



PRIDE of the NORTH

NEWSLETTER for 105N District

Issue 23 - November 2025

Lions Working Together



For a long time, **Minster Lions Club of York** has been sending children's books to the Lions Clubs of Sri Lanka to help them distribute the books throughout the schools and libraries after a recent terrible tsunami and civil war. This 'Library in a Box' project was started by **PDG Lion George Bennett MJF** and has, so far, sent over 200,000 books to the children of Sri Lanka.

The recent, incredible collection of **180 boxes (containing 16,812 children's books)** has long been ready for sending and, after a plea for help, the books were boxed and ready to be shipped in only 1 hour.

Minister Lions express their sincere thanks to the Lions Clubs of **Derwent, Easingwold and Huddersfield** as well as volunteers from the **Lions Den Shed in Keighley** who worked in a very efficient and friendly manner.

A truly fantastic effort from everyone who turned up and already the shipment is on its way by ship to Colombo, Sri Lanka, and is due there just before Christmas.

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Connecting members in Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland

Find out more inside!

Editor's Comments



Dear all,

I hope you are well and are ready for our **huge push at Christmas**. At my Club, (as with many others) our Lions have been busy with **present wrapping, Grotto preparation and a lot of promotion** for our upcoming activities. **A wonderful period of service is ahead of us indeed!**

Further to this, I must thank all of you for **adapting well to the recent change in email address** for your contributions. The transition period was shorter than expected but I think **most Clubs have been able to utilise the new one**. I thank our District Secretary for helping with this (in terms of circulation/informing our Clubs).

I am also happy that contributions remain mostly timely but it would be **extremely useful if more could be sent before the last day for submission**. I am getting many stories sent to me on the Sunday which is leading to a rather short turnaround period for production. If we could try to get them **in the week leading up/week before, this would be helpful**.

Luke Maunsell

District Newsletter Editor



media@keighleylions.uk

Competition Corner

Scores on the Door Travelling Lion:

Thorne Rural - 97
Garforth - 14
Keighley - 5



Host Club:

Thorne Rural - 45

Don't forget that our District has some **great, creative competitions** which include: **The Photo Comp, The Peter Shaw Award, Rookie of the Year and the Best Web Page Award**. They are all fun and help build comradeship between us all. If you would like to get involved, in any of them, by the **closing date of 31/12/2025**, please contact **Lion Roy Field** at: rjafield58@gmail.com.



District Governor's Message

Fellow Lions, Leos and Partners,

Since the last edition, I have very much **enjoyed spending time with Clubs** at their Charter Dinners, meeting new faces, and seeing members let their hair down and **enjoy the social side of Lions**. As I am sure you will agree, this is **just as important for our own well-being** as the massive amount of service projects and fundraising we get through.



Also, let us remember that, at this time of year, as the nights draw in very early, it can **be a lonely time for many people** on their own. **Spare a thought for your elderly neighbours** and if you can, **give them a call or drop in** just to let them know that someone cares about them, see that they are safe and secure in their own homes.

It is also that time when many **Clubs are geared up for our Santa Sleigh tours**, some Clubs I know will have already begun as we go about **our business bringing joy** to so many little faces and communities. For most, it is probably your **biggest fundraising effort of the year**, a chance to top up the available funds for all the other good work we do. **My good wishes to you all**, work safely and within the parameters of best practice, and enjoy yourselves.

Despite this, it is **disappointing that we have lost a good few members** this month. Please could I ask that your **Clubs remain fully inclusive, and ensure that all members have a job and feel valued?**

Remember, if you have any donations for **Karen's Prostate Cancer Charity appeal**, you can forward to District Treasurer. Health wise, she continues her recovery from gastroenteritis. **If you haven't already booked for convention, PDG Kevin awaits your Booking Forms.**

My best wishes to you all for a very successful Santa season, after which you can put up your feet for a week or two and relax - Me too!

