



PRIDE of the NORTH

NEWSLETTER for 105N District

Issue 1 - January 2024



Santa Sleigh Special!

In our first **Pride of the North** Newsletter, we have gone all Christmassy in honour of our District's Amazing Christmas Sleighs



Does your club's Sleigh feature? Turn to **page 6**



Catch up on the work from our District Governor, Kevin Hunter



Exclusively on page 1

Welcome to the first edition of The Pride of the North



If you would like to contribute to a future edition, please get in touch on media@keighleylions.org.uk

Luke

Serving a World in Need

Find out more inside!

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Governor's Message

Hello Fellow Lions, Leos and Partners,

I would like to start by wishing you and your family a very **Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year**. I hope you all had a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas holiday.



It has been **fantastic to see so much seasonal activity** being shared on Facebook and social media by many clubs across across the District - **the pictures and stories shared shows what Lions is all about**, from the thousands of children young and old seeing Santa, to carol concerts, to Christmas parties for all kinds of groups, to serving the needy and giving support to those who need it.

The weather was unkind and brought severe challenges to some clubs but as always, **we battled through to the end**. You have all worked so hard to bring joy to your communities and you should feel **very proud of what you have achieved**.

Well done everyone and thank you!

Be Proud, Be Bold, Be Successful

Kevin Hunter

District Governor



Our Governor has also been fighting the weather as well. Here is him helping out his own, local club of Easingwold and whilst sporting some muddy shoes! That's commitment indeed!



Governor's News

ROAR

On December 6th, I had the privilege of joining the zoom presentations from all eight district finalists for this year's **ROAR** programme.

They represented a year in which over **130 schools and 25,000 pupils participated**. What an experience it was to see presentations from young people working together to deliver very adult thinking projects. **This is our future - 'Children Changing the World'**.



Many congratulations to our **District Winners - Hornsea Primary School** for their Seed Planter project and to Hornsea Lions for the huge support they give to this initiative.

Now is the time to start planning with your local schools for this year's competition - **will you proudly be this year's winner ?**

Service Awards

A couple of weeks ago, a parcel arrived from Lions HQ in America containing chevrons and congratulatory letters to members who have achieved milestones in service, ranging from **10 years to 55 years**. You will be delighted to hear that as a District, these awards are being given to **170 members across 58 clubs** and between them total **3,815 years of dedicated service**. An **absolutely remarkable achievement!**



Diary for January

- 10th Jan - Easingwold club Meeting
- 11th Jan - Middlesbrough club Meeting
- 14th Jan - Convention Zoom Meeting
- 17th Jan - District Trustees Zoom Meeting
- 22nd Jan - Sunderland Club Meeting
- 23rd Jan - Darlington Club Meeting
- 27 & 28th Jan - MD Council Meeting

One such Winner was, Tickhill and District Lions' John Hill who has been commemorated by Lion President Mike Byrne for his truly outstanding 45 years of service. Well done!



Membership

Sadly I have to report that **our membership has dropped to 1045 since the last newsletter**. This now means that we have had 55 new members joining and 55 members leaving since the start of the year.

Whilst this is very disappointing, I believe that we can get back on course to meet our **membership growth targets** by the end of the year and I would ask that all clubs make recruitment and retention a priority over the next quarter.

How many of our hundreds of Christmas helpers could be encouraged to join us?

- *Charlie Madden, Bramley & Wickersley*
- *Mary Page, Castleford & Pontefract*
- *Paul Brown (Transferred) Doncaster Went Valley*
- *Ian Micklethwaite, Doncaster Went Valley*
- *Gail Lowther, Garforth & District*
- *Alan Mitchell, Malton Norton*
- *Robert Lockwood, Minster Lions Club of York*
- *Stuart Newcombe, Wetherby District*
- *Jacqui Blackburn, Withernsea*



Lion Marilyn Bennett, District 105N MLCY Co-ordinator

Our District Convention is rapidly approaching - only five weeks away! Have you booked yet? We promise it will be great event whether you choose to join just for the day business sessions or for the whole weekend. Don't miss out !!

As last year, we will be organising a van to collect spectacle and hearing aids for recycling to be delivered to National HQ. Bring your clubs collections along and save the cost of normal transportation/postage. Another reason to come to Scotch Corner!

Clubs should have by now received copies of the New Members Booklets from their Zone Chairs. The feedback that I have had is that is a great tool for us all to understand how Lions work, where new members fit in and how people can progress in the organisation if they wish.

Further copies can be obtained from National HQ in Birmingham and at:
<https://lionsclubs.co/MemberArea/home/membership-recruitment/>



Vice Governors' Comments



I have now visited **17 clubs** and during training sessions I have been able to share notes and your **successes with Lions from Cyprus, Slovakia, Netherlands and other parts of the UK.**

My favourite part of this role is visiting our own clubs; in recent months I have had the **privilege of handing out many long service awards and a few MJF awards...**that represents hundreds of hours of volunteering.

