



District 105BS
Evolving Together
- We Serve

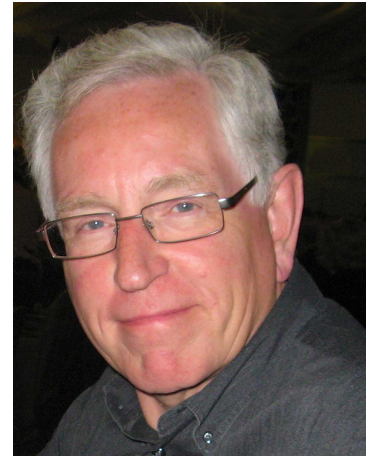
DISTRICT NEWS

District Governor 2015-2016 Lion Chris Aked

DG message for February

This month, I thought it might be helpful to explain something which, for most Lions, is a bit of a mystery...but something which impacts all of us as Lions...The Council of Governors.

I must confess that until a few years ago I hadn't even heard of this "august" group, and people who did know about it seemed to speak in hushed terms...almost reverently! Well, let me tell you...members of the Council are just *members*, like the rest of us, and there's no need to speak in such tones... They are simply Lions trying to do their best for the organization when they meet on a quarterly basis.



At the latest session at the end of January I spent more than 48 hours locked up in a crowded meeting room at an hotel in Solihull, debating and reviewing a wide range of Lions topics. Apart from other governors the meeting was attended by the council secretary and the council treasurer, Andy Pemberton and Philip Goodier respectively, and chaired by Simon Moss, a former Governor in "M". Their job was to provide information and guidance to the Council members – but all decisions were made by the Governors, representing the 13 Districts in the UK and Ireland. I think if you speak to any of my fellow Governors, they'll all feel as I do that they are not *special*, but merely there to represent the views of the clubs in their Districts and, hopefully, to look after the long term interests of Lions as a whole.

This latter part means that the Governors have to try to think of the "bigger picture" and not be too parochial; and to ensure that decisions are made which are fair to the majority of Lions in this country. I can tell you that during this latest meeting there was often heated debate but that, in the end we reached conclusions on a number of important topics. Apart from questioning or accepting reports on various projects from MD officers, the Council spent a great deal of time reviewing the proposals for redistricting and ways to make the organisation more efficient and cost effective.

As a result, a number of resolutions were approved for consultation with clubs – notifications on the resulting resolutions will be issued very shortly. Eventually, these resolutions, possibly with amendments from clubs, will be debated at the MD Convention in May.

I will provide a more detailed update at our Cabinet meeting in Chester on February 7th – if you'd like to know more please join us there !

Best regards

Chris

Bev's PR Bit

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Well where did January go? It was very quiet where you all snoozing after the festivities ? The latest thing for PR is there is now a forum for every Lion to get involved with. It is a kind of Message Board online for you to communicate with other Lions throughout MD share ideas all the details and links are in the District Mail along a note asking if there are any Scrapbook entries for competition which is held at convention. Please let me know if you have one. Have a play with the Lions PR Toolbox. Let us know if it is useful and any comments of what we can include. Will cover a section each month in Tool box. I mentioned a couple of months ago about using phones to record short videos. Cannock Lions did three small ones and got over 3000 views. Can you believe that? They were not super duper high quality videos. Cheap and cheerful. That is why reality TV is so popular.

As I mentioned before about Flood Relief for Cumbria here is the link for the public to donate <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/donatesteps.aspx?beneficiarycampaignid=2348> please share this on your website and Social Media. If you look on Lions Giving page there are a few links for public donations for you to use. <http://lionsgiving.co.uk/>

Love Bev xx

A Warm Welcome to New Members in December

Rugeley:

Derek Evans

Wallasey:

Leslie Thomas



TAMWORTH LIONS REACH 56,000!

Tamworth Lions have reached another milestone in their drive to collect and recycle spectacles.

Pictured is President Pam, putting the final touches to the latest shipment that is being prepared for Chichester Lions, that includes the 56,000th pair of spectacles collected by the club.

President Pam said: "It's great that we have reached yet another milestone in our drive to collect and recycle used spectacles in the Tamworth area – we are getting quite a name locally for this recycling project with leading Opticians and Charity Organisations collecting for us in the collection bins we have provided – and no, I have not had to personally empty the wine boxes that we are filling with spectacles, and sending off to Chichester Lions!"

