



PRIDE of the NORTH

NEWSLETTER for 105N District

Issue 26 - February 2026

Melvin Jones Awards!



Whilst we are only 2 months into 2026, already some **Melvin Jones Foundation Awards** have been distributed to some **incredible people in our District**.

The first to receive the highest award Lions International can offer for Community Service was presented to **Sean Conley of Wylam Garage in Tynedale**. For 10 years, Sean has been **providing a vehicle** (as well as insurance) for the Club to pull Santa's Sleigh. This has been **massively appreciated by the community**.

Additionally, **Lion Hazel Jiggins from Keighley** was also given the award for her superb, long standing service. For 17 years, Hazel has been an **extraordinary Lion** who has served proudly as Club President and, despite recently celebrating a big birthday, is always **willing to do whatever she can to serve our community**.

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Editor's Comments

Dear all,

I hope you are well and are rested after Christmas. As the year moves on, this newsletter will get bigger and bigger. Whereas last month's issue was on the small size, this month's has grown quite a bit as **our Clubs begin to come out of their post-Christmas hibernation.**

Within this issue, we have some new reports including (as you will see below) those on **Prostate Cancer** and on the **Lifestyle** initiative in Humberside (p.6). We also have a great report from our new **2nd Vice Governor Mike Byrne (p.4)** as well as a special focus on the recent **District Convention (p.5).**

Finally, as always, we have some **great contributions from our Clubs (pp.10-12)**, some **wonderful upcoming training (p.8)** as well as some **MJF winners.**

I look forward to seeing what your Club achieves over the next month!

Luke Maunsell

District Newsletter Editor



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Prostate Cancer Update

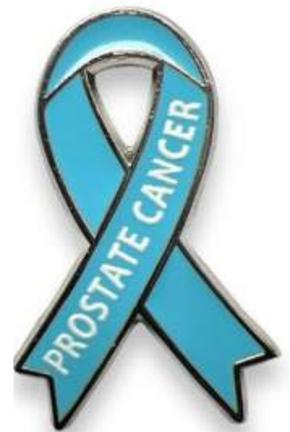
I would like to give a **big thank you** to all those Clubs in the District that held a PSA testing event in 2025.

During this period, **8 testing events** were held in the District with 5 of those by Clubs for the first time. **822 men were tested with 71 men being advised** to seek an appointment with their doctor.

2 more Clubs, **Thirsk & Northallerton as well as Filey**, are planning to hold their first events early in 2026.

Prostate Cancer is the biggest killer of men over 50 in the UK with no national screening program.

If any one would like further details on how to hold an event or any information regarding Prostate Cancer **please do not hesitate to contact me** on Jlines18@hotmail.co.uk



District Governor's Message

Fellow Lions, Leos and Partners,

Welcome again to our monthly newsletter.

The highlight of this month for me has to be our District Convention. What an excellent weekend we had, attended by representatives from so many Clubs.

It all started with a good business session on the Saturday with some great insights from our speakers. Thanks go to Philip Craig of Thirsk and Northallerton Lions, who gave us an insight into the use of AI in our Lions Clubs. Not entirely sure many of us understood it, but some Clubs are already using it or showed an interest in learning more.

Additionally, our guest from Martin House Children's Hospice gave a very moving and inspiring presentation of the work going on there. The great support which has come from our District over the last 3 years, amounting to almost £81,000.00. Further to this, our International guest, Dr. Karl Brewi gave an insight into the structure of Lions Clubs International and some up-to-date membership statistics. Along with his wife, Lion Bettina, they very much enjoyed our Yorkshire Hospitality. An inspired decision to do the Questions and Answers session on the Friday afternoon after Cabinet, rather than the Sunday morning, proved to be very successful and much better attended than in the past.

