



# ***DISTRICT NEWS***

**District Governor 2016-2017 Lion Steve**

## **DG.s Message**

A change of season, yes autumn is here, but in the Lions world it is the start of the Charter sea-



son. We have recently enjoyed great evenings with Cannock, Vale of Llangollen and Telford over the last couple of weeks. It is sometimes surprising to see how far people travel but it is testament to

the friendships made over many years that Lions continue to support club charter nights way outside their own zones.

Several of us enjoyed a weekend in Barton-under-Needwood, many canal boat enthusiasts do, but perhaps I had better qualify that a little. The Saturday was to help marshal an attempt at the World's Biggest Rugby Scrum and the weather didn't help. The rain came in much sooner than expected and stopped many people attending. They were somewhat down on the target despite sodden Lions being dragged into the scrum from the car parks but it was a record for Staffordshire if not the world and everyone had a really good day.

The following morning we did a membership leaflet drop – in lovely sunshine! I understand that four potential members attended the 'Meet the Lions' event subsequently and all are expected at the next Barton meeting. The club branch with President David Pomroy and co is very active already and a few more bodies would allow them to do even more. They, with the Lions from Lichfield, Cannock and Tamworth who always give support, thoroughly deserve success for all the effort that they have put in.

I am very grateful to Lion President Joan Williams and Wrexham Maelor club who have agreed to organise another Welsh UN Day. The one in Wrexham in 2015 was extremely successful but sadly the one in South Wales this year did not get the same support so my counterpart from 105W will be coming to 'observe'! More details will follow next month.

LP Joan is also very much involved with the Eisteddfod and I have also recently had chats with others on the organising committee. It is a very important event and in this centenary year we hope to put on the best display possible. To that end I would hope that a few more can be encouraged to join the committee, we will give notice of the AGM next month, and as many Lions as possible volunteer for an odd day, or at least visit what is a truly spectacular International event.

Best wishes

Steve

## A Warm Welcome to New Members in September

Ellesmere Port:-

**Keith Bott**

**Josephine Bott**



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### **Wrexham & Maelor Lions Have Vision**

The spectacle recycling initiative was launched in 1967. Wrexham Maelor Lions club are part of this initiative and have recycled this year over 5000 pairs of used glasses.

Once they are collected and sorted they are distributed to clinic and eye camps in communities across Africa, India, Ghana, and Eastern Europe.

One region which gets overlooked when relating to eye care are the homeless, who are also supported by this initiative.



The project also raises financial support for eye related issues at home and overseas by recycling the scrap metal from broken glasses. Even the glasses cases are put to good use by our local Hospice.

Wrexham Lions extend their appreciation to all the opticians in Wrexham and surround areas that help us with this project.

### **Wrexham Maelor Lions**

**Chartered in 1963 Founder Club of Wales**

## **Environmental Monthly News.**

Articles about Environmental District 105BS and

MD105 Photographic Competition

Information and State of Nature 2016 Report  
just published September 14/09/2016.

Link for Lions Environmental Newsletters

<http://www.lions105bs.org.uk/>

then click on Community Projects

Christopher Evans. Environmental Officer.



## **Wrexham Maelor Lions Club**

Wrexham Maelor Lions have been supplying Toiletry Packs to all the admittance wards of the Maelor Hospital Wrexham since 2012.

The wards covered are Mason, ENT, A & E and Lister to which a total of 2,500 packs have been issued at a cost of £3,200.

The aim is to supply toiletry items to the patients who are admitted into hospital in an emergency, giving them facilities to wash etc until they are able to make other arrangements.

This project has proved very successful, a great benefit to the patients, and helpful to the staffs, which the members of Wrexham Maelor Lions hope to continue.



## **Introducing Your PR Officer**

As 'Lions' is in my blood, family, heart and mind, I am sure that many members within the district are already aware that I joined the organisation (Macclesfield Club) on my 18th birthday whilst my father was President. This Lionistic year, I now have the honour of holding that post, as well as being invited by District Governor Steve to serve as PR Officer on the District Communications Team. Having also been membership chairman of my club (and relatively young - 24), I am extremely passionate about the need for new blood within our pride and encouraging a younger generation through awareness and promotion (can you tell I work in marketing?).

Last year I attended my first Lions convention and thoroughly enjoyed it. Membership and youth were high on the agenda and I also presented a segment about social media - something that can be used freely to promote the whole organisation as well as locally. Local publications are also a great effective (and free) way of getting exposure in our communities.