We are making an extra effort with collections over the next twelve months, as part of our commitment to the Lions Centennial Project."

Lion Geoff. Trevena



Santa In Lichfield

Lichfield Lions had decided not to offer their services to the local garden centre, providing Santa and 2 helpers for 5 weekends before Christmas plus the whole of the weekdays in the run up to the magic day. Quite naturally, they were delighted to be offered the opportunity to accompany Santa on a Round Table sleigh for just one evening. Not too difficult a task you might think, but they insisted on a minimum of 15 helpers. We met at 4.15 pm on the Sunday and walked the streets of Fradley, a (not so small) village just outside Lichfield. We didn't stop our wanderings until 9 pm, and then we were encouraged to retire to the local pub to count the £1000 that we had collected.



Lion John Whitehouse receiving the cheque on behalf of Lichfield Lions

We all found the evening extremely hard work, but our cut of the £14,005 raised by Lichfield Round Table and about 18 other organisations in and around Lichfield, made it all worthwhile. Will we do it next year? That will depend if the blisters have healed and the memories become softened with time. Thanks also to the 2 helpers from Barton u Needwood Branch Club, who will be sharing our £455 cut of the takings. One thing that we all agreed on, was that the co-operation between Lions and Round Table was extremely beneficial to all of us.



Lichfield Round Tablers and representatives of the organisations who took part.

Selfless Dennis Awarded BEM

Lion Dennis Parker has been awarded a British Empire Medal for his services to the community in and around Uttoxeter.



Dennis Parker with his letter informing him of his BEM.

The 84-year-old will travel to Buckingham Palace next year to receive his award from HM Queen Elizabeth.

A spokesman for the New Year's Honours said: "He was founder member of the Uttoxeter Lion's club in 1975 and is now the only charter member remaining.

"In 1998 he was elected chairman of the Millennium Committee where he was responsible for raising £80,000 for the improvement and extension of the Denstone Village Hall by organising local event's and applying for local grants.

Centenary News



Three ways to support one target



One of our centenary targets is to raise £10,000 to fund the training of a hearing dog to be allocated to someone in our district. Such dogs make an immense difference to the life of someone with a hearing impairment; bringing independence, companionship and confidence. The dog gives practical support 24 hours a day, alerting them to sounds they can't hear. Sounds we take for granted like the doorbell, the phone, alarm clock and even danger signals like the fire alarm. All clubs are asked to consider supporting this target.

1. Clubs can do this by simply making a donation – send it to the District Treasurer made payable to Lions **District 105BS** endorsed Hearing Dogs on the back.
2. Run a fund raising event specifically for this cause – promotional material is available and we may even be able to find someone who already has a dog to come along. Let me know if you want any help to make contact with the local Hearing Dogs Community Officer.



3. Collect used postage stamps and foreign coins. Stamps should have a border around them. Coins of any currency are accepted. If you just have a few a collecting box for each of these will be on the centenary display table at convention, if you want to do more I will have a supply of collecting boxes also on the stall.



Remember to record this and any other 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 this activity or any other centenary project. Any photographs would be welcome for the special centenary edition of the newsletter for 2017.

For more information contact District Centennial Chair PDG Shirley Vaughan

LCIF Information

Firstly we wish to thank all clubs for the continued support to LCIF. However, several cheques have been received lately that are not filled out correctly necessitating re issuing and wasted postage. Therefore, may we just say once more, all donations to LCIF must be made payable as follows; MD 105BS Appeal Fund and countersigned on the reverse as to where you wish to donation to be applied. Please note that when an appeal over and above normal LCIF Categories is launched it is always made clear as to where donations should be directed. However, if any club is unsure then donations can simply be directed to "Undesignated funds". Alternatively, if there is doubt then please contact your LCIF DO. Clubs in Zones A, B,C,D & E ie: DO Lion Don Nickerson (North) and Clubs in Zones F,G,H & I DO Lion Graham Dow (South).

With many thanks for your cooperation The International Team

Santa takes well-earned rest after successful Christmas in Telford

One of Telford's best known and loved annual visitors is taking a well-earned rest after a busy festive season.

As well as visiting local children on Christmas Eve, Santa assisted the members of Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions throughout the month of December as they fundraised to help local causes and needy families.

