



District 105BS
Evolving Together
- We Serve

DISTRICT NEWS

District Governor 2015-2016 Lion Chris Aked

DG Message for April Newsletter

The clocks have sprung forward, the sun is beginning to shine (well, occasionally) and Lions throughout our District are as busy as ever running projects and supporting their communities.

Many of them took a day or two off to come to our Convention at Cranage Hall in Cheshire where they enjoyed a fantastic venue, wonderful food, Lions' fellowship and excellent business sessions. The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs, provided a provocative opening to the day with some very salient points about the need for Lions to promote itself more effectively. At the end of the day, our guest, chairman of the council of governors, Simon Moss, gave us an illuminating overview of what Lions must do to strengthen the organization. In his passion and enthusiasm he got slightly carried away with the length of his speech...but, fully accepted good natured ribbing for the rest of the weekend!

This year we had more than 100 members enjoy a unique "host night" with food to suit all tastes, a dress up theme which inspired some amazing costumes and a singer who got everyone off their feet until the late hours. The formal banquet attracted 140 revellers who, again, enjoyed the food and excellent music from a "big band".

District Secretary Rob has sent out a questionnaire, asking those attending for feedback on the weekend...but it's equally important to find out why clubs don't attend. This year we had 42 out of our 56 clubs present, slightly down on recent years. The good news is that we had around 300 people there for the business session, slightly up on previous years, indicating that many people perhaps prefer to make it a "day trip" rather than enjoying the social events. **It would be extremely helpful if ALL clubs responded to the survey.** The convention team is not looking for compliments - they are genuinely interested in finding out how to produce a weekend which suits a higher number of our members.

Talking of Conventions, I can't help but put in a plea to clubs to consider attending the MD Convention in May. This year's convention is even more important than usual – delegates will be voting on the future of the organization. Whether members agree or disagree with the proposals, if clubs aren't there they can't vote!

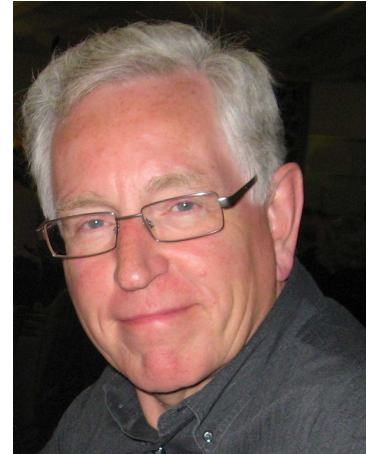
Apart from preparing for the Convention, during March I enjoyed two excellent charters, Uttoxeter and Bridgnorth, the latter celebrating their 40th. This month the Charter season is in full swing...I am scheduled to attend six events !

Another highlight was the opportunity to attend the Lions United Nations Day at the House of Commons. More than 200 Lions packed into a committee room to hear speakers from several organizations with connections to the United Nations. At the end of the session I had the privilege of proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers...a wonderful experience.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to thank members for their countless messages of support following the death of my mother just three days before the Convention. Your kindness and good wishes helped our family get through a challenging few days with fellowship, fun and inspiring sessions.

Best regards

Chris



Bev's PR Bit

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Well, I hope you have recovered from all those Easter Eggs, and not felt too sick. Also your lost hour of sleep. It was lovely to see those of you who came to Convention. We had a couple more scrapbooks which was very good, and congratulations to Gnosall Lions who won the Competition. Also congratulations to Ironbridge & Seven Gorge Lions for winning the Kevron Trophy, Stafford Lions for their website and Stoke on Trent for Visiting Lions competition. It was just like announcing the Oscars!

Lion Christopher Oatway gave a talk on social media, he will be involved in the Forum this year in May so please get involved. As I mentioned last month we now have a Lions Forum for you to give your opinions, share ideas etc. Here is the link <http://lionsclubs.co/forum/> You just need to give a few details to register then you will receive an acceptance email and away you go. You can start topics reply to existing ones very easily. It is a way to chat to other members around the country.

Back to Convention well done to the team for getting an article and the press there. It is on their Page on FB. If you have any photos please post them to our district FB page. Let's show the public that we do have a good time. There are some great fancy dress photos.

Did you see the Marie Curie ad? Here is the link <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/blog/lions-clubs-daffodil-appeal/56914> Our Lions Pauline & Roger Gay are on the MD site look <http://lionsclubs.co/Public/lions-clubs-boost-marie-curie-daffodil-appeal/> don't they look good? Well done!

