

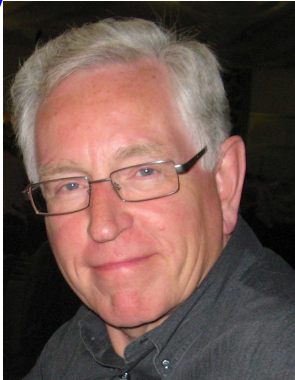


District 105BS
Evolving Together
- We Serve

DISTRICT NEWS

District Governor 2015-2016 Lion Chris Aked

Happy New Year to all Lions in BS!



The Christmas holiday period seems to have been and gone in a flash! I know what great work many Lions have done during December, from manning Santa sleighs to delivering food parcels to needy people, from supporting carol services, to helping with parties for senior citizens.

At the same time several of our clubs have offered direct financial help to clubs further north where flooding has meant a miserable time for many. Flooding at any time, as I know from personal experience, is never much fun but to have it through the Christmas holidays must be absolutely dreadful. Many of our Clubs have shown their true Lion spirit by sending money directly to affected Clubs, especially those in Cumbria. I also know from my counterpart at BN, Mike Bagnall, that his Clubs have worked tirelessly to provide support ...and they'll need to do this for quite a while. At the time of writing we are also considering whether BS clubs could also provide practical, on the ground

support...ideas will be considered in the coming week or two.

The DG team has now completed most of its visits for the year and all of them, without exception, have proved enjoyable and enlightening. I'd encourage all Clubs to consider visiting other clubs on a club night, not just those within their zones which they probably already know quite well, but others further afield. No matter how long a Club has been in existence we can all learn from others!

As we move into January, my thoughts have already turned to our District Convention in March. Our convention host committee, together with convention chairman, David Morris, are doing a magnificent job in lining up what will be a fantastic few days. Hotel bookings are already well ahead of expectations and I urge as many people as possible to attend, both to enjoy the social events and to participate in the business session, where not only will there be reports from team leaders but there'll also be insights on future plans.

Part of the convention will be given to discussion on proposals for the redistricting and changes in how the organisation is managed. At the end of this month I will be attending the Council of Governors meeting where draft resolutions on the proposed changes will be discussed by the Council, together with the Vice Council (of which Steve Shields is a member) and 2nd VDG Teresa Nickson. I will report back on the discussions next month.

Finally, on a sad note, Wrekin Club formally closed during December - I want to thank them for their years of service and wish every member the very best for the future. Membership for the first six months of the year was down by 19 members, compared to the start of the year. But allowing for the fact that 14 of these were from the two closed clubs (Holyhead and Wrekin) the drop is not as high as it might be. What it does stress, is the importance for all clubs to recruit new, *quality* members on an ongoing basis. By "quality" I mean people who are prepared to be active and committed in helping us to do what we do best - serving our communities. I am not interested in adding numbers just to tick the boxes from MD or Oakbrook. Even small Clubs with committed, active members can do a fantastic job, sometimes even more so than larger clubs where there are members who are unable to participate on a regular basis.

With this in mind IPDG Carole, as GMT chair, will take an urgent fresh look at membership recruitment and retention, and develop initiatives for implementation in the coming months.

Best regards,

Chris

Bev's PR Bit

Happy New Year!

Why not make a New Year Resolution? Try a new way of promoting your club. Either by radio, social media or a video. I talked last month about videos. My club posted on little video less than a minute long. It got over 2000 views. In this day and age especially with Social Media everyone is a journalist we no longer have to rely on the press and spend a fortune on advertising.

The District Website competition is about to be judged. Every website will be judged so please update your site.

Don't forget the Photo competition. A really good way to get publicity at this time is to promote the North of England disaster. Details will be circulated in January I am sure there will be online PR posters that can be downloaded for public donations.

Let's Roar into 2016.

