

DISTRICT NEWS

District Governor 2016-2017 Lion Steve Shields



DG's Message for May

What a busy but inspiring month we have had. Only one Charter Night, Sale and District, thanks go to Lion President and Zone Chair Linda for a very enjoyable evening.

The UN Day for Wales provided a very varied and entertaining afternoon. The participants from at least half a dozen countries proved colourful and gave us a very diverse range of musical entertainment and I can't thank LP Joan Williams and her colleagues at Wrexham Maelor Club enough for all the hard work in organising the event.

Things are now really starting on the centenary front. I urge everyone who finds themselves anywhere near to Knutsford to take the time to see the Centenary Exhibition set up in the Heritage Centre. We went along to the official opening carried out by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire Lion David Briggs MBE KStJ and want to congratulate Knutsford & District Lions on achieving such a great feat. We will be back again on 29th May on the Heath, perhaps in a Lion costume if no one else from my club volunteers, and hope to see lots of clubs joining in.

We were treated, along with a full audience mainly of people from other smaller community groups, to the theatre in Telford for a magnificent concert to celebrate our 100 years of service. PDG Shirley Vaughan had obtained a Lottery grant which meant she was able to have a ticket price of a whopping 100 pence. The Jackfield Brass Band and Shifnal & District Male Voice Choir entertained us with music of the last 100 years.

I have met many mayors during this year but not seen the inside of a Council Chamber until invited to Congleton to see PDG David Morris receive a regional award from Diabetes UK for setting up an awareness and support group. The group is over 30 strong and it is well deserved reward for David for the great amount of work he does in the area as well as through Lions. There is a national award and we keep our fingers crossed.

I must admit that I was not looking forward to the last Council of Governors meeting that started in Blackpool on the Thursday afternoon before MD Convention but we managed to plough through most of the paperwork to start the handover to the incoming council. The Convention was not the most interesting I have been to but perhaps because of the presence of International President Bob Corlew the debate on redistricting was passionate but well ordered. Resolution 14 for redistricting to 8 Districts was carried with 60% in favour and I have to thank all the Delegates from 105BS for taking the time to go to Blackpool and vote. Personally as I was involved last year, and I'm sure IPGD Chris whose Council started the process, now feel our years have not been in vain and that now we can concentrate on re-energising our processes and promote a modern vibrant organisation that will appeal to a wider range of the population and get some real growth into our clubs.

Despite all the reservations (bad word as many Lions used other accommodation) about the Norbreck Castle, Dave Allen and his team made the conference area look very professional and the Banquet and Ball the best party night ever in my experience.



On the Monday following Jean and I were invited to go along with the IP and party to see the improvements at the Blind Veterans UK establishment in Llandudno. Zone Chair Martin and Lion Presidents of Llandudno and Little Orme, Stuart and Lynn joined us. We were given a very interesting presentation and tour. Continued...

In This Issue

	Pg
DG Steve's Message	1
Giz Us a Job	2
High Jinks at the NMA	3
Gnosall News	3
New Members	3
Centenary News	4
Environmental News	4
Knustford Centenary Fair	5
Travelling Lion Competition	6
Llandudno Celebrate...	6
Llandudno News	7
Deadlines	7
Gnosall Lions Scoop Up	8
Telford Centenary Concert	9
Farewell to Peter	10
Macclesford Support RDA	10

DG's Message Continued

Finally all the staff and 'members' there for the day or week were gathered, ostensibly to sing Happy Birthday to two residents and acknowledge Ian Turner of Llandudno club who had just returned from London after completing the Marathon as one of the ten entrants in the Lions team, provided by Chester Lions, with all sponsorship money going to the Blind Vets. But we had a surprise. Anyone who has visited the place will have seen the inimitable Billy Baxter, who is also the Town Crier, totally blind but knows every inch of the layout. From the credits accrued by the District IP Bob presented Billy with an MJF and for once he was speechless.



From Llandudno we travelled to Chester for the trip on the River Dee. Lions from 18 clubs were able to shake hands and chat to IP Bob and his lovely wife Lion Dianne and the atmosphere was really great. IP Bob and Dianne, together with Council Chair Heather and PID Howard Lee, thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of our District before returning to Blackpool and two more days in Ireland before returning to the US.

Best wishes Steve

"Giz Us a Job -I CAN do it"

Stafford Lions have gone back to school but this time as teachers not pupils!

Walton Hall Academy has a long term relationship with Lions and asked Stafford Lions to help prepare their Year 11 and 6th Form students in their "World of Work" week by providing mock interviews.

Four Lions offered panel interviews to fourteen young people and to their credit all of these special needs students turned up suited and booted.

