



# DISTRICT NEWS

District Governor 2016-2017 Lion Steve Shields



## DG's Message for April

The highlight of the last few weeks has been, of course, our District Convention. From the minute the first Lions in fancy dress came in on the Friday night the atmosphere was charged with good humour. The business session went pretty well to schedule and I

have to thank all who made presentations for keeping an eye on the clock. Shaun Stocker of the Blind Veterans UK made a big impact on us and I hope he continues to make progress with his desire to be part of the Paralympics at one of the forthcoming games. Nova the puppy with Vicky Ryan and her team from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People also impressed everyone, only eight months old but so well behaved at lunch. Can I remind you that Hearing Dogs is Jean's Appeal and we are a little short of the £10,000 needed to provide one dog, and which is also one of our Centennial targets.

I think our International guest PID Kenneth Persson with his lovely wife Eva made a lot of friends, so easy going but with a wealth of knowledge. A room full of interested Lions for the Q & A on the Sunday morning proved his popularity. In a letter since, he remarked that they found judging the fancy dress much more stressful than any of the presentations.

I hope everyone has had the chance to see the photographs courtesy of ZC Martin Smith who does such a great job over the weekend of Convention, not forgetting all the editing afterwards.

It was very pleasing to have a good representation of Lions from BS at the UN Day at the Palace of Westminster, and apart from a couple of, shall I say politely, 'technical' bits, the speeches were generally very interesting and not too long. District and MD Peace Poster winner Grace Medley (Cannock) was the star though, after receiving her cheque from PIP Al Brandel she spoke to the audience of about two hundred in a Committee Room at the Houses of Parliament. Nice to have on your CV at twelve years old! However I write this as the details of the incident there, are just coming through and it is shocking to realise that only eight days ago we too were happy snappers on Westminster

Bridge. It serves as a reminder that the stringent security at such places is absolutely necessary. Hopefully it will be less so in Wrexham, for the Welsh UN Day on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, which looks to be a very entertaining afternoon. The venue is Maesgwyn Hall, Mold Road, Wrexham LL11 2AF (opposite the Glyndwr University where we were in 2015). Doors will be open from 12.30 for a cup of coffee for an official start at 2.00pm.

We have attended Charter celebrations at Stone, Uttoxeter, Ironbridge and Bridgnorth and thank everyone involved for making them so enjoyable.

At Convention I emphasised the need for delegates to go to Blackpool for the Multiple District Convention. In my view a positive decision on re-districting is vital to the future of Lions in the British Isles. Once the thorny issue is out of the way I feel the positive energy in working at a new District with new ideas, will rub off on all of us and give us more heart to do what we should be doing, bringing in new members to help better serve our local communities.

I am very grateful to PDG Frank Marnell for organising the River Dee Cruise with International President Chancellor Bob Corlew which is a sell out. With the assistance of Lions from Ellesmere Port and Chester we should give IP Bob and his wife Dianne a memorable visit.

Best wishes Steve



## Thanks from Convention Chair PDG David Morris

As I didn't get a chance to thank all the members of the host committee and others at this year's convention, I would through the newsletter like to take the opportunity to thank everyone of this committed hard working group of people. It has been a pleasure working with the them for the last 18 months or so to plan and stage this year's convention. Many people perhaps do not realise the hours that are spent to ensure that the whole of the convention is a success.

There is also a larger group of dedicated Lions and none Lions that have helped out in many ways to ensure that visitors and guests arrived safely, room stewards, hosts to greet everyone, those on registration desk, everyone who looked after the various stalls and not forgetting those that just came along to help in any way they could. We couldn't have done it without them. A big thank you to you all, you deserve a big pat on the back.

There is no questionnaire this year as we've had one for the last two conventions but if you have any comments to make just send an email to [convention@lions105bs.org.uk](mailto:convention@lions105bs.org.uk)

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## Latest bit of excitement from Alsager Lions Club.

Picture shows (Looking at the picture on the left) is Alsager Lions secretary Mel North and Lion Ron Lucas having a fun and successful morning at the Tesco Store in Kidsgrove Staffs, collecting on behalf of the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal.

Both Lion's wish to thank the Tesco Store staff for their help and especially the store customers for their generosity, it was a fabulous morning.

Ken Livingston  
Alsager Lions Club



25/02/2017



## Environmental Monthly News.

Articles about Environmental.

This month article making hedgehog house for hedgehogs and conservation measures to protect the decline in hedgehogs.

Link for Lions Environmental Newsletters  
<http://www.lions105bs.org.uk/>

Click on "Community Projects" and then "Environmental Newsletters"

### Copious Cuppas in Telford, Part 2

Well we did it. The Big Build is done, Matthew and his family are home at last in a building suited for his needs. It was a fantastic experience to be part of such a superb enterprise.