Lion John Sellers, MJF

District Governor



sellersatmallard@aol.com



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1st Vice Governor's Message

Dear fellow Lions, Leos and partners,

Since the last Newsletter, I have attended the **Consett Charter Lunch** (25th October), along with fellow Huddersfield Lion Pete Haggo, **what a day this turned out to be!** After a 2.5hrs drive to Consett, we were welcomed at the golf club for a **three course lunch alongside some stunning scenery**. Following an **excellent lunch and the honour to induct 2 new members**, we then drove for 1.5hrs to meet with **Minster and Derwent Clubs for their combined Charter Meal** and again were made very welcome and enjoyed the meal immensely. Finally, the day was completed with a 1.5hr drive back to Keighley. **So, 6 courses in 7 hours.** Thanks must go to all 3 clubs for their hospitality. I also **attended Denby Dales Charter dinner** on the 15th November which was really good, with a nice blend of Protocol and informality.



I continue with attending Cabinet meetings, both in person and on Zoom. I am also attending Zoom training sessions for my **upcoming role as District Governor**, should I be selected at Convention.

Some of Huddersfield Lions were invited to a **Magic Evening** hosted by the local Magic Circle Club, where we were treated to a display of close up magic with cards in a completion to find the best act on the night. With reference to service, I was delighted to be invited not just as a Lion but also as a leader of Lions Den Shed, Keighley along with fellow Huddersfield Lions and the Chair of Shed to assist with the **Book palletisation at Elvington**. What an **amazing job Minster Lions continue to do** after being originally set up by the Late Lion George Bennett MJF (sorely missed).

So, as we all go into deep preparation for the Christmas Fundraising events, **may I wish all Clubs success and enjoyment for their campaigns.**

I hope to see a lot of clubs attending the Convention in February.

Lion Allan Clark, MJF

1st Vice District Governor
2025/2026



nalla105c@yahoo.co.uk



Membership News

Since the last newsletter, we have had 5 join our 105N pride. **Let's welcome them and wish them all the best** in their future service

Darlington Lions

- Gill Metcalfe

Dumbarton Lions

- Luca Notini

Hornsea District Lions

- Pam Jones

Maltby Rother Valley Lions

- Riley Lowe



Pocklington District Lions

- Elizabeth Colbrook

Deepest thanks to **Lion Marilyn Bennett**, MLCY Co-ordinator and **Lion David Wilson**, District Almoner for contributing to this page. They can be reached on davidwilson51@hotmail.co.uk and lions.geomar@gmail.com.



Leadership Matters

Are you ready to make a lasting impact in your club and community? Don't miss two essential events this January designed to empower every Lion—whether you're a seasoned Lion or just starting your journey!

Sponsor Success – Nurturing a Lion for Life

Thursday, 29th January 2026, 7:30 PM (Online)

Your role as a sponsor is the single biggest factor in new member retention and engagement. Join our interactive webinar, “Sponsor Success: Nurturing a Lion for Life,” and discover how to move beyond paperwork to master the art of mentorship that lasts.

We'll dive into the three critical phases of sponsorship:

- Setting clear expectations before membership
- Navigating the first 30 days of club integration
- Ensuring long-term belonging through the first 12 months

Learn practical strategies—like intentional introductions and effective “5-Minute Check-ins”—to build rapport, guarantee every new Lion feels welcome, and ensure every voice is valued. **Let's work together to boost retention and help every new member become an engaged Lion for life!**

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8scK9xC5RLmGQuZc5poP9Q>

Lions Orientation Webinar

Wednesday, 21st January 2026, 7:30 PM (Online)

New to Lions or want a refresher on what it means to be part of the world's largest service organization? Our Orientation Evening is the perfect place to connect, learn, and be inspired. Discover the values, vision, and opportunities that make Lions Clubs International unique. Meet fellow members, ask questions, and find out how you can make the most of your Lion experience.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Bbf7zbjLR3GQ63PNzIxH1Q>

Mark your calendars and join us for both events—let's nurture a Lion for life and welcome every new member with open arms!