Now I have had some email problems over the last month, they are solved now, so if I have not replied to your emails it may be worth you sending them again.

Roar! Summer is on it's way.

A Warm Welcome to New Members in March

Bridgnorth	Chris Cadwallader	Sale	Simon Whittaker
Burntwood	Mark Bloxham Sylvia Reeves	Stoke on Trent	Graham Huckfield
Chester	Aileen Wright	Stone	Jan Kinsman
Hednesford	Bryan Blount Andrea Bowley Gillian Lawrenson Jordan Middleton Alex Trusler Ann Webster		
Knutsford	Lydia Barclay Stacey Hinton George Williams		



Zak has the Heart of a Lion

Junior rugby player Zak Banner has been made an honorary Friend of Stafford Lions. The 13 year old has given up his spare time to help the local charity and fundraising organisation, taking part in a number of events, holding collection tins and donning a lion costume to raise awareness.

The teenager plays in the second row for Stafford Rugby Club's Under 13's, who are now being sponsored by Stafford Lions. The sponsorship money has been used to purchase new playing shirts with the Lions logo on the front.

Jeff Dixon, president of Stafford Lions said, "Stafford Lions are keen to promote youth leadership and development, and Stafford Rugby Club is an excellent example of this in action."



A spokesman from the club said, "We are extremely grateful for the contribution that the Lions have given to our rugby club and look forward to building relations with them in the future."

Best wishes
 ZC Lion Dave Lewis

DREW GOES TO PERU VIA RUGELEY AND ON TO DUDLEY!

When Drew Morgan approached her local Lions club for help to sponsor her working holiday to Peru little did she realise how far the journey would take her!

Last summer Drew and two other Rugeley students were part of a team who took part in a trip of a lifetime to spend a month in Peru helping to improve the infrastructure of a school, teaching English to youngsters as well as trekking to see the sites up in the Andes, including Lake Titicaca and Machu Picchu.

On their return all three girls were presented with the Young Lions in Service Award in recognition of their achievements and for helping Rugeley Lions in a number of fund raising events so as to gain the financial support of the club.

Drew then went on to represent Rugeley and District Lions in the Young Ambassador competition talking about her other voluntary work and overseas experiences and made it through to the MD finals held in Dudley.

Drew followed this up by giving a presentation at the Lions District Convention and was awarded a £500 bursary to help continue the on-going programme of development in Peru.



Drew never imagined two years ago when she started to look for support that her travels would lead to such rewards and the delights of visiting Peru and Dudley as well as Holmes Chapel!

Ultimately, this experience has helped Drew find her vocation and she starts university in September to begin teacher training where she will continue to be an excellent Young Ambassador for herself, Rugeley and the Lions.

Ed RulePR Team
 Rugeley & District Lions Club

Drew Morgan, Rugeley Lions Young Ambassador, receiving her cup from 1st Vice DG, Steve Shields.

Centenary News

Three targets already achieved!

In the MD we have already exceeded the targets for hearing aid recycling, bulb planting and Young Leaders in Service hours, but please do continue work in these areas.

It was good to see and talk to so many people at convention and to hear of club's plans for centenary activities. I hope you enjoyed meeting hearing dog Piper and puppy in training Kennedy.

Thank you to all who brought packs of used stamps to me, as a result I was able to send off 3 of the special envelopes packed full and lots of people also took envelopes to fill themselves. It was interesting to learn from our Hearing Dogs speaker that over £9,000 was raised last year from collecting used postage stamps alone. If anyone has small numbers I am happy to continue to pass them on.



Lots of clubs still seem unclear about how to report their centenary activities so I am happy to repeat the instructions:-

Go to MyLCI (presidents, secretaries and treasurers should have a password) 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

The Final Results for 2015 to 2016 Competition Ending 29/02/2016 are:-

Stoke on Trent	198
Tamworth	101
Llandudno	73
Ellesmere Port	66
Flint & District	53
Stone	52
Newcastle	52
Cannock	37
Little Orme	35
Leek	35
Beaumaris K.A.	20
Uttoxeter	8
Urmston	7
Wilmslow & District	6
Barton-u-Needwood	4
Congleton	2
Sale & District	1

TRAVELLING LIONS



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.

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

A VERY BUSY WEEK FOR TAMWORTH LIONS!

Tamworth Lions Club, who this year celebrate their 40th birthday, have had a very busy week!

