

LION

DECEMBER 16/JANUARY 17

The magazine of the British and Irish Multiple District of Lions Clubs International

A GREAT DAY ON THE SLOPES WITH LIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA



CLEVEDON LIONS 'DREAM SCHEME'



INSIDE...

- 'GIVE AS YOU LIVE' AND BEAT BLOOD CANCER
- CLUB PROFILE: HEDNESFORD
- IN THE CALAIS 'JUNGLE': JUAN NUEVO'S VIVID REPORT
- LIONS SIGHT AWARENESS WEEK: DAISY'S STORY

DIAMOND CYCLE CHALLENGE

with HRH The Countess of Wessex



HEALTH: FLINT LIONS

fight prostate cancer



Lions Clubs International

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SPRING AHEAD!

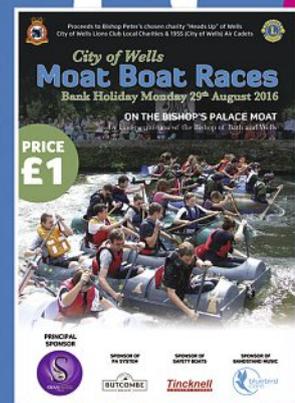
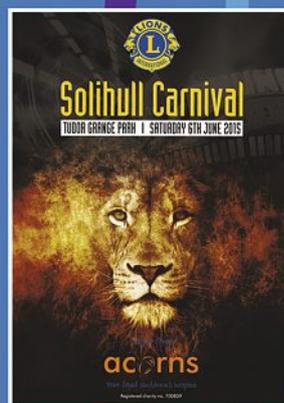
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Join the Party of the Century

"I celebrate myself," the great poet Walt Whitman wrote. Lions have been doing a lot of that as our Centennial approaches in June. Lions in New England saluted our anniversary on a scoreboard during the Patriot's first football game this season. Texas Lions threw a birthday bash at a hotel and celebrated with a decorated cake, flags, horns and 100 balloons. The Blandon Lions Club in Pennsylvania welcomed hundreds of people for free food, music, raffles and children's games and wisely let people know who Lions are and what we do.

Age is a funny thing. We celebrate every birthday when young, approach birthdays with hesitancy and black humour in middle-age and then throw on the party hats once again when we achieve the milestones of later years. So it has been, and should be, with Lions Clubs. We turn 100 only once. Let's appreciate who we are and what we've done, and let's be sure to let the public be a part of our celebration as well. We're not self-contained, after all. We exist because of needs in our neighbourhoods. Let our neighbours join us in our revelry.

Here are some easily achievable ways to mark our birthday:

- Fly the Lions flag on or before 7th June
- Honour the longest-serving Lion in your Club or district
- Make a centennial banner with '100' across it and place faces of Lions where an 'O' is
- Be sure to share your efforts on social media and use #Lions100
- Do a service project such a Centennial dance marathon, a birthday cake bake-off or distribute meals to those in need and include a special Centennial treat

- Connect with your community by having a Centennial float in a parade, donating 100 books to the library or stuffing 100 backpacks for children and include a Lions item
- Invite new members by holding a celebration luncheon with community leaders, ask 100 potential members to attend a service project or host a party with a 1917 or 2017 theme.

International has Centennial party supplies, banners, posters and flyers. LCI knew our milestone was coming and is fully prepared to help you party in style!

I've talked to many Lions excited about the Centennial, and multitudes of members plan to come to Chicago 3rd June to 4th July for our huge Centennial convention. Please take part in the celebration. After all, *you* are who we are celebrating.

Lions make Lions Clubs what it is, of course. I celebrate myself indeed. Enjoy this special year and thank you for your service.

Chancellor Bob Corlew
Lions Clubs International President

MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:



"To empower volunteers to Serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs."



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LION

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Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex**

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Editorial

As you will be aware, we have a new editor, Nicky Rogers. Clo has done a magnificent job for us over the past couple of years and we have seen the magazine take on a new appearance. I am sure you will agree that the style is more reader-friendly, evidenced by the many positive comments I have heard. I would like to thank Clo for all the work she has done, we will miss her but I am sure we will meet up in the future.

I give a big welcome to Nicky who has worked for Warners (our publisher) for many years and has a vast amount of experience in editing magazines, I am sure that we will continue to produce a first-class magazine which we can all be proud of.

Don't forget that the LION is your magazine and is a shop window for you to share those heart-warming experiences with your fellow Lions. A good story, together with a good picture is the way to get your articles in the magazine.

John Hall Magazine Committee Chairman



HELLO (AGAIN)

Just a short note from me, I have actually dipped my toe into Lion already. I edited the issue just after lovely Margaret retired and Clo took over. Seems ages ago, but going through the stories for this issue reminded me what an inspirational organisation the Lions is.

Throughout life, we can bumble along quite engrossed in our own ups and downs, but it seems to me that Lions rise above all that minutiae and turn their thoughts and actions to those less fortunate.

A life lesson if ever I heard one.

As John says, do send in your stories for future issues, I'm so looking forward to hearing from you.

Nicky Rogers Lion Editor

COVER STORY

Lions guide blind children down the slopes (page 48)

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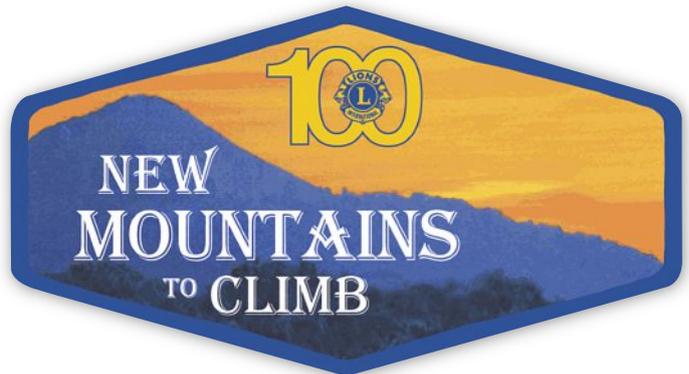
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Do a service project such a Centennial dance marathon, a birthday cake bake-off or distribute meals to those in need and include a special Centennial treat. Connect with your community by having a Centennial float in a parade, donating 100 books to the library or stuffing 100 backpacks for children and include a Lions item. Invite new members by holding a celebration luncheon with community leaders, ask 100 potential members to attend a service projector or host a party with a 1917 or 2017 theme.

You don't have to devise your own Centennial materials. Club Supplies at Lions Clubs International has Centennial party supplies, banners, posters and flyers. LCI knew our milestone was coming and is fully prepared to help you party in style!

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Chancellor Bob Corlew
Lions Clubs International President

Water.

We're all made of it. We need water to keep our hearts pumping, our brains thinking and our joints moving. But it's not just water that unites us.

The hope, compassion and generosity we have in common is making history. Today, 9 in 10 people around the world have safe water to drink – an unimaginable statistic just a few decades ago.

But people like Esnart (pictured) are the 1 in 10 still drinking dirty water. And we're determined to reach them.

This Christmas will your club bring not only water, but hope to people like Esnart?

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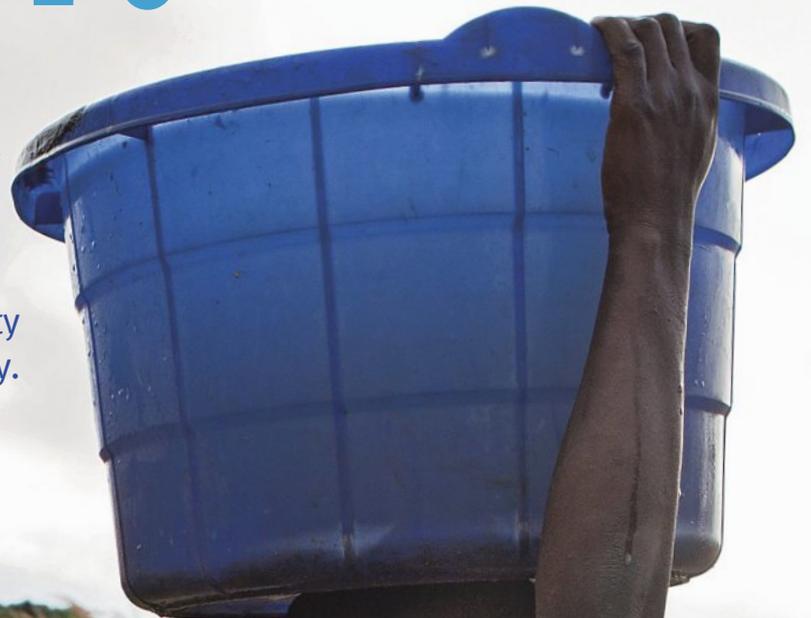


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 **WaterAid**



What a week!

My Fellow Lions

It seems hard to believe that my Diamond Cycle Challenge has come and gone. A year in the planning and seven months training all to be over in a week. But what a week it was!

We had the most wonderful send-off from The Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh, with my husband, father-in-law and some inspirational young people to wave us off. I must confess that at this point, the fear was greater than the excitement, but nonetheless, my team and I were looking forward to the week ahead. From that moment on, with the help of the bright blue skies, the team camaraderie and several helpings of cake, the days slipped by quickly, as did the beautiful scenery and villages we cycled through.

HELPING TO CHANGE LIVES

Every morning we met several young DofE Award participants, which served as a great reminder of why I was doing this challenge in the first place. Despite the immense fun we had over the course of the week, I was doing this for a very serious reason, to ensure that the life-changing Duke of Edinburgh's Award can reach as many young people as possible and help to change lives.

I have seen first-hand how the Award affects young people all over the world in the same way. No matter what their background, it has the same impact. It offers them experiences they never thought they would have, gives them confidence they never imagined and challenges them in ways they didn't think was possible. They come away with better communication skills, confidence and a genuine sense of achievement. It gives them a definite 'leg up' in a world where getting ahead can be difficult, and many businesses are now recognising the DofE as the most important non-academic qualification for a young person to have on their CV.

OPPORTUNITIES

For those for whom life hasn't dealt the kindest of cards it represents a real opportunity to turn things around and in many cases it has even saved lives. How it achieves this is simple, the young people are shown the way, but every achievement is their own, therefore they own the outcome.

I shall never forget the immense thrill of cycling down the Mall and arriving through the gates of Buckingham

Palace to an incredible welcome from my VERY patient family, friends and supporters. The sense of achievement was, and still is, of huge pride to me and I hope reflects the sense of pride each young person feels when completing their DofE, particularly at Gold level.

THANK YOU LIONS

I would like to say a huge thank you to all Lions who have supported me throughout this challenge, championed the cause and raised thousands of pounds for the DofE. I may have completed my challenge but for many young people out there, life is one big challenge. I believe that every young person should have the opportunity to be the best that they can be and the money and awareness you have helped me raise will do just that.

My heartfelt thanks to you all.

Sophie
HRH The Countess of Wessex
Patron, Lions Clubs
International, British Isles
& Ireland



PICTURED: Cycling down the Mall



PICTURED: The team



PICTURED: Crossing the finish line



PICTURED: Crossing the border



PICTURED: Fuelled by cake



75 Years Of Wedded Bliss

Betty and Albert Fendall of Eastbourne celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with close friends in September. Albert, now 97, joined the civilian staff of the Admiralty at Woolwich Arsenal in 1936. He stayed with the Admiralty until the end of the Second World War when he became a higher executive officer to Customs and Excise.

In 1941, Betty (now 94) and Albert were married at Westerham in Kent and in 1946, their only child, Anthony, was born. After moving around the country they spent many years in the Dartford area before settling in Eastbourne in 1994. Albert helped form the Lions Club of Dartford in 1979 and with Betty, supported numerous Lions Clubs International charity projects.

On moving to Eastbourne, Albert transferred to the Lions Club of Eastbourne where he still regularly attends meetings.

Many cards and good wishes were delivered and speeches of thanks were given by Albert and Anthony.



PICTURED: Albert and Betty Fendall celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary



PICTURED: Pictured with Lion President Sue Carter are Lions Bob Wilmot (far left), Marilyn Graves and Denis Cator

Glanford & Lindsey Silver Anniversary

When Glanford & Lindsey Lions recently celebrated their 25th Charter anniversary, they made the occasion extra special by presenting three longstanding members with Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards. Hearty congratulations go to each one of the trio, their awards are indeed, well deserved.

Windsor Lions Recognise Top Man!

Windsor Lions has awarded Lion Mark Fraser with a Melvyn Jones Fellowship. The award recognises the huge contribution Lion Mark has made to Windsor Lions and the local community for his outstanding achievement of successfully managing the Club's annual horseride for the past twenty or so years.

The horseride is the biggest fundraiser of the Club's annual calendar. This year

the event attended by some 600 riders from all over the country and it raised over £40,000, all of which will be distributed to the local community.

The horseride, held in the glorious surroundings of Windsor Great Park, was first started by Lion Peter Vaughan in 1962 and became a hit at the outset. Lion Mark took over the management of the event when Lion Peter retired and he works tirelessly to ensure it is a success.

It is estimated that in total, the event has raised more than £2million for national and local good causes.

When the President of Windsor Lions, Lion David Joyce, presented the award to Lion Mark, he said: "Lion Mark's achievement with the horseride is considerable and we are all indebted to him. A top award for a top man!"

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'Give as you Live' and Beat Blood Cancer

Shop online for Christmas and New Year AND RAISE FUNDS TO BEAT BLOOD cancer.

Every item you buy online this Christmas and throughout 2017 can help raise funds for the Lions International Blood Research Appeal (LIBRA). Easy and quick to install, 'Give as you Live' allows you to do your shopping at all your favourite online stores and support the essential work being undertaken by King's College Hospital in London to beat blood disorders and cancers.

The good news is that it isn't just for Christmas – it can be used all year round! You can use Give as you Live, a popular fundraising price comparison site, to ensure you get the best deal on anything from holidays, utilities, clothes, to household essentials.

Make your purchase from over 3,500 retailers including Amazon, eBay, M&S, Sainsbury's and John Lewis. A percentage of the value will be donated to LIBRA **without costing you a penny**.

Every penny raised will go to the Haematology Department at King's so that new lifesaving treatments for patients with blood disorders and cancers can be created. Please support LIBRA this Christmas and buy your loved ones' gifts that keep on giving long after they have been received.

All you need to do is sign up at:
www.give.as/charity/libra

Real Ale Festival Lifesaving Funds

LIBRA recently received £2,000 at a special cheque presentation with representatives from Braintree Lions Club, following a Real Ale Festival that attracted more than one 1,000 people from across the south. LIBRA was selected as one of two major beneficiaries of the popular event by Club members.