Please email Lion Michelle on: Michelle.McArthur@jigsawatwork.com to request your application and/or if you would like a copy of the full list of development opportunities for 2025/2026.



Calendar Dates

Keighley Lions Club

Christmas Grottos

6th, 7th, 13th and 14th December 2025

Cliffe Castle Museum, Spring Gardens Lane,
BD20 6LH

Find out more:

www.keighleylions.uk/grottobooking.html

Roar National Award Day

December 3, 2025 from 10:30am

Zoom meeting link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88301291276?
pwd=ndCETpmBjl3tcfsQBiwHUja1UIUbxZ.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88301291276?pwd=ndCETpmBjl3tcfsQBiwHUja1UIUbxZ.1)

Filey Lions

Over 85's Christmas Lunch

11th December 2025

Park Dean Holiday Resort, Mill
Lane, Cayton Bay, YO11 3NJ

Allendale Lions

Carols in the Square

16th December 2025 from 7pm
Allendale Village Square

Rothwell District Lions

Cinderella Panto for children

4th January 2026, 1pm and 3pm
Blackburn Hall, Commercial St,
Rothwell, LS26 0AW

Zone N12

Annual Burns Night

17th January 2026

Wheatley Golf Club, Armthorpe Road,
Doncaster, DN2 5QB

Email Lion Mike Byrne:

thebyrnes2003@yahoo.co.uk

Teesdale and District Lions

Burns Supper and Ceilidh

Friday 23rd January 2026, 8pm start
GSK Club, Barnard Castle, DL12 8DT

Email Lion President Bob Garton:

fbgassociates1@hotmail.co.uk

District Convention

6th to 8th February 2026

Scotch Corner, Darlington, DL10 6NR
Hosted by Thirsk and Northallerton
and Easingwold District Lions Club

Knaresborough Lions

39th Annual Charter Dinner

Hold the Date - 28th February 2026

Easingwold District Lions

47th Anniversary Charter Dinner

Saturday 21st March 2026, 7.00pm for
7.30pm

Burn Hall Hotel, Tollerton Road, YO61 1JB

Email Lion Kate:

Katewebster178@btinternet.com

Thorne Rural Lions

45th Charter Dinner

Saturday 14th March 2026
Wheatley Golf Club, Doncaster, DN2 5QB

Have an upcoming event or Charter Dinner?

If you have a date for the next issue,
please email me on:

media@keighleylions.uk



District Convention 2026



I would like to **invite all Lions, Leos and their partners** to our annual **District Convention for District 105N** which is being hosted by **Easingwold and Thirsk and Northallerton Lions Clubs**.

We, once again, will be meeting at **Scotch Corner Hotel** which is situated at the junction of the **A1(M) and A66** just outside Darlington. There is **good access by road and train** with regular stops in Darlington for the **East Coast railway**.

The District Convention offers a **unique opportunity** for all Lions, Leos and partners to **meet each other, engage in vital business, learn about what is happening across our District and have a great deal of fun and friendship**. Please be assured of a **very warm welcome** from our hosts and why not treat yourself to a longer stay so you can **thoroughly enjoy a visit to this beautiful part of our country?**

I look forward to meeting you very soon!

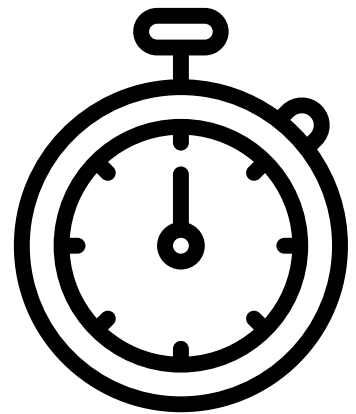
Lion John Sellers, MJF

District Governor

Countdown to Convention

With Convention getting ever closer, the Committee wishes to bring the below dates to your attention:

- **5th January 2026** - Hotel bookings close, please book before then to secure the reduced rate for bed and breakfast.
- **11th January 2026** - Celebration dinner bookings close.