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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



Lions Save Yasmin's Ph.D. Place

Stafford Lions Club recently received an urgent request from Michelle, a single parent living in Stafford. Her 22 year old daughter Yasmin, suffers from ME, a debilitating condition, which has left her needing an electric powered wheelchair without which she would be unable to complete her university course.

Michelle is justifiably proud of her daughter who has been battling ME since she was 12 years old. In spite of much time lost due to ME at school and university, Yasmin has fought to complete her A Levels before gaining a Masters Degree in Developmental Genetics. She is the only disabled student to gain a M.Sc. in this field at Nottingham University who were very keen for her to go on to qualify for her Ph.D Research Degree. The problem is that Yasmin was able to claim disabled students allowances (DSA's), a grant enabling her to hire an electric mobility chair whilst studying for her Masters degree but the grants are not available for Ph.D students. Mum had appealed to the university and local charities for help but met with no success.

In desperation Mom emailed Stafford Lions Club to see if they could help. The request came to Welfare Chair Lion Glenda Chard who with Lion Dave visited the family, and they immediately realised that this was a very genuine case made extra urgent by the fact that Yasmin was due to go back to the university the following Sunday. Owing to the extreme fatigue and pain in her arms and hands Yasmin is unable to propel herself in a manual wheelchair and, to have any degree of independence, she needed an electric powered chair, one that would get her around the laboratory and fit under a work bench.

Stafford are not a cash rich club and would never be able to afford £1800 to purchase a chair or the over £100 a month to hire one. However the Lions Club in neighbouring Stone have a fantastic mobility aids scheme where they have over 200 items of specialised mobility equipment available for long or short term loan. Glenda wasted no time contacting Lion Mike Ward at Stone Lions who instantly said they might have an electric wheelchair that would be suitable for a student. Mike gained an MBE for his work setting up the mobility scheme which has now been serving the community for 25 years.

On the Friday Michelle, Yasmin, Glenda and Dave met Mike and to everyone's delight the chair was ideal even better because it could fit in the boot of Mom's car. So on the Sunday Mom and daughter were able to drive off to Nottingham University happy in the knowledge that Yasmin would be able to manage her uni' work.

Glenda has received an encouraging message from Mom, Michelle, to say that Yasmin is so pleased that she has her independence again and she whizzes around the university hospital. As part of her research Yasmin is very excited as she is going to be working in conjunction with a lab in Germany using Casper fish. They are apparently see through and she will be taking cells from her zebra fish and placing them into these Caspers and will hopefully be able to see the blood vessels start growing. It won't happen quite like that of course, it could take months to get the cells right and it has never been done before, hence the excitement.

Glenda said that Yasmin deserves a great deal of credit for overcoming so many obstacles in her life and who knows who might benefit from her research in the future. It gave us a great feel-good factor to know that we could help this delightful young lady to, hopefully, achieve her goals in life, a great example of Lions Clubs working together to make a real difference.

Zone Chair Lion Dave Lewis
Stafford Lions Club



**Yasmin trying out an electric wheelchair
watched by Lion Mike Ward MBE.**

Ellesmere Port Lights Up



Ellesmere Port Lions Club held their 6th Annual Community Firework Spectacular on Friday 6th November. The event was attended by thousands from the local community and beyond. Each year we seem to get bigger and more popular.

There was a large funfair, food outlets, entertainment and much more.

Entry to the event was by donation into buckets, The crowds certainly showed their appreciation by freely giving. It was very rewarding for our members to see

their efforts once again had been supported in this way whilst bringing the community together. Roll on next year.

Steve Talbot
F/R Chairman



Your Club News could be here.... Please send me details and pictures of your Club's achievements. We all work very hard doing good in our community so why not share your experiences. Ideas can be very useful for other Clubs, especially new Clubs and Branch Clubs.

Let us all make that little extra effort in 2016 to SHOUT!

ED.

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 20th December 2015



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.

