



PRIDE of the NORTH

NEWSLETTER for 105N District

Issue 3 - March 2024



District Convention 2024 Special



Also, inside:

- Reports from our District Governor Team
- Stories from our Clubs
- Special events

And a lot, lot more!

Serving a World in Need

Find out more
inside!

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Governor's Message

Hello Fellow Lions, Leos and Partners,

In my article last month, I referred briefly to our **successful District Convention** held at Scotch Corner at the beginning of February.

I am delighted to hear that so many clubs have taken a special interest in the four presentations that were made on **new initiatives/new ways** of doing things and have shown a keen interest in taking these on board within their own clubs and zones. It does show superbly the level of creativity and skills that exist within our District!

We have received a lot of positive feedback from attendees from both within our District and those who joined us from afar on the whole content of the weekend and the venue. To show our thanks to the hotel, I presented to their events coordinator Vicki, a **certificate of appreciation** on behalf of the District, ably supported by ZC Sue Barron.

Hopefully, you will see some further contributions and photos of the Convention together with news of next years convention later in this newsletter.

Whilst I do not have the exact figures, we did manage to three quarters fill the Transit van with spectacles for recycling - **well done to all clubs who contributed!**

Kevin Hunter

District Governor

kandchunter@btinternet.com



Governor's News

Stoves for Ukraine

As many of you are aware, a few weeks ago we sent out an appeal to clubs asking them to consider making a donation to purchase **wood burning stoves for Ukraine at a cost of £150 each**. I am delighted to tell you that at the time of writing, donations made so far are purchasing 25 stoves. To those clubs who have not yet had a meeting to discuss, **please consider making a donation**.

Young Ambassador Finals

I had the privilege of attending this years '**Young Ambassador**' finals held in Dudley on the 17th - 18th February. This year was the **50th anniversary of this scheme** and I was blown away by the standard of presentations given by each district finalist - they are truly inspirational young people. Everyone was a winner in my book. Regrettably, our District did not have an entrant this year and hope that this will be corrected next year. We all know that there are some great youngsters out there doing fabulous things - **let's find them and bring them to the front!** Please contact PDG Corinne Ashburner for further details.

Youth Exchange - repeat article

We are delighted that as a Multi District, all our offers of places at our **Annual Youth Camp** have been taken up with 20 young people coming to the UK in summer. An important part of the Youth Exchange programme is that we make available places for young people from the UK to visit and stay with similar camps in Europe. If you know of anyone who would be interested in participating, Please contact Chris Whiteley (Thorne Rural) our district Youth exchange Officer for more details.

Balance of Year

We still have four months of the current year to go - four months when we can continue to make a difference in our communities, four months when we can do more service, four months where we can improve our membership levels above those at the start of the year (we are currently at the same level as we started), four months to get our plans in place and club officers appointed for another fantastic year within our District. I truly do believe that as a District we are :- **Number One and getting better !**

Diary for March

- 2nd Mar - Thorne Rural Charter
- 4th Mar - Allendale Club Meeting
- 11th Mar - Durham Club Meeting
- 12th Mar - Prudhoe Mid Tyne Club Meeting
- 13th Mar - Easingwold Club Meeting
- 15th Mar - Risk assessment Zoom Meeting
- 16th Mar - Easingwold Charter Dinner
- 21st Mar - Peterlee Club Meeting
- 24th Mar - District Cabinet Zoom Meeting
- 27th Mar - Ponteland Club Meeting



District Convention 2024



As you can tell, this year's conference was pretty special, from a spectacular glasses collection to awards like 'Club of the Year' won by Keighley Lions - it was pretty awesome. Roll on next year!



DISTRICT CONVENTION 2025

I am very pleased to be able to confirm that the District Convention in 2025 will once again be held at the **Scotch Corner Hotel, Darlington** from **Friday 7th February to Sunday 9th February**. This comes after District Officers listened to the very positive comments made from this year's convention, which included that Scotch Corner Hotel is reachable within two hours by 90% of our members, it has ideal facilities for members and it is more economically viable than other venues. The event itself including bookings will be led by the **Lions of Thorne Rural Lions Club** and **Zone Chairman Elect Lion Elaine Prime**. The District Cabinet, diarised for Sunday 19th May 2024, will also be held at the same venue.