Kairen and I had a super weekend, and the afternoon collection for her chosen charity, Prostate Cancer UK, realised £120. We thank those Lions who put in their loose change and neatly folded notes. We were also overrun with spectacles and collectables, far too many for the van. Big thanks to Doncaster Lions Club who volunteered to take the surplus and transport them to Birmingham.

Finally, we were very pleased to have a nomination from the floor for FVDG 2026-27, in PP Mike Byrne from Tickhill. Mike automatically becomes 2VDG for the remainder of this year and will be taking up the training shortly. He will be introducing himself in this edition. We await notification of an organising Club for 2027.

Over the next month, I will be at the Young Ambassador finals in Dudley as you read this newsletter. On the 1st of March, I will be at our DGs team meeting on Zoom. After this, I will be attending Charter Dinners for Knaresborough (7th March), Tickhill (14th March) and Easingwold on the 21st March. Filey Lions will also be getting my attention this month with our Club meeting on the 19th and our Penguin Race Night on the 27th!

Keep up the good work fellow Lions and keep the new members coming!

Lion John Sellers, MJF

District Governor



sellersatmallard@aol.com



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1st Vice Governor's Message

Dear fellow Lions, Leos and partners,

I am delighted to be addressing District 105N members as your **new District Governor Elect**. Thanks to Huddersfield Lions for proposing me and Bradford Lions for seconding the Nomination to be District Governor, serving you for the incoming year of 2026 to 2027. Thanks also go to all who voted at the District Convention. **Convention was very enjoyable this year and I hope we can, together, put a good show** on for you next year.



I am also delighted to have a **2nd Vice DG in Lion Mike Byrne MJF, till June and then coming in July 1st as 1st Vice DG**. I very much look forward to working with him. That does leave the role of 2nd VDG for 2026/2027 vacant at present, so **please think about putting yourself forward** and rest assured you will get all the support and assistance you may need.

I am deep into the training this month with two more sessions planned for next week, which will then leave me **free to get out and about visiting Clubs**, which I am really looking forward to. I will be **visiting Derwent Lions on the 3rd of March** and on the **21st, 5 Huddersfield Lions will be attending District 105CN Convention** in Warrington, I also hope (pending replies) to be able to **visit more Clubs in March**.

I am **getting more excited but a little apprehensive** as we swiftly move through the year towards July, but the good news is that I will have a **very strong Global Action Team** (already accepted the roles) in place and am **currently working on the rest of Cabinet Member Posts**. The main thing to remember is that **I can only be as strong a District Governor as the team working with me**, with the emphasis on **'TEAM'**. With that in mind, **please keep an eye on the sessions** being organised for you all, by our **District Leadership Officer, Lion Michelle**, as they are really good, helpful and informative.

Thank you.

DGE Lion Allan Clark, MJF

**1st Vice District Governor
2025/2026**



nalla105c@yahoo.co.uk



2nd Vice Governor's Message

Dear all,

Having been **selected for the post of Second Vice District Governor for 2025/26 and as First Vice 2026/27** at Convention at Scotch Corner, I feel it only right to give you some background on myself.



Many of you already know me and many of you are my good friends. Having **moved from the South of England** 7 years ago, along with my wife Sally and daughter Sarah. Sally being a Yorkshire Lass and her family ties are with the village of Kirk Hammerton. Deciding to move to Yorkshire took 3 years of upheaval, but the family are now very settled and very happy.

I worked for **32 years in the Hospice and Charity Market** with my own Company and a Geordie partner. We were Consultants for them for fundraising. It was very hard to retire as I **enjoyed travelling and meeting people**. Having spent time travelling the UK and Asia. Sally saw me occasionally.

Joining Tickhill and District Lions, I do not know how I found time to be in business. There is a saying that 'Life Begins at Forty' but actually **Life Begins when you join the Lions**. My time now is taken up with **my family, Lions, and once a week driving for the Firefly Charity** taking people to various hospitals in Sheffield for Cancer Treatment. **I am also learning to play the guitar** as I have a great passion for music and have not had the time in my life to do this.