For young adults with special needs to enter an interview room and to meet total strangers is extremely daunting but then to answer unrehearsed questions adds even more stress.

We have all experienced the trepidation of attending an interview but it is hard to imagine the anxieties experienced by youngsters with autism and other learning difficulties.

A most productive day which demonstrated that despite their initial disabilities and limited educational qualifications all these young people could offer potential in the work force with some showing that they can compete with the best from main stream schools.



Following on from this visit Lions links are being forged with Walton Hall Academy to establish the Young Leaders in Service award and the Peace Poster competition so the lesson to be learned is that a job worth doing is a job worth doing well!

Ed Rule Youth Officer Stafford Lions



HIGH JINKS AT THE NMA!

Caleb and Maddie, playing hide and seek in the Lions shelter at
The National Memorial Arboretum.

Following a trip around the Arboretum, to find clues to complete the Easter egg hunt, we all headed for a picnic lunch in the Lions shelter.

Caleb and Madison, along with parents Hannah and Adam, younger sister Cerryn, and grandparent Lions Pam and Geoff Trevena, played 'hide and seek' with the Lion.

Zone I Lions from 105BS regularly visit the shelter to keep it clean and tidy, for the benefit of all visitors to the NMA.

District Officer Geoff Trevena

GMT Team member.



GNOSALL LIONS NEWS

It is now almost time for our annual Golf Day hosted by our friends at Aqualate. The price to enter is again, as for the past 6 Or 7 years unchanged and is a bargain at £19-00 . The format is Individual Stableford with a multitude of prizes on offer and with bacon baps and coffee at the half way point. When you look at how much other charity organisations charge ours is an outright bargain, thanks in many ways to our local supporters and sponsors. Interested then please give me a call on 01785 823177 for more details.

We have been very successful as a Club at the recent District Convention picking up 4 awards from 8 available. Amazing given our size, and the fact that we were up against 50 plus other clubs, including ones from large towns and cities. Our members have also visited other Clubs for social events and also held a Quiz Night with Newport Lions and Eccleshall Rotarians. Future plans include a visit to **That'll be the Day** at Stafford Gatehouse, **The Tempest** at Stafford Castle. And the Presidential Handover in July. At the same time there will possibly be an important piece of news regarding Gnosall Lions but until it becomes official it remains under wraps.

Rick Talbot

A Warm Welcome to New Members in April

Burntwood

Patricia Elwell

Stone

Kathleen Munslow



Centenary News

Four months gone—only eight left

Please remember to let us know what your club is planning for the centenary, ideas shared can often be an inspiration to another club.

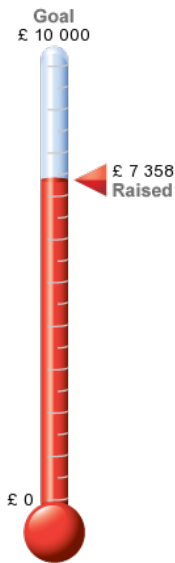
Our Hearing Dogs appeal is moving forward but we still need all clubs to get involved – remember this is also the DG's Partner's Appeal. If your club has not supported this great cause yet please consider it – cheques should be made payable to District 105BS and endorsed on the back. A concerted effort by all of us could mean we achieve this target by the end of this Lion's year.

Please remember to record any 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. Any club member can do it though they will need a password from one of the club officers.

A number of clubs have reported significant interest from their local schools in the 100 WORDS FOR THE WORLD competition, details in last December News Letter. It could be a great opportunity to develop links to primary schools in your area. Details are now also available in Welsh. It's not too late to get involved—entries should be with me by 30th June.

Don't forget to send in pictures and write-ups of any of your centenary events to be included in a special edition centenary newsletter later this year.



For more information contact District Centennial Chair PDG Shirley Vaughan

Environmental Monthly News.

Articles about Environmental.

This month article amphibian's frogs and toads.

Link for Lions Environmental Newsletters

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

Christopher Evans.

Environmental Officer.





Lions Centenary Exhibition and Fair

Knutsford Lions have set up a Lions Centenary Exhibition at the Knutsford Heritage Centre, which was officially opened on Tuesday 28th March. More than forty guests attended including Knutsford Town Mayor Cllr. Jan Nicholson, Knutsford Royal May Queen Charlotte Kenyon, District Governor Steve Shields, District Governor Elect Teresa Nickson and the Zone Chairman Bob Mawson and representatives of a number of local organisations.

Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire David Briggs (member of Knutsford Lions!) gave an excellent 'Official Opening' speech about Lions and the Exhibition. The Exhibition, which is open until 4th June, will enable visitors to find out more about some of the great things Lions do. A 'May Day' Exhibition is running at the same time.

Preparations for the Lions Centenary Fair on Knutsford Heath on Bank Holiday Monday 29 May are progressing well. All Clubs are invited – if you have not already done so, please send information to 'knutsford.lions@virginmedia.com' about how much space you require and what you are bringing. If you are able to bring everything you need with you there will be no charge to Lions Clubs for attending – but we do need to know approximately how much space to allow.

We would welcome some more competitors for our Competitions - 'Welly Wanging', 'Tug of War' and 'Prettiest Pooch'! Also if anyone has access to a portable generator or megaphone which could be loaned for the day that would be much appreciated.

Any Club bringing a Lion in costume for the 'Pride of Lions' Competition please contact Carole Godden.

For more information please visit our website www.knutsfordlions.org.uk.

Hope to see you on 29th May!



Part of Exhibition



David Briggs opening the Exhibition



(front) President Sonia Amos, Town Mayor Councillor Jan Nicholson, DG Elect Teresa Nickson
(mid) Z.C. Bob Mawson, D.G. Steve Shields, David Briggs
(back) Knutsford Royal May Queen Charlotte Kenyon.



Visiting Lions Competition

The results so far from 1st March 2017 up to 19th April 2017

Beaumaris Menai Athwy	6
Buckley and Mold	
Cannock	9
Ellesmere Port and District	8
Leek	12
Llandudno	23
Newcastle	14
Stoke on Trent	55
Tamworth	6
Telford	18
Uttoxeter	6
Wilmslow	14



You can send your Visiting Lions forms by post or send scanned copies to my email address. My address is 22 Fox-lair Road, Manchester, M22 9RN or email me at enigma_32@msn.com. If you send me an email I will reply to confirm receipt. If you don't receive a reply within a couple of days contact me on 01614373999 as your email might have gone into my spam/junk folder.

Lion Sarah Cowling

Lions Club of Llandudno Celebrate 40 Years Serving the Local Community.

Members of the Lions Club of Llandudno along with family, friends and civic dignitaries and Lions from further afield celebrated their 40th Anniversary Charter.

A dinner and dance to celebrate the Club's Charter was held in the St Georges Hotel, Llandudno, on Saturday 25th March. Over 140 guest attended the dinner with 18 different clubs represented and five Past District Governors.

Special guests of honour during the night was the Mayor of Llandudno, Councillor Carol Marubbi, First Vice District Governor Lion Teresa Nickson.



News from Llandudno



Lion President Stuart Lowndes presenting a cheque for over £1000 to Mr Tim Jones from the RNLI Llandudno. Mr Jones expressed his gratitude for the donation and recognises that the Lions make regular donations to the Llandudno Lifeboat. Mr Jones explained that the donation will go towards what is called the Crew Comfort Fund. This fund covers simple crew comforts such as kettles and micro-waves etc. the sort of items not covered by the money which comes from public collection and donations. Mr Jones updated the club members with the progress of the new lifeboat station in Llandudno and that it is very nearly completed and would come on station later this year.

Also,

The Lions Club of Llandudno are looking for help. We are trying to find some hall or room which can be used to camp 40 youngsters and 8 adults of the Lions Youth Brass Band. The band are hoping to come to Llandudno for a week starting on 21st July until the 27th. They normally camp in church halls or school's or sport's halls while they tour the area they are in. They just need the space to put down their sleeping bags and have access to washing and showering facilities. If they can find such accommodation they will be happy to pay. Also, they will be looking for venues to perform in. The Lions Club of Llandudno have already got a couple of places for them to perform but desperately need to find accommodation. If anyone has a large room or hall with access to facilities please contact the Lions on llandudnomartin@gmail.com or 07947683553.

Martin Smith
Lions Club of Llandudno

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

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

Congleton Lions Scoops Up

Diabetes UK Award

Diabetes UK recently presented the 'Reaching Out and Connecting Award' North West to David Morris and Congleton Lions Club as part of the charity's regional Inspire Awards. This was in recognition of the work done in the setting up of a "Friends" group to help people in the local community with diabetes and to raise awareness of the condition.

Past District Governor David Morris along with his wife Janet, Diabetes UK Volunteer Development Lead: Michelle Kelly and District Governor: Steve Shields were invited to a Town Council meeting at Congleton Town Hall where he accepted the award from the Mayor, Councillor David Brown.