The festival was held across three days in June 2016 at the Bocking Arts Theatre in Essex. Visitors consumed 50 barrels of beer and 12 casks of cider between them. To mark the event's success, Lion Tony Day, who helped to organise the festival, arranged a special celebration and cheque presentation with LIBRA PR Officer, Claire Allaker.

Immediate Past President of Braintree Lions Club, Tony Day, said: "We have always supported LIBRA and we normally just send donations, but this year we decided to do something more for this great Lions appeal.

"One of our Club members has a blood disorder so we understand just how important LIBRA is when it comes to raising funds that benefit patients like him. We know that the £2,000 will be put to good use by the Haematology Department at King's College Hospital.

"This year marked our 12th annual Real Ale Festival and we offered a great selection of beverages, mainly from small local breweries from Essex and the south coast. We are pleased that we were able to raise a substantial amount for LIBRA and that it really will make a difference to patients with blood disorders."

Claire Allaker, LIBRA PR Officer, added: "On behalf of the LIBRA Trustees I would like to thank Braintree Lions Club for choosing LIBRA as a beneficiary of the Real Ale Festival. It is events like these that really help to raise awareness of LIBRA and our mission to help King's tackle blood cancers and disorders. We are most grateful for the funds raised and they will directly benefit patients at the hospital."

al Raises ds



YOU CAN HELP

If you would like to support LIBRA, please visit: www.libralionscharity.org to find out how you can get involved.

LIBRA
Lions International Blood Research Appeal



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every Daffodil counts

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find out more

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Help our nurses care for people with a terminal illness
Donate and wear your daffodil today





Community Car Raffle

The Lions Club of Bletchley and MK Community Foundation, are working with Volkswagen Group (UK) Ltd again this year. The Lions Club of Bletchley are selling raffle tickets in MK Centre up until 23rd December. VW has donated a brand-new car every year since 1989 as the first prize of MK Community Foundation's Community Car Raffle, this enables local charities to raise their own funds and profile their vital work in the community, as always, the Lions Clubs will give every penny that is donated, to charity.

Don't Forget The Donkeys

It can be hard to find a successful fund raiser, but Leatherhead Lions have found one after celebrating its third year of "A Donkey Derby Day".

So what does it need:

- *Firstly*, a well-known and popular venue – that being the National Trust grounds of Polesden Lacey near Dorking,
- *Secondly*, an incentive to come – free entry and parking with lots of entertainment for the young with facilities for children,
- *Thirdly*, a group of 12 racing donkeys – from a local breeder in Godalming, and
- *Fourthly*, an enthusiastic group of Lion members from Leatherhead and other local clubs to setup and the stage the day.

All set then and on a Sunday in September it all happened; 6,000 people attended, raising receipts of £7,000 from a variety of events including donkey racing complete with a TOTE, a dog show, Punch & Judy show, a miniature railway, swing boats, a massive food court and many commercial stalls.

Jim Malynn, Lion President, said: "It was hard work but worthwhile, as we raised valuable funds for community projects. I'd recommend other Lion Clubs to approach your local National Trust venue with an idea to encourage younger people, rather than the regular crowd to attend an event. It has worked for us and it is now an annual event on Polesden Lacey's calendar.



PICTURED:
Donkeys are vital...



'Blind Walking' – Lions Sight Awareness Week

Clevedon Lions supported Lions Sight Awareness Week by organising an obstacle course in the local town square. They invited members of the public to be blindfolded, then, with club members assisting, helped them walk the course to try to appreciate the problems experienced by visually impaired people.

The obstacles included walking up steps, around chairs and pouring water into a jug – all very challenging in the dark. One participant, Daisy Kell (7) went home after the event then wrote this wonderful story about her experience.

Local supporter of Lions, Mark Ball, who lost his sight a few years ago, was on hand to talk through the issues with the public. Mark was a recent speaker at the Club's charter lunch where he accepted a donation to the local Blind Support charity. Clevedon Lions also run a Partially Sighted Club each month, where local visually impaired people are collected from their homes for a variety of social events.

TRANSCRIPT OF DAISY'S STORY:

Imagine a world where colour is a stranger to you, a world where no light is to be seen, a world where you can't

see the dangers ahead of you or the beautiful things all around you that we take for granted every day. A world where darkness is all around. Imagine a world where you can't see.

If you can't see anything, you would have to rely on your senses such as smelling, feeling, touching and hearing (most people who are blind develop things like good hearing). You would have to rely on other people (and your guide dog if you have one) to guide you.

The challenges would be that you would not know whether you are stepping on a path or a pile of leaves, in a puddle or around a puddle, in the sea or on the beach. You wouldn't

know where your bowl or cup was on the table, you might try to cut up your soup instead of your sausages!

I experienced not being able to see when I joined the Lions in Queens Square to do an obstacle course whilst blindfolded. I now understand about them and how you could help them.

It feels scary not knowing where you're going. It also makes you want to feel everything to make sure you're going the right way. It made me feel cautious and careful as well.

PICTURED: Clevedon Lions during their Sight Awareness Week



Valiant Lion

Lion Keith Lawson-West of Oadby and Wigston Lions is a trustee of a Leicester charity, which helps some of the most marginalised people in the City. When the charity had to find new premises to rent and fit out, he turned to the Lions' network for help.

Demonstrating immense courage and epitomising the strength of a Lion, a terminally ill Market Harborough Lion, Martin Hill, who knew he had only weeks to live, did

all he could and by spreading the request for help, found someone with a kitchen to donate.

Lion Keith said: "I have been a Lion now for over 35 years and I am even more positive as a Lion now than the day I joined. Rather than stand on the side-lines; think of Lion Martin and his example of continuing to serve to the end, despite his circumstances. What a great organisation."



Furness Lions Help Katie

Furness Lions Lion President, Jim Rhodes, with Lion Sheila Rockley, presented a cheque for £1,500 to Katie Maitchell and her parents, Annlouise and Shaun.

Katie has Lissencephaly, a rare brain condition, so she is profoundly disabled and needs a feeding tube, oxygen and specialist equipment. She also needs a specially adapted wheelchair which costs £2,605 and her family have raised money by doing several outdoor activities.



PICTURED: Furness Lions with Katie and her mum and dad

District Governor's Charity Appeal in the South West

In Cornwall, Devon and Somerset there are seven adult hospices, caring for adults and their families who are in need of respite or loving terminal care.

Hospices are always under pressure to raise funds to ensure their continued good work in the communities. At the Lion's District Autumn Forum, Tamsin Thomas from Cornwall Hospice Care talked to Lions about her work. Following this impressive presentation Lesley Clarke, the then District Governor of the Lions South West asked all 59 Lions Clubs in 105SW to raise money for this deserving cause.

At the end of a year of fundraising, South West Lions presented over £12,500 to their respective local adult hospices.

PICTURED: North Devon Hospice presentation >>



PICTURED: Weston Hospice Care presentation



PICTURED: St Lukes Hospice presentation



PICTURED: Cornwall Hospice presentation



Vital Shropshire Cancer Unit Gets Financial Boost From Lions

Members and friends of Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions visited the Lingen Davies Cancer Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital recently, to present a cheque for £500 to Radiotherapy Manager, Louise Killey. The money will go towards the purchase of a new Linear Accelerator for the unit.

Ironbridge Lions Club President, John Marsh, said: "We were given a tour of the centre and I don't think any of us had realised just how amazing the work they do there is, or how important the unit is for cancer patients in the area."



PICTURED: (L-R) John Marsh (President of Ironbridge Lions), Louise Killey (Lingen Davies unit Radiotherapy Manager) and Jill Marsh (Treasurer of Ironbridge Lions)



It's a 'Pockout'

The Bank Holiday fun of 'It's a Pockout' was a KNOCKOUT for the Pocklington District Lions Club, who held a free family fun day in the town, hosted by Keith Chegwin.

There was a real buzz in Pocklington as town crier, Geoff Shearsby, Keith Chegwin and Pocko the Lion Mascot, were led by the York Pipe Band as the games contestants paraded through the town and into the games arena.

Graham Gillyon, Past President of Pocklington District Lions and the Clubs game's makers' were pleased with the support of local businesses and the fearless teams of competitors – everyone who attended, helped to make the event so special for the Lions, who were raising funds to support MacMillan Cancer Care, Yorkshire Air Ambulance, MenCap, The MS Society and Heart Research UK.

Llandrindod Wells Lions Club Hearing Dogs Appeal

In response to Centennial Officer, Lion Elaine Kitchen's appeal for members to raise funds for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People by completing a series of marathons, Lion Vic Everill and partner Ann Harman have completed the Blackpool and Edinburgh marathons and the Cardiff half marathon.

Although for several years they had enjoyed long distance and challenge walks, they had not run at all until last year, when Ann completed the London marathon (aged 72).

Training through the winter was challenging. For the last two sessions, the weather turned against them, when high winds, sleet and cold, made it too dangerous to complete the intended mileage of 17 and 20 miles.

Sheila Lannon and her hearing dog, Aster, along with Hearing Dogs for Deaf People representative, Pat Barlow, accepted a cheque for £1,200 from Deputy President, Maureen Dodds, and Past President, Jim Moor, of Llandrindod Wells Lions.



PICTURED: (L-R) Jennifer & Jim Cawte, Lady Walpole, Carol Plunkett (EACH), Lord Walpole, Wendy and David Judd (EACH North Norfolk Friends Fundraising Committee who organised the event) with the Royal Mail van

Jen and Jim's Awfully Big Adventure!

In May, Jim Cawte and Jennifer set off from Wymondham Market Place in Jim's 33 year-old Post Office van to face their 'JOGLE' challenge. ('JOGLE' is short for John O'Groats to Land's End for the uninitiated.)

They were raising funds for East Anglian Children's Hospices (EACH) 'nook' appeal, to build a new unit for the children. The existing unit is part of a convent and really just an adapted set of rooms as in a house, rather than a facility for caring for youngsters with terminal illness.

The pair's aim was to raise £2,000 for the EACH nook appeal – about £1 for each mile travelled. They made John O'Groats by day three and by day seven, they began to realise what a challenge they'd taken on – as their beloved van is a utility vehicle and not built for comfort! Fully rested and raring to go by day eight, they reached the second

'milestone' destination of Land's End. By day 11, they were homeward bound, after an amazing journey where they met lovely people, saw breath-taking scenery, and importantly, raised money for a very worthy cause.

The trip culminated at an open day in aid of EACH where Lady Walpole accepted the presentation cheque on behalf of EACH.

Jen and Jim thank everyone who wished them well on their travels and gave so generously.

Jen and Jim's vital statistics:

- 1,855 miles,
- 241 litres fuel, and
- £4,350 raised!

Swaffham and District Sight Awareness Day

For the third year running Swaffham Lions held their Sight Awareness Day as part of the Lions International Sight Week and National Guide Dogs for the Blind Week. Setting up in Swaffham Market Place with information about issues that confront blind and partially sighted people, secondly to talk on preventable eye disease and what Lions Clubs locally and internationally do about it.

To highlight the problems of blind and partially sighted people have walking around town, the Mayor of Swaffham, Paul Darby, agreed to walk around the town centre with a special blindfold fitted. With the aid of a guide, Paul walked around the town, followed by three guide dogs with their owners. Following the one hour tour of the town, the major problems highlighted by the Mayor were advertising A frames on the pavement and parked cars with a large overhang which encroached on the path. Street bollards and café furniture also caused problems. Now having an understanding of the issues, Paul will see what council can do to ease these problems.





LCIF IMPACT

Improving Literacy in South Sudan

In war-torn South Sudan, women and girls often walk miles to wells. Then they wait in long lines for hours before carrying a heavy jug of water back to their families. This essential task leaves little time for school.

The pressing daily need to collect water has disastrous consequences. South Sudan has the lowest female literacy rate in the world. Not surprisingly, it also has the world's highest maternal mortality rate. Research by UNICEF shows a strong relationship between a mother's education and the health of her children. In South Sudan, girls are more likely to die of pregnancy complications than they are to complete primary education. One in 10 children dies before the age of five.

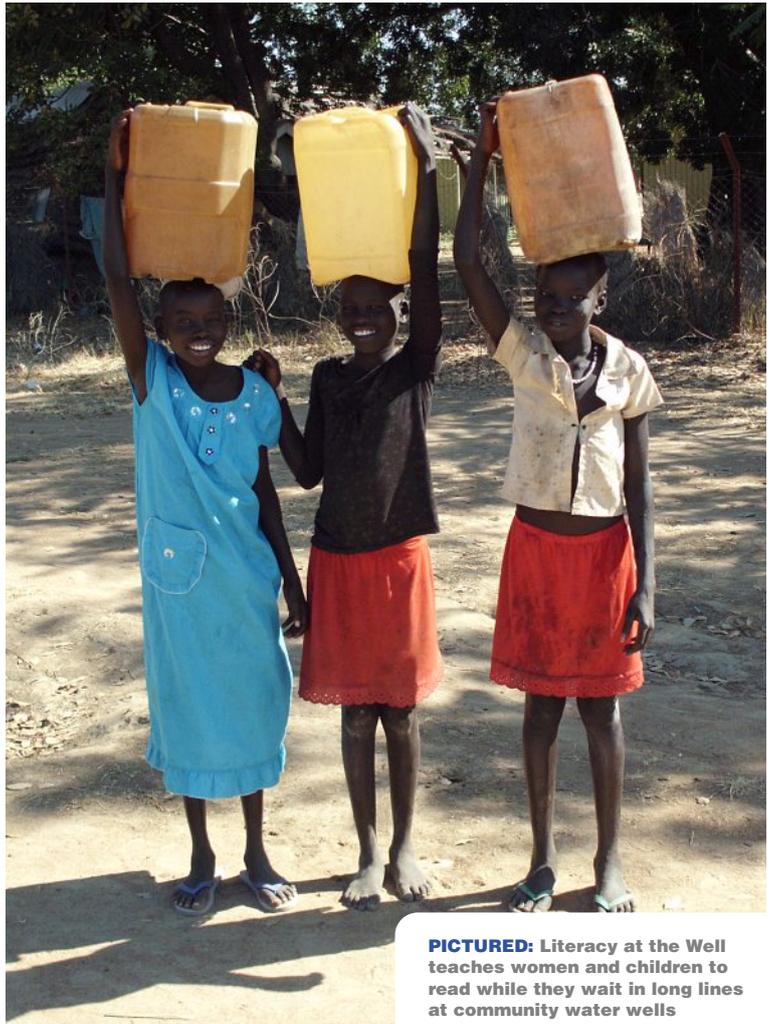
Lions and LCIF are supporting a creative, practical solution to South Sudan's literacy challenges. LCIF awarded a Core 4 grant to Literacy at the Well (LATW). The non-profit uses the time spent waiting in line to teach women and girls how to read and write. Those who learn at the well can then take the lessons home to their families. LATW recruits, trains and hires local teachers to lead the programme.