The communications team are working with MD to seek out ways to get information to you - the members - on who the organisation it relies. It would not be around but for you ordinary yet amazing people doing extraordinary things, as well as getting your feedback rather than it being a top-down approach. These 'things' should be promoted with pride and the mission of the communications team is to improve communication internally (you may have seen the new email newsletter that is going to every member) as well as raising awareness of what has been

labelled as "the world's best kept secret" - us!

'We Serve' and should be proud of this.

We should be promoting everything we do. All of the organisations and charities we donate to, all of the causes we support, all of the events we organise, and making sure that everyone we come into contact with sees our logo/emblem. They may go away and 'Google' us, opening up a world of information, and want to join us. In clubs struggling with membership, "brand" clubs have been considered, and we have had some success stories. Another option for encouraging young people is education and leisure facilities. If young people know about us before they reach joining age, they can have us in mind to volunteer with, whilst at college or during university, or even if they chose not to pursue further education. They may tell their parents of our presence and more and more people will be aware of us and the possibility of joining.

I hope that these ideas are valid and you see a future for development. If we don't try, we don't know and we won't know what could have been.

If you have any ideas yourselves, feel free to contact a member of the communications team. In fact, please do!

**Christopher Oatway**  
**PR Officer 105BS**  
 M: 07873 485265





## Just passing through

Lions John and Shirley Vaughan caught up with their son Steven on his way through Shropshire on the Ride Across Britain, as he passed within a few miles of home; they were representing Telford Lions Club who are among his supporters.

Steven was taking part in the 970 mile cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats. He was among 600 riders who left the tip of Cornwall and arrived at the opposite end of the British Isles just 9 days later after cycling over 100 miles a day. He had nothing but praise for the extra padding in the expensive cycle shorts he had invested in!



He is being followed by a film crew, complete with drone camera and has particularly enjoyed being filmed going downhill with the camera car trying to keep ahead of him!

He loves his bike and rides for pleasure so decided to raise funds for those who actually need a bike for transport, students and health workers in the developing world. He is raising money for World Bicycle Relief. So far he has enough sponsorship to pay for 31 bikes and is hoping to boost this to 35 by the time the last monies are in. <http://fundraiseuk.worldbicyclerelief.org/biking-theUK>

PDG Shirley Vaughan—Telford Lions Club

**This space is here because YOU didn't tell me what you did last month.**

**Please get your Press Officer to send me an article and some pictures—we all want to know what you have been doing.**

**Ed.**

# Centenary News

## A special birthday tea!

As part of our centenary celebrations we are planning tea and cakes for all, this will happen at the end of the business session of convention. Watch out for details of how to get your ticket. (There is no cost to attendees but we will need advance numbers for the catering.)



## Excellent news from Knutsford Lions

Knutsford Heritage Centre is to mount an exhibition about Lions worldwide and locally for our centenary. This will be for a period of two months next year and is being prepared by the curator with the help of Pat Heath to full exhibition standard on a number of separate panels which will cost £60 each. At the end of the exhibition they will be available to the club for use at their big event on 29 May 2017. The club will then make them available as a District Resource. They would appreciate some help to finance it, if any other club could to give a small donation it would be much appreciated. Has any other club plans for a major exhibition of Lions work? Please let us know.

## More good news

Here is a list of what we, as a Multiple District, aim to achieve by the end of 2017. Those highlighted in yellow have already been achieved – with spectacle recycling and measles vaccinations totals fast approaching their target figures.

- Plant 100,000 trees and 100,000 bulbs
- Recycle 1,000,000 pairs of spectacles, 10,000 hearing aids and 1,000,000 batteries
- Fund 100,000 measles vaccinations
- Run sessions for 100,000 prostate screenings and 100,000 diabetes screenings
- Make 100,000 befriending calls to the elderly and donate 100,000 pints of blood
- Walk, swim or run for a good cause
- Feed 100,000 hungry people
- Use LEHP to refer 100,000 for sight tests
- Encourage young people to give 100,000 hours of service via YLIS
- Clear 100 miles of paths
- Sponsor training for 14 hearing dogs (2 in Ireland, 1 each in other districts)

Please remember to record your club's achievements on MyLCI so they can be included in the totals. We know lots more has been done than has been recorded.