Looking Forward to a Colourful Spring

10,000 bulbs have been planted by Telford Lions as part of the Lions centenary celebrations. "We are building up



towards a great show of colour by planting this year and next" said Lion President Shirley Vaughan. "It is only possible thanks to an environmental grant from Veolia, we are very grateful for their support which has enabled us to buy the bulbs." They have been planted in three areas of Telford, Muxton, St Georges and Wellington with labour being supplied by the Lions with the help of local youngsters. The primary school helped at Muxton, the Scouts at St Georges and the Boys Brigade in Wellington. "It is great to have young people involved in something that should give pleasure for many years to come"

The last 2,000 bulbs were planted in the Peace Garden in Wellington to the delight of the Mayor Councillor Phil Morris Jones who stopped with an encouraging word for the planters on his way to open proceedings for Wellington Christmas lights switch on day.

**Lion John Vaughan in the Peace garden in Wellington
with the last sack of narcissi.**

Llandudno Lions Boxing Day Dip

Rick Talbot, Gnosall Lions Club, was amongst 120+ swimmers, many in fancy dress, who braved the Irish Sea on Boxing Day to take part in the Annual Llandudno Lions Club Boxing Day Charity Dip. Rick was taking part in support of HAEUK, a rare condition which both he, his daughter and also recently diagnosed grand - daughter are all fellow sufferers. Rick from Gnosall travelled down to Llandudno early on Boxing Day to take part supported by his family.



District Officer Rick Talbot, of Gnosall Lions Club

herself until she remembered she was not dressed appropriately and was driving.

Conditions on the day were horrendous, driving rain, a high tide, large waves and high winds at the Colwyn Bay end of the Promenade. They gave way, surprisingly, to a calm sea at the pier end of Llandudno under the shelter of the Great Orme and once you got in the water you forgot the temperature as the atmosphere amongst the dippers was absolutely electric. In

fact Rick's wife Pam was heard to say that she almost went in



The safety cordon of RNLB in the water.



As said the object of the day was to support HAEUK. This is a small national Charity run by fellow sufferers and their families with no professional paid fund raisers or external funding. Up to the present time Rick has raised in excess £1800, thanks to the support of fellow Lions, Lion and Rotary Clubs and individuals who have all assisted in making this amazing sum possible. Thanks

should also go to Llandudno Lions Club for their amazing organisation to make it all possible and also to all those who turned out in their 1000's to support beach side.

And Yes, he would do it again, and if he can do it at 69 then anyone in good health could also do it.

Lions Club of Llandudno

Boer War Memorial and Act of Commemoration

Members of the Lions Club of Llandudno and the Mayor of Llandudno held a brief service of remembrance for the local volunteers who fought in the South African (Boer) War during 1900 to 1902. The service was held in the ancient church of St Tudno situated on the Great Orme. The service was conducted by the Rector Prebendary John Nice. Reverend Nice warmly welcomed members of the club and the Mayor to the church even though the conditions outside were wet and windy.



After the service an Act of Commemoration took place at the memorial obelisk within the church cemetery. The Mayor of Llandudno Cllr Frank Bradfield and Club President Gordon Woodyatt laid wreaths at the memorial after a two minutes'



Inside St. Tudno's Church

At the Memorial. Rev Prebendary John Nice reads the Act of Commemoration-

This annual service followed on from when over five years ago the Llandudno Lions had the memorial refurbished. It has now become a regular club event taking place on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday.

A spokesman for the club said "this is what Lionism is about. It is a group coming together and doing something for the community. The memorial needed attention and we were able to do something. Following this the Town Council made a donation to the Lions and the club put this money towards sponsoring new slates for St Tudno's church roof."

On Saturday night the town had its firework display organised by the town council. A number of Lions were on hand to help with the part of the bucket collection.

The Lion president and members of the club were out on parade again on Remembrance Sunday along with other voluntary groups. It



Lion Gordon (R) at Remembrance Sunday Parade

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