PDG David said: "As part of our club's commitment to the community of Congleton and to help meet the Centennial Challenges we held a diabetes assessment coffee morning 12 months ago with Diabetes UK. A common comment from those with diabetes we spoke to on that occasion was that there was no support group in Congleton for either people with diabetes or carers of someone with the condition, the nearest was in Crewe, so I volunteered to look at setting up a group in Congleton with the support of Congleton Lions Club". The club members readily agreed to sponsor the group to reach out to people living with diabetes.

The group now holds regular meetings which are open to anyone affected by diabetes. David has also built up links with local businesses and organisations, and with the help of Lions and group members has held awareness events activities.

Stephen Ryan, Head of the North at Diabetes UK, said: "Through setting up the local group, David has provided a much needed support network for people living with diabetes in the Congleton area. It is a pleasure to honour his hard work with this award.

"Through our Inspire Awards we thank our hard working volunteers, like David, for their contributions and highlight the positive difference their work has made to the lives of people who are living with diabetes.

"There are more than 4.5 million people with diabetes, and our dedicated volunteers help them to manage their condition, campaign to improve the quality of care available to them, fundraise for pioneering research and work to stem the rising tide of diabetes. Our volunteers are out there working hard in the community day in and day out. Our much-needed work wouldn't be possible without their incredible support and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our volunteers who make an enormous difference through their support."

The Inspire Awards recognise and celebrate outstanding individuals as well as group volunteer efforts. The winners are chosen by judging panels across the UK and are presented with their award at the regional and national Make a Difference conferences held in 2017. The winners of these awards are then placed in a pool to be judged for the UK-wide Inspire Awards which will be presented in summer 2017. Visit diabetes.org.uk/inspire-awards to find out more.

Congleton Lions Diabetes UK group email: congletonlions@gmail.com

Lottery Pays for Centenary Night Out

Telford Lions decided they wanted to do something special for the Lions Centenary and a flyer about the Big lottery Celebration Grant scheme set thoughts in motion. The result was an application for the costs of running a free concert for local senior citizen and carer groups on the theme of 100 years of music. The award was granted so detailed planning went ahead. The local theatre was booked, a prize winning brass band and male voice choir agreed to take part work began on publicising the event. A search of the internet produced contact details for 25 local groups who were all sent details.



The original idea was a free concert but the theatre's ticket booking system required a payment so a ticket price of £1 was set, this would include the performance, a programme and refreshments at the interval. The ticket price would be refunded via a

seat number raffle which would ensure one person from each row went home with an envelope containing £20. The event programme gave an opportunity to give out information about both the centenary and Telford Lions Club.

During the next few weeks the concert details were featured in the newsletters of many local organisation, as well as the theatre's own Spring /Summer programme and website. As a result on the night there was almost a full house, including the mayor of Oakengates, the Mayor of Wellington and the Lions own District Governor, Steve Shields.

As the audience was made up of senior citizens and carers the club took the opportunity to promote Message in a Bottle, giving away around 300.

That evening 100 years of music was celebrated in style - from Ravel's Bolero to Glen Miller, from the Beatles to Les Miserables,



finishing with a rousing medley of Tom Jones hits. The Jackfield Brass Band and the Shifnal and District Male Voice Choir performed to their usual high standard and entertained a theatre full of senior citizens and carers with a superb selection of pieces.

To end the evening a group of club members lined the route to the exit giving out Lion bars to all as they went out. There were lots of complimentary comments as people left; it was especially gratifying to hear how much people had enjoyed the friendly happy atmosphere and a rare opportunity to attend such an event.

FAREWELL, PETER!

Barton branch founder member, Peter Jones is heading for the sun!

Peter is moving to Spain to live later this year – he says he will come back to the UK when it gets too hot!

The picture shows Barton branch President, David Pomroy [left] making a presentation to Peter at April's meeting.

Farewell, Peter, your fellow Lions look forward to seeing you again when it gets too hot!



District Officer Geoff Trevena GMT Team member.

Macclesfield Lions Support RDA

Gawsworth Methodist Church's weekly coffee morning paid host to Macclesfield & District Lions. Whilst there, the president of the club presented a cheque for £1,500 to Middlewood Riding for the Disabled Association, raised as part of their 30th annual Swimathon back in November.

Throughout the course of its existence, the swimming event, organised by Lion Arthur Clenton, has raised over £146,000 which is split between the RDA and BBC Children In Need, as well as the Lions' own local chosen charities. This year's event will be held at Macclesfield Leisure Centre on Sunday 19th November.

Thanks go to the church, the helpers and Christine and Bill Heginbotham for collecting the cheque.



Middlewood RDA helps 24 disabled people per week to learn to ride and costs over £6,000 to operate.

Christopher Oatway