Travelling with them through many miles of Telford's residential streets in his sleigh and visiting all the major super-markets in the area, Santa helped Ironbridge Lions to raise more than £4500 in the run-up to Christmas.

In an age when local clubs and charity groups are struggling to keep going due to diminishing member numbers, Ironbridge Lions Club yet again accomplished an enviable list of achievements over the Christmas period including the collection of food items to prepare 102 hampers that were later distributed to local families by social services and other agencies.

Established in 1979, the club may have fewer and older members than it used to, but when it comes to fundraising for the people in the South Telford area, neither its efforts nor its success has diminished.

As well as its travels with Santa during December, the club, which currently has just 17 members, also helped out at both Ironbridge and Madeley Christmas lights switch-on and The Abraham Darby Academy fundraiser carols concert on the Iron Bridge on Christmas Eve. On January 3rd the club took 25 children plus carers to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarves at Oakengates Theatre, presenting each child with a goodie bag before they left.

President Mavis Derham said: "Although Club members all work really hard throughout the Christmas period it has to be said that we couldn't achieve what we do without the help and support of others. The Club has a number of 'Friends' it can call on for help during busy fundraising times, people who cannot commit to being full members but who are happy to help out when they can. We also get a lot of help from Telford Volunteer Police Cadets.

"In addition to our Friends we are also grateful to the local media who publish the dates and routes of our rounds with Santa and his sleigh in advance of our coming. But our biggest thanks have to go to the people of South Telford who year on year await our arrival and come out to meet us with contributions of money and food. This year in particular we were told by many that they had written the dates in their diaries so that they could make sure they didn't miss us. It's fantastic and we thank them all."



Santa climbs wearily into bed, assisted by his Elf.

Stoke on Trent	162
Tamworth	86
Llandudno	68
Stone	52
Ellesmere Port	51
Newcastle	46
Flint	45
Cannock	37
Little Orme	35
Leek	32
Beaumaris K.A.	20
Uttoxeter	8
Urmston	7
Barton-u-Needwood	4
Congleton	2
Sale & District	1

TRAVELLING LIONS to 19th January 2016

There were no reported travellers in the period from 20th December



I have had it confirmed by multi district head office that Branches can compete in their own name if they want to.

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

GNOSALL LIONS CLUB UPDATE

After a busy Christmas period where we were around and about with Eccleshall Mercia accompanying Santa on the Sleigh, supporting the Victorian Christmas market, a tea Dance, Table Top Sale and running the Tombola Stall at the Gnosall lights switch on, we are now slowing down a little but not too much. So many thanks to all who supported us, not only on those events, but also on the other events throughout the year. Because of the support, we were able to assist in supporting many local good causes and other wider appeals such as the UK Flood Appeal and BBC Children in Need.

We also held a New Year Onesie walk which, to be honest, was very poorly supported which was a shame, given that the weather was good, it wasn't raining but we managed to raise £25 on the day which we have doubled from our Charity Fund and given to the Gnosall Surgery for Patient care.

However it is not all work as during the month we also had a Christmas Social together and a trip to the Rock n Roll Christmas Panto in Stafford, with a social event at least once a month throughout the year, a Lions tradition.

So what have we got planned and coming up. To start with the monthly Table Top Sales are taking place in the memorial Hall and in an attempt to increase turnout they are planned for starting at 10-00am. Why not come along and get yourself a bargain and also a 'bacon buttie' to go with it. The Afternoon Tea Dances are also well into swing, taking place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month up until April, with February's being a Valentines Theme.

Then in March we have got a return of the popular Military Wives Choir, this time headlining in concert with David Bartley, the Radio WM Poet in support. If you have never heard him then you have missed a gem. The easiest way of describing him is to say he is a Black Country version of Pam Ayres, local dialect and hilarious with no vulgarity, just an amazing sense of humour and a true wordsmith. Tickets will be on sale shortly at £5-00, the date for your diaries, Saturday 5th march in the Memorial Hall, it will be a night to savour.

Finally I should like personally to thank all who supported me on my Boxing Day Dip in the sea at Llandudno in support of HAEUK, the charity which supports those with the rare and dreadful condition of HAE, as I managed to raise in excess of £2000 and am always looking for more support, so thank you one and all and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Rick Talbot

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