I have been **President of Tickhill and District Lions** for 2.5 years and various other posts. Now being **Zone Chair for N12, I enjoy this enormously**. There has been very good attendance over the past few months.

I think that is enough about me and I am **really looking forward to meeting you** all in the future at Meetings and Charters and your Clubs.

Mike Byrne, MJF

**2nd Vice District Governor,
2025/2026**



thebyrnes2003@yahoo.co.uk



District Convention 2026

District Convention provides a chance for Clubs across our geographically **vast 105N to come together**. Based at Scotch Corner once more, Lions from Scotland, Yorkshire and the North East attended the annual event for **special presentations, speeches, reflections and (as per this year's theme) fun!**



During the Convention, a number of speeches were made to the ensemble mass. These included a very informative presentation from **Lions International Director Dr Karl Brewi** and a rather emotional, touching one from **Martin House Children's Hospice** whom our District has been a keen backer of. We also heard from our **Governors, Leadership Team and a number of Lions** on a wide-range of topics from **AI to Youth service**.

At Convention, Lions sometimes do like to make a **'spectacle' of themselves** and, this year, they did so with glee as around **100,000 glasses** were collated by Lions of 105N. **This phenomenal total completely filled the van and will make a huge difference** to those with sight problems in the developing world. Brought together at the District Convention at Scotch Corner for transport to Lions HQ in Birmingham, **the specs will be inspected and repaired before being sent on to eye clinics** across the globe.

Meanwhile, the District-wide great get-together saw many Clubs and individuals receive **well deserved acknowledgement** for their work.

Darlington Lions was named the **best Lions Club** whilst **Lion Jonathan Reay** was given a **Certificate of Recognition** for his Marketing efforts, having been a Lion for only two years.



Huddersfield was celebrated for its **Membership Growth** whilst its **Treasurer Ray** was also awarded the **New Voices Award for Leadership**. Individual Lions awards included **Lion Kevin Hunter** (for his work on membership) and **Lion Michelle McArthur** for her Leadership focus. The latter's sister, **Lion Jeannette** received the **Secretary of the Year Award**. A number of other awards which covered the Competition categories were given as well. Top of the bill included **Thorne Rural Lions** who were the winning **Host and Visiting Club**.

Regardless of if Lions spent the day or weekend, **everyone enjoyed getting together and learning from each other**. Many Lions, such as the members of the **Dumfries Lions Club**, really loved going to the **Banquet and Ball on the Saturday evening**. Some of those who attended are pictured here alongside **Lions Martin and Myra Calder** from the **Aberdeen Club**.



A great 2026 Convention for all involved!



Lifestyle Initiative



Lifestyle is Humberside Police's **longest-running early intervention initiative**, inspiring young people since 1989. Each year, we strive to **grow participation and empower more young people** to make a positive impact in their communities.

Lifestyle is more than a project—it's a bridge to our communities, offering a unique platform to share not only our message but also those of our valued partners and sponsors. Every year, **local officers visit nearly 400 schools** to encourage involvement and introduce the exciting Company Challenges set by you and other sponsors.

Every team receives a dedicated logbook to **record their progress and achievements**, reinforcing accountability and engagement throughout the project. Alongside this, our joint commitment to improving local areas is showcased through strong online visibility. Sponsor branding and company ethos feature prominently on our website and across our social media channels, ensuring your message reaches thousands and highlights the powerful role you play in shaping stronger, safer communities.

Lions Clubs in the East Riding have supported Lifestyle for many years, with Clubs sponsoring through Pocklington & District Lions who coordinate donations to the project. **Please help us maintain this sponsorship and donate to the 2026 Lifestyle project.**

Please contact Lion Sandra for more information at pocklingtonlions@gmail.com or send your donation to Pocklington Lions at HSBC Account No 91428985 sort code 40-37-01 reference Lifestyle.