Reminder - please complete a booking form for all attendance options. **We do need numbers** for day attendance as well as weekend attendance. A **warm welcome awaits you** and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Want more information and/or the booking form?
Please email - districtntreasurer@btinternet.com



Tales from our Clubs

Tickhill and District Lions



Tickhill and District Lions brought **frightful fun to Tickhill Cricket Club** with a Halloween celebration which featured a **lively funfair, a roaring firepit and a host of ghosts, ghouls, and skeletons**. Visitors also joined in with spooky games such as 'Guess the Guts' and the 'Eyeball and Spoon Race', whilst a volunteer witch ran a **spooky storytelling session** in the tent. **A great, team effort!**

Unfortunately, the local Club (and members beyond) were deeply saddened by the **passing of Lion Barry Hoggart**, a dedicated member since 1985 and who was approaching his 40th year of Lionism. Barry served in many roles, including Club

President in 2007, and was an **enormously valued member of the Welfare Committee**. His commitment to service never wavered - only last year **he helped source, pack, and distribute nearly 100 Christmas hampers** for families in need, personally delivering several with his wife. Beyond Lions, Barry was a teacher, keen cyclist, active walker, and member of both the local arts club and choir. **His kindness, energy, and friendship enriched our Club and community. He will be greatly missed.**

Ryedale Lions

Meanwhile, an annual event returned once more to Pickering on the weekend of the 10th October after a 6-year hiatus. The event was the reinvention of the popular Pickering War weekend, which has been renamed the **1940's Weekend**. There was **dancing and singing in the streets**, with many visitors getting into the spirit of the event by **dressing in clothes appropriate to the era**. The Ryedale Lions loved taking part in this historical hysteria by running a tombola which raised over **£250 for their local community**.



Beyond this great event, the Club was **presented with a coveted award** from Lions International after receiving the **\$50 per member average banner patch**, which recognised their **continuing support of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in 2024-2025**. Lions are now increasingly called to meet the needs of vulnerable populations across the world and to help to improve the lives of our international community. **Ryedale Lions will always seek to answer this call!**

Teesdale and District Lions



Earlier this year, Teesdale and District Club members Suzanne Hunter and Victoria Emmerson were approached for sponsorship in setting up a **Park Run in Barnard Castle**. Park Run, founded in 2004 is a **free, 5km community event** where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate every Saturday morning. There are now nearly 900 such events in the UK.

Organiser Steve Bage visited a Club meeting and explained why he needed approx. **£5000 to register, set up and equip 'The Barnard**

Castle Demesnes Park Run'. Teesdale Club was **1 of 9 major sponsors** and turned out in force to support the inaugural event on **Saturday 11th October**; Club members have also **pledged to support the weekly event** with marshalling duties.



In a similar, sporting style, 12 teams have competed in the **Annual Curling Bonspiel** held on the 8th and 9th of November at the Dumfries Ice Bowl. Winning the High Road contest was the **Dumfries Curling Club** whilst **The Galloway Stars** were victorious in the Low Road section. Meanwhile, the **Scottish Otters** received the Jim McCormack Memorial Trophy. The successful event was held with the deepest of thanks to **Graham Sloan and his staff** for their work at preparing the ice and generally supporting the contest.



Another trophy winner at the Club was **Erin McCluskey**, a senior pupil at Dumfries Academy, who has been awarded the **Dumfries Lions Club Centenary Bowl**. Erin is a great ambassador for the Academy volunteers in the school to assist younger pupils and staff and also charity events in the wider community. **A very worthy winner!**

Boroughbridge Lions



ROAR is an important and fun bit of service for our Clubs and has seen many schools take part including **Boroughbridge Primary school**. After 5 afternoon sessions, Club members attended a **stunning 'showcase'** of superb ideas where individual groups presented their ideas for a **'world changing idea'**. All presentations were judged based upon **best advert and jingle, best model and an overall winner**.