## Don't forget to keep the camera handy and look out for photo opportunities.

Our Centenary SNAP 100 competition is easy to enter. All you need to do is take a picture of the numerals "100" and send it in. Lions are known to be ingenious and inventive so let's see what unusual forms and positions we can find.

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

## Llandudno Took to the Air



On Wednesday 14th September a team from the Lions Club of Llandudno along with family and friends took to the air at Zip World Velocity, Bethesda. The event was organised by Lion President Stuart Lowndes to raise money towards a prostate cancer screening clinic and

the new Llandudno Lifeboat station. Lion Stuart said on the day "I am so please with how the day went. There were 10 Lions and fiends taking part to raise money. I am grateful to the team and would like to also thank members of Happy Faces who joined our party and raised money for us and their charity. The sponsor money is now coming in and we expect to have raised £2,000. So on behalf of those who took part thanks you to everyone who have given so generously". Lion Stuart also thanked the management and staff at Zip World for a fantastic facility.

The Lions Club of Llandudno will be running a prostate cancer screening clinic on 24th April 2017 at the Trinity Centre, Llandudno. It is a free of charge clinic for males in the at risk age of 45 to 70 and consists of a very simple blood test. To run the clinic and cover the costs of the blood tests the Club needs to raise around £3,000. The Club is getting ever closer to this target but are still looking for support and donation.



Lion Stuart said "statistics show that from such test of 200 men, 10 per cent will show a warning and need a referral to a GP. From those referrals half will indicate a positive of prostate cancer. By getting this early warning and treatment we can save the lives of these men."

Photos show the Lions party before going on the wire and a photo of two members of the group on the first of the two zip wires.

Lion Martin Smith  
Lions Club of Llandudno,



## TRAVELLING LIONS

District travelling/visiting lions competition up to 20 September 2016.

Stoke on Trent	67
Llandudno	66
Wilmslow and District	52
Beaumaris Menai Aethwy	50
Ellesmere Port and District	46
Cannock	46
Tamworth	41
Telford	34
Urmston	23
Leek	19
Uttoxeter	16
Newcastle	12
Flint and District	8
Congleton	7
Prestatyn & Rhyl	2
Stafford	1



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

### Please note

One person can only claim for one event per day. I have had a few forms sent to me which cannot be included for this reason so, for example, if you claimed for the business meeting at convention you cannot claim for the banquet and ball for the same day .

## GNOSALL LIONS

We have also been round and about, assisting in tidying up after the V Fest , with hundreds of tents, sleeping bags etc saved from landfill which after refurbishment or cleaning will find their way to assist in Disaster relief somewhere in the world. We also managed to save a few for our own use locally which have all been donated to a refuge, with the tinned food items collected given to the Church for their Appeal for this type of item appearing last month in the GPN.

Youth wise we have recently presented a trophy to Stafford grammar School for a Lions Project called Young Lions in Service which awards youngsters (school years 7-13) for their work in the community with the possibility of Gnosall Guides also adopting the scheme.

Rick Talbot—Gnosall Lions

## **Finding Lions on Cannock Chase**

Rugeley & District Lions Club recently teamed up with Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team to help raise funds and awareness of the two organisations.

With sightings of various wild animals reported on nearby Cannock Chase over recent years it was decided that we should hold a 'Lion Hunt'.

The idea was that we would take an area of Cannock Chase and divide it into 1000 squares on a map, each square being numbered.

With the assistance of SSART we would then arrange for members of Rugeley Lions to go out and hide in 4 different areas of the Chase. SSART, who were on a Training Day, would then set off to discover them as quickly as possible.

As the Lions were found, the exact spot was recorded by the GPS equipment which was then compared to the number of the square on the map. This determined the winners of the raffle tickets with the first found determining fourth prize, the second third prize and so on.

The search started at midday and all Lions were returned safe and sound to base in time for winners to be announced by 4.00pm.

As well as the hunt, stalls were also set out and SSART provided various vehicles which were explained to interested parties.

Recently the Search Team had approached us to see if we would assist them in purchasing some communications equipment. With a recent Duck Race which they had assisted us and the Lion Hunt we were able to present them with a cheque for £1175,

**Picture shows members of Rugeley and District Lions Club with Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team**



Peter Fielding  
Rugeley & District Lions Club

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

Please identify key people in any relevant photographs otherwise the impact of the story line may be lost.

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