Membership News

Since the last newsletter, we have had **9** join our 105N pride. Unfortunately, we also have had **2 Lions** move to **Higher Service**. We **wish our new joiners all the best** in their future service and remember those who have moved on with the **highest regard and love**.

Alnwick Lions

- Lee Collis

Malton Norton Lions

- Paul Burnage
- Katherine Lindenberg

Tickhill & District Lions

- Hilda Pachawo

In Memoriam

Always treasured, your actions live on in our hearts.

Teesdale District Lions

- John Mutum MJF

Consett Lions

- Fmr member Les Bowater

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 ions.geomar@gmail.com.

Whitby District Lions

- Krysta Roe
- Sam Roberts
- Christine Hagan
- Lamorna Roberts
- Wilfred Witney.



Leadership Matters

Are you ready to make a lasting impact in your Club and community? Don't miss these essential events designed to empower every Lion—whether you're a seasoned Lion or just starting your journey! Let's nurture our new Lions for life, welcome every new member and make sure every Lion has a voice, feels valued and is able to contribute fully in Club activities and service.

Making Room for Everyone: Creating a Safe and Authentic Experience in Your Lions Club

Wednesday, 25th February 2026, 7:30 PM (Online)

Harness the true power of your Club's diversity! Whilst bringing together multiple generations and diverse backgrounds is a tremendous strength, it also presents unique challenges in communication, commitment, and leadership. Enrol in this new webinar to learn actionable strategies for inclusive leadership. We will equip Club officers and members with practical tools to successfully bridge generational gaps and establish a safe environment so that every Lion feels genuinely welcome, valued, and empowered. Don't miss this opportunity to boost engagement and retention.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/c4ONTVjITreo5JOILuwi0w>

Managing Conflict and Valuing Diversity within a Lions Club

Monday 23rd March 2026, 7.30pm (Online)

Is internal conflict or communication breakdown draining energy from your Club's vital service mission? Join our focused 75-minute webinar which is designed specifically for members and leaders navigating volunteer dynamics. We'll explore the root causes of fallout—from unclear roles to competing service priorities—and reveal the hidden cost of inaction on member retention and public reputation. Crucially, you'll gain practical tools and learn how to leverage differing opinions to ensure disagreements lead to stronger projects, not fractured relationships. Equip your Club to transform internal tension into a powerful external impact.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/auK6jPuXTdirFLV7mAACnA>

Generative AI for Lions: Your New Co-Pilot for Service

Tuesday 31st March 2026, 7.30pm (Online)

A beginner-friendly webinar designed for all members. Discover how simple, free tools like ChatGPT and Google Gemini can become powerful assistants, saving your Club valuable time. You'll learn practical, actionable ways to draft news articles in seconds, create engaging social media posts, and brainstorm fresh fundraising ideas. Attend this session to gain the confidence to use AI responsibly and efficiently, allowing your Club to amplify its service impact and focus on what matters most: serving the community. **Note:** This webinar is not designed for Lions who are already familiar with and using Generative AI, it is designed for those who are curious and would like to learn about some of the basics.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/h7qVQMjwTqmCOqarfU9RaQ>

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

Knareborough Lions

39th Annual Charter Dinner

7th March 2026

Lions Fun & Sports Day Meeting

Thursday 12th March 2026, 7:30pm

Dunscroft Working Mens Club, 182

Station Rd, DN7 4JR

Email Lion James:

lionfunday@gmail.com

Thorne Rural Lions

55th Charter Dinner

Saturday 14th March 2026, 7:00pm

for 7:30pm

Wheatley Golf Club, Doncaster,

DN2 5QB

Email Lion Barry:

bjg48goforth@outlook.com

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

Allendale Lions Club

Meet the Monster Man (Neil Cole)

