any stock (or will do soon). You should then contact head office (0333 014 3098) and ask to be added to the scheme. You'll then be given products for free that they can't sell within the store.

There's no guarantee - but it's always worth giving your local store a call if you are part of an eligible group.

Some of you maybe aware of the scheme but I certainly wasn't. Let me know if you are successful. Bev.

A Warm Welcome to New Members in January & February

Birkenhead - Lee Crabtree

Bridgnorth - Neill Flannery Keith Hawward

Crewe & Nantwich - Arron Colclough

Ellesmere Port - Cyril Rose

Sale - Gloria Mensah

Stafford Pauline Gay Christine Lewis

Stone Paul Martin Shirley Martin

Vale Royal **David Mawson Cindy Smethurst**

Wrexham Maelor Virginia Stewart



I would like to give a sincere apology to those new members who joined our wonderful organisation in January as I failed to record you in our District News Letter. Ed.



Congleton Need TIES

Congleton are aiming to run a Tie Stall with all proceeds going into their Charity Account.

They have started collecting ties and request that everyone ransack their tie store and select any that are ready for a new home.



Ties can be delivered to District Convention (a designated collection area will be set up), Cabinet Meetings (Sheila Lee will collect), Zone E and F meetings.

Mark or Sheila will also be attending the following charters and will collect any donated ties: Sale, Stoke, Congleton, Newcastle, Ellesmere Port, Knutsford

Please, please see what you can rustle up, and help Congleton with this different and imaginative approach to fundraising.

GNOSALL LIONS NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

The Christmas period seems a long way away now and although quite quiet on the activity front we have been out and about in the village. Firstly, with a can shake at the local Coop and collecting tins in 3 of the local pubs, we raised the grand sum of just under £200 for the Flood Relief Appeal, to which we added a donation from out of our Charity Fund sending off a cheque for £400. To date the UK Lions total stands at £80,000 which is an amazing figure ,and we can be proud as a village that £400 has been donated by the villagers of Gnosall and Haughton.

In fact the father of one of our members house was flooded in Keswick, with him only having 20 minutes notice to get out, and he was full of praise for the work that the Keswick Lions Club did, especially in providing food and shelter when he was at his most vulnerable.

We have now recommenced our monthly Table Top Sales in conjunction with the Village Hall. There are always bargains to be had so why not come along and take a look and if you are feeling peckish then the lions Snack bar is always in operation for a cuppa and a bacon butty.

The Afternoon Tea Dances is beginning to become a bit of a hit with numbers attending increasing, we had 35 for our February Valentines special with people coming from as far away as Lichfield and Stoke on Trent who were so im-



pressed by both the music and the food that they are all hoping to bring even more dancers, so if you want a pleasant afternoon then why not come along on Tuesday 8th March when the theme is St Patricks Day (a little early I know) and on the 2nd

Tuesday of the month. We originally planned to run the dances through to April only but it has been requested by many of the dancers that we continue them throughout the year so we are looking at the possibility of doing so. Please watch this space for future updates.

We are proud to announce in concert by popular request the revisit on Saturday 5th March of the ladies from the Stafford Military Wives Choir supported by David Bartley, the Tipton Wordsmith. This promises to be a great night with the tickets a very reasonable £5-00 obtainable from the village Post Office or by phoning Rick Talbot on (01785) 823177. This will take place in the memorial hall and starts at 7-30, and please feel free to bring along your own snacks and drink (as there is NO BAR facilities on the evening).

Rick Talbot Gnosall Lions Club



Centenary News

See you at convention

There will be a short presentation about the centenary before a guest speaker gives us a personal view on the benefit having a hearing dog has brought to her life.



Look out too for the centenary stall at convention, there will be information about all our targets and progress towards them. If you have any ideas for celebration activities please drop them into the ideas box on the table.

There will also be a supply of collecting boxes and envelopes for stamps and foreign coins – if you only have a few simply bring them along and add them to the convention collection.

Keep an eye out for two very special four legged visitors —Piper, a fully trained hearing dog, and also one of the puppies in the early stages of training.