Dave Wilson
District Events Officer



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Membership

Rich Beaumont, Alnwick Lions Club
John Hyslop, Alnwick Lions Club
Richard Judd, Consett Lions Club
Richard Rawet, Derwent Lions Club
**Richard Wolfenden, Hornsea District
Lions Club**



We are all delighted that you have joined us! Let's support our new members as they start on their Lionism journey.

List provided with thanks by Lion Marilyn Bennett, District 105N MLCY Co-ordinator

Club Competitions

Competition between clubs is a great way for us all to do our best. Lion Roy Field, our Competition's Officer is once again collating club points after a short absence.

Travelling Lion: Garforth Lions - 20 Thorne Rural Lions - 20

Host Club: Thorne Rural - 4

Want to get involved and start building your own points?

Get in touch with **Lion Roy** on: rjafield58@gmail.com



Vice Governors' Comments

I just blew in from the windy city - goes the song.

I've had **three more days training - this time in St Charles, Illinois** where I experienced my first ever extreme weather siren for an oncoming tornado and we had to scuttle down into the basement of the Q training centre. **Hotel staff were wonderful but insisted that we left behind our part eaten dinner.**



This was a short lived experience and a little alarming; **it made me reflect on the relative peace and balance of life here in the UK.** Both locally and globally, Lions can respond, within hours of disaster, by accessing the **LCI Foundation Disaster grants. Please consider donating via the District Treasurer - even £100 helps**

Closer to home, planning for next year's District Cabinet (our management team) continues with my Lion friends DG Kevin and 2 VDG John.

If you would like signposting to how you can become involved with wider Lions activity please contact your Zone Chair or one of us.

Lion Gillian Swan

First Vice District Governor and District Governor Elect



Fellow lions, Leo's and partners,

It has been a quiet month in February, apart from Convention, which was a **great weekend of friendship and fellowship**, and it was good to **meet many of you.**

Despite the fact that my full Pantomime regalia was displayed on the big screen, **I felt very privileged to be accepted as 1st VDG elect for the coming Lionisitic year.**



I have a number of club visits booked this month, visiting Withernsea, Otley, Morley and Holderness, and **look forward to seeing you all at these clubs.** The DG team visits, I hope help you to realise that the **District Team are there to support you** in any way we can, and we are happy to take any feedback from the clubs.

We are still slow on the uptake with service reporting, though there is a marked improvement, and membership continues to be a struggle, not so much recruiting new members, but retaining members for various reasons. Mission 1.5 has put a little pressure on us, though I feel clubs are doing all they can to work towards adding to the target.

Keep doing what you do best, fellow lions, together we are making a difference.

Lion John Sellers

Second Vice District Governor and 1st District Governor Elect



Editor's comments



Dear all,

As always, I would like to thank all of the clubs who have sent me stories this month. The work which Lions do across our District is truly **inspiring and something to be proud of.**

In February, along with so many members of my club, I enjoyed attending our District Convention at Scotch Corner and meeting so many of you who frequently send me stories for this newsletter. I hope you enjoyed the **small gallery of photos from this great event on p.3.**

Since the last newsletter, I have been thinking a lot about **how important it is to give all our members a voice.** I am happy that a 'New Voices' group has been set up to empower newer members as retaining and developing their talents must be our primary focus. Please find out more about them on the next page.

With this in mind, I think every club should think about how it can **retain members** and how to ensure their clubs work for all. This could be down to how decisions are made or simply how to make sure that new members are given extra opportunities and support to take part. We should always reflect on how we welcome people, how we treat them and show them respect and thanks. It may even be worth appointing someone as a '**Membership Retention Officer**' or even merging this with existing structures/officer posts.

Ultimately, it is clear (simply by looking at our membership figures - **p.4**) that we are **good at recruitment** but in order to thrive - we must keep those who have joined and enable them and their new ideas to flourish. By doing so, **our Clubs will be able to make the impact which our communities need them to.**

Luke Maunsell

District Newsletter Editor

media@keighleylions.org.uk



Special Report

Some of you may have seen me present at 105N District convention and it was great to meet some of you in person and get you on board with the New Voices group.