Established in the United States, LATW has been operating in Northern Bahr el Ghazal in South Sudan since 2008. LCIF's funds are supporting the ever-increasing demand for literacy programming in Aweil, the most heavily populated city in Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

LATW's Aweil Women's Leadership Centre provides education for more than 1,000 women and girls each week. The centre is used not only to teach reading, writing and English, but also to train future instructors and to provide literacy instruction for community groups like police and health workers.

The challenges in South Sudan are immense. Located in East-Central Africa, it has been described as "the world's most failed state." Decades of war in Sudan destroyed the area's infrastructure and only a handful of regions have running water, electricity, clinics, schools or paved roads.

The nation gained its independence in 2011. South Sudan's peace deal, signed in August 2015, was supposed to end the country's latest civil war that began in December 2013 and



PICTURED: Literacy at the Well teaches women and children to read while they wait in long lines at community water wells

killed tens of thousands, but the agreement was never fully implemented, and at the time of going to press, more fighting was taking place.

The dire conditions make the Lions' efforts even more critical. Raising the nation's literacy rate can lead to economic growth and serve as a cornerstone of democracy. Families that can read are healthier, less vulnerable to oppression, more likely to succeed and more able to help others in their community.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**



Open Wide

A dental hygienist member of Easingwold District Lions Club has returned from a volunteering trip in Zimbabwe where she worked with the Lions partner charity, Dentaid.

Lion Cheryl McBroom was part of a team of four who travelled to the troubled country to provide oral health education and emergency dentistry for people who have no other access to dental care. The team worked in schools, hospitals, remote villages and even a storeroom, treating hundreds of patients and teaching people how to look after their teeth.

Zimbabwe is rich in minerals and fertile land, with a population that has the highest literacy rate in Africa, yet the nation is on the verge of collapse with the economy contracting instead of growing and widespread unrest. As a result, many people have never seen a

dentist and are living in pain. The Dentaid volunteers worked alongside a local dentist to provide an outreach clinic in Mutoko, where they saw 47 patients and gave oral health advice to 400 children who received toothbrushes and stickers. The team also ran a clinic at a health centre near Chionyi, working in a dusty storeroom using portable Dentaid chair and ordinary wooden chairs. The team used a pressure cooker to sterilise their instruments and had to work extremely carefully as the HIV rate in the area is one in four. Children at a large school were given fluoride treatment to protect them against tooth decay and also, oral health advice.

DENTISTRY BY TORCHLIGHT

As word got round about the Dentaid team's visit, 200 people gathered at Chinoyi hospital asking for free dental treatment. "In a really busy day we removed 130 badly decayed teeth," said Cheryl. "The chair, drills and light had stopped working so we shone torches into their mouths. It was long day but very rewarding helping to get as many people as possible out of pain."

Cheryl was sponsored by her club Easingwold District Lions, dental companies and her family and friends, which enabled her to take extra dental supplies to Zimbabwe.

Jungle Story

Juan Nuevo, President of Chipping Sodbury Lions Club, has been to the 'Jungle' refugee camp in Calais. He thought he was well prepared to be overwhelmed by this horrific humanitarian crisis, but he wasn't. The sights he saw and the conversations he had were brutal. It's even hard to simply read about.



PICTURED: The Calais 'Jungle' where downpours can wipe everything away



I wanted to visit the refugee camp to see for myself and to do what Lions do best; serve our fellow human beings. I joined Lions because I was convinced that Lions and LCIF give us a perfect platform to influence and bring meaning and hope in disastrous situations. Sometimes I think it is so easy to put a ten pound note in a collection, and think that we have done our bit.

If I'm honest I didn't know where to start to write this story and it's taken me a long time to do. Sometimes, with an experience as emotive as my trip to Calais, maybe it's best to sit on it for a week or so and see what bits stay in your mind, those will be the most important things to write about.

One thing is certain. I'm left with images so vivid, that it feels as if I was there only yesterday. Knowing how close it is to me, to all of us here in the UK, it's impossible to forget the squalor that is being ignored by so many of us.

During my four days in the 'Jungle', just 37 minutes from Calais, I experienced surges of extreme emotion. From feeling useful and proud of the difference our team made when we arrived and got stuck in, to charged anger that I had to hold back, to a sadness so deep, that I felt like sobbing.

From Dover, it took just over two and half hours to get to the Jungle. It's so close, and even though I knew that, it still shocked me. I had expected to drive through security gates to get in, but there was nothing. After passing the night in a campsite nearby, we set off the next morning towards the camp. Then out of nowhere, the camp just appears. A sea of tents, mountains of rubbish. You drive down, take a left, park the car and are in. It's completely open for anyone to get right into the heart of it.

I was nervous as I arrived. I'd spent the previous month organising, planning and thinking about it and I felt that the responsibility was quite overwhelming. I faced the possibility that I might not feel the way I presumed I would when I arrived, and that worried me greatly. I was scared I would be frightened, threatened, even appalled. That the huge amount of sympathy I'd felt throughout my



PICTURED: Juan Nuevo, President of Chipping Sodbury Lions Club

“A man approached me, he pointed at my Lions International Crest and said: “Lions are good people””

debriefing meetings and preparation wouldn't be so strong when faced with the reality of the situation. That I'd see something that might change my mind.

“HEY, THIS IS MY FRIEND”

As we parked, 'Mr T' was there to greet us. As we started to serve tea coffee and biscuits, I began chatting to a young man on a bike. He was smiling and happy. This was not what I expected to see. I had expected hordes of young men in hoodies, who would come up to ask me what I had for them. I'd expected to see drama instantly. What kind of drama, I'm not sure. But I didn't expect the first thing I heard to be: “Hey, this is my friend”, which is what Fiona said when we got start serving. The young men smiled and waved and they give each other a hug. He was so happy. We gave him a cup of coffee and a biscuit and he was so grateful. From the moment we started the queue didn't stop. The first

day we served about 600 cups of tea and coffee in about five hours.

I'd been warned that might all get a bit overwhelming, so I was prepared for that, but I didn't feel it. Not at all. After talking to some of the men that came around the van for a few minutes, I felt relaxed and comfortable.

Our station was just next to the main entrance of the main camp and camp life was busy. Volunteers were coming in and out of the camp continually so it felt like a community that had been there for a long time. Some residents had been there a long time of course, and some had just arrived. The camp is full of happy faces on people just getting on with it. I felt strange, I wanted to keep saying things like “this is great”, “that's brilliant”, “how amazing” in reference to the amount of volunteers, and to the movement of people around the camp. But, I couldn't say that, because none of it was great, brilliant or amazing. It was all completely sad when I really thought it through.

CONDITIONS WERE HIDEOUS

The wooden huts would provide little shelter when the weather turned. Downpours would wipe out the field. Beds would be drenched in mud, the air get so cold the children wouldn't be able to sleep, and the conditions were





» so hideous that the parents would fear for their families' lives.

The main road through the camp was thick mud with puddles too deep to walk through. Although some people lived in built shelters rather than tents, it would all be futile in bad weather. But, that was the best they would ever get.

I was impressed by the positivity and the drive, but all I could think was how will these people will survive the winter? That's if the camp survives as at the time of my visit, prospects of its demolition increased. (The Jungle at Calais was closed by the French authorities on 4th November 2016, when around 6,000 refugees were bussed to new centres all around France.)

There was a makeshift church across the street where we parked. Some days it becomes a women-only space



PICTURED: 600 cups of tea and coffee in five hours

so they can get clothes, underwear, cosmetics and sanitary protection. There is a library with books and where teaching for adults takes place. We wandered a few minutes through the site to see it – dirty and bleak, but active.

It was obvious to all that I was a volunteer, so people approached me

for help. As I was talking to a young man another man approached me, he pointed at my Lions International Crest and said: "Lions are good people." I asked how he knew about Lions International, he took his mobile phone from his pocket and said that while at sea, he lost his phone charger and that a Lion gave him his own charger.

Another man, aged around 30, from Afghanistan, with a quiet voice, put his hand on my shoulder and asked me for boots. All he had where flip-flops on his feet, and I could see how demoralised he felt asking me for them. I directed him to a van where men were queuing for shoes. He looked so happy at the thought of getting new shoes.

One thing we noticed while we were in Calais is that the refugees were pleased to see us, they knew we were there helping and they were very grateful.

UNREST

Every evening near the church, a van from a volunteer organisations gives out boxes of walking boots and shoes, and supplies were passed out to all nationalities: Sudanese, Eritrean, Syrian to name a few.

So, that's how we spent the day, serving tea and coffee to people who didn't have shoes on, or whose trousers looked filthy, some of them just wearing a simple t-shirt and shorts. We asked them how they were, tried to find out what their plans were and where they came from. Some of us mixed with the refugees playing chess and playing the guitar etc.

On the Friday, there was unrest just outside of a restaurant.

French police in riot gear had shown up. Behind them was a swarm of volunteers and refugees filming them on their phones. If there was to be trouble then it would be captured on camera, no-one innocent was going to get the blame for anything they didn't do. Days before, the French police has used tear gas on a group of refugees as they hung around by the side of the





road. The attack had caused great unrest in the camp. The French police haven't been seen to be very compassionate. According to reports, this has been one of the main reasons that the refugees don't want to seek asylum in France.

Once we finished our duty on Saturday evening, we parked the van and we walked into the heart of the camp. Tent after tent was crammed in. Some on higher ground, some at path level that are flooded from just a spot of gentle rain. Some tents were so small, that I presumed they were for supplies, only to be horrified to realise they often housed multiple adults. One tent had two tomato plants growing at the outside.

We climbed to the top of a sand dune where a tower of protest had been built in the recent days. The tower faces Great Britain and it has a big sign saying 'We Love Humanity'.

NO ONE KIND OF REFUGEE

I stopped and chatted to people as I walked. "How are you? Where are you from? How long have you been here?" Quickly, I came to understand that this was not a just Syrian camp, but many nationalities were there, and for just as many reasons.

We saw a group of men lighting a fire just outside a large shelter made of tarpaulin. They were cook a big pan of chicken and they talked to us as we walked past. A little further into the camp and another fire was burning to keep people warm as the evening drew in and the temperature dropped dramatically. They had little firewood but used what they had to be comfortable.

Now I understand better than ever, that there is no one kind of refugee in this horrific humanitarian crisis. There are all colours, all creeds with all sorts of different stories. We have to stop generalising, and acting as if 'they' are all the same. That they are all from the same place, reaching for the same thing. Other than just 'a better life', the incentives vary so much. I want to see fathers reunited with their children, husband and wives reunited after years of been separated by disgraceful and horrific situations.

There are more men than women in Calais. Some sent ahead of their families to get to the UK, some trying to reach their families who are already there. Some young and fit, some middle-aged and weak. But not many elderly. None that I saw. Were they too weak to attempt the journey, or did they just not make it? Maybe a mixture of both. The journey to Calais is brutal. Many packed, cheek-to-cheek, in the back of lorries for days on end. No food, no water, no breaks. Some through dangerous seas. Like a soul-destroying rush hour that would drive us all to despair. Your relatively short commute should feel like a breeze next time you take it, when imagining the endless mission these desperate people have been on.

JUMP

A man hobbled up to us and he shook my hand. He told me his legs were getting better and that he'll be well enough to "try again soon". Both his legs broke a few month ago when he jumped on to a moving train in an attempt to get to England. This was

the moment my trip turned. The reality. As if the lenses of a camera zoomed onto the camp. This is the most intense story of what could have been a sudden death that I could ever imagine.

I started to ask everyone I spoke to how they planned to get to Britain. "Jump". "We jump at the other end."

"Do you have plans?" I asked one of the Kurds while waiting for his cup of coffee. "Yes, we have the same plan every evening," replies, a Kurdish English teacher. He had a wry and sad smile on his face as he asked for more sugar in his coffee.

SEE YOU THERE

Our time is up. The goodbye is long and difficult. Not once since we arrived had any of the dozens we met asked for a stowaway lift in our boot, a Kurdish schoolteacher with perfect English, senses our shame and tries to placate it. "We don't say, 'See you later'," he says, smiling. "We say instead: 'See you there'."



PICTURED: New friends



Each issue this section will focus on a Club, their history and what they've been up to recently. To appear on this page, please encourage your President or Press and PR Officer to email lion.editor@lionsclubs.co with information and photographs (in a high resolution JPEG format).



Hednesford Lions Club: The Story So Far

As GMT Chairman for 105-BS, it is Graham Stanyer's job to start new Clubs, he says it's a challenging but a rewarding task. Here, he describes the decision process.

I sat in a pleasant café in Hednesford's high Street with my wif D.O. Beverley and I blurted out :“I'd love to start a Lions Club here!”

Cannock (my Club) and Burntwood and Rugeley, were all separate communities having their own identities. Following the coal-mine closures and many years of decay, the town seemed to be on the up again. Re-generation money had helped. With lots of new housing, flats and a brand new supermarket planned, there was a buzz in the air and it would surely benefit from having its own Lions Club.

“Are there needs for one, is there poverty around?” asked Beverley. Just then an old lady passed by wearing a torn mac and a tatty umbrella, the rain lashed down and she looked a poor soul. “There is the answer,” I said.

Now I had to convince my club Cannock, themselves only four years old, to sponsor the idea.

After much discussion with the membership committee, headed by Mark Wyton, members voted to support the formation a new Club Branch in Hednesford.

A leaflet drop of 2,000 houses plus posters around town produced a healthy turnout of 14 prospective members to the 'Meet the Lion' evening.

All was well until I stood to speak. As I did so, a brass band sprang into action! It was practise night in the room next door so I was competing against them and in truth, was losing. Well, everyone laughed and before long, we were all socialising – we could see a new Club Branch in the making and the band played on!

NEXT CHAPTER

Robert Blount, Vice President for Hednesford Centennial Lions Club, takes up the story now and describes the next stages in the formation of the Club.

Everyone at the great Meet the Lions evening, that Graham described, were invited to join Cannock Lions at their next business meeting, upcoming event and finally the first Hednesford Lions Branch Club meeting.

The first meeting was attended by eight potential members, seven of whom chartered with us at the start of the year, they began the Hednesford Lions journey with a clear vision of what they wanted to achieve, who needed their support and how they could provide for the local community. Only eight months later, Hednesford Lions Branch Club was formed, as our first members accepted the invitation to become Lions.





PICTURED: Hednesford Centennial Lions Club Charter evening

a group of Lions from across the country to take part in Ride to The Wall. More members joined the Club and our second solo event, 'Putting on the Blitz', grew in popularity.