After many wonderful ideas, the final winners were a group of boys who came up with a way to **keep plants watered whilst away on holiday** without the need for vials in the soil. Their idea was to **attach a small dehumidifier by a tube to the soil** surrounding the plant. The invention **would extract water from the air** which would then be used to water the plant. The group was **presented with medals and wrist bands** to celebrate their achievement whilst all the children in the class received **certificates and a Lion bar** (donated by Morrisons). The Club also attached an **inspirational, 'Thank you' message** with the Lions logo to each Lion bar.

City of Dundee Lions Club

Facebook is such a powerful tool for our Clubs and Lionism across the globe. One such superpower it has is in its ability to help us **share our successes** with a wider audience and get people talking about our work. For example, the **Dundee Museum of Transport** took to Facebook to **celebrate their local Lions who had donated £200** towards their forthcoming Tram exhibition.



Within this post, the Museum acknowledged the **'big difference'** which the Club's contribution had made to **support Dundee's tram heritage** and bring the story of the city's transport to life. It also commented on the **Club's 40 years of supporting local causes** and **encouraged people to join** the Club. Whilst social media can be a tricky tool, which does have some risks, it is great to see it **being used as a force for good**.

Darlington Lions



As the nights get colder, lots of vulnerable people are increasingly put into a more challenging and dangerous situation. In Darlington, our Lions have been doing their bit to **help people keep warm in their homes** this winter by a donation of **100 Winter Warm Packs**.

Each of these packs contains **a fleece blanket, socks, hat, gloves, coffee, tea, porridge and soup, and some useful information** about financial and practical help available, as well as a **guide to activities** in the town. 50 will therefore be distributed to older vulnerable people by **Age UK (North Yorkshire and Darlington), The Well Community Centre and the local branch of Alzheimer's Society**, and 50 by **Kings Church Food Bank** to support homeless people moving into accommodation or people who are struggling to afford heating this winter.

Caroline Todd, Manager of King Church Food Bank said: "This is a **fantastic effort** by the Lions Club to help vulnerable people who may be homeless moving into accommodation or unable to access heating." Following this great act of service will be the Lions providing **100 Christmas food parcels** for struggling families and by them **hosting a Christmas party for older people**. **Great work by all!**

Knaresborough Lions

Lionism is a great way to make friends and build bonds between communities and Clubs. For example, the Lions from Knaresborough recently **attended a general knowledge quiz organised by Boroughbridge Lions**. Further to this, not only did they have a fun time, the lucky Lions lineup of Lions Bob Godsell, Tony Pedel, Lyn Nudds, Bernadette Reid and Stewart Reid - **went on to win!** They **thank their friends at Boroughbridge Lions** for organising the event. **Here's hoping for more get-togethers in the near future.**



Filey Lions



Lots of service has been conducted in Filey over November which included some big bangs! The Club **welcomed over 3500 people** to their **community bonfire & firework display** which saw families from the town and all over the country joining them.

The Club has been supporting their community by a **donation of crash mats** to a newly formed local kickboxing club and helped Filey Methodist Church deliver **100 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes** for distribution to children and young people who will not receive anything on Christmas Day. They also **spent the day with their local primary school for Roar and have run an art competition**. They intend to use the artwork to **design a greetings card/note** for use by the Lions when taking gifts or needing to say thank you.

Going forward, they are **looking forward to their upcoming Christmas Lunch** for 100 lovely people over the age of 85 and **helping Santa bring some festive joy to the great folk of Filey!**



Rothwell District Lions

Helping children is an important part of our service and in Rothwell, they are doing just that. To start with, they have just given **£500 to Cash for Kids** which is dedicated to **giving disadvantaged children and young people across the UK the chance to thrive**. The Lions are **proud to step in where it's needed most** - tackling poverty, illness, and neglect, easing the challenges of additional needs, and offering a helping hand to families with nowhere else to turn.