I've met Lions who are **'Santa'd out'**, who continue to serve their communities by delivering Santa to his believers, young and old, in a huge variety of sleighs that seem to require constant love and attention to keep them on the road through re-building and repairing, often at short notice and in all weathers. And amazingly, I have met new Lions who joined us because of this service and fundraising activity and by November, **we are ready to do it all again!**

We **continue to attract new members**, often through outreach and development of club meetings. Ideas about members satisfaction can be accessed through the **Resource Centre on the Lions online Portal by searching for the Membership Satisfaction Guide.** We also need many skills to run our organisation if we are to serve, and you will have your own skill set but there are also learning resources on the same **Lions portal under the tab LEARN** and if this isn't for you then news of refreshed training sessions will be coming to you from the leadership team in early spring.

Moving from 2023 into 2024 we are in the build up to convention and an opportunity to talk about your initiatives. The main event is **Convention day itself on 3rd February at Scotch Corner.** Please introduce yourself to at least one other Lion that you have never met before and make yourself known to the District team particularly if you are curious about the processes behind management of the District and one of us will point you in the right direction

I look forward to seeing many of you again at convention and wish you a successful and Happy New Year

Lion Gillian Swan

First Vice District Governor





Fellow Lions, Leo's and families,

Like most of you I have been **very busy in the run up to Christmas with my own club events here in Filey.**

Since the last report, I attended as a guest on behalf of the DG's team, **The Charter dinner of Holme Valley Lions Club** and had a very pleasant evening with them. **I also spoke on behalf of DG at my own club Charter dinner.** Those clubs in zones 7, 10 , 14 and 15 which I have not visited can expect me in the spring and **I will be contacting you early in the new year to arrange those visits.**

I hope you have all had a very successful Christmas period, one of our busiest fundraising times enabling us to carry on with our other work , and it goes without saying that you have the full support of the District Team, **a phone call away if needed.**

I wish you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

Lion John Sellers

Second Vice District Governor



Editor's comments

Well, this is new!



Before I go any further, I want to celebrate the late **Lion George Morgan** who has sadly moved to Higher Service and after leaving the role of Editor. He has left huge shoes to fill and will be sorely missed by all.. Before he passed on, I was lucky to have had a phone call with him. **His warmth and passion shined through despite his illness.** My thoughts are with his family and friends as well as the whole Lion family in this saddest of times. **Please visit page 12 for a special article dedicated to him.**

Since joining the Lions last year, my big focus has been on promoting our **good causes** in my home club of Keighley. However, I never thought I would be getting the chance to do this on a District-wide scale.

For those of you who don't know me (probably everyone), **I am the new Editor of this fab Newsletter, Lion Luke Maunsell.** As mentioned, I am from the wonderful town of Keighley in West Yorkshire and am a proud member of our very active club.

During my time as Editor, **I am looking forward to hearing from members and Clubs about our great work. I want to highlight our efforts in style as good news needs to be spread.**

I would also love to hear about why our members join us and any funny stories from our time as a Lion. I believe in sharing our experiences and want to hear from you.

If you have anything you would like to include either on a Club or individual basis, please get in touch on **media@keighleylions.org.uk**.

Luke Maunsell

District Newsletter Editor



In Memoriam



This is a place to honour the Lion Members who have sadly passed on to **Higher Service**. All of these Lions, should be **fondly remembered and their contributions to our Club never forgotten**.

Those who have moved to Higher Service...

- John Bannister, Barnsley Lions Club
- Peter Doughty MJF, Beverley Westwood Lions Club
- PDG George Morgan MJF, Castleford & District Lions Club
- Roger Basing, Goole District Lions Club
- Colin McGregor MJF, Tynedale Lions Club
- Alvin Bailey, Former member of Durham Lions Club
- Peter Wilson, Former member and Past District Secretary for 105C

May they live on in our hearts

MISS ME A LITTLE,
BUT NOT FOR LONG
AND NOT WITH
YOUR HEAD
BOWED LOW
REMEMBER THE LOVE
THAT ONCE WE SHARED
MISS ME,
BUT LET ME GO.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI



sunflowermemorials.com

Losing colleagues can be difficult, if you ever need help with how Lions can support your wellbeing, please get in touch with: Lion Michelle Nicholson on 07801 056 284 or email: michelle.mcarthur@jigsawatwork.com

Deepest thanks to **Lion David Wilson**, District Almoner, **Lion Marilyn Bennett**, District 105N MLCY Co-ordinator and **Lion Michael Rogers** for contributing to this list.



Club News

My word, **our clubs have been extremely busy over the last few months!** If you don't see your story here, don't worry, it will appear in a future issue.