We finished the year on a high and with the ambition of becoming a Club in our own right. Thankful of the help and advice we had received from Cannock, we grew quickly and after a strong membership drive, we reached the magic number 20 in January 2016 with our youngest member, Jordan. We continued to grow and by Charter day we had 22 Charter members, with a further two members badged up shortly after.

Our Club continues to be vibrant and enthusiastic. We are not the most conventional Lions club, or the largest, or the most successful, or steeped in years of history. However, we are young, ambitious, diligent and ever more focused on serving our community and helping others. We are Hednesford Centennial Lions.

» ideas and enthusiasm for our first fundraiser in Hednesford Park a month later, but lacked weatherproofing as near the end of a wet and windy day the gazebo finally gave up resulting in a few soggy, but not discouraged Lions. The workload picked up and we were soon attending all the events that Hednesford had to offer, picking up new members along the way such as our current President, Chris, and his wife, Lisa.



PICTURED: Summer fete at Hednesford Park

By 2014 we were ready to hold our own event. An afternoon tea with entertainment to bring the elderly members of our community together with a theme of 'Putting on the Ritz', an event that was so well received that it is now a growing, annual event.

2015 was a great year. Our soggy gazebo was replaced by a caravan and we attended an increasing number of local events and our then President, Shaun Middleton, arranged for



PICTURED: 'Putting on the Blitz' at a senior citizens' afternoon tea



PICTURED: Ready for action

Back in Time at Pennington Hall Park

Leigh Lions Club raised £450 for local charities at an event to commemorate the Battle of the Somme.

In August, this free family event was held at Pennington Hall Park in Leigh. Lions Club members dressed in vintage-inspired war fashion and uniforms from both world wars for the occasion, and the crowds were entertained by a field gun demonstration and a five-a-side football match.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Bolton Caledonia Pipe Band, Ambil Street Drummers, the Hope Carr Morris Dancers Music, the George Formby Ukulele Society and a brass band.

The event was organised by Wigan Council and the Friends of Pennington Hall Park.



PICTURED: The Leigh Lions Club stall raised £450.



PICTURED: President, Jenny Curry, The Mayor of Wigan, Councillor Ron Conway and wife Janet, Deborah Lechouritis, David Curry, Maureen Ratcliffe and Julie Dean



PICTURED: Marley 'gets on his bike' watched by his mum, Vanessa and Lion David



Hereford Lions help Marley get on his bike!

Marley George has cerebral palsy and can't walk, but the 18-year old is able to ride a specially designed trike and Hereford Lions Club bought him one for Christmas.

The £3,000 machine will not only help him strengthen his leg muscles and improve his stamina, but give him the opportunity to go for bike rides like other youngsters. Marley said: "I could not have wished for a better present.

"It's cool."

Club President, David Hartland, said: "It is our privilege to help Marley achieve one of his ambitions and seeing the smile on his face when he took his first trial run made it all the more worthwhile." The club bought him a small trike when he was just four years old to help him get round.

Lions help tackle mental health crisis

Hereford Lions Club has responded to a shocking report that one in 10 children and teenagers are risk of suffering from mental health issues by giving MIND, the local mental health charity, a £5,000 grant to set up a therapy service in county schools and youth clubs to tackle the crisis.

Club President David Hartland said: "The report made grim reading and we wanted to help the 500 county youngsters believed to be at risk."

Richard Kelly, Executive Director of MIND said: "The grant from Lions Club could not have come at a better time. There is no public funding for early intervention in the field of mental health. We had already recognised the need for a support service in schools and youth clubs to help young people showing signs of mental health problems but lacked the financial resources to set it up."

Crisp, bright and BIG!

We welcome your photographs to go with your stories. But, the vast majority are of a very low resolution and too small or for us to use in LION. To resolve that and to save your disappointment, here are a few tips:

This isn't a definitive guide to taking pictures, but rather, what type and size of images we need for publication in LION magazine.

FIRSTLY, THEY NEED TO BE CRISP!

Have a look at the images you want to send. If they look even the slightest bit blurred on your camera, phone or PC, they will look ten times worse in print, so don't send them.

SECONDLY, THEY NEED TO BE BRIGHT!

We can lighten digital images a little, but risk everything looking very 'washed-out' or bleached in print.

THIRDLY, THEY NEED TO BE BIG!

We can only accept images as jpgs around 1MB at 300dpi. Anything smaller is very risky and will probably not be used. If you want to check the size of image you have on your PC to see if it is good enough to send, bring the image up on screen, right click and scroll down to 'Properties'.

- The 'Horizontal resolution' should be **300dpi** (dots per inch)
- The 'Vertical resolution' should also be **300dpi**

Scrolling right down towards the bottom, will take you to 'Size' where you should ensure your image is **1MB** (or bigger).

When you send your image to the editor, please send it as an attachment, and then we should be in business!



This lovely image (from page 55 of this issue) fits the bill. It is 300dpi and 5.92MB. Perfect



This image wasn't used in this issue but could have made it to the front cover. Unfortunately, it is only 96dpi and a tiny 70.7KB

Please note, this is no reflection on the Club or its photographer; it just serves as a perfect example for this article

100TH LCICon
The 100th annual Lions Clubs International will be in Chicago, IL, USA, 30 June - 04 July 2017

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CHARTER CELEBRATIONS



Centennial 100 Lions Club

The newest Lions Club on the block, Centennial 100 Lions Club of 105-EA, celebrated the formation of the Club and held its Charter presentation evening on 10th September. As it was their first Charter and because many of the members live all over the UK and abroad, this was the perfect opportunity to badge up the charter members who attended the evening, including members from the Netherlands and America, who flew in specially to be there.

This Unique Club marks the Centennial celebrations, set up by Lion Phil Nathan, District Secretary, Lion David Pope and Charter President, Lion Derek Penney. The idea is to have four meetings throughout the year and then communicate the rest of the time via email, phones and Facebook. Many ex-Leo's from several districts have joined the new concept club already,

so it was a great pleasure to badge up its 50th member and ex-Leo, Karen Kerbyshire, as a new member during the evening's proceedings.

After speeches were over and the badges and certificates handed out by Vice District Governor Derek Prior, 2 Vice District Governor Mandy Hawksley and International Director Elisabeth Haderer, Lions and their guests danced the night away. A big thank you to Lion Sarah Hutchinson for organising a great evening for all.

Because so many of the members live so far apart, many do their own fundraising and service activity and offer what help they can, when they can. Some of the projects that the Centennial 100 Club has been working includes collecting reading glasses from local opticians for recycling. So far 1,130 pairs of glasses have been collected by four

Club members, and they will be sent to Chichester for them to pass on to third world countries.

On other occasions, Club members take part in fundraising activities together. For example, the Centennial Lions were joined by Lions from Knutsford and the Helen Keller Internet Lions Club, to hold a 'tiara and ties' casino night to raise £500 for The Little Princess Trust.

A further £550 was raised for The Little Princess Trust at the Charter evening.

Lion Annette Price also did an amazing job running 10K (or should we say 'hobbling' 10K on a set of crutches because she hurt her knee in training) but dedication shines through as she still completed the course and raised £225 for Cancer Research UK.



BLACKPOOL 2017 CONVENTION

A message from Chairman of Council 2016/17, Lion Heather Jeavons.

This year, we celebrate our Centennial Year, as we Lions were founded in June 1917 by an exceptional group of people, who recognised that it is a wonderful thing to come together in the service of others. We can achieve so much more service together than alone, and along the way we can enjoy fun and the fellowship of our fellow Lions. Every Lion contributes in their own way to the success of us all, and every contribution is equally valuable – we should be proud and thankful for what we achieve by working together.

The Centennial gives us the chance to celebrate loudly and proudly the achievements of the last 100 years, and to show the Lions of the future, who are yet to join us, how their service can add to the successes of the here and now and of the future.

This is the last year that we have District 105I Ireland with us as part of MD105, as they will become the separate District 133 Ireland with effect from 4th July 2017. We have enjoyed their hard work and the enthusiasm with which they have shared being part of our Multiple District, and I know that we all wish them well with their new status, and we will continue to meet and work with them as friends in the future.

RE-DISTRICTING MD105

There will be some challenging decisions to make at the Blackpool 2017 Convention about how we organise the shape of the remaining part of our Multiple District. Several of the remaining 12 districts have struggled for members over the last few years, despite the sterling efforts of District and MD Membership teams. The Eastbourne Multiple District Convention of 2016 instructed the 2016/17 Council of Governors to put forward proposals to Convention 2017 for re-districting MD105 with effect from 1st July 2019, and to consult and communicate on those proposals with members via Districts. Council has reached out to every member, through their Club and District, to ask for everyone's views on the way forward.



The Council of Governors has sought to act without parochialism or self-interest in their consideration of re-districting. It has not been an easy task to bring together all the suggestions made for the future shape of the Multiple District, and it will be almost impossible to give every member, every Club, or every District exactly what they want; but I ask you to give your wholehearted support to Council as they seek to find proposals which are fairest overall to everyone – even if those proposals are not everything which you personally would prefer.

We will look back with pride on the achievements of the last 100 years, we celebrate our Centennial with glad hearts, and we will look forward together in friendship and in the expectation of future achievements.

Heather



Venue and booking

Lions International MD Convention and Council Meeting details.

Date: Wednesday 19th to Sunday 23rd April 2017

Venue: Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queen's Promenade, Blackpool FY2 9AA

Convention programme includes: Presentations accompanied by exhibitions and Lions displays

Friday evening: Served hot buffet and cabaret, including DJ Scottie, and local young people will provide a musical celebration of Lions' first 100 years

Dress code: Optional – theme (TBC) or smart casual and Black Tie

Saturday evening: Gala dinner with entertainment

ABOUT THE HOTEL

The Britannia Norbreck Castle hotel is one of the largest Britannia hotels and offers excellent value for money. Grand and vibrant, this unique structure sits proudly overlooking the Irish Sea and is only a short tram ride away from all the major Blackpool attractions.

All 480 en-suite bedrooms are tastefully decorated with the majority boasting magnificent sea views. The rooms all fully equipped with private bathrooms, hairdryer, TV, tea/coffee facilities and work desks.

The Norbreck Castle's Health Club includes a children's splash pool, as well as a main pool, steam room and a spa bath. It also offers guests access to an on-site amusement arcade, a 36-seater cinema and a children's entertainment programme during the school holidays.



To book, visit www.md105convention.uk and follow the link to the booking form and for more Convention information

PARTNERS' TRIP TO THE LAKE DISTRICT

Depart Blackpool and travel to Ambleside, one of the many quaint villages in the Lake District, where a visit to 'Hays Garden World' is a must.

After lunch, head to Grasmere, home of William Wordsworth and the world-famous 'Sarah Nelson's Grasmere Gingerbread'.

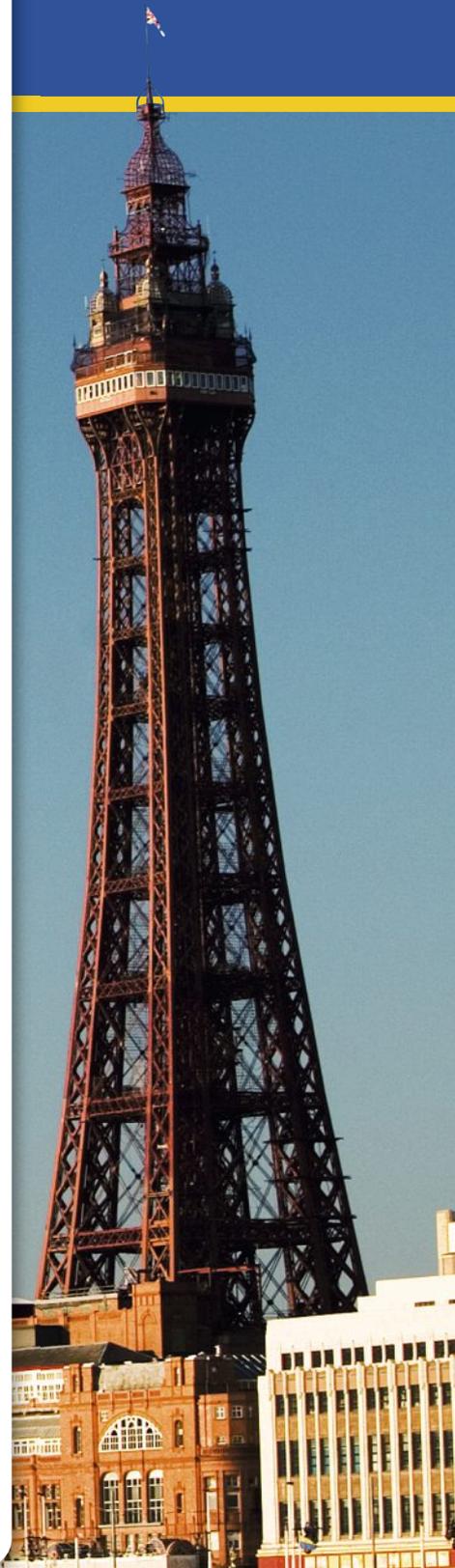
Finally, travel to Windermere on the shores of the largest natural lake in England. Take a boat trip on the lake to see the natural splendour of the countryside.

Beautiful scenery and first class shopping, all in one trip to the Lake District!

Cost is £15.00 each

(This trip is subject to minimum numbers for it to run and timings to be confirmed later).

If you are interested in this trip please contact Lions HQ on **0121 441 4544** or email mdhq@lionsclubs.co





One Thousand Miles at 72

After his wife died at age 57, Keith Ogley knew he had to raise money for the hospice where she stayed. "I was told to," he says. His wife made her wishes clear to him before she died.

Joan Ogley had belonged to a social club that raised funds for Cransley Hospice in Kettering, so she understood its value. Then, unfortunately, when she got cancer, she learned firsthand of its comforting ways.

"She was able to live in comfort and dignity," says Ogley, a member of the Kettering & District Lions Club. "She, my daughters and granddaughter and I were treated throughout this terrible time, with care and compassion."

Keith did a short walk to raise funds for the hospice six months after she died in 2004, and another one six years later. But more than a decade after she died, after he had become a Lion and had turned 71, he decided to up the ante and hike from Land's End to John O' Groats.

His plan drew "a fairly high level of resistance" from friends concerned about his health. Some were less delicate about their objections. "They told me it was a hare-brained scheme that had no chance of success."

In decent shape, Keith did practice walks near his home. Using guide books, he hunkered down in a pub to plan his route. He plotted a course that for the most part avoided roads and relied on long paths. He secured pledges, then he set off, supported by friends, family and Lions.

The hike was arduous. Keith scrambled over rocks, negotiated innumerable hill paths, long and steep. He withstood heavy rains in a "good old British summer."