From the first day it was amazing to watch as so many tradespeople converged on the site with deliveries coming in and waste going out at a fair rate. Organising the logistics must be a mammoth task but all appeared to go pretty smoothly. Around 100 volunteers signed in most days which kept the tea makers busy all day long.

The club was amazed at the community response- local businesses donated all the bottled water, tea, coffee, milk, sugar and even paper cups along with loads of biscuits and cakes. Club members, family and friends began a frenzy of baking to ensure fresh stocks daily. After publicity in the local press at the half way stage kind individuals began turning up on site with even more cakes which gave the club's bakers a bit of a break.

The workforce and the BBC team were very appreciative of the service we were giving – one team commented on Facebook *"a big thank you to the Telford Lions for all your support on the big build. We could not do this without you and your endless supply of tea, coffee and not forgetting all the cakes. Remember, every builder likes his tea and without you nothing would get done!"*

It was a challenging task, serving an estimated 500 drinks a day from a small gazebo on a crowded building site. As we were on site



Carole & Nick

everyday we also ended up manning the daily signing in, the issue of personal protection equipment and even the gates at the site entrances some of the time.

Although filming in February and March meant it was cold and wet at times it was very satisfying to be part of such a fantastic effort. So many were involved providing their labour and skills, equipment and materials; neighbours gave over their drives for parking porta cabins and stock; some even had their own garden fences taken down to provide access to the garden. It truly was a great community effort and we all felt it so worthwhile when Matthew and his family came to see the finished product. The alterations mean that he can come home at last and will ease many of the practical problems his family face in caring for him.

"We serve" is our motto though we don't usually take it quite so literally! We guestimate that over the 9 days of the build we served about 5,000 drinks and provided around 3,500 cakes.

It was hard work but so rewarding – would we do it again? – without hesitation – but not for a week or two!

### A Warm Welcome to New Members in March

Colwyn Bay

Joy Baker

Llandudno

Frank Malem

Stone

Pat Conlong





## Prostate Cancer Screening Event is a 'Sell-out'

Ironbridge & Severn Gorge Lions staged their first prostate cancer screening event in March, after months of fundraising to pay for testing kits and flyers and considerable trepidation about the success potential of 'a first' of this magnitude.

The project also claimed another 'first', as to ensure sufficient funds were available the 14-member club invited Ironbridge Rotary Club to join forces as well as making a successful application for Lottery funding.

Surprise, and relief, came with the number of enquiries received after the Ironbridge Lions' initial media campaign. Subsequent growing confidence in success resulted in the club increasing its order for testing kits.

Then followed even more media interest after former world boxing champion, Richie Woodhall, whose father Len died after an eight-year battle with the disease, threw his weight behind the event. More local resident enquiries came flooding in, more radio interviews were given..... and at the last minute the club decided to take a risk and boost the testing kit order again.

Ironbridge Lions Club President, John Marsh, takes up the story:

"On the due evening, men were queuing up half an hour before the doors opened. We looked out through the window ten minutes later and the queue had disappeared down the street and round the corner.

"After 3 hours every available testing kit had been used and sadly we had to turn the last few men away. However, we know of two more Lions clubs in the area that will be holding similar events in the next few months and we have undertaken to forward details of those events to all the people we could not test.

"This was the first time we had staged such an event as this and as the kits cost £15 each we were understandably nervous about over-ordering. Never in a million years did we envisage that the 420 kits we ordered would be insufficient.

"The success of this event shows there is a massive need for a national prostate cancer screening programme, but until this happens we shall continue to raise the money to stage further screening events and would urge other Lions clubs to do the same.

"It must be said, however, that none of this would have been possible without the generous time given freely by retired Consultant Urological Surgeon, Mr David Baxter-Smith who supplied and supervised the blood tests and the seven nurses and phleboto-mists who took the blood samples."



**Richie Woodhall & Nurse Julie Rich**



# Knutsford Centenary Fair

Lions Centenary Fair – Knutsford Heath on Bank Holiday Monday 29 May – LIONS STALLS

All Lions Clubs are cordially invited to bring a stall/tent to raise funds for their own Club and to help with promotion of Lions.

See website [www.knutsfordlions.org.uk](http://www.knutsfordlions.org.uk) <<http://www.knutsfordlions.org.uk>> for information about stalls, competitions, activities and contact details etc.

If you are bringing/setting up your own stall on the day, there will be NO CHARGE for the space, but please let us know:

- \* Size of tent /gazebo etc. (so we can allow enough space for the 'Lions Den')
- \* What you propose to do on the stall (we will notify you if there appears to be duplication with other stalls)
- \* Whether you will be bringing a Lion costume to take part in the 'Pride of Lions' Competition (see March District Mailing)

If you do not have a suitable gazebo, it may be possible for us to suggest a tent provided by another Lions Club that could accommodate you - in which case there would be NO CHARGE.