Keighley Lions



Keighley Lions have been building friendships with their local **Rotary Club**.

To begin this effort, they took part in a rather difficult quiz devised by **Lions President, Allan Clark**. They had some lovely food and spent a wonderful time raising money for both clubs.

Let's hope this is the start of a **wonderful, new friendship** all built on the principle of serving!

Wetherby Lions

Wetherby Lions have been putting their wits (or lack thereof) to the test with an exciting quiz night in aid of **Young Lives v Cancer**.

In partnership with Morrisons and twenty-three local businesses including Bradley's Jewellery and Frances Liddle Opticians, the **'Big Biz Quiz 2023'** raised **£700**.

Well done to **The Old Men's Parliament** who took home the trophy this year!



Dumfries Lions



Lions from across the District extend their deepest congratulations to **Lions Jock Carlyle** (second left) and **Richard Hall** (third left) who have received the **MJF award** from **Club President John MacColl** and immediate **Past President Stuart Armstrong**. Their long-standing service to the club and community is something every Lion aspires to.

Dumfries Lions have also held their **41st Charter Dinner**.



Teesdale & District Lions

Superstar, **Bob Garton** has been working hard to make **ROAR a huge success** in his local area. He worked closely with two schools to expand the project's lesson plans and further inspire the children.

Six teams came up with highly inspirational ideas and prepared posters, jingles and a five minute pitch in the style of "Dragon's Den". The winner was the "**Medibot**" which is designed to reduce the load on NHS was also put forward to the National judging panel. Bob said, "**We've given these kids some really valuable life skills but equally importantly, we had some great fun on the way**".



Ayr & Prestwick Lions

Members of Ayr and Prestwick Lions Club have held a **very successful bucket collection** at Dobbie's Garden Centre in Ayr in aid of **South Ayrshire Women's Aid** and other causes.

They have also been '**branching out**' into **tree planting** by working with **River Garden** (a residential centre which supports those with addiction problems). Despite some delays, **Head Gardener Andrew Harkins, Lions Andrew Graham, Gordon Macdonald and Alec Mooney** finally got to work. '**Tremendous**' work indeed!



Elmet Lions

This year Elmet Lions has done something different for the Santa Sleighs - **asked for sponsors** for each night the Sleigh is out and local companies have come running! For their generosity, the **19 businesses** have received some publicity whilst also being invited to an exclusive '**After Sleigh Party**' where the collected money is given out the local organisations who need our help.

Elmet Lions are so thankful for the support as the sponsorships adds a boost to their bank account for repairs to the sleigh, insurance, purchase of sweets and much, much more.

Their Rudolph trainee, Rascal also is grateful and has enjoyed meeting the children and seeing the Lions' new lanyards which now carry QR codes. **Elmet Lions were truly ready for everything!**



Consett Lions



A quizzical pair have received acknowledgement for their many years of service to Consett Lions Club.

For many years, **Michael and Jean Longstaff** have devised and presented fund-raising Quiz Nights on behalf of the club. In addition, they have organised online quizzes for the Club which have proved both enjoyable and profitable especially during the Covid years.

Michael and Jean were both presented with Certificates of Appreciation by **Lion President Neal Waby** at the Club's recent Quiz Night. That sounds like the **perfect answer** in honour of two excellent heroes!

Thorne Rural Lions

Losing people is never easy but Thorne Rural Lions have found a touching and caring way to **support people in their grief**.

Based in the Doncaster Frenchgate Shopping centres, **The Memory Tree** is the annual focus point for those who wish to remember those who have moved on.

Leading this project this year are Lions **Auriol Henton and Pat Hammond** we have enabled the tree to be a much valued fundraiser for the **Cancer Detection Trust**

Over the many years it has been in existence, **thousands have been raised for good causes**.



Darlington Lions

A 'roarsome' Christmas party has been hosted by the Darlington Lions Club for over 50, community leaders including the **Town Mission, Wesley Community Centre, Age Concern** and other local organisations.

The guests were treated to a wonderful performance by the charity dance troupe known as the **"Enpointe Dance Company"** (*best name ever*), afternoon tea, a raffle and a singalong to a lovely set of carols; skilfully facilitated by the **"No Added Sugar"** choir (*second best name ever*)!

All members of the Darlington Lions Club wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Easingwold Lions

Easingwold Lions have been very busy from **Santa Sleighs to their annual Carols in the Market Place** and clearly it has been very much in demand for all the folk and children of Easingwold and surrounding villages, with plenty of singing helped along by the **Easingwold Town Band**.

Apparently, baked potatoes and mince pies, kindly donated by local businesses, as well as mulled wine, hot chocolate with Baileys were on the menu!



Denby Dales Lions

Denby Dales Lions Club have been very busy. For starters, they have delivered over **50 Christmas Food Hampers** to their local food bank which is very in keeping with our commitment to tackling hunger. They also, thanks to local businesses, had a number to raffle off.