His rucksack bore his club banner and a sign about his fundraising. Once, stopping to chat with students on a school outing, the teenagers reached into their pockets and dropped coins in his tin can. On another day, a woman abruptly stopped her car after she drove past him, chased him on foot and made a donation.

Lions in towns he passed did their part. They often provided meals and lodging. Keith attended Club meetings and celebrated his birthday with the Morpeth and Teesdale Clubs.

In 82 days, Keith covered 1,132 miles and raised thousands of pounds. When he reached John O'Groats in the distance he saw a crowd of children – and he knew them. "They were my grandchildren, with their parents – to celebrate the end of my walk."



PICTURED: Keith Ogley battles the elements in Upper Teesdale



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Contact us: sales@charnwoodfundraising.co.uk or 01626 437290



2016 World Sight Day

Beccles Lions Club teamed up with a local optician to mark Lions Club International World Sight Day. The Mayor of Beccles, Mr Graham Catchpole and Ms Ellie Cossey, an optical assistant, also joined the walk.

They were blindfolded, while Club President, Lion Fred Helsdon, and Lion Chris Lambert guided them round the streets of Beccles to try to negotiate the many obstacles that the blind and visually impaired people face every day.

Club President, Lion Fred Helsdon, said: "We are thankful for the support of the public and businesses of Beccles, we feel the town is continually trying to improve things for blind and partially sighted people within our community."



PICTURED: Beccles Mayor and Ms Ellie Cossey with Beccles Lions on World Sight Day



PICTURED: Undercover athletes

From The Home Of The Paralympics

Aylesbury Lions recently donated a gazebo to the British Wheelchair Athletics Association (BWAA). The photograph shows participants at a recent athletics meeting at the Guttman Stadium, Stoke Mandeville, together with Barbara Hoole and Mike Wood of the BWAA and Mary-Ann Evans and Ron Tomasina of Aylesbury Lions.

New Bletchley Lions

Lions Club of Bletchley have welcomed two new members; Graham Kilroy and Marian Welch, bringing the Club membership to 32. The Club welcomes new members, so if you would like to help people in the Bletchley area and beyond, we meet on the first and third Tuesday in the month.

Please email: secretary@lcbmk.co.uk

Telephone: **0845 8339592**



PICTURED: Lion Marian Welch



PICTURED: Lion Marian Welch



PICTURED: To Romania from Bletchley

Bletchley Shoe Boxes

The Lions Club of Bletchley have filled 30 shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for children in Romania, these will be added to the other shoeboxes filled by Lions Clubs in the UK and Ireland. They will all be loaded into a lorry in Milton Keynes and driven to Romania in time for Christmas.

Growing With Lions Garden

"This is one of the best Lions projects that I have ever seen" said PDG John Hall, as he spent time talking to the public at the Lions Garden at the Harrogate Autumn Flower show.

First Vice President, Michael, felt that the garden acted like a magnet making it so easy to engage with the public.

The project team is very grateful to all those who made the garden possible; to the many organisations and businesses who donated plants and materials, to Lions from Club Zone, District and Multiple District who gave up time to make this happen, but of course, the icing on the cake was to win a Silver Gilt Award at the first attempt.

Lions President of Harrogate Lions Club, Carol Houseman, summed it up by saying that this project, which required an immense amount of time and hard work, proved to be a huge success. She said: "We had a constant flow of visitors who showed great interest in the concept of the garden and LCI. All the doubts, fears and sleepless nights prior to the event were forgotten with the success of this project. We aimed high and we reached our goal!"





Clevedon Lions Centenary Project

Some months ago, members of Clevedon Lions Club noticed that the seats next to the bandstand flowerbed on Clevedon seafront were in a terrible state, with some missing and others damaged.

As they presented a poor image to visitors and locals, the Club decided that with the agreement of North Somerset Council, they would replace them with a new set of seats and rename the area as 'Lions Centenary Crescent'. This was part of Clevedon Lions Club centenary project; something that that would benefit the town and be a long-standing and permanent reminder of the centenary.

The opening ceremony was held on a bright, sunny September Saturday afternoon by Jane Geldart, Chair of Clevedon Town Council together with Club members who cut the ceremonial blue and yellow ribbon. The Lions District Governor for the South West of England, Fred Broom, unveiled the special commemorative plaque. Brenda Wood, the Lions Centennial Chairperson was also present.



PICTURED: Clevedon Lions sitting comfortably

Talking Newspaper Edition 1,000!

Since November 1977, Downpatrick Lions Club has been keeping people with visual problems informed about what is going on through the Downsound talking newspaper.

Distributed every two weeks, Downsound's 1,000th edition went out in May this year, and since its launch, the

Lions Club has distributed 35,000 tapes. The voices on the tapes belong to members of the Downpatrick Lions Club who set up the talking newspaper.

Although it has had several homes since its launch, Downsound is currently based at the Downshire Hospital where, after recording, tapes are made ready for distribution with the cost generously covered by the Post Office.

The Downsound tapes run for around an hour with stories from two local newspapers – the Down Recorder and Mourne Observer – providing people with news, sports reports, up-coming events and snippets of interest from a wide-ranging area around County Down.

Music is played between articles and readers describe some of the photographs reproduced in the papers. The editors try to ensure that there is a wide range of stories to suit every age group – from current affairs to the ever-popular court reports!

There is very positive feedback from the recipients of the tapes and Downpatrick Lions Club are delighted that Downsound has been such a huge success and that so many people get such enjoyment from it.



PICTURED: Downpatrick Lions Club making the Downsound talking newspaper



Milton Keynes Hospital Gardens

The MacIntyre charity provides learning, support and care for more than 1,500 children, young people and adults who have a learning disability and/or autism, at more than 150 services across England and Wales. Their diverse range of services includes registered care homes, supported living, outreach, accredited training schemes and lifelong learning services, as well as a residential special school and further education provision.

The Lions Club of Bletchley have been working on the gardens at MacIntyre Fletchers Mews, at Milton Keynes Hospital, for people to enjoy. The garden was officially opened in September.

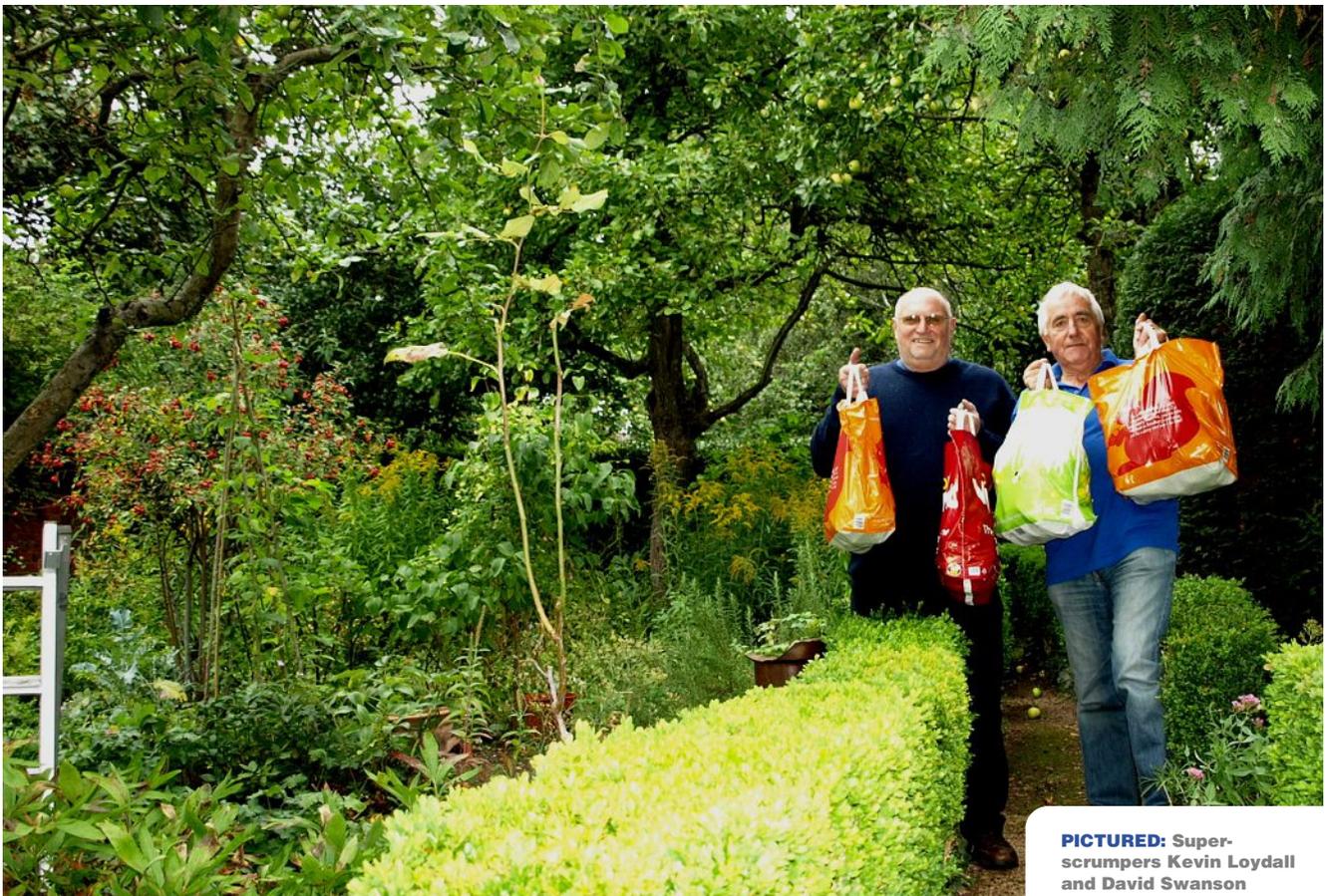


PICTURED: Lions team and Jacqui Ormerod, MacIntyre Acting Head of Service

A Masterclass in Scrumping

Kevin Loydall and David Swanson from Oadby & Wigston Lions Club pretended they were teenagers again and went 'scrumping' apples, all in a good cause!

In a short time they had picked five large carrier bags of apples from trees in a hidden orchard in the centre of Wigston, these apples were given out at the foodbank that the Club runs in South Wigston, with the members of the South Wigston Congregational Church.



PICTURED: Super-scrumpers Kevin Loydall and David Swanson



PICTURED: Members of Rugeley and District Lions Club with Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team

Rugeley & District Lion Hunt

Rugeley & District Lions Club teamed up with Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team (SSART) recently, to help raise funds and awareness of the two organisations.

With sightings of various wild animals reported on nearby Cannock Chase over recent years, a 'lion hunt' was in order, so an area of Cannock Chase was divided into 1,000 squares on a map, then each square was given a number.

With the assistance of SSART, on one of their training days, members of Rugeley Lions hid in four different areas of the

Chase, then members of SSART had to find them as quickly as possible.

As the Lions were found, the exact spot was recorded by the GPS equipment, which was then compared to the number of the square on the map. This determined the winners of the raffle tickets with the first found determining fourth prize, the second third prize and so on.

(All Lions were found safe and sound ...)

Thanet Lions Club Blind Driving Challenge

To encourage people to get their eyes tested and to realise that they mustn't drive with eye problems, members of Thanet Lions Club developed the 'Blind Driving Challenge'.



PICTURED: Blind driving challenge

Lion David Barwick of Stoke on Trent Lions Club, is a driving instructor, he suggested that the front seat passenger could direct a blindfolded driver around a pre-determined course in his dual-controlled car. Sainsbury's at Westwood Cross agreed that Thanet Lions Club could run the event using a part of their car park and the Blind Drive Challenge and Sight Awareness Day was born.

The course was a simple oval with two straights about one hundred metres each, the first lap was driven without the blindfold, and nearly every driver said it was easy. That changed when the blindfold was put on. Each driver had two laps and their confidence in their abilities soon evaporated. Nearly everyone became very aware of how much they took their sight for granted, and help was needed for them to continue the drive.

There were drivers from the local community including local mayors and MP Sir Roger Gale. Sir Roger said: "It was a salutary reminder to look after your eyes." Lion Lucy Short said: "I felt totally dependent, vulnerable and frightened."



PICTURED: Best feet forward with Furness Lions

Lions World Service Day

Furness Lions held their service day at the Royal British Legion in Barrow. Lion President, Jim Rhodes, greeted the Mayor and Mayoress of Ulverston. Lion Jim said: "Every year we hold a pie and peas lunch for up to 100 pensioners and young disabled people. We have our resident one-man-band for singing and dancing, a game of bingo, and a raffle. The afternoon ends with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit."

Four Lions On A Boat Trip

So on a sunny day in October, 22 adults from Mencap (Harrow) and their five carers went on a boat trip with Wembley (Brent) Lions and they all enjoyed every minute of it. Everyone took turns to open the canal lock gates and even steer the boat. Our friends turned out to be excellent baristas and treated the Lions to delicious cups of coffee and tea.

Lion President, Snehlata, was accompanied by her husband, Nanda, Lions Sunjay, Dineshbhai and Lion Madhubhai.

PICTURED: Wembley (Brent) Lions raised funds for Mencap (Harrow) and then asked them what activity would bring a smile to these wonderful people. >>



Tring Lions Sponsor Memory Book



PICTURED: (L-R) Mayor of Dacorum, Cllr Robert McClean, Vivianne Child, Tring Together, Diane Saletes, Tring Library, Lion Alan Pollard, Cllr Penny Hearne, Mayor of Tring, Cllr Mike Hicks and Tring Lion President, Steve Mitchell

In 2015, the people of Tring celebrated the 700th anniversary of the granting of a charter by Edward II.

These celebrations were captured on camera and 'Tring Together' collated the photographs for a memory book. The Lions Club of Tring sponsored the production of these books and at a get together recently, presented copies to the Tring Town Mayor, Mike Hicks, Diane Saletes from Tring Library and to Cllr Penny Hearne. The Mayor of Dacorum, Cllr Robert McClean was also present. Copies of the memory book will be given to all the schools in Tring.