Friday 27th March 2026, 7:30pm

Allendale Village Hall, Hexham, NE47 9PR

Email Lion Peter:

peteraldcroft@gmail.com

Tickhill & District Lions

48th Charter Dinner

Saturday 9th May 2026, from 7.00pm

Wheatley Golf Club, Doncaster, DN2 5QB

Email Lion Rob:

R2day2@sky.com

Filey Lions

10k Beach Race, Golf Day and Filey

Ball Race

14th June, 10th July and 12th August 2026

Find out more:

www.fileylionsclub.org

Doncaster Lions

Charter Dinner

Friday 3rd July 2026, 7pm for

7:30pm

The Earl Of Doncaster Hotel,

Bennetthorpe, Doncaster, DN2 6AD

Find out more:

www.doncasterlions.co.uk

Lions Fun & Sports Day

Saturday 8th August 2026, from

11am

Parklands Social Club, Wheatley

Hall Road, Doncaster, DN2 4LT

Have an upcoming event or Charter Dinner?

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

media@keighleylions.uk



Tales from our Clubs

Elmet Lions



Occasionally, technical issues prevent some stories getting into the newsletter. However, once this is brought to my attention, they will be included as soon as possible. For example, back over Christmas, **Elmet Lions Club had a pretty heartwarming experience.**

During one of their regular Sleigh runs, they were stopped by a landlord who said that their village sleigh had tragically burned down in a farm fire. Therefore, he wondered if the generous Lions would lend them theirs so that they could **load it with presents for the children of Little Smeaton village.** As you can imagine, the **Lions were delighted to help** and, on the back of a hefty donation from the Landlord, the sleigh was driven to the village for a couple of hours and the children collected their presents. **Elmet Lions - serving the community at every and any opportunity!**

Denby Dale District Lions

December was also a wonderful, whirlwind of Santa activities in Denby Dale District with just under **50 events** arranged involving the big man himself.

This huge level of service included **16 evening Sleigh runs** around the villages that make up their community and **4 Christmas tree lights switch-ons.** On top of this, music, carol singing was on offer at the always popular Lions BBQ and a further **29 Santa visits** took place at school Christmas Fairs, Nursery and Toddler Groups, Care Homes, Facilities for Adults and children with disabilities and special needs, Sports and Social Clubs and Bars, a Golf Club and even a Christmas party for dogs.



The Club also funded and provided nearly **60 Christmas Food Hampers** to the local food bank plus **75 selection boxes and 45 new and used toys** for distribution to those in need this Christmas. **A fantastic month of Christmas fun and fundraising for their community.**

Dumfries Lions



Another seasonal story comes from North of the Border as Dumfries Lions celebrated their decorated **Christmas Tree Competition winner.** The victor was **Suzie Findlay**, who decorated her winning entry predominantly with small Paddington Bears, is pictured receiving her Certificate which entitles her to a free tree at this year's sale. This is the third year of the competition which is **ever growing and popular.**

Another act of service from the Club saw them **clean up a shelter based at Dumfries and Galloway Hospital.** Originally erected by the Lions in 2005, the shelter needed a bit of TLC which the Lions were more than happy to provide. **A clean sweep for the Lions and a tremendous victory for Suzie!**



In Wetherby, the Lions held their **very successful Midwinter Lunch** for over 150 senior citizens at Wetherby High School.



During the lovely event, the tables were laid with green and red covers adorned with beautiful small vases of flowers. On the menu, was a delicious chicken 'Lionnaise' followed by sticky toffee pudding and teas/coffees. Guests were welcomed by **Lion President, Ruth Holt and Bingo was called by the Mayor**. After this excellent lunch, guests were entertained by singer **Ellen Roy** very ably **supported by Teddy and Jacob**, members of Wetherby's Explorers group, who wowed the audience with their dancing.