If however we have to hire a gazebo/table for you to use, then we would have to make some charge to cover our hire costs. Our standard commercial gazebos are 6m x 3m and are usually split into two 3m x 3m stall areas. The cheapest arrangement is therefore to share one with another Lions Club - an individual 3m x 3m gazebo would be more expensive. Email [knutsford.lions@virginmedia.com](mailto:knutsford.lions@virginmedia.com) <<mailto:knutsford.lions@virginmedia.com>> for more details.



Hope to see you on the day

Clive Heath Knutsford and District Lions



## Daffs in Birkenhead

Birkenhead Lions Club planted this new variety of daffodils during 2015 the variety is called "Pat Hacket" which just happens to be the name of the mayor of Wirral for the fiscal year 2016/7. The club has also created a brand new woodland in Bidston village which is called "Mayor's Wood " and every year the Mayor is invited to choose a tree of their choice and plant it into the wood. Up to now, along with the mayor's trees and the local MP RH Frank Field, we have planted over 2500 trees.....more pictures to come

Regards Jim **crabtree**

## Visiting Lions - Final Results

District visiting lions competition up to from  
1st March 2016 to 20th February 2017.

Stoke on Trent	123	Leek	27
Ellesmere Port and District	91	Urmston	23
Beaumaris Menai Aethwy	88	Newcastle	22
Llandudno	84	Uttoxeter	19
Wilmslow and District	75	Prestatyn & Rhyl	11
Cannock	57	Congleton	7
Tamworth	50	Sale & District	7
Telford	37	Wallasey	5
Flint and District	33	Stafford	1

The results so far from 1st March 2017 up to 21st March 2017



Beaumaris Menai Athwy	6
Ellesmere Port and District	8
Leek	12
Llandudno	14
Newcastle	13
Stoke on Trent	45
Tamworth	2
Uttoxeter	6

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

## Stone Lions Club Charter Anniversary

The Stone Lions held their 38<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary Dinner at the Stone House Hotel on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Present to celebrate the evening with Lion President Mark Green were District Governor Steve Shields and his wife Jean, the Worshipful Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford Cllr Geoff Collier and Cllr Mrs Cathy Collier, Stone Town Mayor and Mayoress Cllr Jim Davies and Mrs Lin Davies.

District Governor Steve Shields presented 40 year service awards to Lions Tony Clayton, Mike Ward MBE and John Watt; he also presented a Silver Centennial Pin to Lions Pete and Margaret Leatt for introducing new members to Stone Lions Club.

Lion Mike Potter, Stone Lions Club Pro.



**Lion Mike Ward MBE, Lion Tony Clayton, DG Steve Shields and Lion John Watt.**



## **Bridgnorth Lions Invite Clubs to Enter Major Charity Walk**

Calling all Lions in District BS ! Bridgnorth Lions have taken over the organisation of the biggest charity event in Shropshire...and YOUR CLUB has the chance to enter a team !

After being organised by various volunteers for the past fifty years Bridgnorth Lions are now running the event on Monday May 29th.

The walk raises at least £100,000 every year for charity and regularly attracts 600-700 walkers. Under 40's walk the 22 miles from Bridgnorth to the Brown Clee Hill and back while the over 40's do a slightly shorter walk. There is also a seven mile walk for youngsters in school years 5-9.

Operations committee chairman, PDG Chris Aked, said: "We'd love to see clubs from around the District taking part – it's an amazing, fun day, with fantastic community spirit. While there are a few seriously fit walkers the vast majority do the walk to enjoy themselves while raising money for their own charities"

Chris said that Bridgnorth Lions decided to take over running the walk because many of the existing committee members felt it was time to step down. Chris added: "This is such a great event that we didn't want it to stop so we decided to take it on. It would be great if other Lions clubs entered teams and raised funds for their own charities".

Entry is only £15 per person (to pay for the event costs) while all the money raised by individuals goes to their own charities.

Chris said: "As a Club we expect to raise several thousand pounds for Lions charities by sponsorship and charging for food and other concessions in Bridgnorth high street."

Why not enter a team from YOUR club ? For more details contact Chris on [cjaked@live.com](mailto:cjaked@live.com), or download a form at [www.bridgnorthwalk.org](http://www.bridgnorthwalk.org).

***The copy deadline for the next issue of the District Newsletter  
is 22nd April 2017***

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

Newsletter Contact for the May NL is :-

Lion John Whitehouse:-

[bsnewsletter@lions105bs.org.uk](mailto:bsnewsletter@lions105bs.org.uk)

**Many thanks to all who sent articles this month and apologies to those  
I was unable to include. Please keep them coming!**

**Ed.**



## HEDNESFORD LIONS IN BID TO BAG TESCO FUNDING

Hednesford Centennial Lions Club are bidding to bag a cash boost from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' initiative to fund improvements to Hednesford War Memorial.