Letters

TO THE
EDITOR

Dear Lions,

When Boris Johnson MP left his position as Mayor of London to become Foreign Secretary, Lion David Skinner wrote to him to thank him for participating in the Healthy Schools Programme London and he replied with this letter:



BORIS JOHNSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
0207 219 4682

David Skinner
Lions Clubs International
257 Alcester Road South
Kings Heath
Birmingham B14 6DT

BJ/AS
30. September 2016

Dear Mr Skinner,

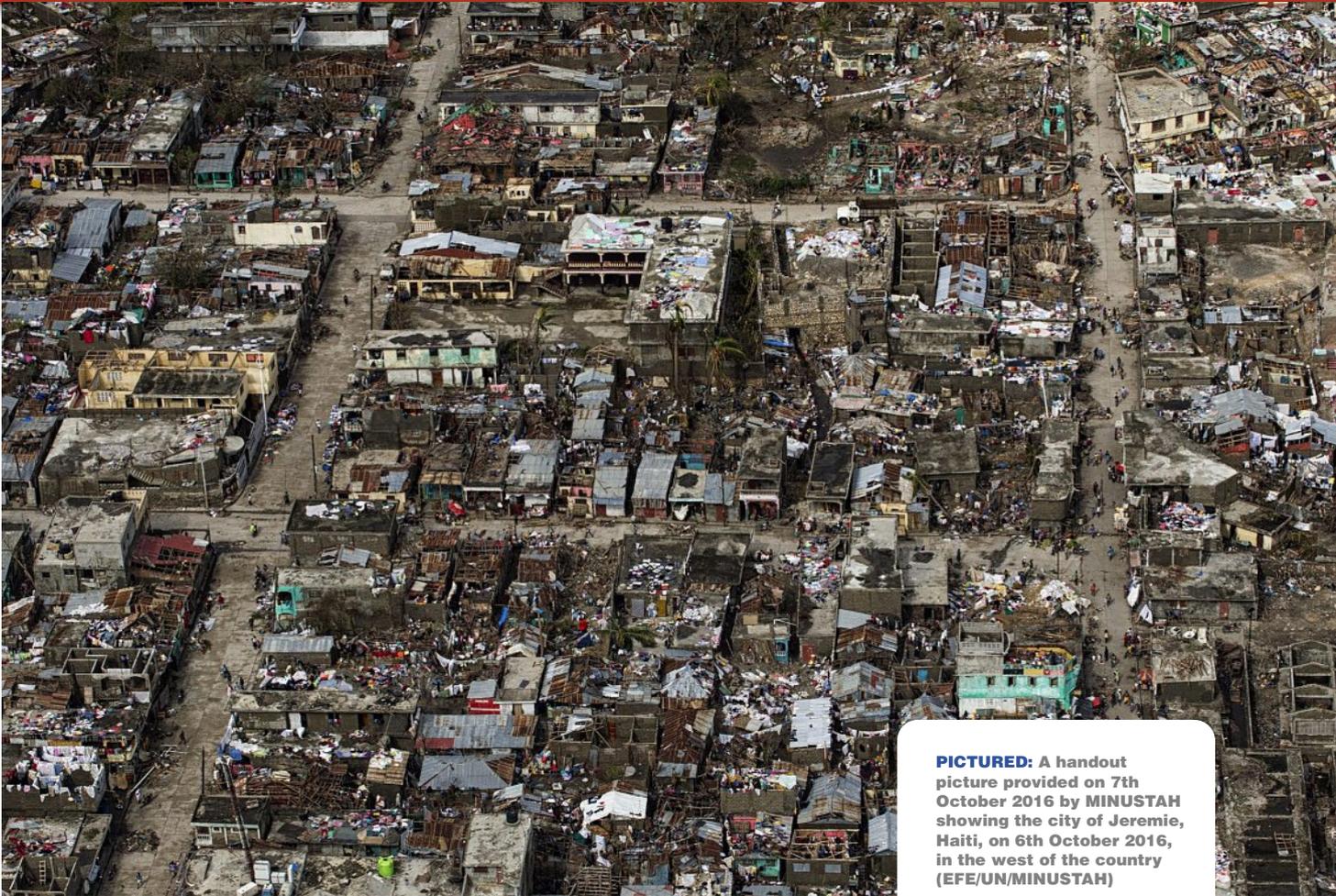
Thank you so much for your kind letter. It was a pleasure to have been involved in the Lion's Lifeskills youth programme during my term as Mayor of London. I am delighted to hear you intend to extend the project to other parts of the country.

I will of course pass on details of the programme to my colleagues.

Very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Boris Johnson MP



PICTURED: A handout picture provided on 7th October 2016 by MINUSTAH showing the city of Jeremie, Haiti, on 6th October 2016, in the west of the country (EFE/UN/MINUSTAH)

Dear Fellow Lions,

HAITI HURRICANE APPEAL

As you will all have witnessed through our news channels concerning Hurricane Matthew, the most powerful Caribbean storm in a decade has had a devastating effect upon Haiti.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there are an estimated 350,000 people in need of assistance.

80% of buildings have been destroyed and sadly the death toll is expected to rise and the extremely poor sanitation system has been totally overwhelmed by flooding. A cholera epidemic spread by contaminated water has already killed 6,000 people in the last 6 years, since the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010.

Members of Lions Clubs of the British Isles and Ireland are coordinating with our Lions Clubs International Foundation and it has been agreed to supply water treatment equipment directly to help the people of Haiti. Clean water is one of their greatest needs.

Please would you and your Lions Club consider making a donation to the Haiti Hurricane Relief. Please send your donation via your District Treasurer with details of the donor together with the name of the appeal, in this instance 'Haiti Hurricane Relief' on the reverse.

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

Lion Heather Jeavons

Lion Geoff Leeder



Dumfries Lions Club Hosts Lions International Youth Centre

Over a week in July, 39 young people of 28 different nationalities descend on the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries, for the Lions International Youth Centre hosted by Dumfries Lions Club.



A comprehensive programme was planned by Lion Jim and Ann McCormack, and Lion Jim and Linda Nelson, involving visits to Glasgow, Edinburgh and sites in Dumfries and Galloway.

Saturday began with a familiarisation walk round Dumfries led by Lions Club members, later the group visited nearby Mabie Forest and after a 'getting to know you' walk and some team-building games organised by the local YMCA, local Lions provided an excellent barbecue.

On the Sunday, they had a go at curling and skating at the Icebowl. In the evening they went to a Burns supper taster where they were entertained by a local young piper and the 'Address to the Haggis', translated by Norwegian guest Eivind.

Monday was taken up with a trip to Glasgow and a visit to the Transport Museum and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Tuesday was an all action day and involved the students taking part in six different disciplines at the Galloway



PICTURED: At the Icebowl

Adventure Centre at Loch Ken. The adventure day ended with a barbecue laid on by Dalbeattie Lions Club who are due very big vote of thanks. The highlight of the evening was the attendance of the Galloway Pipes and Drums, the students were allowed to try their hand at piping and drumming and the sight of a strapping 6'5" Norwegian trying to blow up a set of pipes usually played by a 5'3" wee lassie was indeed, a sight to behold.

On the Wednesday, the group took part in local community projects. One group helped tidy up and prepare flowerbeds in an old play area in a primary school.

The others helped create a new footpath for visitors to Ellisland Farm, a former home of Robert Burns.

Thursday was a full day visit to Edinburgh arranged by the City of Edinburgh Lions. The highlight of the day was of course, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. A long very satisfying day saw us returning to Dumfries at 3.00am.

On Friday a civic reception was arranged by the Town Council, where the group was welcomed by the Provost of the town. Saturday was a quiet day to allow time for rehearsals for the concert being planned by the students the following day.

A Ceilidh and dinner held in the evening was great. All the guests danced the night away and the sight of everyone attempting to 'Strip the Willow' (Google it) will linger long in the memory.

Sunday was the day for packing, rehearsing and finishing off country presentations. The concert was an amazing, entirely put together and performed by the students. The talent on display from pianists, guitarists, singers, dancers, poetry readers, drummers and jugglers would grace any TV talent show.

Monday, the last day, saw them all up and ready to go at 7.00am for the journey home. Three years of intensive planning and 10 very busy days were suddenly over and we were all sad to see these wonderful, friendly young people leave.

We thank our own Club, Dumfries, and the other Clubs from NE who supported us so well.



Ryedale Lions Boost For Scouts

One of the smallest scout groups in Ryedale has had a big boost from Ryedale Lions Club to help buy new camping equipment.

The donation of £500 went to the Thornton Dale scouts, who are the latest to benefit from the Ryedale Lions 2016 share out of more than £8,000 of club funds, much of it raised on board the Lions' Santa Sleigh around Pickering, Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley to help local good causes.

"Throughout the year we target our support at deserving local groups who do great work on behalf of the community and the scouts are a tremendous benefit to young people," said Lions Club President, Jim Ingham.

The money will be used to buy much-needed equipment to benefit just over 40 scouts, beavers and cubs currently in the Thornton Dale Group, which also includes members from surrounding villages.

Scout leader, John Mortonson, said: "This is a very generous gift from the Lions and the people of Ryedale, which is all the more welcome in such a small group with very limited resources."



Lions Clubs Of Solihull Partnership With Solihull Healthy Schools Programme

Through this existing programme, which is a cornerstone of public health and education provision in Solihull, the Lions developed a partnership with the schools using the Lions Lifeskills resource.

The culmination of this was a ceremony organised by District Lifeskills Officer, Lion Terry Smith, which was attended by representatives from the Borough's Education Department, the seven

Lions Clubs, the 16 schools that had achieved Healthy Schools status and the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Mike Robinson.

As well as opportunity for networking between the Lions and the schools, the Mayor recognised each school in turn, presenting them with their Healthy Schools Certificate, a Lions in the Community brochure and a Life Changes book from the Lifeskills Resource, paid for by the Lions.

This is part of a rolling programme for Solihull schools, as they are required to revalidate their status every two years, and as there are 89 educational establishments in Solihull to go through the programme, this should be the beginning of a long-term relationship between the Lions and their local schools.

PICTURED: Teachers and the Lion representatives from the seven Solihull Lions Clubs





Stafford Grammar School Lions Club International Awards Ceremony

At an all school assembly at Stafford Grammar School recently, the District 105BS Youth Chairman of Lions District 105BS, District Officer Rick Talbot, of Gnosall Lions Club, presented Young Leaders In Service Awards for outstanding work in the community to the following pupils:

Silver awards:

- Nayantika Chaudary
- Olivia Stocking
- Kate Souster
- Jessica Lakin

Gold award:

- Kate Temperton

In addition to their certificates, each winner received a Young Leaders in Service Badge and a Letter of Appreciation from International Lions President, Chancellor Bob Corlew.

The Young leaders in Service (YLIS) award, is an international one, which recognises young people who provide

significant levels of unpaid service to their communities in a 12-month period. It works alongside the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, is recognised by all three services when looking at officer-entry applicants and is also recognised by UCAS as a value added item on university applications.

Gnosall Lions were also proud give a trophy to the headmaster, Mr Darley, this is to be competed for annually, and will be known as the 'Gnosall Lions Community Challenge Cup'.

The trophy is awarded to the school house that accumulates the highest

number of hours recorded by pupils as part of the of Schools Year 8 Challenge, an initiative set up by Mrs Rhiannon Beauchamp. This year, it was year awarded to Talbot House, represented by Olivia Stocking.

Also honoured was Siddhant Gupta, last year's winner of the school round of the Lions International Peace Poster poster competition.

The school is involved in both of these competitions again; the YLIS initiative has been launched to the Year 8 pupils and Year 7 pupils have started work on their Lions Peace Poster entries.



PICTURED: Rick Talbot of Gnosall Lions Club with the YLIS Winners, including Olivia Stocking with the Gnosall Lions Community Challenge Cup and Siddhant Gupta with his framed poster

BS Success in YLiS

More than 150 young people took up the YLiS challenge, after Rick Talbot of Gnosall Lions Club (with other local Clubs) made presentations to local Police cadets, guiders, and local pupils.

Work with the Staffordshire Junior Police Cadets started about 18 months ago when each of the six units in the County were set up, settled in and became active.

Once that was accomplished, Rick Talbot, Secretary and Youth Officer of Gnosall Lions Club, and the current 105BS Chair, had a meeting with the

Staffordshire Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Arnold, the County Cadet Admin Officer, Carol Barrs, cadet leaders of all six units and serving Police Officers.

Each unit was given a YLiS presentation to launch the Award, to much enthusiasm, and over 130 cadets registered and received their YLiS log books.

Sue Arnold of the Staffordshire PCC's office sees only good coming out of the scheme, as it has such a positive influence on the lives of young people,

many of whom come from challenging backgrounds. To date, one young cadet is now a Special Constable and another has just returned from South Africa where she had been working in a township. She has entered the Young Ambassador Competition.

Gnosall Guides are also taking up the Award, which means that in the past month, more than 150 young people have started working towards the YLiS Award. Happily for Gnosall, they have got a Young Ambassador candidate and a number of Peace Poster entrants, not bad for one of our smaller clubs.

More Members Means More Service

Dear Lion,

We surpassed the 1.4 million member mark at the end of October thanks to Lions like you. It's a great accomplishment, and I want to thank you for working to make your club and your community stronger.

Reaching the 1.4 million mark early in the year puts us on a path to continue membership growth into 2017 and beyond. It also puts us in position to be the largest we've ever been, allowing us to serve more people than ever before.

The goal of our new strategic plan, LCI Forward, is to triple our service impact by serving 200 million people a year by 2021. More members means we can provide more service to those who need us most. Each member serves 70 people on average, so imagine how many more people we can help by inviting others to join us in service, and by keeping our current members as Lions.

To keep this momentum going and to help reach our service goals, I am asking every member to think about someone they know who shares our desire to help people and then ask them to join us in service.

Thank you again for helping us grow so we can serve even more people. Let's keep climbing new mountains together!



Very truly yours,
Chancellor Bob Corlew
Your International President

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Lions Clubs International & LCIF | 300 W. 22nd St. | Oak Brook, IL | 60523 | USA



A Great Day on the Slopes

The blind children have heard the cautionary words from well-meaning people their whole lives: “Be careful.” “Slow down.” “You’ll hurt yourself.” Safety comes first on the slopes. What comes next are peals of laughter, squeals of fun and a pride in mastering – or, at the least, gamely trying – a new activity.

“Many of them have never gone this fast at anything,” says Lion Donna Brown, a teacher at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind. “When they don’t fall they get a sense of accomplishment. When they finally ski on their own [without holding a pole held by a certified guide], they get to ski like everyone else.”

For nearly 40 years, Lions of West Virginia have hosted days of skiing for blind and visually impaired people and then for deaf people. The weather sometimes does not fully co-operate. The thermometer can plunge far below freezing. But a day on the slopes can’t be beaten. Well, at least the children feel that way. “I prefer cross country,” says Brown, who is blind. “I have more success at that.”



ALL IMAGES BY VICTORIA WEEKS





PICTURED: A certified guide skies with a child. The children are from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind and throughout the state. Skiing allows them “to use their orientation and mobility skills,” says Christine Lewis of the Morgantown Lions Club



PICTURED: The skiers develop a rapport with their guides



PICTURED: For some, snow mostly has been an inconvenience. “It’s the first time to get out in the snow, to play in the snow,” says Lewis



PICTURED: Riding the chairlift up is almost as much fun as skiing downs



A Place for Kids

The Tennessee Lions Eye Center skillfully and lovingly caters its care to children.