Lions presents many opportunities to **develop yourself as a Lion** and personally and in February, I got to experience one of these events, through taking part in the **New Voices workshops in Dudley.**

The day was full of inspirational people, talking to us about **leadership, membership, PR and marketing and service.** One of the main things I take from events such as this is the conversation it sparks, sharing ideas from across our multiple districts, seeing how others do things, how they overcome obstacles and getting **completely new ideas**, to take back to my club.

The workshops took part alongside the **Young Ambassadors** weekend; I was told what a fantastic initiative this was and I was not disappointed to spend time with and listen to the presentations of the young people across the multiple districts, doing amazing things for their communities; **wouldn't it be great to have an entry from N!**

If you would like more information on New Voices or anything I have noted, please email: **newvoices105N@gmail.com.**

Kathryn Nelson

New Voices 105N



Club News

Denby Dales Lions



It's always great when we have special guests at our Club meetings and Denby Dales certainly have!

Back in January, they were visited by **Venture Scout James Williamson** who was the first scout in their area to attend the World Scouting Jamboree in South Korea last summer aided by their local Lions.

Despite the heatwave and lack of water supply and shade, James, (from the perfectly named “**Yorkshire Puds**”), said that he had had a fantastic time exploring Seoul and the surrounding area and mixing with other scouts from all over the world. He had learned a lot about scouting and the scouting movement in general and had been particularly inspired by a talk given by the Chief Scout himself, Bear Grylls! **What a wonderful experience which Lions helped to make possible!**

On Tuesday 28th February, Lions in Garforth and District, held their **second PSA (Prostate Cancer) screening** event where they tested 184 men.

Results were provided to the participants within 48 hours and just over 4% (8 men) were advised to seek an appointment with their doctor. As before, the **feedback we have from the community both on the day and from social media has been extremely encouraging.**

The event was partially funded by a grant award from Tesco. If anyone would like further details of how to run an event or get grant awards, please contact **District Prostate Cancer officer, Jon Lines** (jlines18@hotmail.co.uk). An incredible effort and something which we hope is replicated across our District; **Garforth and District Lions - helping to saving lives.**

Garforth and District Lions



Elmet Lions



Santa Sleighs are one of the most joyful events which we do. Unfortunately, they also come with some level of risk and sadly, for Elmet Lion - one member paid the ultimate price.

During one of their runs, on a wild, wet and stormy night on a bumpy terrain, **their lead reindeer (Rudolph) was decapitated** and his head has never been found.

In order to procure another one the Club has been lucky enough to gain funds from our local **Councillor - Bob Packham - via his locality fund.** They are now on the hunt for a replacement for Rudolph who had proudly served Elmet Lions for over 30 years. **If anyone can help, please could they contact the Club?**



Rothwell Lions



One of the highlights of being a Lion, is the sense of unity we all share. Often, we feel like one huge family even if it is highly unlikely that we will meet many of our long-distance relatives.

Keeping in this spirit, **Rothwell Lions Club organised a special quiz** for their fellow Lions in Whitby. Meeting for a drink, a natter and a bit of a test framed on their respective, local communities, a great deal of fun was had.

Whilst no score was kept, Rothwell Lions were surprised by how much Whitby members knew about their little bit of Leeds as well as their own knowledge about Whitby.

It seems that **it was an enjoyable evening for all** and no doubt, both clubs will be looking forward for repeating this **unifying event in the near future.**

One of our big missions in Lions is to help our environment. As Climate Change drastically alters our world, **we all need to help make our planet a little more sustainable.**

Taking this to heart are the members of Keighley Lions who planted a fruit orchard with the **Cliffe Castle Support Group and Trees for Cities.**

Despite the frosty grounds, a team including their Vice President Roy and Lions, Ruth, Robert, Sue, Cameron and Luke dug deep and were so happy with the results.



Keighley Lions

Here's hoping the trees leave a lasting, positive legacy and inspires other such acts of service.