Furthermore, they have held an impressive **16 sleigh runs** and a further 30 Santa related events including visits to various First Schools, Christmas Fairs, Care Homes, Nursery Schools and Toddler Groups as well as adult and children's special needs facilities. Their special Santa also switched on the Christmas lights on in three of their local villages and spent two Saturdays with Santa collecting at Morrisons supermarket in Huddersfield.

Finally, they showed the **Christmas Spirit by helping Holme Valley Lions** with a tow vehicle for a couple of sleigh runs. They hope to have smashed their previous fundraising total; **well done all!**



Holme Valley Lions



Many of our fantastic clubs are becoming **Charity Interest Organisations**. By doing so, Lions across our District are realising the benefits of doing so and how it can help us become better, stronger teams of volunteers. One of those who are reaping the rewards are **Holme Valley Lions**.

After receiving help from the District Team, the club now has frequent, regular trustee meetings. They have also discovered the benefits of this new status by being allowed to **apply for grants and recover Gift Aid**. For example, this year, the Club successfully received **£3000 to distribute to local foodbanks which was presented by Santa!**

As well as this, Holme Valley Lions have been helped by local friends to take their Sleigh around their community and have seen so many smiling faces including the residents and staff at **Hollybank Care Home**.



Santa Sleigh Special



Lions should feel deeply proud of our **Santa Sleighs** which brings seasonal joy to our communities. It is truly the most wonderful time for service. Here is just a small sample of our **excellent, festive work** this year.



Malton and Norton



Easingwold and District



Harrogate



Holme Valley



Scarborough



Rachel Murphy received a free tree from **Dumfries Lions Club** after winning the "Best Decorated Christmas Tree" competition.



Morpheth



Elmet



Knaresborough



Keighley



Maltby and Rother Valley



North Wolds



Rothwell



Wetherby



Ryedale



Went Valley



Pocklington



Lions' Tales

This section is focused on inspirational and funny stories from Lions across our District. **In keeping with this and in honour of the late Lion George Morgan**, I have decided to dedicate this first page to a letter which he wrote before moving on to **Higher Service**. **We will never forget his long, inspirational service.**

Life as a Lion



I was first introduced to Lions in December 1966 by **Lion George Hubbard MBE, MJF**, who invited Jeanne and I to the Wakefield Lions monthly dinner meeting after which we all gathered round a large table to make up food parcels for the elderly. It was during this event that Lion George suggested that I should become a Lion to which I agreed. On the night I was inducted it was suggested that Wakefield should try and form a club in Pontefract and in April 1967 **I became the first member of the Pontefract Club and we eventually chartered on the 8th June 1967.**

Since then, I have served in **three clubs**, Pontefract, where I served 12 times as President as well as doing Secretary, Treasurer and PR. I have also served as **President in Wakefield where I was honoured to be presented with an MJF and President of Castleford where I also completed 22 years as Club Treasurer.**

In 1977. along with Lion Ernest Copley we formed the first Lioness Club in the British Isles and my wife Jeanne became Charter President. Altogether, she served 14 times as President and during this time she received a MJF. She was a member of the MD105 Lioness Advisory Body and served as Multiple District 105 Lioness Chairman in 2006.



I was soon **appointed to cabinet by PDG Ian Wood as PR Officer to represent 105C on the MD PR team** helping to organize the International Convention held in Birmingham in 1998 and **I have served on Cabinet ever since in various rolls such as Zone Chairman, PR Sight First Two Coordinator and Twenty two years as Newsletter Editor.**

In **2005/2006, I had the honour to serve 105C as District Governor and I had a fantastic time meeting and making many new friends.** This was the year after tsunami in Sri Lanka where PDG George Bennett did some extraordinary work during his year as Governor, and I agreed that George should carry this on during my year. During a later visit to Sri Lanka PDG George was presented with two plaques by District Governor Rohantha De Fonseka MJF, one for George and the other for me, in recognition of the work carried out by District 105C.

Eventually the Lionesses were told they all had to become Lions but their service as Lionesses would count as service to Lions, over ten thousand refused and they have formed a completely independent organisation worldwide. Pontefract Lionesses decided to join Castleford & Pontefract District Lions and it has proved to be a great success. **Two years ago, PDG David Wilson presented PDG with his 55 yrs. Certificate and Lion Jeanne with her 45 year certificate.**

Because of ill health both Jeanne and I can no longer do as much for the Lions, but **our two daughter Lion Michelle Nicholson MJF and Lion Jeannette Morgan MJF (both former Leos) are still very much involved.**

Finally, I would **like to thank everyone for all your help over the years without it I could not have produced the newsletter and I hope Luke enjoys doing it as much as I did.**

PDG Lion George W Morgan

Former Editor of the District Newsletter