President Pam invited the Mayor of Tamworth to officially open the first Public Access Defibrillator, provided by Lions, in the town centre, close to the town hall. Club members and other guests joined in the official opening.

Mark Kyte, Vice President said: " We had a good event at 'We Love Tamworth', a family and fun day last year, so the club decided to fund the purchase and installation of the Public Access Defibrillator, with the bulk of the funds raised, as a way of putting something really useful back into the community"



Who was there? - Front row, L to R – Mayor of Tamworth, Maureen Gant, President Pam Trevena, Lion Linda Kyte, Lion Trish Lambert.

Back row, L to R – Councillor Kenneth Gant, Lion Roger Bragger, and Philip Howard Optician's Owner, Max Langfield, and Lion Geoff Trevena.

And then, Tamworth Lions held a race night! Unfortunately, some well-known characters sponsored horses and won some races!



Tamworth Lion Trish Lambert's horses won the first and third races!



Then Lichfield Lion Michael Knight's horse won the third race.



And then, to cap it all, another Lichfield Lion, John Cassie's horse won the 4th race!

The evening was a roaring success, with a supper of baked potatoes, ice cream in exotic flavours if wanted, a bar selling all manner of beers, wines and soft drinks for the thirsty punters, and at the end of the event, the satisfaction that Tamworth Club had put on a 'good do', enjoyed by all, and the event put over £600.00 into charity funds.

Lion Geoff. Trevena

This could be YOUR CLUB's space.

Tell us what you have been doing

We really do want to know

**All Club Secretaries/Presidents please forward a copy
(electronically if possible) to all Club members.**

ED

Schools in Harmony

There was much talk at our Convention about what Lions role is. The emphasis was very much on Service – “we are the largest service organisation in the World” – but also recognising that our fund raising could provide much benefit to the Community. Perhaps one of Cannock Lions Clubs events can provide an example of these two elements not being mutually exclusive.

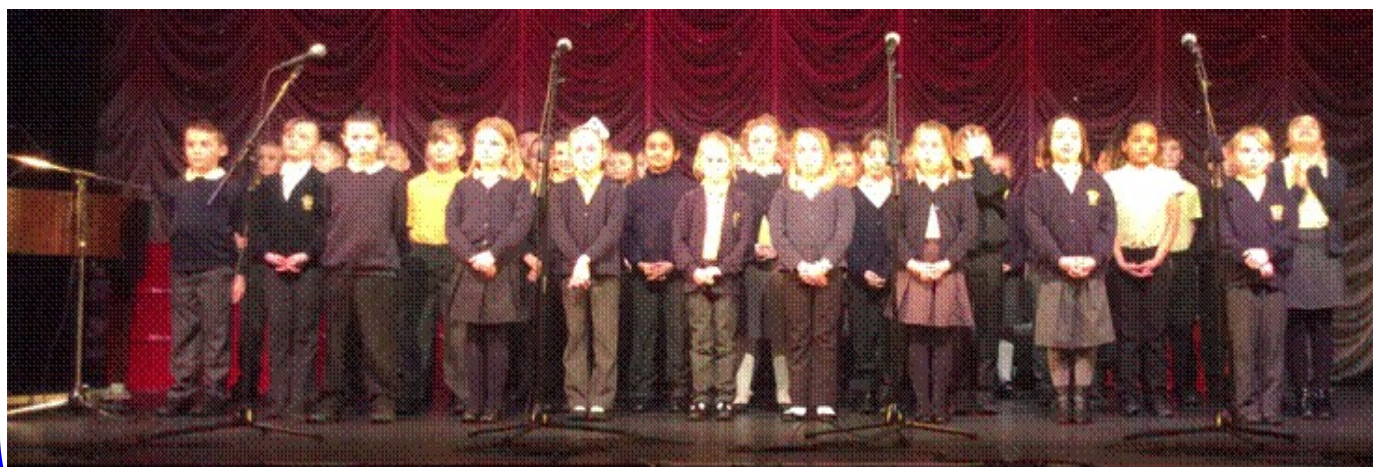
Music in the modern world is very important particularly the younger generation. They are seldom seen without a mobile device and an earphone!

Cannock Lions Club has recognised this by organising a “Schools in Harmony concert” each year for the last four years. Schools are invited to participate in a concert held at the local Prince of Wales Civic Theatre. Organised by our member Doug Smith we seek sponsorship to cover the expense of the Theatre and programmes. Members are delegated to chaperone each School; to act as Spotlight operators; to meet and greet the members of the Public; to sell the inevitable raffle tickets; to act as Ushers. They also have a great time and lots of fun! It is not a chore or a job; it’s an evening at the Theatre!