Wetherby Lions



Bringing our communities together is one off the most important missions of the Lions. For example, in Wetherby they had “a reight good do!” at their **‘Young at Heart’ Senior Citizens party.**

The event which is focused on tackling loneliness in the New Year has become a yearly tradition for over **35 years.** This year, 180 attendants enjoyed a superb **turkey lunch, pavlova and a range of refreshments.**

The entertainment was also special with **Pre-lunch Bingo** and some classic songs from local **‘Frank Sinatra’ Phil Fryer.**

Wetherby Lions would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to all their helpers on the day including **HDP Event Medical Services** and **AV Matrix** who supplied the sound systems. Also, to **Bon Bons (Wholesale) Wetherby** for the wonderful confectionery packages for the guests.



Dumfries Lions have been supporting medical schemes recently to help local people.

Firstly, they have donated **200 'Messages in a Bottle'** bottles to the staff at Cluden Rehabilitation Centre for distribution to patients who use their service. These vital tools are a useful and effective way to keep medial and contact details easily accessible in an emergency.



After this, the club also decided to provide porters at the **Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary with a microwave** to enable them to have a hot meal at any time during their shifts. **Well done all!**

Castleford and Pontefract District Lions

In our clubs, we love to **take pride in our communities** and do our bit to spruce up our town centres especially as they struggle to get the footfall they used to do.

In Pontefract, to tackle these town centre challenges, they have been **tidying up and replacing the flowers** which add so much joy to local people. Lions Helen and Jim have done such a great job at getting some colourful plantlife everywhere.

Making this all the more special is how these plants spend their lives in **repurposed troughs - what a creative way of reusing these pieces of traditional, cultural heritage.**



Charter Dinner Dates

North Wolds Lions Club

Saturday 20th April 2024

Manor Court Hotel, Carnaby, 53 Main St, Bridlington YO16 4UJ



Doncaster Went Valley Lions

Saturday 18th May 2024

Thornhurst Manor, Holme Lane, Doncaster, DN5 0LR

Keighley Lions Club -

Sunday 18th May 2024

Keighley Civic Centre, North St, Keighley BD21 3RZ



All dinners start at 7pm for 7:30. unless otherwise stated



Club Events



LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

5 Mile Charity Walk
Sunday 12th May 2024



Supporting

Alzheimer's
Society

Town Fields Pavilion to Lakeside,
Around the Lake & Return to Start

5 Mile Route starting at 10am

(Book in at the Pavilion from 9am)



For more information please see our website:

www.thornerurallions.com

Or email: musicline02@yahoo.co.uk

to request a registration form for the event.

Lions Clubs International will take every reasonable precaution to ensure your safety but cannot be held responsible for any personal injury or loss however caused



Saturday 10th August 2024

44th LIONS INTERNATIONAL FUN & SPORTS DAY

For People with Disabilities
At Parklands Sports & Social Club
Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster, DN2 4LT

Face Painting Free Food, Ice-Cream & Medal
Punch & Judy Magic for everyone that Registers

A Day Full of Fun for All Abilities
~ From 11am ~ FREE Entry ~

Dance Trophies to be won!
Sports
Entertainment

Games Five-a-Side Football



Presented by Lions Clubs from across the region

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• Email: auriolandjoe@hotmail.co.uk
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Lions' Tales

In this month's section, I would like to thank the two Lions who have passed on their own stories about how and why they joined our incredible organisation. I have also featured a funny story from a Santa's Grotto which just adds to the joy of serving. **If you want to share your own Lion's Tale - please get in touch!**

Why I joined the Lions



"I volunteered for the Santa Sleigh six years ago and it just blew me away. The faces of the children both watching for the Sleigh and meeting Santa was magical and I knew I wanted to do it the following year. So! I joined Elmet Lions. It will be my 7th Santa Sleigh this year and I'm looking forward to it all ready."

Paul Ellis, Elmet Lions

"I joined the Lions because of the amazing work which is carried out on behalf of needed causes and the community. I felt honoured to be accepted and to be a part of a club with such a great ethos."

David Weston, Keighley Lions



A Winter's Tale...

One of the highlights of serving as a Lion was being a part of our Santa's Grotto, held at the beautiful **Cliffe Castle in Keighley**.

During one of our sessions, Santa asked the children, "Have any of our grownups being naughty?" Immediately, one of the children put up her hand, to the chagrin of her poor father, and said, "My daddy's been to prison." **Santa didn't ask any further questions...**