By Claire Gibson



PICTURED: Dr Sean Donahue makes sure a child is relaxed before examining him

At a Starbucks outside Chattanooga, Tennessee, Abigail Bean, 10, sips a Vanilla frappe and shivers. Blonde and fair skinned, she's wearing a navy cardigan and a pair of pink glasses. She's both happy and freezing because she's enjoying a sweet, icy drink. But when her shoulders finish quaking, her eyes keep moving. "I've had a million kids ask me, 'Why do your eyes do that?'" she says, "I just tell them that's how I am."

Abigail's eyes move involuntarily as she has nystagmus, a condition that affects fewer than one percent of the population, and in her case, the result of a rare recessive gene passed down from both sides of her family. Her mother, Amanda, noticed the eye movement when Abigail was just three months old and knew that something was wrong.

"I planned to ask the pediatrician about it at her three-month checkup," Amanda says. "But before I could, he asked me when the eye movement had started." Her pediatrician recommended that she took Abigail to see Dr Sean Donahue at the Tennessee Lions Eye Center. Donahue performed surgery to correct Abigail's misaligned eyes when she was two. He performed more surgery to remove the stitches,

and since then, has provided regular check-ups and care for Abigail every few months.

Amanda said: "Dr. Donahue gave us a diagnosis of ocular albinism and congenital nystagmus. He told us it can't be corrected with glasses, but he said, 'We can give her the best vision possible.' "

TENNESSEE LIONS INVEST IN PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY

Abigail and her family experienced exactly why the Tennessee Lions have invested their time and their money in pediatric ophthalmology. For years, the Clubs provided glasses and surgeries for adults in need. But in 1995, the former head of Vanderbilt's ophthalmology programme, Dr Dennis O'Day, challenged the state's Clubs to see how they might help to care for children. Emboldened, the Lions raised \$4 million for the construction of a state-of-the-art pediatric ophthalmology clinic, as well as an endowment to sustain the clinic for years to come.

The Tennessee Lions Eye Center is as inviting today as it was when it opened in 1997. Valet parking is complimentary for patients and families, in the waiting

room, big-screen televisions enable children with low vision to watch from a normal distance. Toys and books occupy waiting patients and their siblings. A dark room provides quiet and peace for infants with sensitive eyes. Large murals of zoo animals line the walls. In every treatment room, an electronic stuffed animal rests on a shelf, waiting for a doctor to press a pedal near the patient's chair that activates its movement. For a child, a stuffed cow waving his tail back and forth is a much better vision test than an eye chart.

It's a place any child would feel at home. But it's also a place where children receive excellent treatment from some of the best eye doctors in the nation. The Tennessee Lions Eye Center accommodates more than 25,000 pediatric visits every year. Donahue, chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt, has seen just how transformative that treatment has been for children in the region. "For years, most kids were seen for regular care by adult ophthalmologists," he says. "But kids are not little adults. Many of them are too young to read the eye chart, and even if they know that they have a problem, many of them won't tell you."

While medicine eventually called Dr Donahue into the fold, his early education focused on neuroscience, studying problems with the developing brain. In the following years, he began to draw connections between his study of the brain and the vision system. That connection led him to ophthalmology, and ultimately, to Vanderbilt.

LIONS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Coincidentally, Donahue arrived in Nashville the weekend of the pivotal Lions state convention in 1995, where O'Day challenged the audience to make a commitment to caring for children. While the Lions fundraised, Donahue treated complex patients like



Abigail Bean, and began experimenting with new technology to help identify a far more common pediatric problem: amblyopia.

"Amblyopia is actually a problem with the brain," Donahue explains. If left untreated, specifically during the years of visual development between birth and six years of age, amblyopia can result in a permanent defect that leaves a person with only one functioning eye. Unfortunately, children can compensate with their strong eye, giving few cues for parents to see that something is wrong. And worse still, children under the age of six can't easily complete eye exams — after all, how do you read an eye chart if you haven't learned your alphabet?

Around the time Donahue arrived at Vanderbilt, new technology had emerged. The MTI camera used digital photography to identify children with amblyopia. If you Google 'amblyopia screen test,' you can see how the camera works. With a single black-and-white photo, pediatric ophthalmologists can look for asymmetry in red-eye reflexes. (It turns out those red-eye stares you used to get in old photos are medically significant.)

With this new technology, pediatric ophthalmologists could diagnose the most common, treatable vision impairment among children without the need for them to read an eye chart. Simple and useful, the camera had the potential to revolutionise pediatric ophthalmology by identifying patients far sooner than before.

As one of the few Ph.D.s in his medical field, Donahue was uniquely poised to

develop a screening system to identify these patients. There was only one problem.

"We knew that if we could treat more children before age seven, they could be saved from a life of poor vision," says Lynn Wilhoite, Executive Director for the Tennessee Lions. "But children of that age aren't in school or in organised groups. So with [Vanderbilt], we trained volunteers to do the screenings wherever we could find the children."

KIDS SIGHT

Donahue had access to this new research and technology. Wilhoite had a crew of eager volunteers. Together, they began a pilot programme called Kids Sight, hoping that with their strengths combined, more children would get the treatment they needed before it was too late.

A veteran who spent more than 34 years in the U.S. Army, Wilhoite had served as an engineer, building hospitals overseas to treat the troops. To him, building the Lions Eye Center and creating a state-wide screening programme was just an extension of that service. But these were untested waters, and many in the medical field were wary of sending retirees out to do what was essentially, medical research.

Undeterred, the Lions and Vanderbilt established a plan. Volunteers would take MTI photos of children wherever they could be found and send the photos back to the Lions Eye Center for interpretation. Any child flagged for potential amblyopia would be contacted and referred to a pediatric

ophthalmologist in their local area. All the time, the Lions and Vanderbilt would keep data about how the programme was working.

Over the last 20 years, the Lions have screened more than 500,000 children in Tennessee, and of those, approximately five percent have been referred for further care. The data from this research has been so convincing that 14 Lions programmes across the country have modeled their screening initiatives after Kids Sight. And this year, the American Academy of Pediatrics asked Donahue to write the group's newest recommendations: encouraging MTI camera vision screening for every child under the age of four.

"That's all happened because of what we started here with the Lions Club," Donahue says. "Screening and treatment of amblyopia is one of the most cost effective treatments in all that we do in medicine, not just ophthalmology, but all of medicine."

CONTINUING INVESTMENT

Year after year, Tennessee Lions typically contribute \$200,000 annually for updating instruments and other costs. And for all of the surgeries, appointments and road trips to Nashville, Abigail knows her future will still include low vision, but it doesn't slow her down. At school, she uses iPads, a mini acrobat camera and other equipment to help her see. In her free time, she's a competitive gymnast.

After losing a pair of glasses that went flying across the gym after a roundoff back-handspring, Abigail began wearing sports glasses with a strap that tightens around her head. With the sports glasses, she says, "if I land on my face, they don't hurt as much. And I fall a lot."

And Abigail is now happy to be a guide as well. Until this year, she was the only visually impaired student at her school, but now, she mentors another little girl who is in the kindergarten.

When asked what it feels like to be a mentor, Abigail finishes the last of her frappe, smiles, and sums it up with one word: *joyful*.



PICTURED: Donahue is one of seven pediatric ophthalmologists on staff



PICTURED: Cheddar Vale Lions raised funds to buy a defibrillator for Cheddar Gorge

First of Cheddar Vale Lions Club's Defibrillators Installed

As part of their Centennial Community Project, Cheddar Vale Lions Club took on the challenge of installing defibrillators in the Cheddar Valley. The first one was installed at the beginning of August, just outside the Riverside Inn at the bottom of Cheddar Gorge.

Lion President, Janet Clark, was particularly keen that the defibrillators would be installed in locations, where they could be available to the public at all times. With the

generous support of publicans, Huw and Jo Davies, the services of electrician Richard Gregory and all those who supported the various fundraising events, one of the Club's Centennial goals is being achieved. A free training session on CPR and how to use the defibrillator took place at Cheddar Village Hall in September.

Cheddar Vale Lions Club will continue their fundraising to finance a defibrillator for Blackford village.

Flint Lions Fight Prostate Cancer

A prostate cancer awareness event, held by Flint Lions at Flint High school recently, was an overwhelming success. Some 163 men were tested during the evening and another 70 or so plan to attend a similar event at neighbouring Club, Mold, later this year.

Three phlebotomists were on hand to carry out the simple blood test, which only took a few minutes per man.

Free refreshments were on hand for those waiting their turn and Flint Lions made the most of the opportunity, to speak about Lions to their captive audience! The collecting buckets dotted around were good and heavy at the end of the evening.



PICTURED: Flint Lions at their prostate cancer awareness event



Supporting Omagh Diabetes Centre



PICTURED: Presentation of the Omagh Lions donation to the Omagh Diabetes Centre

Omagh President, Margaret Geelan, presented a cheque for £500 to Dr Abdul Hameed, Consultant at Omagh Diabetes Centre. Also included in the image are community diabetes specialist nurses Breid McGirr, Hilary Patterson, Helena McKeever and dietician Jemma Robinson. The money was part of the funds raised by the Blue Grass Concert organised by Lion O'Reilly and club members. Taking part in the concert were the Knotty pine String Band and the Drunken Lullabies.



PICTURED: Paul Gormley and James Mc Shane from the Drunken Lullabies with event organiser and Past President, Geraldine O'Reilly

Honiton Lions Club Raise Funds for Dermatoscope

Lion President, Brian Richards, presented a dermatoscope to the doctors at Honiton Surgery, just in time for the Club's 'mole-screening' day in October.

Held at St Pauls Church, doctors from the surgery were present, accompanied by consultant dermatologist Dr Tony Downs.

Dr Danny Murphy from Honiton Surgery said that this was a very important medical instrument that the Honiton Lions have funded, which enables doctors to spot suspected skin cancers and melanomas at the surgery.

He said: "As the surgery has a GP trained in dermoscopy, this will reduce the need to send patients into Exeter for testing, when we can do it on the spot.

"Not too many people realise that skin cancers and melanomas rank in the top five of cancers in the UK, and the dermatoscope allows the surgery to better assist the community.

"At similar events, a number of people have been surprised to have been diagnosed with melanoma before it became too serious."

On the mole-screening day, the surgery doctors helped the Lions set up and run the event. It was a wonderful, collaborative effort in awareness of skin cancer to the community, and all in aid of Cancer Research.

Lion John Quinton-Navarro, led the way in organising the purchase of the dermatoscope for the surgery.



The 2016 Tour of Britain took place between 4th and 11th September and has been acclaimed as the very best edition of the UK's national Tour to date by riders, fans, venues and sponsors. The eight-day race attracted millions of spectators both live at the roadside and on television.

Tour of Britain

Keswick Lions pulled out all the stops recently when the Tour of Britain came through their town. They organised a 'social' at a strategic point of stage two of the event, (Carlisle to Kendal). It was the longest and most challenging stage of the Tour.

With this year's Lions' theme of 'New mountains to climb', organiser ZC Lion Alan Dunn thought it appropriate to host the event near the top of Chestnut Hill in the town, which was a 'King of the Mountains' points stage.

Keswick Lions invited their members and the public to watch the race with

them with a fantastic backdrop of the local mountains. One member painted their bike yellow as yellow bikes have become synonymous with the race, and Alan created a sign of huge letters, six feet high, made from old bed sheets, which read 'KESWICK LIONS'. It was spotted by the helicopter filming the race.

There was a large turnout and everyone had a great time – spectators made as much noise as they could when the race came past. Keswick Lions are making bigger plans for the next time the race goes through the town.

PICTURED:
Yellow bikes are synonymous with the Tour



PICTURED: Members of Windsor Lions and friends building the course in Windsor Great Park

Windsor Lions Bonanza Horseride

Windsor Lions' biggest fundraiser of the Club's annual calendar, the 'Horseride in the Great Park', reached its target of 650 riders, 10 days before the event was held in September.

This year marked the event's 40th anniversary and over the years, has raised more than a staggering £2m for local charities and good causes.

The Horseride offers the riders and horses the amazing opportunity of riding in the glorious surroundings of Windsor Great Park. The nine-mile course through lovely parkland consists of three courses running side-by-side – advanced, novice and non-jumping, so something for every rider.



PICTURED: Discussing tactics in Thame

Blind Bowling With Thame Lions

Thame Lions Club, with Thame Bowls Club, organised the first ever (in Oxfordshire) Blind Bowling Competition in September.

Some 24 contestants took part from bowls club around the area, all with varying degrees of sight impairment. The winners, Mary Pitman and Sarah Marshall, were presented with a plaque to recognise their win. Sarah is a member of the England Blind Bowling Team and she will be playing in the International Competition in South Africa next March. The uniform that the team wore was sponsored by Lions and the £2,000 raised on the day, will be split equally between Blind Veterans and Calibre Audio Books.

Enthusiastic Swimmers!

Over £3,000 was raised at the Oadby & Wigston Lions Club sponsored swim, held at Parklands Leisure Centre.

The Mayor, Cllr Rob Eaton, came along to support the event and was impressed by the enthusiasm of all taking part, particularly the youngsters. He spoke to a five-year old boy who had just swum 50 lengths, and wanted to have another go!

All swimmers went away happy with the knowledge of how much they had helped to raise, a certificate and a 'Lion' chocolate bar.

Parklands' lifesavers looked after the safety of the swimmers, and Lions Club members took care of all the administration duties.

OADBY & WIGSTON LIONS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Oadby & Wigston Lions Club took up the challenge from the 'Gateway Club' in Wigston, to a games evening. Having played, darts, pool, indoor archery and bowls, the Gateway Club won by just one point. Better luck next time Lions!



PICTURED: Mayoress Cllr Lyn Eaton, Club President Jenny Fyfe, Mayor Cllr Rob Eaton and Lion Iain Bell at the sponsored swim



PICTURED: Members of the Gateway Club hold up the trophy with a well-deserved grin on their faces



PICTURED:
Ravenous athletes
at the evening meal

Morpeth Lions at National Orienteering Championships

Earlier this year, Morpeth Lion Adrian Barnes came to the Club with a dilemma.

His club, Newcastle and Tyneside Orienteers were hosting the Youth Home International Match, in Northumberland, on behalf of the English Orienteering Association. Some 96 youngsters aged between 13 and 18 and their coaches, were to converge on Morpeth for a weekend in October. The two orienteering courses were fixed but accommodation, food and entertainment needed to be arranged so Adrian asked the Lions for their help.