Infants and Junior Schools provide the opening half and Senior Schools the second half. In the years we have had Choirs, Choirs that sign, Soloists, Rock group’s, Piano duettists, Guitar solos, Steel drum bands, songs written by the singer, an amazing version of Les Miserables and an even more amazing version by a Junior School of Uptown Funk complete with actions. The talent and creativity of the children has been of the highest standard, sometimes very emotional, sometimes rousing, never failing to hold the attention and sensational entertainment. The audience has grown over the four years and this year we nearly filled the Theatre. The sponsorship enables us to keep prices to an affordable level.

It provides an evening of wonderful Community service, an opportunity for local children and youths to showcase their talent, and for parents and the public to support both their children and the local community; and GREAT entertainment.

AND here’s the punch line each year we have made funds to help local good causes. This year it is likely to be close to four figures. WIN WIN.



GNOSALL LIONS CLUB UPDATE

The past month has been, to say the least, hectic with 7 events taking place. We started the month in what I feel is possibly the most rewarding part of being Lions, with 6 of us being members of Zone team hosting 630 special needs children to an amazing day out at Waterworld. There they were treated to sole use of the pool and, at the finish, every child was given a goody bag. The teachers and helpers were given an Easter Egg to take home. The look on the children's faces said it all, as to many it was the highlight of their year.



This was followed up by a return visit by the Military Wives Choir to the village, one of their last jobs before appearing alongside Lulu on her UK tour. With them we also, as compere, had the amazing David Bartley, the Radio WM poet and word-smith. Most villagers had never

seen or heard him before and by the end of the evening we were getting a bit sick of comments like "Amazing", "Incredible", and "Where do you get these people" from etc. Well to those who came they will both be back to the village in the future, and to those who missed it, you missed a cracker of a night.

The following day we had our monthly Table Top Sale in conjunction with the Village hall Committee, and the numbers through the door were in excess of 100, due mostly we feel to the new banners advertising the event. Please note the new start time of 10-00 am and why come along on Sunday 3rd April for the opportunity to pick up a bargain or two and a bacon butty, we look forward to seeing you there.

Next on the agenda was our St Patricks theme, After-noon Tea Dance, again with increased numbers. Due to its popularity we are now continuing it until at least July and perhaps beyond, dependant on demand. So the date for this in your diaries is Tuesday 12th April, at 2-00 pm with music by David and Doreen at the modest price of £4-00. Please feel free to come along and join us, if not to dance, then to listen to some lovely music and copious amounts of Teas and Coffees and light refreshments included in the price.



Gnosall Club was very successful at District Convention and we picked up 1 major award for our village Scrapbook, placed 2nd overall for our involvement with the Lion Magazine Nationally (3 major articles in 12 months) and placed 3rd overall for our youth work. When you look and see that we compete against major city and large town clubs then we definitely punch above our weight as a village. We also had 4 competitors in the Convention Golf Competition managing to bring in 3 trophies, Congratulations to Lynne Stone for winning the Ladies trophy (it was almost as big as Lynne) and to Howard Jones for the BS Buddy Trophy as the winning guest. I actually won the OSWALD but enough said about that. We also have coming up on 16th June our annual Golf Day again at the Aqualate Golf Club

Coming up we currently have some Easter Eggs in some of the local establishments, please support us as every penny we raise goes to help in and around the village, and since we started we have raised in excess of £25,000, most of which has been used for projects and good causes in and around the village.

DO Rick Talbot

TAMWORTH LIONS HELP KINGSBURY GUIDES TRAVEL THE WORLD.

Kingsbury Girl Guides appealed to Tamworth Lions for help with their forthcoming trips to Guiding events around the world.

The club found two ways of helping the Guides with their fundraising.

Firstly, the club gave a Soft Toy and chocolate Tombola set, for the Guides to self-fundraise, and they successfully raised £100.00 through their own efforts.

Secondly, the club gave the Guides, at a presentation as pictured, a cheque for £100.00 as match funding for the Guides efforts.

Presenting the cheque, Lion Linda Hunt commented "It makes a change for Lions to recognise and reward self-funding of potentially life-changing experiences for young adults – I wish all of the Guides a happy and fulfilling experience."

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

Lion Patricia Lambert, 5 of the Guides going on the experiences, and Lion Linda Hunt.

Lion Geoff. Trevena



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