Please remember to record any work towards centenary targets as part of your club's activities report. It is very simple;-

Go to MyLCI then to MY Club-Select Service Activity-Select Add activity-Select signature project – then a drop down menu will list all the MD targets-Select from the list and enter details then save.

Please let us know if you are taking part in any centenary project. Any photographs or news items would be welcome for the special centenary edition of the newsletter for 2017.

For more information contact District Centennial Chair PDG Shirley Vaughan

Multi District Young Ambassador Final Weekend February 2016



The serious side of the whole weekend came on the Sunday morning when Lions from all over the 13 Districts came to the hotel to listen to the candidates give their three minute presentations about their community work and projects for which, if they won the competition, they would use the £1000 bursary prize. Once again this was an extremely humbling experience and I do not know where the candidates get the time to sleep!

The winning candidate this year was Gurleen Kaur from District W. Our candidate Drew Morgan sponsored by Rugeley Lions gave an impressive performance and I am extremely proud of her. You will hear all about Drew's wonderful work at our District Convention on 12th March.

Full report from DO Kate Barlow in District Information.



TAMWORTH LIONS HELP TWO RIVERS SCHOOL ON ICELAND TRIP.

Two Rivers Senior Special School in Tamworth appealed to Tamworth Lions for help with their forthcoming school trip to Iceland.

The club found three ways of helping the pupils with their fundraising.

Firstly, the club gave a Soft Toy Tombola set, for the pupils to fundraise, and the pupils successfully raised over £100.00 through their own efforts.

Secondly, the club gave the school a stand at last years "We Love Tamworth" event, enabling the pupils to raise over £200.00 for the trip.

Finally, through the recommendation of a former pupil, who is a Tamworth Lion, the club pledged £250.00 towards the trip.



The cheque presentation was made recently at the school, and the picture shows, from left to right:

Lion Geoff Trevena, a pupil going on the trip, teacher and trip organiser Clive Edmunds, another pupil going on the trip, President of Tamworth Lions, Pam Trevena, two more of the pupils going on the trip, and Lion Vice President Mark Kyte.

President Pam said "The pupils have not just

asked for money for their trip – they have gone out and raised funds for themselves – they are a credit to the school and the young people of Tamworth. I am sure that the pupils will all have a wonderful, exiting time when they go away on their adventure holiday."

Lion Geoff. Trevena

| Stoke on Trent | 175 |
|---------------------|-----|
| Tamworth | 96 |
| Llandudno | 73 |
| Stone | 52 |
| Ellesmere Port | 58 |
| Newcastle | 46 |
| Flint | 45 |
| Cannock | 37 |
| Little Orme | 35 |
| Leek | 32 |
| Beaumaris K.A. | 20 |
| Uttoxeter | 8 |
| Urmston | 7 |
| Wilmslow & District | 6 |
| Barton-u-Needwood | 4 |
| Congleton | 2 |
| Sale & District | 1 |
| | |

TRAVELLING LIONS to 19th February 2016



Please can you send the completed forms to myself within 21 days of the event so I can get them to MD by 28 days.

As I have had a few calls asking me to confirm my address, it still is:

Lion Sarah Cowling 22 Foxlair Road, Manchester. M22 9RN



Lichfield Support Penguins Swimming Club for the Dissabled

Lichfield Lions were approached by Jon Townsend of the Penguins who used to partake in Lichfield Lions annual sponsored swim to raise funds for their club. Lichfield Lions abandoned the Swim several years ago through lack of support from the community, however the Penguins have really missed the support that we offered.



Lichfield have now provided the Penguins with new T shirts for all the swimmers and helpers and also donated a further £500 for essential training for all the helpers.

Left to right:- Ross Ward, John Cassie, DO John Whitehouse, Paddy Ruske, Sue Rusk, John Townsend, Penguin's Treasurer.



The copy deadline for the next issue of the District Newsletter is 22nd March 2016

Please send everything in electronic format as attachments

(Word documents, with separate Jpegs)

But don't worry if you can't, just send what you have and I will sort it out. The most important thing is to send me your news so we can all benefit from your successes.

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:- Lion John Whitehouse bsnewsletter@lions105bs.org.uk