Morpeth Lion and Youth Officer, Les Brindley, and Adrian swung in to action and organised overnight accommodation for the Friday and Saturday, the venue for the evening meal, the disco and the food. The teenagers lived up to their reputation of eating plates full after their day of activity on Northumberland's Simonside hills!

Feedback from coaches and athletes was that they thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and, in particular, the welcome they received in Morpeth.

Curlers Roar For Lions

Dumfries Lions Club recently held their 23rd Charity Curling Tournament at Dumfries Icebowl.

Some 16 teams, including from Wales and the English Wheelchair Curlers, took part in the event, which consisted of six, 90-minute games over two days. After the first day, the teams were split into High Road and Low Road sections for the remaining three games. The eventual winners, after a number of very hard-fought games in both sections, were local teams from New Abbey in the High Road and Dalbeattie in the Low Road.

Curling, known as the 'roaring game' (because of the noise of the stones on the ice), is a game open to all and on this occasion competitors' ages ranged from six to 86. In fact, the winners of the Low Road were the Carson family consisting of father, Ryan, and his three sons, Struan, 13, Orrin, 11 and nine year-old Logan.

£1,500 was raised for Dumfries Lions charity account and for that, we are very grateful. Overall, the Curling Tournament has raised in the region of £35,000 for Dumfries Charity account.



PICTURED: Clevedon Rugby Club Juniors roaring like lions!

Clevedon Lions 'Dream Scheme'

As part of Clevedon Lions 'Dream Scheme', an award was made earlier this year to enable Clevedon Rugby Club to buy new kit for its junior team.

The kit, with the Lions emblem emblazoned the sleeves, has been bought and the team photo shows the youngsters roaring like Lions!

One of our pictures show Eric the Lion with Lion Club President, Paul Pollock, and Lion member Glynn Hill, who liaised with the club.

Having already won a Lions award, the Lions hope that the junior team will win every match they play!

Clevedon Lions will be collecting at local supermarkets during December and will be out and about again with Santa to meet



PICTURED: (L-R) Lion Club President, Paul Pollock, with Eric the Lion with and Lion member, Glynn Hill

local youngsters when their annual Santa float tours the town before Christmas.

As always, the money raised this year will be donated to local groups who apply to the Lions 2017 Dream Scheme project.

Lions are again looking to support local clubs and associations complete a project that will help their members and the community in general.

Last year £3,500 helped 12 local groups and Lions hope that a wide range of community projects can be supported again this year.



OBITUARIES

These Lions of our Multiple District have recently left us. We honour their memory and the contribution they made in their Lionistic service for the good of others.



ABEL: LION PHILIP

Wirral Lions Club. A dedicated Lion for over 40 years, Lion Phil was a Past President of the Club and, until recently, engaged in all Club activities. He was a true gentleman with a very warm heart – quite simply, one of the nicest men you could wish to know. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by fellow Lions and friends. Our thoughts are with his wife, Sheila, and all his family.

★ ★ ★

ALLAN: Lion John Stewart (76)

Anglesey Central Lions Club. Anglesey Central Lions Club are sad to report the death of Lion John. He was a gentleman, quietly spoken, always there to advise and gave his service willingly. Reliable and respected by all.

★ ★ ★

ATKIN: Lion Bryan (72)

Berkhamsted Lions Club. Berkhamsted Lions Club is greatly saddened to report the death of Lion Bryan who battled with acute myeloid leukaemia for three years. In his 15 years as an energetic Lion, Bryan took a special interest in the Swan Youth Project and getting young people more involved in the life of the town. Our heartfelt condolences go to his wife, Lindy, and family.

★ ★ ★

DAVIES PHIL (71)

Bridgend Lions Club. Bridgend Lions Club 105W is sad to report the loss of its Immediate Past President, Lion Phil, who passed away peacefully in August after battling against ill health. A Lion and a gentleman, he was serving his second time as President of the Club, he is fondly remembered and sorely missed by all.

★ ★ ★

HILL: Lion Martin 2d VDG 105M

Market Harborough 2012 LC and District 105M. Only 58 years old and looking forward to serving his Club as President this year and the District in two, Martin

was diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer just days after the MD convention in Eastbourne, where he used his cupcakes to attract attention to his booth in the entrance. He leaves behind his wife, Lion Sarah, and a stunned club and District.

★ ★ ★

McHATTIE: Lion Alex

Dumbarton Lions Club. Alex was a prodigious fundraiser, especially for Special Olympics West of Scotland. He had been a European Director of Special Olympics and also, a Director of Special Olympics Great Britain. When the Great Britain Games were held in Cardiff he, along with sponsorship from Tunnock's, organised a train from Glasgow to Cardiff to transport all the Scottish athletes together with their carers and families to the games. The annual balls held in the Glasgow Marriot Hotel became almost an institution. It is largely from his efforts that the facilities for athletes with learning disabilities became so strong in Scotland. He was an Honorary Lion for a number of years before joining Dumbarton Lions Club. He was a valued member of the Club but latterly, was unable to attend meetings due to ill health. He passed away peacefully with all his family, wife Nancy, daughter Marion and his two granddaughters around him.

★ ★ ★

MILLAR: Lion Roger

Llandrindod Wells Lions Club. Llandrindod Wells Lions Club is saddened to report the death of President and Past President, Roger, after a difficult illness. Roger, who served Lions for 19 years, was dedicated to the social and fundraising activities of the Club. He provided storage and transport for the tents and shelters, and always showed infinite patience when trying to teach fellow members how to pitch them!

His presence will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family.

Send in obituaries to lion.editor@lionsclubs.co

Please make sure they are no longer than 50 words (after the Lion's name and Club) to guarantee that they are published in full.

★ ★ ★

MOORE: Lion Bertie MJF (85)

Douglas Valley Lions Club A Lion for 46 years, Bertie was a Charter Member, President and District Officer, a great Lion and friend. He was a stalwart to all Club activities, particularly active with Tacade and Skills for Life projects. Above all, he was a true gentleman, always kind, courteous and helpful to new and old members. He will be greatly missed.

★ ★ ★

OWEN: Lion Norman (86)

Douglas Valley Lions Club. A Lion for 32 years, Norman was a Past President, a great Lion and friend. He was a stalwart to all Club activities and had a wry sense of humour which reflected his merchant navy background. Above all, he was a true gentleman always kind, courteous and helpful to new and old members. He will be sadly missed.

★ ★ ★

STRAW: Lion Charlie (81)

Bolton Lions. Charlie Straw was a member of Bolton Lions for 33 years. He was a great music fan and took a great interest in our hospital radio service. As well as presenting our Sunday Request programme, he also acted as librarian and compiler. Despite ill health, he contributed fully to the Club's activities when he could. He was heavily involved in our Christmas Appeal and worked tirelessly to seek out toys from shops and businesses in the



Bolton area. During his last illness, he collected hundreds of toys and brought them up to our Santa's Workshop at a local mill. Charlie was a very approachable character who was always ready to chat with friend or stranger. He will be very sadly missed by our Club and all who knew him. Our love goes to Marilyn and his children.

TWISSELL: Lion John Ward MJF (85)

Lytham St Annes Lions Club. Lytham St Annes regrets to announce that John Ward Twissell, M.J.F. died October 5th 2016 aged 85. After National Service, John began a career in banking with Barclays Bank rising to become manager of one of their Blackpool branches in 1973 and in 1975, he became a Lion in his local club. He assumed the twin roles of Club Treasurer, and Trustee and Treasurer of the Club's Housing Association. During his time as Club Treasurer he oversaw the distribution of more than £250,000 of charitable funds raised by the Club. John was awarded his Melvyn Jones Fellowship in 2011, as a recognition of his commitment and service in his local community. Possessed of a quiet disposition and a ready grasp of Club affairs, John was a popular Club member with a supportive manner and an understanding nature. A gentle man, a team player, and a gentleman, he is greatly missed and the LSA club extends its sincere condolences to Dorothy, son John Jr. and Joanne and Elaine.

WEAVER: Lion Graham

Canterbury Lions Club. Canterbury Lions Club regrets to announce the sudden death of member, Graham Weaver. Graham had been a member for 11 years, but poor health limited his contributions to Club activities. However, his career in the media enabled him to perform the position of P.R.O. using his contacts with the local press. Although divorced, he remained on good terms with his former wife, Margaret, to whom we extend our sympathy.

WHITAKER: Lion Geoffrey (86) MJF

Southbourne Lions Club. Southbourne (West Sussex) Lions Club. A dedicated Lion for 43 years, Geoffrey was President of Chichester Lions three times and Charter President of Southbourne. He was President three more times, Zone Chairman and Deputy District Governor;

Guiding Lion for Midhurst Lions and recipient of the International President's Award, Geoffrey was always ready to help and support Lions and the community. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

WILLIS: Ken (94)

Bridgend Lions Club. Bridgend Lions Club 105W is sad to report the passing in September of a stalwart Charter Member. Lion Ken, a quiet gentleman, was always actively engaged in every event throughout his membership but did not seek office of any sort. He will always be remembered.

WOOD: Lion Peter

Bristol Brunel Lions Club. A committed, caring Lion and loyal friend to all those who knew him, Peter served as President, Activities Coordinator and was an amazing Father Christmas. He was a renowned teller of 'jokes' to raise the spirit or put things into perspective! His 40 year Service Chevron arrived three weeks after he passed away.



NEW YEAR – NEW CHALLENGE?



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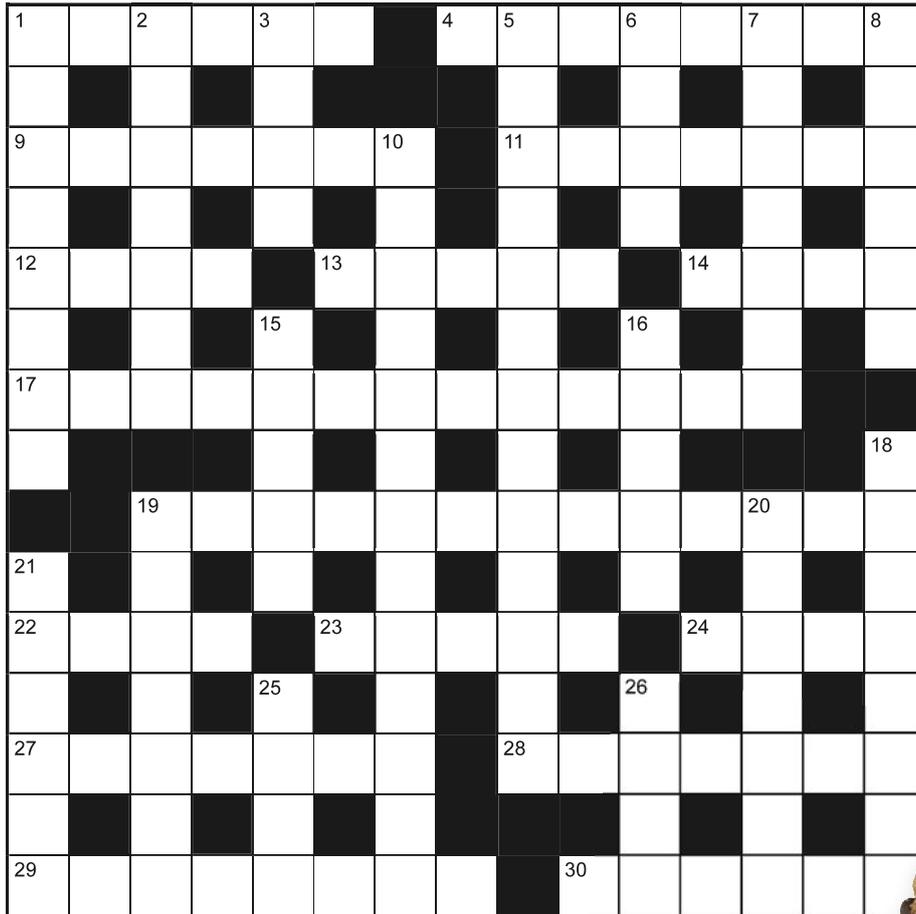
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ACROSS

- 1. Flexible tree possibly includes one (6)
- 4. Delightful prince (8)
- 9. Spa got alternative power as temporary measure (7)
- 11. Giving away nothing but obsolete vessel (7)
- 12. Neat tequila is drunk initially - why, you say? (4)
- 13. Turner that can be viewed from both sides (5)
- 14. Gave birth to dull person (4)
- 17. Part of the Caribbean populated by chaste women? (6,7)
- 19. 50 invest in city carelessly and without thinking (13)
- 22. Publicity fellows turned up first (4)
- 23. Surprisingly nitre is unreactive (5)
- 24. Most put up with him (4)
- 27. Ilona staggered across road first perhaps (7)
- 28. Some electricity is present (7)
- 29. Law a job broke outside university city in Africa (8)
- 30. Glamorous former lover with old nervous habit (6)

DOWN

- 1. Optimistic for certain (8)
- 2. Working as a monk is? (2,5)
- 3. Close for the evening mostly (4)
- 5. Run on flower power? (13)
- 6. Gather some mature apricots (4)
- 7. Sinful rascal promises to pay (7)
- 8. Look, a goose! (6)
- 10. Supply given to friend for the time being (13)
- 15. Drunk gives gratuities at start of year (5)
- 16. One accepting fine is unsuitable (5)
- 18. Python broadcast I see sounded mesmerising (8)
- 19. Unbeliever elected by Castro (7)
- 20. Ask earnestly for new net rate (7)
- 21. Pal somehow gets round doctor, showing confidence (6)
- 25. Be aware of speaker's refusal (4)
- 26. Vintage unknown - that's the essential point (4)

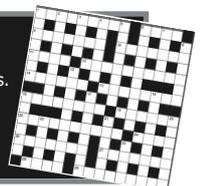
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ACROSS

1 practical. 6 bash. 9 macabre. 10 spinner. 11 ogre. 12 degenerate. 14 skiers. 15 lacrosse. 18 innately. 19 morals. 22 disorderly. 24 char. 26 carbine. 27 glisten. 28 tyne. 29 saturnine.

DOWN

1 pompous. 2 accordion. 3 tube. 4 clever. 5 Las Vegas. 6 bridegroom. 7 Sonya. 8 Greene. 13 fraternise. 16 spaghetti. 17 clueless. 18 induce. 20 strange. 21 blight. 23 surly. 25 pier.





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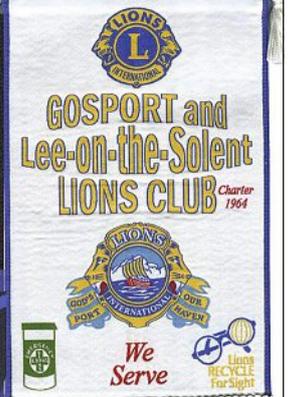
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