Tesco have kindly accepted our nomination to be part of their Bags of Help community funding scheme, which sees grants of £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to local community projects.

In recent years' people attending ceremonies at the war memorial have found it very difficult to hear readings and feel part of the moving services which are held there. We were asked by members of the local community if we could help to improve the experience for visitors and, as a local voluntary service, we were happy to accept the challenge.

We have worked diligently over the past few years to find a solution, gain the correct permissions and put together a project to supply, install and maintain a combination of portable and fixed PA system equipment within the grounds of the memorial and gardens. This will ensure everybody can hear services clearly throughout the grounds.



We now need a final push to reach our funding goal and put our plans into action.

Shoppers are invited to head to their local Tesco store and vote for who they think should be awarded the top grant. Customers can cast their vote by placing their token (available from the check-out in store) into their chosen charities collection receptacle near the exit, which is where we need your vote to make the most of this great opportunity.

Votes can be cast in the following stores;

CANNOCK WS12 3YY  
FAZELEY TAMWORTH EXP B78 3RB  
GREAT WYRLEY EXPRESS WS6 6LA  
LICHFLD NETHRSTOW EXP WS13 6BA  
STAFFORD EXPRESS ST17 9DH  
WALSALL BROWNHILLS WS8 6DZ  
STAFFORD EXTRA ST16 2HE  
STAFFORD EXTRA ST16 2HE  
AMINGTON TAMWORTH EXP B77 3DG  
DOSTHILL TAMWORTH EXP B77 1LE  
LICHFIELD EXTRA WS13 6DZ  
LICHFIELD EXTRA WS13 6DZ  
RUGELEY WS15 2HS  
STAFFORD STONE RD EXP ST16 2TQ  
HEDNESFORD VICTORI ST WS12 1BT  
CANNOCK STAFFORD EXP WS11 4AL

If you have any questions or would like more details, please contact Vice President Robert Blount ;

rblounthcl@gmail.com





## **BS AT THE YOUNG AMBASSADOR FINALS 2017**



Megan Montford, from Gnosall Lions Club represented Lions District 105BS in the prestigious UK Multi District Final of the Young Ambassador Competition 2017 held in February at the Village Hotel in Dudley. Megan was one of 13 youngsters between the ages of 15 and 18 competing for a £1000 Bursary for their own specific charity initiative, and the Lions Rose Bowl Trophy.

The competitors' achievements were as diverse as saving a run-down public park and bringing it up to Britain in Bloom standard, loud shirt days raising £420,000 for deaf children, anti-bullying initiatives, teaching music and busking, and a variety of other amazing works. All of this achieved whilst in the majority of cases studying for their A Levels, GCSE's or College qualifications, having a part time job and also living a normal life. When any of them slept, I'll never know!

Our own District Winner Megan Montford came into the competition late and, after another candidate sponsored by Stoke on Trent Lions withdrew, only had a short time to prepare for her presentation to cabinet in November. It was then agreed that she would be given some guidance before her next presentation in Dudley. However, with all of her commitments this was easier said than done! Megan is the current Lord Lieutenant's Cadet and required on duties with him on high level visits including Royal ones, she teaches Kick Boxing in her spare time, also teaches young cadets and works part time at the trampoline Park in Stone as an instructor, and she has her own college studies to complete! A very busy young lady. Despite this and with support from her mother and Glenys Sanders from Stone Lions club, we did manage to work with her on improving her delivery skills.

Friday night at Dudley was a Fun Night with buffet, an ice-breaker for all competitors. On Saturday each entrant was interviewed by the judges and also enjoyed a session of ten-pin bowling. This was followed by a fabulous Gala Dinner with disco and impromptu entertainment by the contestants. Megan, a leading light in these activities, had a great time.

Sunday morning was time for the Presentation Ceremony presided over by MD105 Young Ambassador Committee Chair Lion Glenys Sanders (of Stone club) with Past International Director Lion Phil Nathan, Council Chair Heather Jeavons and several civic leaders in attendance. Each candidate gave a 3 minute presentation to an audience, in excess of 150 people; a very daunting experience. Megan was not declared the overall winner although, as was stated from the podium, all of the 13 candidates were winners in their own right. As district winner, she was presented with a trophy for her achievements, together with a cheque for £600 on top of the £100 from Gnosall, all of which is going towards her project in assisting in a village community in South Africa. She visited this area last year as one of the winners of the Duke of Westminster's Award, and which has transformed her life.



This Young Ambassador competition has been a huge success for many years, and for the last 3 years much of this has been due to the dedication and literally hundreds of hours committed by Lion Glenys Sanders of Stone club. Congratulations Glenys for a great event, and huge thanks from all, not least all of the candidates, for which many, the YA event has a lasting marked effect on their community work.

Rick Talbot Gnosall Lions Club District Youth Team Chair