This **great event was loved by the guests** with rave reviews from the attendees. All of this wonderful work is made possible **by the very generous donations** Santa received on his Sleigh Rides and on the Christmas market. **The Club thanks everyone involved!**

Darlington Lions



Darlington Lions have been busy on serving their youth and have done so recently by funding **The Viking Boat company's educational programme** in their community. This unique and **exciting project gives children a history lesson with a difference** alongside positive messages on mental health.

During the launch, a life-sized Viking longboat – called **Stormbird** – visited **Croft Church of England Primary School**, at Croft-on-Tees, near Darlington. This initiative has been **handmade by veterans**, who the not-for-profit organisation supports, and is a testament to the excellent work of all those involved. Speaking in praise, Lions Club President, Denis Pinnegar, said: "Our **key areas of focus this year are mental health and young people**, so funding the educational programme by The Viking Boat Company was the perfect investment."

Ryedale Lions

Several child friendly endeavours have also been supported and aided by Ryedale Lions. The first of these, conducted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Pickering, saw the Club once again **providing tickets for local children** in Pickering—and, for the first time, in Helmsley—to attend pantomime performances in both towns.



In a new youth initiative, the **Ryedale Lions Swimmers Swimmer award** has been provided to Ryedale Swimming Club. **Josh Little (aged 14)** was the lucky recipient of the trophy after he was nominated by his fellow swimmers for **his hard work, dedication and the support and kindness shown to others**.

Beyond this, the Club are also celebrating an **extraordinarily successful Santa Sleigh fundraising campaign** which **raised over £14K** and was followed by a 'Thank You' gathering for the elves that helped with the Santa Run. Finally, the Lions were pleased to welcome, **Gillian Swan, District Youth Coordinator**, who visited the Club to share her initiatives. **The Lions are looking forward to pursuing the Peace Poster, Youth Leader, and Lions Roar projects going forward.**

Filey Lions



In Filey, the Lions have had a very successful period. The largest of these was their PSA testing event which saw **100 available spaces taken up in just 48 hours**. The Club extends a **big thank you to their 2 local phlebotomists** for giving their time and support to make this event possible.

The Club has also been celebrating and relaxing after their big, festive period. During this, they held their **Christmas social** and also a **super, snooker social** at Filey Sports bar, where Lions and friends enjoyed a mini tournament & supper.

In full party mode, Lion President Julie & Vice president Lion Mike had the honour of presenting local resident, **Mrs Baker with flowers to help her celebrate her 105th birthday!** They also celebrated the retirement of a **Brownie Leader after 23 years** and a **girl guide who received a Queen's Guide Award** (the highest award possible with girl guiding). In future weeks, the Club is now focused on awarding their **Community Grants** and are planning for their upcoming events such as the **10K Beach Race, their Golf Day and Ball Race**.

Alnwick Lions

Our last story this month, comes from our **friends and colleagues at Alnwick Lions** who have been celebrating a successful year. On Facebook, the Club was very happy to announce a very impressive, and rather stunning **contribution of £9000** which they have been able to make to **Alnwick Christmas Lights**.



Within the post, the Club explained how their **brilliant fundraising efforts** were made possible by their members. This work included **their monthly pie & pea quizzes, a Christmas Raffle and a large donation from the Club itself**. They also thanked all their supporters and the many businesses who have helped them along. All of this has been very well received by the Christmas Lights Team who **thanked the Club for their generosity**.

Finally, the Lions reflected on their work over Christmas such as their **Santa Sleighs throughout their area** such as Alnmouth, Powburn, Longhoughton, and Shilbottle as well as **Santa's visits to a number of Christmas parties** for youngsters in Alnwick and Berwick and **also hosted a party at Alnwick Working Men's Club**.

Club President Linden Dodds is quite right when he says that whilst the Club might be "small in members" it is "**big in spirit**" and, quite evidently, **big in service too!**

Upcoming POTN Deadline

Thank you all for your contributions this month. The next deadline is the **22nd March 2026**. I look forward to seeing what your Clubs have been doing so email me on: media@keighleylions.uk