As a festive thank you to those they serve, the Club is once again **holding a free pantomime** for local children and their parents/guardians this coming January. Due to **increased demand, 2 performances will be going ahead** in order to accommodate all of the people who want to attend. Although a £2 deposit is required (which is fully refundable), this is only done to deter people from booking tickets and then deciding not to attend the performance without notice. **Well done Rothwell District Lions!**

Denby Dale District Lions



First things first, the Club was very **happy to celebrate their longest serving member Peter Hobson** who has **been a Lion for 35 years**. He was proudly presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation by Lion President Dan Hughes** at their regular business meeting.

The Club also held a **brand new fundraising event called Apple Day** which took place on the Church field in Denby Dale. The autumnal theme included traditional apple-bobbing, longest apple peel and best home-baked apple pie competitions, cider stall, BBQ, live music and their ever popular coconut shy. **The event raised a brilliant £200 profit for the Club.**

Finally, our Lions joined other volunteers in a community service project to **paint the railings around the village War Memorial and tidy up the area** ahead of the village Remembrance Day event. A task which prompted **lots of positive feedback from the community**. Later in the month, they **celebrated their Club's 45th Charter** with a dinner at Woodsome Hall Golf Club which was enjoyed by all present including **Vice District Governor Allan Clark and Zone Chair Tim Lewis**.

Exercise is a great deal of fun and can be a good bonding experience. In Allendale, on October 4th, around **a dozen Lions friends and dogs trekked over the hills** to The Allenheads Inn for drinks and free snacks. The Lions party then returned on the afternoon bus to Allendale. **A brilliant way to socialise and keep fit and active**. After this hike, the Club needed a bit of a sit down so held their **first Book Scanning event at The Lion House** (a very aptly named local pub) which **raised £40 for local charities**. A few days after this, on November 8th, and for the second year, **a collection happened on the Village Square** of warm clothes, toiletries and food vouchers for **Newcastle's People's Kitchen**. These were delivered the following day. As you can tell, the **Club has had a very busy month and a bit**. They are now looking forward to their next event, **Carols in the Square on December 16th**.

Allendale Lions



Keep it up Allendale Lions!



Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards are the pinnacles of celebration for our Lions. Named after our founder, these prestigious monuments go to those members who embody and demonstrate Lionism in its truest form.



Consequently, Aberdeen Lions Club was delighted that their **Secretary Lion David Ritchie** received the honour earlier in the year. The Club is thoroughly **thrilled that this hard working Lion** has been given the highest award possible in Lionism. David has **done so much for Lions** whilst also keeping everyone reading with all the regular book sales he keeps running. **We all thank and salute you David!**

Yarm District Lions



In Yarm, the Lions have been working hard to get a **stunning amount for Children In Need**. Braving the weather, the team pulled together to raise a **magnificent £1200 for the charity** whilst collecting at **Teesside Park shopping centre**. Whilst Pudsey and the Lions got wet and wind-blown - **the successful collection made it worthwhile!** Yarm District Lions will continue their **fundraising efforts in December** by collecting for their Christmas appeal.

Elmet Lions

Finally, some service from Elmet Lions who were asked, in the absence of a Selby Lions Club, **to collect at the Selby Bonfire**. This is a huge event in the town and is paid for by the Selby Town Council so that people can attend for free. **Elmet Lions and Friends of Selby War Memorial Hospital** were all there **collecting and raised a very healthy £654.54**



Further service was also done in Selby as the Lions, once again, offered to **marshal the road closures** for the annual Remembrance Sunday service in the town. The Lions also **worked as servers** of teas and coffees to attendees at the service at Selby Abbey. This proved **very popular with everyone** who joined together to drink tea/coffee and eat a specially prepared buffet. Once thoroughly enjoyed, **our Lions went the extra mile** (as always) and ensured that it was all cleared away and washed up.

The Club is now focused on **its Christmas service and its rearranged Inter-Pub Quiz in January**.

Upcoming POTN Deadline

Thank you all for your contributions this month. The next deadline is the **21st December 2025**. I look forward to seeing what your Clubs have been doing so email me on: [**media@keighleylions.uk**](mailto:media@keighleylions.uk)